

Master 2511

Chapter 2511 Merchants?

There were plenty of new sights that Walker had not noticed when they had been here previously. Then again, the reasons for being within the fire elemental planes were a lot more pressing than right now. He also hadn't been bothered with absorbing knowledge.

Let alone the fact that one could most likely spend years exploring the elemental planes only to find that they were still full of mystery. They were also growing after all.

In just the past hour, Midnightbhad brought a few interesting things that she and Onyx had managed to find with their sharper senses.

There were a few bones from something called a charred earth slider, a snake like lizard from the earth elemental plane which would move in to the fire elemental plane so that it could awaken its second affinity or perish. An interesting species of monster that he was certain he would see at some point. While small they could be fairly unique.

There were small fruits that Onyx managed to smell while slithering passed a small indent in the ground. What was found was a very tiny bush called a fire cage cranberry. It was an adapted cranberry that should be a water affinity fruit.

Over the years of being too close to the fire elemental plane it had adapted and changed affinities. Instead of relying on the water mana it used fire mana to grow a dense cage around itself to defend from being touched until the berries fell off and were swept away by moving flows of fire mana from larger monsters.

The berries held some fire mana soothing to the body and Remey along with three of the healers thought they were ideal for treating hypothermia. They could safely and calmly warm the inside of the body without harm. They had told Walker that they would handle the seeds and found berries leaving Onyx with a decent amount of praise.

The last thing that Midnight had found were scratch marks. Something that would have appeared to be territorial markings until they all realized that the flame swallowing turtles were checking these marks periodically.

This entire time they had been following a trail that they couldn't notice because they lacked the knowledge and understanding of the elemental plane of fire.

It led Su to examine them every time she saw the flame swallowing turtles stop. She began to notice patterns that were similar to how the merchant guilds had symbols on their maps. Locations to rest, locations to set up full overnight camps, and even places that could mention danger and not to rest.

While she had seen their symbols, associating these symbols would take some time with the right meanings. That was just a lack of knowledge of the fire elemental planes and their races. But if these were carved and known trails, then it was most likely that this part of the fire elemental plane was stable enough not to shift and change often.

That alone put many at ease. They all understood that the elemental planes shifted and changed often. Becoming lost was a major issue that could take months, if not years added in to their journey and away from their time returning home. Knowing it was less possible that would change was good to say the least.

When the flame swallowing turtles stopped, everyone believed they were resting. That wasn't the case though. Ahead there were some darker figures along with larger figures carrying what seemed to be boxes made from various materials.

"Is that a caravan?" Since Gil had the best eyesight he could see formations of guards walking alongside the larger figures with the items carried.

"They also see us and are heading our way faster. We'll have two or three of them here in a few moments" Gil took a few squads to the edges of their groups to act as defensive long ranged attackers if necessary. Yet, it didn't look like it would be.

The figures stopped in front of the flame swallowing turtles passing pure mana back and forth. Walker easily felt and began to understand it as language. This was similar to the ways that the spirit race and elemental spirits used to speak before the world and existence made languages translated for every race.

The others soon began to catch on as well...

"Traveling has been perfect. You are the second group we are finding here. Our black smoke merchants have plenty of goods to sell you and trade with you. Would you like to view our wares?" The figure asking was clearly a merchant with his personal guards.

What stood out was the fact that he looked like talking charcoal in the shape of a human. Defined features but glimmering embers as eyes and when his mouth opened. "So these are the coal people I was told about," Walker mumbles as he stepped forward.

"We are willing to trade. We have many exotic items you may have never seen so we would like to see what we can find to bring back. We are traveling to the embarking city of coal or I believe it has other names that could define it. We will be looking for items and knowledge there as well." The figures were somewhat shocked hearing Walker speak out loud.

The oddity of how everyone looked in their armor and how Walker moved the fire mana to speak exactly as they did was out of the ordinary. Then again, a merchant in any world was a merchant, the glowing coals that were the merchant's mouth glowed brightened in a smile.

"Then why don't we set up two spots just ahead there?" Walker spoke and pointed out the open space between him. He also glanced ahead and saw the larger figures that were carrying things.

They were like larger golems, made of coal but definitely not intelligent since they seemed to move according to the will of a few leading them. "Do you like them? They are first generation coal golems built by our main caravan. We will be selling them come the start of next year."

A merchant had quick eyes and Walker couldn't say he wasn't impressed that he noticed him looking. "Not just yet, but they are new to me and I'll remember them."

This seemed to make the merchant happy since Walker was acknowledging a potential future product. Regardless of that, both sides set up some items. Walker always had extra things in his high spatial storage. It was easy for him to remove items that would not degrade too quickly within the fire elemental plane.

The metals and fire resistant items were enough to garner a large amount of attention. The same could be said when Walker noticed the bountiful items that held high amounts of fire mana. Some were entirely pure fire elemental metals, monster hides, and even herbs potted and ready to be stuck in to the ground.

Her herbs that were fried or being set as just root for planting kept Remy's attention since she knew they would be unique and require specific care. What Gil noticed was that any materials he could take would need to be highly manipulated so that he could turn them in to arrows.

What Midnight and Onyc saw though were scales the size of Walker's head. Scales that came from something with draconic qualities but not quite a dragon. That could mean there were partial dragon blooded monsters and races across the fire elemental planes the same way that the Sigil continent had monsters with a slight amount of dragon lineage as well.

Quickly negotiations started. The merchants only spoke to Walker who was clearly the leader while the others realized that Walker was able to appraise everything and make better trades.

Things like potions were entirely ignored by the coal people, they couldn't care less about anything that had water mana or seemed like it could have water mana in it. But the fire elemental mana crystals and fire rune carved mana gems made their eyes glow with more fire.

It was clearly something valuable to them, while Walker knew that the fire elemental planes must have many mana crystals, those with lesser purity might be extremely rare meaning they very perfect for the youngest of any fire attuned race.

This was what won him a large number of ores that were pure fire affinity which would shock many blacksmiths who knew that any ore had ties to earth mana in general. It would also shown some light in the research in to the elemental planes.

However, a change in the flow of fire mana around them made the merchant caravan halt and begin packing up. Their hurry brought Walker to ask what they were doing.

"You need to move on quickly. There is a large group of fireling screeches coming. They are annoying and will ruin your herbs if they see them." The disdain proved that to any merchant with herbs they were a pest, but Walker hadn't heard of the monster before, but they were enough of a reason to move ahead faster now that he knew of them.

Chapter 2512 Yes, Pests

When it came to the strangeness of the merchant encounter, Walker felt that it was some large portion of luck since they had managed to gain a lot from it. Plenty of the fire resistant items that were extras on top of extras had been snapped up by those merchants. They found high value in exotic items like that.

While they had not asked if their group was from the world, Walker had realized that these merchants believed they had traveled from different elemental planes the very same way that they also did to make their living.

It might not have been the case but maybe it was best that some people believed just that. It could be safer when dealing with some more volatile people or races if they were to meet some who did not like them.

The fireling screechers didn't get more description before the merchants had moved on, this time they had all worn larger cloaks to protect them and help blend in to the terrain. It was something that Walker and his group had considered and could also do, however, they had not been able to figure out the consistent colorization of the fire mana terrain which was why they had not prepared much for this sort of situation.

Walker could manipulate the fire mana around and made a decent covering of flames to hide their larger group though. It was something he would do when he noticed the need. An unusual dome of fire would attract attention, but it would look like a larger monster so it would deter many smaller monsters.

Then again, he could also use some of the water mana naturally present in his body to deter many as well.

While a good tactic, it was dangerous since water mana here was much more valuable. The water mana could and most likely would react violently with the intensity and purity that the fire mana had in this place. Meaning it would cause damage and ripples all around. However, it would easily deter some of the more powerful opponents Walker might encounter.

"What do you think the fireling screeches are? The merchants said to watch the horizon to make sure we didn't get harassed by them." Gil was still right by Walker's side while they moved so he was taking the second hand man role. The others were still keeping their focus on the perimeter of their group while they moved.

Before the question could be answered though, it seemed they would have answers. The flame swallowing turtles recoiled in to their shells and halted proving that they were not living but waiting out whatever would happen.

This was good and bad. It meant that Walker's group would need to handle whatever the dangers were. Persevere through it instead of running or fighting it openly. It also meant that the flame swallowing turtles had much better senses for this danger than what Walker had while in the fire elemental planes which showed his potential for improvement and where he was lacking right now.

Looking at the horizon to the side where the merchants had looked, Walker spotted small figures darting in to the air and on to the ground. They lived like grasshoppers, but they were definitely not at all like that.

Their shape was like a small parakeet with four extra legs. Their feathers flashed with flames that grew brighter every time they leaped up ahead. But it was the sound, the flames made a high pitch whine every time they leaped in to the air and their feathers flashed with denser flames.

"That's why they are called screeches." Gil sighed as he grabbed an arrow and looked at Walker waiting for a plan.

'Fireling screeched

An annoying and generally obnoxious pest. These small monsters are weak to the point that they can not harm most others within the fire elemental plane. They breed quickly which causes them to never fully die out as a species.

They will move around using large bursts of fire mana to fly before they lose the mana and need to gather it again. If they could store fire mana and control it better they could fly for longer.

They will often terrorize villages, cities, and anything that they believe they can eat small parts of to be able to replenish some fire mana. They often follow caravans attempting to eat away at their goods.

Fighting them is considered a fool's attempt because they will fly away in a burst of fire mana before returning again later trying to eat again. It is better to cover oneself defensively and let them believe

there is no food at all. Some merchants will coat themselves in the bitter berries of the absent flame bush which deters fire mana and is grown in the boundaries between fire and earth elemental planes...'

Pest. Completely an annoying pest that would cause them a lot of problems if they were a fire type being or carried in hand fire type goods:

However, the high spatial storage protected everything. They also all had fire mana resistant items that would prevent the fire mana from bothering them. The moment these fueling screeches began to near what looked like easy food, they were in for a shock.

The fire mana they could sense around them naturally and that their instincts told them to gather more mana. They should feel that mana right in front of them, they should have been able to pick on that mana and begin stealing away bites.

Yet, they found nothing. Not a thing. They didn't sense the meal that should be right in front of them for all of them to feast on. Instead, they were just surrounding a bunch of strange beings that were watching them carefully.

"You are all equipped and buffed with everything to resist fire mana and even reflect it. To them, monsters that steal bites of fire mana and use it as fuel and food, we look barren." Walker's laugh broke the silence before he reached out and caught one of the six legged bird like monsters which struggled confused at its sudden situation.

There was a large escape of breaths as everyone realized they were not in actual danger. They all actually felt somewhat disappointed since all their adrenaline and preparation fell flat. It was a strange situation that they couldn't fully explain as anything.

Even the kk stars themselves were confused as some started to hop and fly off toward other sources of stronger fire mana. They still felt the drive to eat and grow, but if there was no food here they had to go elsewhere.

To help them along, Walker gathered a ball of denser fire mana and propelled it forward to go as far as possible. The foreland screeches started their whining leaps and flew through the air chasing it like they would never find food again.

"Well, we are doing fine. Let's keep moving." Gil broke the awkward silence as he noticed the flame swallowing turtles begun moving yet again as well.

As this was the case, the danger that they expected was gone. Walker had half a mind to try and eradicate them but he felt it would cause more damage than good. These were mass producing small monsters that could help feed the strange ecosystem of the fire elemental planes. Therefore, having them move about to be food for other creatures would be better.

As he thought even more, Walker wondered just what else they might begin to notice as they moved. Plenty of materials had been found along with what they received from a lucky encounter with merchants. They were heading in to denser fire mana now than what they had experienced immediately upon entering the fire elemental plane.

This wasn't the innermost area which would be well over what they could handle, but it was clear that fire elemental plants were growing much more here than earlier.

Tree like fire elemental plants were growing to about the height of Walker and the others. Some ahead were well above them while smaller grasses appeared. Their colors all orange, red, or even yellow stood

out clearly. They were nothing like the plants in the world but they were making this elemental plane feel fuller.

None of the places the party had gone through before looked anything like this. They had moved through purely elemental areas making it feel like they had been kept from seeing the real depths of what the elemental planes were.

This might actually be the case. They had even after different tasks than knowledge. So, the elemental rulers would have made it less possible for them to encounter core areas. The true centers of intense pure and potent elemental manas.

Now, they all could comprehend the real fire elemental plane before them.

Chapter 2513 More Than Peaceful

With so much changing in the surroundings it was simple to also see the changes that were occurring in the monsters. As in, they were starting to see the non violent peaceful monsters that are fire elemental planets and didn't seem to interact unless they were being bothered.

"That's a fire twig, it's the same as the small insect monsters that pretend to be tree branches or smaller twigs in a tree, but this one is entirely fire affinity and mimics the swirling flame leaf trees here." Walker had been constantly using the all around appraisal. Remey had taken up a position next to him in case he started to say anything about herbs.

This habit of constantly saying the all around appraisals out loud also drew in a few of the more research and recording focused individuals who had skills to do so. They had been able to help with whaling, but in the cathedral these healers were known for recording new healing magic discoveries. This was outside their normal work but still interesting and valuable.

As much as others also would say that this habit was poor since it would stop most people from focusing on their surroundings. It would have been a terrible habit that could risk their lives in a dangerous place.

For Walker, his mana sense and his kind worked differently. He'd been using the all around appraisal skill so much since he received it that everything he saw was appraised at this point. This habit was how he viewed the world, if not just a portion of how he viewed it now.

"When the small red anywhere seen, there were questions about how they looked identical to the carnivorous ants in the Sigil continent. Everyone believed that they were the same species but these were just smaller.

However, Walker pointed out that even though they were of the same species of monster, ants, these had developed to harvest small seeds of fire elemental plants as food. They were small in size to prevent predators from finding and eating them.

This was another proof that the environment completely dictates how races and monsters develop. The plants may change this but they also change depending on environment.

The fire mana here was plentiful which led to many more dangerous predators being born that ate the ants. This species never had the chance to grow beyond a certain size and instead developed to be smaller.

This wasn't the only monster that did this but was one that could easily be discerned as one that required care to keep that way. If they made their way in to the world they would be a pest that could focus on decimating the fire elemental warms fields of all the seeds every season.

This was not the only species of monster with the potential but it spoke to how farmers alone would need to advance over and over to combat the integration of more fire elemental monsters in to the world over time.

It was a race of potential differences and actions each creating a new potential. Walker could think about it for his whole life and still not understand or grasp it all.

That was life though. These little monsters were still amazing in their own way and Walker could respect them.

"Those aren't rocks, so what are they?" The space ahead was still full of trees and bushes, but Su was right, it looked like black rocks were joining the scenery.

'Flame crawling coal

After being introduced to fire mana over the course of hundreds of thousands of years, this coal had entirely lost its earthen properties and even forms and exists within the fire elemental planes.

Certain races must consume it to maintain their form and grow properly. The flame crawling coal is also known to grow in singular directions making it very hard to mine and procure since it might span for long distances in to dangerous territories...'

There was more information about what the flame crawling coal can be used for. Armor, alchemy, and even some magic spells required it which was something interesting to Walker and those who listened.

What Su focused on when she received her answer though was more important and what everyone had to focus on.

"This must be what the coal humans, or coal people eat and need to thrive. If we harvest some of these on our way we might be able to make a good first impression." Su was thinking about the entire city they were going to. If it had all these coal people, then they would have established cultures.

Being able to greet them with something that they needed to consume to be healthy would be an amazing first step in making bonds with them. This could be an easy start to everything they have planned and need to work on.

The thing was, some of the crawling flame coal didn't appear to be useful. Walker pointed out some bits that had orange coloration which was fire mana built up becoming fire elemental crystals. They weren't formed enough to be useful but formed just enough that the fire crawling coal was useless to be used for what they needed.

However, it showed why there was value in the fire crawling coal. While many many many years ago it was an earth material, it was now a fire material. It can help grow races and monster species making it important to them. If it's contaminated or not proper in any way, then it has no value to them.

Meaning the pure pieces that Walker was pointing out to be mined here and there were all that much more valuable. If they brought the wrong type they would potentially instigate hatred or disinterest in their venture here in the first place.

Some of the flame swallowing turtles stopped and swallowed small pieces. They seemed to find benefits in the flame swallowing coal which was a clear example of what other value it had. They were their guides and were more than deserving of some benefits like this.

It was somewhat odd to see the squads lining flame crawling coal rather than marching perfectly in formations. Everyone had been very strict and professional until now where they looked out of place and generally odd.

'Flame cry cricket

This small cricket burrows in to flame crawling coal and lives inside. It uses small puffs of flames to make small cries that attract more of its kind.

They are peaceful and often like to follow larger monsters around. Because of this they are thought of pets to many monsters and races and will rarely be eaten.

They have little use when it comes to materials, alchemy, and other forms of crafting. However, they are ideal for farming in the fire elemental planes since they will even burrow in to rocks that come from the earth elemental plane when the fire elemental plane and earth elemental plane collide causing parts of one another to spill in to the other....'

The small cricket caught Walker's attention and he made note of the fee paying attention and following everyone since they started mining.

Most who noticed them quickly ignored them since Walker hadn't warned them. Onyx even had a few he had managed to guide in to Midnight's back who in turn was acting like she had a collection. The odd

change really didn't suit the dangerous fire elemental plane which everyone felt they would struggle in every single second.

While they hadn't been given a lot of focused protection, the guides and the area were more peaceful than what he and everyone expected. The true fire sage and the king of fire would surely have a hand in the continued peace of this area and all other fire elemental areas. While some were surely filled with more wild and brutal truths, this one might be more of what they foster normally.

"I think when we saw the fire elemental plane before, we were ignorant. We were kept to places where some chaos and fighting for survival happened and kept away from the more well managed areas of peace like this. It's more stable than the other places as well."

"Well, we were strangers from the world that was cut off plenty of years ago. What would you have thought if strange beings walked through a portal in to your lands?" Gil shrugged as Walker had spoken right to him.

"I would have made everyone act on the defensive right away." With Su responding too, Walker couldn't agree more.

"I'm just amazed by it. I think we will get along with everything here much better than I expected and that if the peaceful areas get closer to the world..." he trailed off while everyone around him saw what he imagined clearly in their own minds.

For now, though, they mined a decent bit of pure flame crawling coal before following the fire swallowing turtle in to a more open expanse of flaming grasses and currents of fire mana.

Chapter 2514 Flame Farmlands

The field of flames and grasses stretched out and fewer trees could be seen the further that they moved, Walker caught sight of something unnatural. It was not the normal buildings or huts that he had seen in the world before coming to the elemental planes.

What he saw were bright red and orange lined homes. Built with a sharper edged construction, the homes that he could make out were clean cut and made from fire mana related materials. They made a clear difference from what it looked like to the surrounding bursts of fire or the grasses.

What Walker noticed though, were that the more yellow grasses seemed to be planted to grow around these homes. They were set up so that they could be harvested easily while also keeping the fields of more orange and red grasses separated to keep growing naturally.

Even the figures that Walker began to see were moving around cutting the tallest of the yellow grasses. He could also see that they were piling them to be stored and bundled so that this must be some form of food source that was easily used through their needed times. It was hard to understand if seasons actually happened with the elemental planes.

While they might not happen to the same degree, the flow of fire mana was definitely not constant. There were changes and the purer and denser fire manas would move through an area. Everyone on the expedition had seen and noticed this.

The sudden growling that halted everyone came from the grasses ahead. It was stopping them from moving forward.

'Twin flame hound

These are the hounds often bred as the protectors of the coal people defenders. They have the unique ability twin mind, which allows them to bond with a coal person's mind and share what they see, hear, and feel. This is the ideal defender for them and for their race to protect their fields, homes, and families.

While it comes at the cost of being unable to grow unless the twin flame hound also grows equally, it allows for a better defense.

Their unique abilities to hide in the fire mana allow them to be perfect body guards while stalking predators attempting to harm the farm fields. They are also highly resistant to other forms of fire mana while being able to move very silently and with speed. Their fangs also carry denser fire mana causing an interruption to any fire mana that it comes in to contact with.

They may also...'

"We are here to visit the city past here. I know that you are protecting your fields and families, so we will gladly trade with you the same as any other merchant as we pass by. Please allow us to travel with our guides, these flame swallowing turtles." Walker spoke and pointed out.

He hadn't said anything to the others about these orange hounds and the appraisal that he had gotten. but since he did not react with defensive intent they also relaxed to show that they were not here to fight or attack. That did not mean they all just kept themselves ready, they could react in a moment if need be.

As the coal people ahead looked up, the twin flame hounds began to move away and move alongside the flame swallowing turtles. It was clear they were welcoming them to walk ahead without any aggression. It was also clear that the coal people were moving away their harvest to make room for Walker's group to halt for a moment as well.

While it was only a few minute before the entire expedition party stood in formation nearby the first home they had come across, walker was able to better make out that it was made from what would be easily called wood, however, It still held only fire elemental manas which meant it had all been grown and crafted here.

He wondered if there was a unique class for crafting all the fire purity materials that grew and were formed within the fire elemental planes. Each one that he learned about would be another one that he could add to his knowledge base. Beyond that he would also be able to figure out what other potential classes there might be within and outside the world.

"You are not of this plane, or from caravan we know of." The voice was gravely. It was similar to the sparking coals in a dying fire, or maybe one that was just being lit.

'No, we are from very far away and traveling here to meet the leaders of your race. We wish to share knowledge and build connections. We hope that as the ages pass, when our home and your home are closer and we all travel more often, we can be peaceful and united. That brought us this way and the true fire sage was kind enough to ask others to guide us. I am sorry if we are interrupting important work for you today."

The bright attitude that Walker showed did not stop anything, but instead caused the other coal people who were near the home to move forward. They could feel his pure intentions and chose to trust their instincts.

"We have some food to trade, what would you have?"

"We managed to harvest some flame crawling coal a ways back and we could share some with you? We heard that it is valuable to your race and your health. If a small piece is enough to forge a connection and get some seeds so we can learn about what you grow, that would be more than enough."

Since it was knowledge that Walker was after, he stayed true to it, he also gestured to Remey. "I study herbs and alchemy. If I can see seeds and hear from you about their properties I would be very thankful." Walker was very glad Remey was copying him and acting very polite.

These might be farmers, some people that might be thought of as less in kingdoms or generally by others with more flashy classes, but they had extreme value. Their support could be the key needed to understand the every day lives of the coal people race.

It was shocking how closely they resembled humans just with their black and orange embering coal forms. However, it was not unsurprising to think that they might have just developed differently due to the environment here being purely of fire mana. It was also true that they did possess life mana and other more intricate manas as well since the elemental planes were not purely one mana when non elemental manas came to terms.

"We would be able to take some as long as it is not corrupted. And my children can show you the seeds. They have been in charge of cleaning them and preparing them for the shipments to the city. You won't find much trouble on your walk there. The city is well protected and so is our lands."

There was pride. A pride that any person would have for their homes and those who worked hard to protect it. These farmers were on the outskirts of their lands and still felt safe. It was all too telling for Walker.

"I am glad to hear that you and your lands are safe, we can relax a little more. I was very surprised to meet the twin flame hounds, I would never have imagined such a unique bind between a monster and

your people like them. Back home we have tamers who spend their lives with partners too, but you go beyond that."

The more that Walker spoke, the more he realized how lucky he was. These farmers were kind and had easily accepted travelers. They were good judges of characters for how they acted and offered to sit and speak. The wife of the coal person they first met had even gone so far to call over a few others to trade as well.

Receiving some small pieces of the flame crawling coal was enough for them to share a lot. They were certainly in need of it for their health, and being able to trade was not something that was unfamiliar to them. It was even somewhat common the more that the party examined it.

If the merchants came and traded with them when they left and when they came, the outer farmers must have always had keen eyes to make sure that they bought what they could when they could.

For these people in this land, it was part of their culture they could not avoid. To Walker, it was an important aspect of survival that he was thankful for. One that was giving him an opportunity to learn about the city he was venturing to well before he could even see it. The territory was clearly larger than what he had realized.

Chapter 2515 Embering Coal

"They have a hundred and fifty farms this size?" This was what had shocked Gil so much. While Genesis was nowhere near the size of these farms, it was stunning to know that these people have farms of this size a hundred and fifty times over surrounding the city they created.

Along with that, they were able to protect it all enough that the people in those farms felt safe. They did not worry for their safety!

The fact that none of them had noticed any kind of patrols also made it strange though. Genesis had their farms patrolled by guards and soldiers adventurers who would fill in the gaps with week long jobs. It all came together to make a sense of security that the farmers desired.

While the group didn't learn about what methods of patrol or protection there were here, it was clear that there had to be some methods used. People wouldn't just trust that monsters or another race wouldn't just come here and take what they had.

Remey had managed to gain some seeds for basic fire elemental herbs and even seeds for basic farmer crops here in the fire elemental planes.

What she found most interesting were the yellow sparking grass which was a basic staple food. For the coal people they would eat this daily but if grown in the world and used in alchemy it could be made in to a paste with other fire elemental herbs to create a medicine that attracted more fire mana to an area for a very short while.

It wouldn't be something used by mages, but by the races who ought struggle to absorb fire mana due to an injury. This could assist them in healing if their body requires fire mana to nourish itself. Or even help go against diseases or naturally born deficiencies.

While seemingly small, it presented the differences in value that some materials, herbs, and items may have compared to the fire elemental plane and the world as a whole. It was the same for the lack of value in the water affinity materials Walker had for here.

"I still wonder what the brutal flame bison are like. They said there were herds in the closer farms that take up most of the space before city." This was something Gil had said twice already.

He knew that other than the produce and staple foods there were farmed monsters kept. He knew that many would be similar to what they had in the world but the farmers they had all mentioned how temperamental the brutal flame bison were.

"If they are so dangerous then they would make a good example of how farmers here can adapt to farming other places right? Maybe they could be a challenge that farmers or tamers need?" His mind was on how he could encourage the two in to growing more advanced faster.

This was something that as leaders everyone wished for the guilds. The crafting guild was always in some inner competition that spurred more developments than normal.

"Food!"

Both Midnight and Onyx came back from checking the awards in the edges of their groups and went right back in to what they had asked about the most. To be fair no one was going to be against learning about the food they had.

One major aspect of Genesis for culture overall was the food in every aspect. Now that so many races were mixing, the foods had also been mixing and changing to become unique in every possible aspect.

"That should be it, they said the walls were made from volcanic stone treated with pure fire mana crystals to make it a proper fire wall, but I guess we know what that means now."

It was simple to have a hard time accepting what the farmers had meant in their description. Nothing having earth materials brought here for a city wall was hard to accept in terms of location but then changing their affinity by incorporating pure fire mana crystals sounded impossible. Even calling a wall of fire had made everyone think that they would just see a larger circle of flames rather than a wall.

'Crystal flame wall

This wall took a hundred years to build and is considered one of the best examples of flame masonry. Utilizing the densest of earth mana stones, pure earth obsidian, pure fire mana is directed inside while burning away the earth elemental mana.

This process is extremely delicate but when done properly causes the dark obsidian to grow extremely dense pure fire elemental crystal which constantly had moving fire mana within to nourish an area with purified fire mana. It also makes it much tougher to break and can easily be considered one of the best defensive walls ever made in Fire elemental territories.

Only unique beings can call on it to increase defensive or offensive abilities during a battle state but those that can are highly valuable to the societies within the walls...'

Walker understood how delicate a crafting process would be. The fire mana had used the earth mana inside this bright crystal wall still harboring hints of black and rotating flames inside. Doing so means that the fire was extremely potent and perfectly controlled. Not many beings had such an ability or even thought to do so.

Just looking and feeling the pressure the wall put off from a distance made everyone check their armor, fire resistance buffs, and any potions they might need.

Gil also spotted ahead of them a group of guards. However, the guards were carrying what appeared to be baskets of flaming fruits that they set down for the flame swallowing turtles. It appeared to be a traditional arrangement for them, but remembering the fact that the larger parent of these smaller flame swallowing turtles could easily stomp this entire city to nothing, it made sense.

When the flame swallowing turtles were greeted, the guards brandished shields and took stances looking at Walker's entire expedition team. "We received notice that we would be visited by a foreign group from another plane. We have instructions to guide you in to the city to greet the unmoving ember."

It didn't sound like this was up for debate, there also appeared to be a clear order and organization to how things ran here.

The large open gate had many guards lined up checking those who entered and exited their city. In comparison to Genesis, this was more like a kingdom with highly guarded people and lands now.

The way that they were welcomed showed a majesty that proved they were a more ruled people instead of how the Genesis council worked. However, this was fine since Walker understood it. The humans followed a king and queen.

While he hoped that the noble culture would be different here, it was a tough idea that things would be entirely different since many cultures developed similarly.

To be clear all the races followed their kings still they just came together within Genesis as people who spoke on equal terms. Something new to the world and their races which had brought Ana he of development proving that not worked.

None of the expedition would try to slow or change the ways that the coal people lived though. They had to join the alliance of their own will for their own future choices, there would not be war or forceful joining since that would be vastly against what Walker believed in the first place.

He could see similarly built homes to the framers but they were second and third story so a lot more rooms. There was also a lot of signs that could direct people to go one way or another. Besides that, there were cleared streets with strange fire crystal stones that they walked over.

Not a single carriage was around though which was shocking. That was just the difference here though, carriages were often made of wood and metal which were not available with the fire elemental plane by comparison to the world.

Besides this the people watched from their homes and not from streets. It proved that they were asked to stay inside until this meeting had happened. Potentially because of worried over issues that might be between cultures or the fighters that came protecting Walker's group.

There was also the potential that they would wish to speak with them and often the other party faster if there were goods or trades of knowledge. That also depended on the fact that they spoke the same language which the will of existence and the world helped with.

Otherwise, Walker was feeling a very unique fire mana in his mana senses. A unique feeling that set that fire mana aside from what else he sensed in the fire elemental planes so far. It was most likely the unmoving ember he'd been told about.

Chapter 2516 Unmoving Ember

The set up of the city so to speak was surprisingly bright even though the buildings were higher and the massive crystal flame walls would have blocked out light. However, with fire often brought light. Walker could sense some light mana, but he realized that the areas even lacking light mana were allowing him to see without using mana senses. The others also were able to see.

It made him wonder if there was a deeper connection to how fire mana worked at the very core of what it was. If there was some sort of origin to mana that allowed them to share some properties between elemental manas.

The idea was nothing new. Especially for those who knew that natural mana came from the unification and balance of elemental manas. The idea that original mana existed was also just a land of unproven theories which Walker might be able to prove even more later.

"Look at these mansions, they have five floors." This exclamation from Remey was simply because of the massive mansions in the center of the city that they were guided to were something to behold.

Within Genesis, they had no reason to pointlessly make massive mansions like this. Some nobles of kingdoms would make homes like this but they were often smaller. Then again, they would often be converted in to other important buildings related to trade or mercantile work in general because of their size.

Otherwise, these larger mansions were just for show and an example of strength or wealth. They had no reason to be since that was just that. Why have so much unused space?

"Then we should be more surprised that the one over there with its own walls is also too big." Su mocked the building ahead. There was not a single staff that appeared to be there for the management of the city. Instead, there were guards and staff dressed the same as servants and maids.

It was easy to tell even with different cultures that this was the case. They were not simply there for working on city matters, they were there to serve and be ready to impress people. "I feel like we might have a harder time than we thought before." Gil mentioned this as he shook his head. He was not happy to think that they would be fighting against noble beliefs again. The way this city was built showed they most likely would be doing so.

The moment that the coal guards stopped a mother set opened a larger front gate. The wall for this specific massive mansion was the same as the outer wall but clearly of lesser quality. More like it was made just to look like it was the same so that it would support the idea that this place was just as grand and important.

"The unmoving ember is awaiting you." A well dressed man in red garments that radiated high amounts of denser fire mana took the lead while Walker left the larger expedition behind. Onyx remained with them since he could communicate mentally more easily with Walker.

This way, if anything happened then he would be able to prepare and guide the expedition forces immediately. Walker also could hear if anything happened while he and the rest of the party went inside.

So far they'd had an easy journey here. Something that they were all thankful for. Now, they realized it was fate being nice to them before they had to handle the more emotional aspects of any leader of a kingdom.

As they walked inside the garden area welcoming them was also larger and had ornate sculptures made of fire mana crystals and wooden fire affinity materials. They were of monsters that most likely lived within the areas, along with heavily adorned knights that most likely led the coal people.

Entering the front door another line of attendants stood with the heads bowed to welcome them. Nonoen seemed ready to speak so the party only followed the man that had spoken before.

As expected, a larger hall was at the end of the entrance along with even more guards and attendants. However, in the center of it all a larger pile of smoldering embers soaked with flame sheet and there. The flame crawling coal that seemed to fuel it all was slowly cracking as time went on.

The crackling embers of the fire crawling coal started to spark up even more as a figure broke free of the flame crawling coal.

The figure of what could only be a larger and potentially less healthy coal person stood in the embers and flares of fire looking at Walker's party. There was a vague wave of fire mana that left him and returned which Walker could attribute to some form of mana sense.

However, it was weak. Much weaker than anything Walker could do. "I am then moving ember, the lord of this city and of these people. I remain smoldering as the one who shall know all of this home and all of this land. You may greet me and offer your words."

It wasn't so in an air of arrogance that came from this coal person, it was more like one of tradition. Someone who knew their role and stood by it entirely. The same ways that a village elder or a healer would. They would commit entirely and lose their own autonomy to represent those they strove to protect or assist.

"Hello, it is nice to meet another esteemed leader of a race thriving in the fire elemental planes. My name is Walker and these are my trusted allies and family. We have come from a far off place called the world which has recently been reconnected to the elemental planes as existence wills it."

"We have formed an alliance called Genesis which unites various races from various parts of the world and even some races born in the elemental planes who have found sanctuary within the world and our unified city."

"On our travels to you as guided by the honorable flame swallowing turtles, we have found some flame crawling coal we believe would help the health and wellbeing of your people. We offer this as a gift and a show of our good faith to form a bond with your race to one day visit our home. Even one day join our alliance which shares knowledge and resources on equal basis."

When Walker spoke he held back his mana and kept himself calm. He didn't want to show what he was in terms of race. These coal people might be lower in terms of races within the fire elemental planes and might not grasp what an origin race member was or what they were to the world and existence.

He also didn't want to taint any potential alliances with force right now. So far this was respectful so he would continue this.

"You have flame crawling coal!" This came from one of the more well dressed coal people in the large group of attendants or what should be nobles. Clearly, this was something very important right now to them.

"We do. We separated it from the polluted flame crawling coal which already has fire mana crystals developing within. I know that quality is very important so the best we have is our gift." The smile Walker held was enough to show his good faith but also attracted a lot more attention.

As he took it from his high spatial storage many reacted with gasps. Of course they had heard of space elemental planes but now they were beginning to believe that they were meeting prowl from such a place.

"We have yet to be traced by the direct words of the great fire sage. We have heard his warnings of visitors from this the world. That the world is a united place of races and manas. We know not of the truths of that, we do know of the value in such a thing. Please show us more of what you carry, what you are. As the one who embers here I will see it and remember it. I will ensure it is shared amongst all."

More of what this coal person was began to take shape in Walker's mind. Not just a ruler for these people but a being that never moved and kept all their history. All their knowledge.

The unmoving ember was the coal person responsible for sacrificing everything they were to become the book of knowledge for their race. They held wisdom and were the caretakers of the history they all used to make decisions.

"Some items I will not take out since they hold water mana that could cause harm, otherwise I will show what we brought and speak a little of the races, is that acceptable?" More embers crackled and flames swept around the room as the unmoving ember seemed to agree with excitement.

For them, who never moved, new knowledge for his race was a feast and a celebration.

Chapter 2517 True State Of Things

"Races, we have not met many races. We are protected here by the ways of the ember and our relationship with the wise ones in the flames beyond our farmlands." one of the more well dressed nobles and began to speak while the smoldering ember was listening to all things.

The smoldering ember appeared to be more of a recorder and a guide than anything. The traditions of their society were more established. Things were a lot less like the ways that Walker had begun to expect.

They had believed that there would be a lot of the generic issues that they expected from other nobles. However, they were seeing that there was more traditional and breaking that tradition was even more terrifying than any emotional ego related to who was or was not powerful.

On top of that, there was the fact that a greater deal of what they were doing was allowing for the smoldering ember, their guide and foremost figure, to learn and improve the decisions that would be made for all of their people.

Somewhat of what the entire party started to think was because of how they lived and survived. It wasn't just the fact that they were within the calmer areas of the fire elemental planes. It was because they had managed to rely on the flame crawling coal along with the unique building and protection from more powerful beings and races.

"We have heard of the pure flame elementals, they have neared our home seven times in the past decade. They are always able to be repelled by the yellow flame falcon race. They are golden feathered and move through the flames as if they are more than an elemental." The reverence in the voices as they all began speaking of these yellow flame falcon race struck Walker as very important.

This race could be an important race that was able to move through fire more easily because of their higher fire affinity. However, what Walker believed, was that they were similar to the harpy or the angel race. They had yellow gold feathers because that was where they absorbed and used the yellow fire mana that they were able to produce. This would make them much more in touch with that form of fire mana and clearly more able to utilize it too.

It would also establish the similarities between the other races that Walker and Genesis had that used fire mana and processed mana in general. Besides this, it would explain what the coal people would be feeling some connection to it. They had the same sort of yellow red flames in their bodies so when they saw a race with purer flames they would be able to feel it instinctually.

"I can see how that would be helpful. They sound like very good protectors, are they the ones that came to let us know you were going to see us?" Walker wasn't trying to pry, he was just curious if they were working for the true fire sage or the elemental fire king at all. If they were then it would be like the angel's distant cousin race who completely fused with light mana.

"They are emissaries of those greater. We may have been told of the true fire sage's words by them but we do not know more of their stronger commands." They were not intricately connected to the movements beyond their race. It was easily a fact that this race was so small compared to what some of the others were.

This was all the more clear to Walker since the coal people didn't actually appear to have immense magical abilities like the other fire elemental races within the fire elemental plane. They were surprisingly weak and peaceful. Farming here and growing with their traditions.

"I believe that we could all be very good allies. We do not have a lot of the same things in Genesis as you have in your home here. Our traditions are different, but our people are all looking for peace, unity, and growth. I believe you can share a lot of your culture with us and we can show a greater deal with you." Su had become much more invested in this conversation the more that she was here.

This was simply because she saw the ways the walls were built and how every single guard had a shield. It was clear that the entire culture was more focused on caring for and protecting the well being of their people. Meaning that they would fit right in line with everything that Su worked for.

"You may be right, you are showing us the armor you made just to ensure you could make a journey here to speak and even build a small connection. We have been a blessed people protected, even that wanes. We have not grown as fast as others."

The moving ember spoke again. This time though, more flames reared up on the pile of claim crawling coal he survived in. This changed the entire atmosphere of every single coal person in the larger hall. Their downcast emotions were both clear on their coal faces and also in the decreased embering of flames within their bodies.

"What do you mean?" Midnight looked at those who had been speaking with her on the side. They had been immersed in her dark and shiny black scales. She was more than happy to share with them especially since they saw how she could channel the fire mana around her and cause an almost similar effect of smoldering light just like they naturally had at all times.

A long pause raised the tension in the air. All these amazing conversations sharing information about the coal people and Genesis seemed to halt. Everything that they had been speaking about was seemingly a cover now. Just a potential happiness that they were not lost to since their future had been more ambiguous than what they had led on to be.

"Some time ago, one of the protectors, the yellow feathered falcon race landed here to warn us. The shifting of the fire elemental planes would bring us near a different land. One closer to where larger flame behemoths are born. Monsters that would consume the very planes. They are monsters, but they are balance."

From the very beginning, this had been a weight that landed on all of these people. The reason that all the people had been confined to their homes wasn't just because this was a potentially dangerous meeting with strangers, it was because they were all scared.

They worked their hardest every day and the farmers had seemed very well off. Yet, they too might have been making the best of things so that they were able to stand another day. Live another day. Prepare for the next day.

"Do you know of the greater forces? Those who build the elemental planes and contribute to the growth of every elemental plane which is not becoming closer to the central world where we are from?" A small spark of understanding flicked through the unmoving ember's eyes.

"Those beings. The gods and creators. Those above all others. We have heard stories spoken by merchants. Tales we did not believe."

"They do exist. They are the reason for all the growth and they speak with the greatest elemental kings and potentially the sages. They even speak to beings above those you know of. I have seen them and they have opened my eyes to larger parts of all things. Knowing such things has brought me to an understanding that some races can not survive within the fire elemental planes because they are in need of a different environment."

"What I am saying is that the true fire sage might have chosen your people for us to meet first because we have accepted other races from the elemental planes as well. So, why not consider coming to our home. I might be able to bring all you have here with me."

This was like a crashing thought smashing every idea and perception that the coal people had. They didn't have words since this entire situation was well beyond what generations had ever been a part of. Even more so. They were the kind of people that followed their traditions.

This would be something different and new.

"You can take your time and debate with your people. We can take our time to search the surrounding lands and see what we might find to take back and learn from in our home. I will leave a squadron of soldiers here to speak with you. You can ask them what you wish. You won't have to listen to just us." This was proof of trust so that Walker could put them more at ease. It was an unexpected offer that

could present many challenges and changes. Something Walker didn't plan for but he now felt he understood.

Chapter 2518 Deliberation

"I am surprised." This was all Onyx had to say when he was given the update about what had been spoken about. There was plenty more that could have been spoken of before they left the hall, however, it didn't feel right.

The fact that this was another race that was suffering here in the elemental planes in a way, was even harder to understand.

The elemental planes would shift, that was their nature. However, the fact that they were shifting in a way that would mean certain death for the entire race of coal people here was harder to grasp. This area was so peaceful.

The yellow feather falcon race was the race that was closer to the fire elemental mana that all monsters and races used in the fire elemental planes. They had been protecting the coal people from the fire elementals and had yet to see a real threat otherwise.

Yet, now there was a shift in the fire elemental planes for whatever natural reason and it would bring a monster called the flame born behemoths which didn't sound welcoming at all and most likely wasn't even the real name of the monster being spoken of.

"Brother, do you believe you are being guided as well." When Onyx said that, Walker only hesitated in his next step for a moment while the others also looked at him.

"I am. The other Origin beings have to be watching somehow and some way. The one I met told me I wasn't ready for certain things and I needed to learn. I have been learning and Genesis has been expanding the peace and alliance we have. We are welcoming more races and creating a place united."

"The world itself is the unity of elemental manas and eventually the elemental planes. So why, would they not have some hand in all this? The elemental kings and sages want to protect peace and balance. This race might be eliminated during that natural balancing. But they wouldn't lose an entire race if they came to the world and the balance would remain."

"You are saying we are the best option." The way that Remey saw it, since the world had returned to the natural flow of mana and existence, all these powerful beings saw it as ideal.

"I'm saying that, yes. How many races have disappeared before their eyes due to the fact that they can't act without causing balance to fail or others to be more hurt than the cost? So much just have happened while the elemental planes fought for balance."

None of them had forgotten that they had heard of wars here as well. Battles that pitted entire elemental planes against others making the boundaries areas of chaos and death.

To avoid that ever happening the elemental kings placed dominator dragons, powerful ancient monsters, and the true sages in to so many positions that constantly worked to ensure a balance of peace was kept.

The shifting of the elemental planes caused many potential instances of battle that were avoided every day. Not to mention when new elemental planes were melded with each of the elemental planes because of the origin beings growing them.

The natural shifting caused its own risks and dangers. That would be the case at all times. It was still the wilderness and not every land or area was controlled and perfectly following some race's laws. Monsters were monsters and not all of them would be reasoned with or even close to being controlled. They were a risk to races like the coal people at all times.

"Are we going to even be able to accept them?" As viable as it sounded since they bags managed to accept other races, Remey knew of the main issue.

"The flame crawling coal they need is hard to procure since it took time to form and could be full of impurities that made it unsafe for them to consume." There was as long sight as Gil and Walker both considered this.

"You can figure out how to make it though right?" Everyone took their time to look at Su. She was too casual with this sort of solution but then again, why not?

"I can try. If we gather more for now but I have a feeling that with the right earth and then the right fire mages or crafters we can begin to make some. We have fire elemental crystals that would have to be used it too."

The thoughts toward the purer fire elemental mana crystals and the crafters that were expanding their skills made it seem much plausible of an option. "We would have to start working on it now. We have some mages with us who can sense and understand the unique form of fire mana that burned out the earth man to make flame crawling coal but doesn't form fire mana crystals."

He didn't want to make it a for sure deal, however looking at the wall of crystalized fire entirely different form for means crystals, Walker felt that the forms of crafting when associated with elemental manas in their more pure forms was just a matter of time.

The flame crawling coal they harvested until then would be what they used for research and the health of the coal people.

"If they choose to stay we will need to leave them knowing." The somber tone that grew from Su's comment made it appear that she didn't want to leave them but was fighting an internal battle before she had spoken up again.

"If we have to leave we will do it when we absolutely need to. I am fine staying to rescue those who survive instead of letting an entire race become extinct." Walker knew that he couldn't remain here and survive while the others left safely with instructions. He could easily guide Midnight and Onyx from a distance with his bond with them.

It would be a little challenging however it would be decent for him to manage since he could sense the bridges to the world and also the locations Midnight and Onyx.

"It seems a few of their more important attendants started asking questions of the squads." Remy was carefully watching every single attendant and guard who spoke with their squads. She wanted to ensure that nothing untoward happened. They were not evil but they were still mostly unknown.

The knowledge that there was desperation on the coal people's horizon also was important to note. If they began to panic as some people would, there could be an attack or attempt to force Walker's group in to helping or acting with them.

It wasn't clear yet but Walker knew they were much more powerful than the coal people. It wasn't because of their fire mana manipulation being weak, but because it seemed they were too attached to needing the flame crawling coal to be healthy and develop.

That should have been the greatest limiting factor that had stopped them from developing faster. If they were a race watched by stronger races, then those stronger races knew very well the potential and the fact that they could grow but were held back.

Being held back by the very place best for them to live was harder to comprehend but it made sense. Other races like the wind horn race had suffered because of their fight constantly for survival.

"It looks like they are getting the answers they want and better ones than they expected." The slight relaxing of Remey's shoulders proved that her instincts matched her thinking. The attendants were not panicking but clearly looked more relieved now that they had answers that were not just from the leaders of a group.

"The fire elemental dragon territory will get full faster at this rate. I wonder if we will have other races join with more elemental focuses." The space would slowly grow to be a problem and Gil had already helped manage that for the water elves since they had expanded the lake they lived in recently. Current has been very helpful with that.

"We have space that's set aside for these situations. We also have a second city being built. We also have the potential for more floating cities with the angels. We are growing rapidly. Everyone will have room. They are literally building their future."

With Walker's comment before he was fairly calm since he had a better idea of what was going on. It was also why he didn't hesitate when he saw a few of the other more well dressed attendants walking

toward him. Some faces in windows of homes became clearer and the general people watched with interest.

"Please return to the hall. The smoldering ember has questions and wishes to state a final decision. We also wish to call on the protector and see if we are answered."

Chapter 2519 A Lot Of Potential

The room was full of crackling conversation and clearly had a greater fire mana and heat than it did before. It seemed that all the emotions through their deliberations had brought out a lot more of the fire mana than would normally be present.

There were also many more attendants bringing items in and out of the hall. Potentially items that could be traded or items that helped them all focus on what they were talking about. It could also be seen that some of these items were pieces of stored flame crawling coal. They were being handed to the coal people in the best clothing who would consume them before more embers appeared on their bodies.

The process was interesting because Walker would sense the life mana and fire mana reacting together to become more vibrant. For the coal people, fire was life and the flame crawling coal which was a unique material made from even more unique fire mana condensed and purified over time by natural forces, it was the core of their development.

"You have returned." The comment silenced the entire room. When the unmoving ember spoke, they all understood that there would be a greater importance.

"We have. I believe you may have more questions?" Walker spoke first and many of the attendants focused on him.

"Your world has been told to us to be a place where many weaker races can survive without the pressure of the purest manas. Why is this?" It would be hard to understand a place made of all manas and not just a singular elemental plane.

The coal people had grown here and were one with the fire elemental plane so to speak.

Being able to leave that place for an entire world, to them another plane, was something unfathomable. Even the fact that they might be able to venture in to other elemental planes was hard. The merchant caravans that traveled in to the earth elemental plane were only there for a short while. Nearly enough to say they were there but more often than not they were at the boundary of the two elemental planes.

They were a worry that Walker Had for a moment. Yet, when he realized that they were merchants, he understood that at the core of who they were, they would never settle down. Traveling merchants were a people of their own right. They traveled because they needed to at the core of who they were. So even if their race left their home land, they would still choose to travel and trade.

"The world is a place that developed with all manas at the center. As the world moves so do the elemental planes. The movements are not as dramatic as yours spatially but the manas balance there."

"Because of a long history of broken bridges and lesser purity? The world stagnated for a moment before it reconnected and is now growing closer with every single elemental plane. I have felt these bonds and understood them to a small degree."

"This means that even the opposing water mana exists in calm balance with the fire mana you know so well. And we have made places in our territory of elemental purity so those who cannot freely move or have not adapted can survive."

"There is a lot more we can explain but worries you the most?"

As much as Walker and the others understood that there was a ton of what they could say, they couldn't. Simply because they were all stuck on how to explain things more in depth that would not make a single lick of sense to them.

"If we were to leave and the guardian agrees... can we even survive?" That was the weight and it had somewhat been answered. However, the way that the unmoving ember spoke, it was clear that he was willing to lose all he had for his people to survive beyond any doubt.

"I believe you can survive. We have spoken about the potential of crafting flame crawling coal. We can create mana gems from fire mana crystals. They can store fire mana. We can condense and purify fire mana. So why can we not do what the origin of flame crawling coal did naturally?"

This brought some confusion to their faces. They did not understand the depth that Walker's all around appraisal told him of the how and why flame crawling coal was formed.

"The flame crawling coal was once earth mana material. That earth mana was burned away by the fire mana here over a long time. That's why fire mana crystals can form within and why some monsters eat it or burrow within. So if we can mimic that using powerful magic, we can make flame crawling coal for all of your people which should allow you to live up to the potential that has stagnated over time."

Collective gasps and inner struggles seemed to reverberate through the rooms. The unmoving ember flared with bright flames soon after.

"If this is sworn by you, my people would leave with you even against the wishes of our guardians. My people have spent generations wishing for strength to stand beside the guardians and follow the true will of fire. We have been deaf to the words of those standing so high above us. What can we do to realize this?"

Survival.

This was the reason for being for so many. Even though there was peace here and protection for now, the unmoving ember was the core of all memories and history of the coal people race.

In those memories were the deep emotions that drove them to survive and make their way through the next day. Since he could remember this, he would find any way possible to keep those times for his race to ever return.

"Are you certain this is what you and your people wish? I know many have been isolated for the entire time we have been here. I feel that we are harming them because they are unable to leave their homes right now." Part of Walker felt there had to be more clarity here.

"They understand the reason. We have seen your desires clearly. We accepted your offerings. We know of the future here and our potential end without chances for recovery right now..."

The pause weighed heavily on everyone. "They are waiting to hear a solution or any positive news we can give them right now. I will not allow them to hear half truths or partial hope. They will hear the final decision to celebrate or rise against." This was the voice of a ruler now.

The weight behind each sentence was enough to push Walker's mind back some. He knew this was the strength the unmoving ember possessed and that was fine. Every ruler had these sorts of abilities and when speaking for their people, let alone race, it meant even more.

"I feel like this has not gone as either of us believed or planned. Instead of trying to understand or figure out where we stand in the many unknowns we have as different races and as leaders of our races or groups, let me say this..."

"We as the representatives and heroes of Genesis offer An alliance and a bond. We offer your race a home as we have done with others. We offer knowledge sharing and education. We offer you friendship and family."

Su, Onyx, Walker, Gil, Remey, and Midnight all stood together and looked at the entirety of the hall and then to the unmoving ember.

"We, those of embering coal and cracking flame offer to you an alliance. We shall share our generational knowledge. We will offer knowledge of our flames, our birth home, and of anything we find you lack. We wish for survival and ask for more than that. We look for a future we may not even be able to see as we are now, that only our children may grasp."

Both spoke as if these paths were beyond more than what would be expected yet were exactly what was needed.

The sudden flurry of fire mana around as a larger mass of fire mana took form nearby them was something familiar. Walker understood exactly who it was and didn't even need to say anything since it appeared everyone here understood the power that this being had.

However, the coal people struggled to remain standing, they couldn't protect themselves from the potent fire mana because it was more unique and concentrated by composition. In a single wave Walker shared more of the fire resistance buffs which caused them to weaken the unintentional pressure.

"I am glad you understood the desires for guiding you here. This is not a race we wish to be lost due to survival and changes in balance. I have watched and I have heard. You have done well, both of you."

Chapter 2520 Move It All

"I am not at all surprised that you have been close to us this whole time. Thank you for the help moving through this area while it was peaceful." The others looked at Walker hoping for a little more informations as they tried to understand a little more about the position they were in now.

"This is the true fire sage, they have been keeping an eye on the deliberations to make sure that we were true to our word." It was clear that Walker was not surprised and the others relaxed a bit when they realized that the body formed from the flame was the same as the true wind sage had done at one time.

It wasn't that they didn't trust the figure that had appeared, but the very fact that they had made themselves known and were acting as if they were above them. Then again, this was a being who embodies flames and fiore, they surely could be a lot more abrasive if there was the chance for it.

Besides this, the coal people were all now somewhat able to handle the pressure of different fire mana that was on their bodies. They were able to feel the strength of this being and how much further above them they were in terms of power of fire mana they could wield. It was like trying to embody flames at the core of their being and transcend in to a whole new being, Or at least that's how their minds rationalized it.

The coal people had never been able to comprehend or speak to beings like the true fire sage. Instead, they had followed guardians who had protected them that were much weaker in compassion yet also much more powerful than them.

"I saw what you had done with those of the wind elemental plane. A tribe that would have been lost. You also have a following of elements from the lightning boundary. You have welcomed a unique dragon who can not survive anywhere else. You are able to do much more and now I am seeing it happen within my own elemental plane."

It felt more like the true fire sage was saying something rehearsed. Like it was expected but that small bit of doubt had been there in his mind and now he was able to squash it.

"You should understand that not a single one of the rulers wished to hear of a single species of monster, plant, or race perish. The chaos of war they saw lost too many beings at their infancy, never able to grow. You stated similar things as these people should have stories from the ancient parts of their species telling of a great war that tore apart entire lands."

The weight of each word was heavier every time they all comprehended it. The true flame sage was clearly making this an example of how loss could be prevented further and further in to the future.

"With my blessing, this race will be able to leave and find longer prosperity. Be able to rely on others where they could not do so here. So take them. Guide them. Share your time with them even though their homeland is shifting and becoming too dangerous."

"Taking an entire race as large as this will be harder to do than what we have done in the past. Many of the coal people here are older, have families, and have many more in numbers. how can we manage that with the few people we have in our expedition?" Su was the one who broke the train of conversation. Walker was not unhappy with this though. She made a clear point.

This was clearly an issue that would make everything crumble. One enemy monster attacking could cause a major loss to the expedition party and also to the people here trying to travel to the world through the bridges of the elemental planes.

"I believe we can rely on another for that. We can rely on those who need to leave their areas as well. They may travel and survive elsewhere, but these people here can not." With a gust of fire mana that pushed through the entire land, Walker was able to sense a much larger creature.

The massive flame swallowing turtle was stepping toward them, this time, a larger mass of flames had gathered making the shell on its back seem flatter. "This young one will carry this land with you. The flames will fill the space here."

What the true fire sage was using this made flame body to tell them was that the flame swallowing turtle was literally going to carry the entire land that the city of the coal people lived on to the world. Not just from here to there, no, to the bridge and beyond it.

"I see you do not understand. Those children that guided you are the youngest but one of many. This young one may be young to me and those young to him. However, that one will perish soon and return to the flames as they are meant to do so. They understand this and shall journey to the world to release their flames and create enough time for their land to become one with the world."

Before Walker or anyone could ask how that was even possible the true fire sage spoke again. "This has been accepted and guided by a greater being. Just as you guide the world now, we look to those that have immense skill in these things."

"You spoke to an origin being. I understand." If there were origin being weighing in on even small races like the coal people, then it was clear that they believed that the world and the elemental planes would be melding together sooner and faster than what Walker could imagine.

However, if this was their act of beginning that process to smooth it out while also helping the elemental rulers and true sages, that would make a lot of sense. He could see how they would help the world accept the elemental planes and the bridges to the elemental planes expand naturally without chaos or issue.

"Then you understand what we need to do?" the true fire sage looked upon them all before the flame body he'd made dissolved and disappeared.

"I believe we will be looking at a new land sooner than we believe. My fellow people, our saviors and new allies, let us begin." Small sparks erupted as the unmoving ember began sharing their fire mana around and every single well dressed coal person began moving and ordering the guards.

The sudden flurry of movement was brought to the expedition team who were both stunned but extremely motivated. They had all imagined helping races and learning new things. Being able to participate in this was a lot for them, being able to even go beyond this and help an entire race survive? Well, this was the impossible being made possible right now.

"We are going to help them move an entire city. All the people and all that we can take we will. I am going to start going to the farms and storing items in the high spatial storage. Can you all begin doing the same? The people need to keep as much food and tools that they can. If they need help guiding monsters they care for or anything, divide and conquer those tasks."

It wasn't a lot but it was perfect. They all knew that they didn't need to hesitate here. They could push and make whatever they were asked happen. They knew that the massive approaching figure wreathed in greater flames was coming to help them. They knew that these people were ready to survive.

It would be a little more work, but they had the protections and strength to do it. If they were able, how could they ignore the plea for assistance?

"This is not what I expected. No fights against massive monsters just helping and peace. The elemental planes might be different than we thought." Remey had ignored her thoughts on the larger topics but now that she said it out loud she felt that she had accepted that the world would be more important than she had given it credit for.

"Maybe you should try and show off more of your fire mana and racial skills. You might get to become their hero too." Gil's teasing started a bit of arguing, but the lighthearted actions of them punching on another here and there seemed to be enough to relax some of the more rushed and stressed coal people.

They didn't know the expedition party very well, but they did know they were here to help. Seeing them lower their guards and commit entirely was proof that they were striving to help them no matter what.