

Master 2631

Chapter 2631 Following Flames

With everything seemingly a little clearer to the relationship the party and the elemental kings with the true sages should have, Walker had everyone take a traveling stance. While the true fire sage would somewhat guide everyone, he was not going to be able to simply stay with them the entire time.

As they did leave the new fire elemental plane, the fire golem became more defined and solid. It was a clear show of connection to the greater fire elemental planes that the true fire sage possessed with the overall fire elemental planes.

There was a small change though, Walker noticed the slight shift in the fire elemental plane from the location they had come from before. While the area did not seem that different, it was enough so that Walker understood a little better now too.

"The smaller elemental planes being added in to the greater elemental planes don't shift in the same way because their space mana and other manas aren't properly acclimated to the overall elemental planes. Meaning that they cause even more issues by not moving the same way or even interrupting the space mana as a whole."

This was another reason that the elemental planes struggled with these additions. "There are many waves that are created from these additions. When they interfere with one another, it grows more troublesome." The true fire sage stopped and the golem began to degrade. "Here is where the one I have called to guide you will arrive."

Before the full golem had even dissipated, everyone noticed it. Something that they did not expect had a fire affinity counterpart.

'True flame gryphon

This is a monster that could be called an intelligent race. Unfortunately, the true flame gryphon is a species so small in number and very rare through the fire elemental planes that it is currently impossible. Their long lifespans can be attributed to the eternal flame within their hearts that they feed with various forms of fire mana.

They are able to utilize their feathers as weapons by shooting them from their wings and adding potent fire manas to them. They also have vicious talons and a powerful beak which they can both bolster with fire mana at will. The vibrant red feathers are a sign that they are always ready to release that fire mana within, they only lose the vibrant red color when they are extremely ill or weakened.

Their attitude is very high and mighty leaving them to even fight some weaker dragons, or if they are old enough, fully grown adult dragons. Often times, they have a territory that they cultivate giving weaker monsters and races a place to live safely for a price. Otherwise, it has been found that they serve directly under the true fire sage within the fire elemental planes...'

Walker didn't bother sharing much of the information, he entirely slipped the parts about how its body could be used to forge or craft. Gil didn't ask about the feathers either, it seemed that they all understood this was a much older monster than what they expected. Just the atmosphere around it radiated more heat and a slight majesty that came with being up on high for so long.

"You are truly not of flame as I was told. You are of other things I can not touch but I can feel." The voice was similar to a flame trying to escape a log burning, the flaring breathy tone was odd but fitting. It was not using normal speech but fire mana to communicate, although that made sense with the strength of the fire mana it possessed.

"We are from a world where all manas are balanced and united. They mix, they break, they clash, but that is balanced. They are not like the outside of the elemental planes where manas run wild and chaotic." The true flame gryphon looked carefully at Walker who had just spoken to it, its fierce red eyes sparkling with interest in meeting something that it couldn't explain or comprehend with what it had seen within the greater fire elemental planes.

"I will take you to the child of this area's guardian. That whelp is trying to gain more control of their flames. It should be enough for you to be happy with." There seemed to be some information about them that the true fire sage had shared. But the true flame gryphon still seemed a little curious but unwilling to sully its reputation and pride by asking many questions.

Walker didn't have the chance to respond as the true flame gryphon stepped forward and flames burst around it pushing it further ahead. The entire party didn't think, Alice had already started a song to enhance their agility. They were moving just as fast if not able to move faster than the true flame gryphon if they weren't holding back to follow where it was going.

Seeing this, the true flame gryphon almost appeared insulted that there was someone, let alone multiple people, who could keep up with it.

Utilizing fire mana to propel itself faster was just a basic skill. Flying was a natural ability for the true flame gryphon, but where it took domination over other monsters was adding flames into the mix. Its speed and maneuverability were second to none.

If it were to hear anything about the wind or light gryphons, it would be enraged instantly that other gryphon species could even attempt to compete. It's believe that flames were its core strength and that it was the highest any of its species could reach would always ring through. Instead of a dragon's pride, this was pure arrogance.

Midnight noticed the true flame gryphons' thoughts and decided to have a little fun. No one in the party stopped her as she spread her wings out and utilized her full abilities to fly as a dragon.

The moment she rose above the true flame gryphon, the shock in its flight became clear to all of them. It had never imagined that some small dragon that clearly appeared to be younger than even the one they were going to meet had caught up to it.

Worse off yet, Midnight pulled fire mana around her body igniting around her scales. The vibrant flames were a show of control over mana. Walker knew that Midnight had experimented with flame wrapping, wind wrapping, and earth wrapping skills. She still struggled with light wrapping but just as shadow wrapping helped her hide, flame wrapping allowed her to do similar things as the true flame gryphon did to propel itself faster in the air.

As she kept pace and showed her strength in flight, the true flame gryphon struggled internally with realizing that something like Midnight came out of nowhere to outdo it. Not just in flight but also mimicking its ability to propel itself with fire mana. Normally it exceeded over almost every other monster within the fire elemental planes.

The sudden rush of fire mana the true flame gryphon pulled in made Midnight grin, showing her teeth. She was excited to race around and see how fast she could go.

What neither of them realized was that they had already entered another territory.

The sudden roar shook the fire mana and sent tidal waves of fire toward them. The true flame gryphon flapped its wings and fire emanated from its feathers stopping the waves. Midnight simply flew straight through them, her natural resistance was more than enough even without her tough dragon scales and fire affinity to help.

Before Any other of the sorry could say or do anything, Midnight took a deep breath and roared out as well. This time the tidal waves of flame heading toward everyone were completely whipped out. Some were even pushed backwards!

The true flame gryphon landed next to the party who were watching Midnight head toward the distant larger shape. "That's the whelp I spoke of. It's unwise to antagonize a young dragon like that."

"Don't worry, Midnight is just trying to play and make a new friend. She hasn't had the chance to really meet dragons living so far from home so this is a good chance for her to learn a little and enjoy our adventure here." Walker was so casual. The entire party was so casual and smiling.

The true flame gryphon seemed to believe that the true fire sage had sent it to meet insane people. If all the beings within the world were like this, how could anyone or anything counter them? It was just too impossible.

Midnight found herself looking at a red scaled dragon covered in yellow flames glaring at her. It was triple her size but clearly noticed she had much greater strength than it. "Let's fight!" Midnight's gleeful challenge reverberated through the fire mana. All she could think about was testing fire mana related skills against a dragon born, raised, and still growing in the fire elemental plane. It was too much fun!

Chapter 2632: Fire Against Fire

"Are we going to let her fight?" The smirk that Remey had on her face told everyone that she was even going to go so far to encourage it if no one would stop her.

"Sister wants to test herself, and that dragon also wants to move around too, that's why it roared even though it sensed that some of us could easily defeat it." With Onyx bluntly commenting like this, the true flame gryphon felt that the true fire sage surely knew what these people were like.

The more that it watched how they enacted, the more that it understood nothing was normal. That the position it held being one of the followers of true fire sage and the holder of territory or communication would not prepare them for whatever was going on now. The changes that came with the elemental planes were not simple. They were intrinsically tied to the world now and would be growing exponentially.

"Don't worry about this, they won't fight until one or the other is too hurt to handle their duties. Midnight could defeat that dragon pretty easily, he's not as diverse as she is in combat or skills. She wants to challenge her fire affinity. She will want to do that with every single elemental plane she gets in to though."

"Midngith is a true dragon champion Walker, it makes sense that she wants to push herself to the peak of everything she had at her disposal." Walker raised his eyebrows in surprise as Su spoke out.

He quickly noticed that she was pulling fire mana toward her and also using it to train her resistances along with sending it in to a shield form with her. The twin fire shields she had made along with the fire affinity armor were very good at assisting her in guiding and directing fire mana to assist in her physical defense and offense.

With them as her tools, they became part of her more and more. Allowing for Su to become closer to fire mana as well. If she was training herself like this in every mana due to her connection with Midnight and growing affinities, she would be able to get her other affinities closer to her natural affinity for earth mana.

He didn't have to say a word about any of it, instead he kept his focus on the fight starting between this younger fire dragon and Midnight.

The fire dragon glared at midnight, while he knew very well that Midnight was younger than him, it was also easier than anything else to understand that Midnight was significantly stronger. Just the feeling of opposing manas pushing against the fire mana around her within her body was clear to him since he had been born and raised in the fire elemental plane.

While he was far from stepping toward a path that would bring him to becoming a unique dragon, he was old enough and powerful enough to be able to sense fire mana and manipulate it beyond most of the other beings in his territory. He was also able to have a territory to act in and rule to ensure balance and peace. Something that not every dragon could be allowed due to the fact that some preferred to roam and fight whenever possible.

It was just the nature of some dragons to battle over all else.

He opened his maw and released a potent yellow flame. The heat was high but the fire mana was much denser than the fire breath Midnight knew she could use. It wasn't dragon flames it was fire mana taken from the surroundings and condensed as if it was easier than breathing. A show of what a fire dragon born within the fire elemental plane was capable of.

Midnight charged right in to the flames as they came. She didn't even flinch when she felt her scales heating up and her body protesting. This was more than just her trying to overpower another dragon, she knew she could do that by changing what skills she used and even using what manas she had within her body.

This was her trying to push part of herself well above what she could do and pursue greater strength. This fire dragon was raised here and had insight about what a fire dragon could do that was greater than what she could do, why would she waste the opportunity?

Her open fire breath left her maw a moment later, it cut through the dense flames the fire dragon made and hit it on its side. The fire was more condensed and held a deeper red color. More similar to Remey's alchemy flames than anything else that could be called dragon flames.

What everyone had not realized was that Midnight had more than learned about how Remey's alchemy flames were able to break down a dragon's scales slowly but surely. The effect was not instant since Midnight could not use alchemy flames in the same ways that Remey could, but with seeing a young hatchling become an alchemy fire dragon, she had learned to use the flames too. To be able to alter the flames within her in to a different form like this.

The weakness in those scales was clearly felt by the fire dragon and it covered his body in flames. While attempting to deter Midnight, the realization that Midnight was condensing fire to even denser forms across her smaller body made it clear that this was the way to fight right now.

The more that she pushed and the fire dragon did, the more than the density of mana played a role. The deeper and deeper flames became red, orange, and yellow dancing between them, showing the depth of what fire mana could do. The clashing nature was exhausting them both mentally and less so physically.

The flames that midnight used wore away at the fire dragon, a form of flames that it did not use before but was changing its perception of flames as a whole. Something that came about because it had not traveled and seen more flames but taken a territory.

Midnight on the other hand felt the weight of flames. The dense and seemingly endless fire mana that this fire dragon was taking from everything around it to fight. Something she was not as efficient in doing nor could do because she had less understanding and connection at the core of her being with fire mana.

Both were using one another as a sharpening stone now. Physical fighting? They didn't need it. They were training their knowledge of fire now. The roars, dragon breaths, and even the shielding with flames across their body were all steps they were taking to improve again and again.

"I would say they are doing well now. I just saw that fire dragon try to take over Midnight's flames. She took some of those ideas from you Remy." Gil was trying to see what he could learn too. The heat was a lot so he had taken one of the small fire resistance potions to help him resist the growing wear and tear on his body.

Alice was much the same, she had been increasing her song but had also tried to take a little more potion to help herself. "I bet that she is learning how to use a bit more than just some fire mana right now. Midnight is starting to learn what it is like to use a lot of mana all at once like Walker does or like when I sing." This was a little more animated than what Alcie had been earlier. It showed she was very impressed with how Midnight was growing before their eyes.

"They will be done soon. They are wearing themselves out mentally. They will need to rest and i still want to chat with that fire dragon for a little while." Walker said it just loud enough that he knew Midnight would hear him. He was teasing her a bit for getting too in to her fighting and training. He had always been teased for being too caught up in his own thoughts too.

It was a good thing though, the fire dragon they were all watching fight with Midnight also heard it and decided to halt all the flames showing control over territory. The sudden cease in mana flow was staggering to Midnight, but it also showed the extent of what fire mana was able to attach to its will.

Midnight could not do something like this, Walker could, but Midnight would have to learn a lot more. It was a show of control of territory and knowledge. It was also a starting point for Midnight to see where her next goal lay. Where she could start to take the next steps toward becoming better and better in terms of manipulating the very area around her.

Chapter 2633: A Rough Territory

As the flames calmed down and the territory they had sped in to became clear, it was easier to see it as a fire elemental desert. There was significantly less growth and plants around, making the sands, all fire elemental grains of ore ground down to powder. It was an interesting area to say the least.

'Red tin ore sand

Red tin is a somewhat rare fire elemental material that gathers in places that are heavily within fire elemental lands. While it can form within the world, it is internally different when it forms within the world due to it having some earth mana within as well. Within the fire elemental planes it is more brittle than the world's red tin. It also has a calming ability in terms of flow of fire mana.

It requires higher abilities as a blacksmith to be able to control the fire mana that flows through it due to the after metal that the red tin ore sand can be made in to...'

Looking deeply in to how the red tin ore sand became sand wasn't necessarily on Walker's list, but as he grabbed some and let it run through his fingers, the true flame gryphon noticed.

"This territory used to be a large mountain made of flames and the red tin ore. After a battle between some monsters many years ago it was reduced to this. It can not grow anything, but it can be taken as a refuge for other monsters that would feed on these sands. The ore could become parts of golems or the flame saw worms."

Walker and the rest of the party had never heard of a flame saw worm so that left them curious. Seeing their curiosity, the true flame gryphon kept speaking.

"The flame saw worms are a larger species of strangulating worms. They will wrap their bodies around larger and larger prey like a serpent. Then they will grind the sharp blades on their bodies using fire mana to cut and carve up their prey. It is a brutal way to perish. They are also able to grow continuously to larger and larger sizes needing to eat more and more. They are a pest to every territory."

The fact that they could grow larger and larger depending on the food they ate meant that they could become a predator for even the largest of monsters if they were not kept in check. Seeing as this territory had ideal food for them to use to grow larger enough, it meant that the dragon placed here was specifically here for ensuring that there would not be a flame saw worm growing within the fire elemental planes and causing issues.

It was a way that balance was maintained.

It was also easy to see that the lack of other plants here would be somewhat depressing. Staring a red ground up ore all the time just waiting to grow in strength but being unable to travel until another replaced them. This fire dragon did not have much of an entertaining future to look forward to...

"I am fine with it. I am granted a territory to take as my own. I am part of everything here. I will make it as I see fit in the future." The growl of the fire dragon made it clear that he and Midnight had caught their breath. It was also interesting seeing the fire dragons sharper features. It was clear to see the flame like patterns on his scales, different from the red uniform scales of the world's fire dragons.

That and the wings were different, instead of scales webbing between parts of the wings, Walker noticed yellow scales that spat off flames here and there. It was clearly a measure that allowed for faster flight using fire mana naturally, something that a dragon raised within the fire elemental plane would develop. It was different from the world's fire dragons.

"Did you learn a bit?" Walker patted Midnight's head and she seemed extremely happy. Although she had used a decent bit of mana so she didn't move to show off or respond. "This is Midnight, she wanted to meet a fire dragon living in the fire elemental planes. We are from the world. You should visit some day and meet the fire dragons that live there."

The fire dragon seems hesitant now. Mostly since they hadn't heard of an elemental plane called the world. Then again, they hadn't traveled much if at all.

"How long will you be within my territory?" The fire dragon looked at the true flame gryphon as if wary that he might need to fight them for the territory.

The true flame gryphon looked at Walker and the rest of the party. Everyone was focused on Midnight allowing Walker to deal with the talking. They were more focused on praising her for her manipulation of fire and how she used different flames in her dragon breath attacks too.

"We are passing through and just wanted to meet others. While I'm here though, would you mind if I planted a few seeds? I can make this ore sand a little more vibrant for you." The fire dragon seemed confused for a moment but then again he and Midnight had used a lot of mental power to fight and learn some things.

"Nothing grows here well. Very little can survive the tin sands." This was a statement of fact. The fire dragon didn't have doubt in its voice, he just knew exactly what the place was like. Nothing grew as long as it had been here. When something grew here it was a monster that shouldn't be growing. A flame saw worm that had found food and had to be killed to protect the balance.

Since Walker saw that he wasn't being doubted, just that the dragon didn't expect anything as possible, he started to demonstrate while speaking.

"This is called a desert tulip, it once relied on the Seth mana until it lasted many years in the desert absorbing fire mana from the sun. Later we found that small fields of it will burst in to flames and that's when they can grow again and flower afterwards. It's also why they became an entirely fire mana based plant. It can also be eaten to help purify the body but the effects are weak."

"Now, these red bulbs will put out roots and since it developed away from water, it grew not to need it. It also resists water mana itself so even if this territory gets near the boundary of the water elemental plane it won't bother it much."

Walker had pushed the bulb in to the red tin ore sands. The tip peaked out but it didn't seem to do anything at all. "It's dormant now though, the fire mana will help it come back to life but a little growth nutrients is important."

The red potion that Walker took out wasn't liquid, it was a thick dried powder that didn't seem to stick to the glass vial but itself.

"This looks weird but believe it or not it's a fire herb nutrients potion. This dry powered is made with fire mana and some metals with fire affinities that allow it to remain somewhat liquid. It's perfect for most fire affinity herbs and can help them wake up from being dormant."

As the power def was pulled apart and put on the bulb, Walker also used a few farming related skills. One that pushed the growth faster, another that tapped in to life mana, and even another that increased the absorption of fire mana. All making the desert tulip grow before their eyes.

The small red sprout opened and unfurled in to deep red leaves. The more that it sprouted the evidence that there was a slight change to it. Remey caught on and began watching very carefully.

She could see the leaves didn't have small lines of duller reds like they would in the greenhouses. It was entirely clear red because it was getting denser and outer fire mana. It was also taller by a whole foot without a flower forming. Besides this it was already spreading roots enough to see that it would form new bulbs within a couple of hours.

"It's not growing out of control, it's acclimating and in the perfect place. We might have just brought a plant that originated in an Alene tail plane once upon a time. Or maybe it was meant to be here because it's lost its earth affinity and grown in to its fire affinity perfectly." She was ecstatic watching it.

The fire dragon was equally excited, the glint in his eye said that he wanted to see more. That this was exceptional in his eyes. That this change was making the territory's lived in the best place he could ever want.

Chapter 2634: A New Flame

The fire dragon looked at the growing desert lilies and seemed incredibly excited to know that they could grow here. What Walker had not expected from all this, was that these desert lilies were also changing the red tin ore sands a little.

They had been taking the manas they needed to grow, and putting down roots. But as some grew fairly rapidly due to the nutrient potion and also Walker's skills, they had pulled and condensed some of the ore.

This was simply a little pressure from the speed at which the lilies absorbed the fire mana within the red tin ore sands. It was also the fact that the ore was soft, it was not as tough and dense as the other ores that could form within the fire elemental plane.

To put it simply, it crushed and condensed some in to rough jagged balls of red tin ore that were much easier to gather. While only a small number of them were all around, Walker scooped them up looking at them with curiosity. He felt that he would be able to sue this and the fire dragon didn't seem to care in the least that any of them took some.

"I will care for these and foster them in to a proper territory." There was a softer tone now, but one that showed the fire dragon had respect for them greater than before.

"You might have to watch over a few monsters or even a race or two that come to harvest these." Walker didn't house the potential that these could bring for the fire dragon and his territory here. It would be very interesting to visit again within a few years to see the changes

Midnight spoke up, she had swapped to her dragonkin form again to travel a little more comfortably, it was something the fire dragon had noticed but not said a thing about. "Good luck." Her words were more of a goodbye than anything else, but it was met with a nod of acceptance.

The fire dragon had learned a great deal and the true flame gryphon took this as a chance to push forward. The sooner it guided the party to the area where the fire king could meet them the better. Especially since it still had no idea what to make of these strange travelers.

The existence from the fire dragon's territory brought everyone with a good amount of thinking. Since Walker was the one bolstering their speed this time and Midnight clearly seemed to be content with the fighting she had been able to do, they didn't need to seek out another opponent or stop here and there.

It was also the direct and sudden change that occurred as they left the red tin sand territory that had significantly fewer moving flames around than where they had just entered.

It wasn't simply the density of the mana or even the purity. It was the combined pressure that came from the various flames within this section of the elemental planes. It was also the fact that the flames seemed to condense and burst around in waves and pops without any rhyme or reason. However, the true flame gryphon easily moved and guided them through the flames that suddenly appeared. Through the troublesome waves of purer fire elemental manas that actually could cause harm.

As Alcie had begun to sing a more defensive song to protect everyone, Walker noticed that Remy was staring at him. It seemed she wanted the gem cluster that they had gotten. Remy had fought for it and while they moved, she could rely on Walker to make sure she was safe. Therefore, she would be able to absorb the mana and process it naturally.

"I will save some of it for Igus too. He would be angry." She spoke somewhat softly but everyone heard, although, no one said anything as she took the gem cluster and began holding it close to her chest.

She has always spent a lot of time in the alchemy lab lately. That has shaped Remy to be a little quieter and more focused on the potential of the alchemy she had always needed and wished to be able to use for the betterment of her siblings at the orphanage. She still have the brawler side of her going strong, but lately she has faced a lot of what made her angry and rougher. She had grown to be a figure that stood as a role model for an entire guild, for an entire city, and for multiple races.

Why would she not grow to become a better person as a whole?

For a moment, Walker sensed the flow of mana interacting with Remy. This cluster was able to influence the fire mana and the soul. It was unique to the extent that Walker began wanting to delve in to whether or not the soul could be a different form of mana. The odds were, it might be a mix of manas that were unique to the point he couldn't even fathom the small aspects coming together as a whole.

A part of him considered that it could be an aspect of life mana. That didn't feel right now. It felt like he was just looking at the surface.

There was so much out past the greater elemental planes in the chaos that he couldn't see or understand. It was most likely why the origin race went out. They learned more, saw more, and became more than what they were. He knew that the answers he sought would be out there one day.

When Walker noticed that the gem cluster was burning, he hadn't even registered it as fire mana until the flicker of a ghostly almost colorless flame came to view. He could barely feel it as fire mana but he could sense it influencing space mana. That flame was beyond what he could control with fire mana manipulation because he did not understand it.

Remey was not manipulating it either. It was forming naturally and working slowly but surely. It was an effect of her absorbing mana from the gem cluster, not something she was manipulating and creating. Meaning that it was part of what she needed to grow.

'Soul flame

You are unable to learn any more about this. You must gain enlightenment and manipulate such things to be able to grasp a true understanding. The true will of creation is watching.'

Walker tried to appraise it again but just received this...

'Failed to appraise.'

The response was nothing he had received in a long time. But it meant that there was more to it. The first appraisal he could chalk up to some strange trick of the eye, if he didn't remember everything with his mental archive. He knew he had read something about the true will of creation watching. He wasn't sure what that was.

What he knew was pushing this right now, forcing more information would not lead toward anything viable. He could feel the existence of that colorless and nearly transparent flame. That alone was growth he could rest easily with. He'd grown enough to see another layer beyond what he had known before.

The boom of fire mana that pushed toward them came from a distant condensation of mana and release. The true flame gryphons slowed to see if the party could handle it, but before anything even came close to the others the mana was completely absorbed by Remy. She just looked up and posed before letting Walker take back control of her flight with magic.

He also couldn't fly and think about all this right now simply because he could sense the fire mana changing. The density was ground and Walker could tell they were entering the central area of the fire elemental plane.

But they were heading straight for the higher amounts of fire mana. They were heading toward the very border. Where he could tell some fire mana was clashing and swirling in on itself. Something that he was willing to bet was usual for any elemental plane.

"We will need to be extra careful ahead. Remy will be fine and while she finishes what she needs to do, Midnight will guard her. Alice, I want you to remain with them as well, you can use your song to cover an area with your light mana if needed, it is valuable for protection if things get too dangerous."

This left Gil, Su, and Onyx heading in to the the swirling fire mana. They won't be any weaker but their minds would be kept sharp. They wouldn't be treating this meeting lightly nor would they act as if this wasn't an extremely dangerous place for anyone. Even the fire affinity monster born within the fire elemental planes might struggle in the flames they could sense and see.

Chapter 2635: Beating Flames

"I will leave you here." the true flame gryphon turned. The feathers on its body seemed to be burning, something that shouldn't be possible for it as it was a very powerful being within the fire elemental planes. However, it also showed Walker the dangers of this area.

Yet, it also showed all of them that this was the palace where a portion of the fire king's being was staying. But they all could tell that this was not what was causing the swirling and clashing flames. There was something else here causing all of this.

With his mana senses, Walker knew that as they moved ahead and left behind Midnight, Alice, and Remy, that he, Gil, and Su would be seeing more than what he imagined. He knew that onyx was purposefully remaining close to his body in a smaller form for the very reason that he believed that if anything happened he would act as a surprise factor. That was just Onyx being smart.

It was a benefit that they were separating and that the true flame gryphon had left. They didn't seem to need to worry about approaching monsters here or even dangerous plants that made up this area. The clashing flames made the entire space here unstable and unsafe for anything to grow. While it was a border between different fire elemental planes it was also an anomaly itself.

"I can tell that my fire resistance is struggling even with your buffs and what the potions helped us with." Gil showed the spots of his arm that had turned red. It was a sign that his body was being challenged.

"I am feeling it as well. I have these scales on my body because of the fact that I became a half dragon. The scales are often hidden and retreat in to my skin now that I have acclimated and accepted what I am. But they are out and standing as a wall against the dangerous fire mana here. I will not be able to stay here too long either."

With both Su and Gil showing their weakness here, Onyx also spoke up, "I feel that the fire mana is even affecting me through my defenses. I tried using my mana to make the dark and light armor stronger on my body but it is not helping as much as I hoped it would."

"I see. Then we have to be quick here to either help the issue or to speak with the fire king as best as we can. I feel that the will of the fire elemental plane has created a king that must be present and can not truly act outside of duties like this."

While some would say that Walker was making blunt assumptions, the party knew very well what Walker was drawing from innate feelings and facts due to his mana senses. Walker could tell that the fire king and most likely all the elemental kings called upon the true sages to act because they had to. That there was much more to everything than what he could see.

If the elemental kings were bound to always be in contact with certain areas and issues and unable to split themselves to act on the will that they have developed naturally, then there was much more about them that Walker needed to learn. The unspoken ways of the elemental planes are just the same as the will of the world and the unspoken ways of nature itself.

Natural mana and the part in which it played in the nature of the world had been a mystery to him and partially still was. Yet, relating that instance to this made Walker feel foolish. He hadn't noticed that the will of each elemental plane given form in the elemental kings was just the same as how a world spirit like Fleur would act as a being guiding those necessary to influence the benefit of the world as a whole.

It was also why Fleur had mostly been in slumber when she was not out guiding the spirit race. She had to be so that she could remain in tune with the world as she held the title of world spirit.

As he approached the clashing flames, Su had kept her shield in front of them and was deterring a lot of the heat.

"You may approach. If you can." The flames shifted slightly and Gil along with Su stopped. They knew they couldn't touch these swirling flames. Onyx also slithered off of Walker's shoulders knowing full well he couldn't either.

"We need to wait here brother. You can resist it because you are weird." The comment from Onyx made Walker want to laugh. But by comparison he was the weird one. His race, the origin race, had the ability to use all manas. So, as such, he also resisted them much better. He would have to just be weird and take advantage of it.

As Walker reached out and stepped in to the flames, the fire shimmered again carrying words with them. "You traveled here. You demanded to meet part of me. You have come. I will see you."

The flames shifted again and Walker found himself in the center. A calmer area surrounding what he could only say was a heart. Nearby he saw a pair of eyes made of the deepest flame she could barely comprehend. They were fire. Not just mana and not just flames. They were what someone would strive to be as they chased what fire was at the very core of the idea.

'Heart of violent flame

This is from an elder being that once traveled the chaotic area outside of the elemental planes. When it perished it converted its body to become the very foundations for the fire elemental plane. Due to damage, shifting, and other issues it now resides far from the center of the elemental plane. Every beat it radiates the remaining fire mana the being generated. Soon, it shall dissolve and release the last of the purest fire mana and anchor the fire elemental plane more securely in the flow of the greater elemental planes.

There is no true damage caused by this heart. There is only foundation...'

There was more information than Walker could really comprehend. It stretched in to what the idea of fire was. How pure mana altered and became flames. How mana changed to become fire and that the being had become the foundations of this fire elemental plane near the origin of the fire elemental planes. That has perished by choice and not by time or any other creature.

All of this was too unreal for Walker to grasp and even speak about.

"You see why I must remain here. My eyes have never left this palace. I must be the one that allows for this being's final goals to be met. It is not long now. Another hundred years or so. Then I shall regain my eyes and begin another task to balance the fire."

"I wanted to meet you because I have to meet every elemental king. The world is beginning to open to all of you and so will the elemental planes. It is time that I begin understanding more about how they will become one and balance as well. I feel that the world is a core, a palace to help anchor your planes in peace without you needed to have a hand in everything. If possible, I will help you here as well."

It was more like Walker was moving with instinct rather than actual thought. His body said he could help and so it began moving. The eyes followed him without a word. Whether it was because eof what

Walker was or who he was. Then again, there was also the world's will and whatever existence's will that had guided him. Maybe these were similar instances.

The sudden beating of the large heart made Walker react instantly reaching out and grabbing the fire mana. He felt space mana also reacting and Walker felt an immense connecting. That the fire mana and space were one here. An anchor, a foundation, a thing he couldn't delve in to but he could give some help but adding a little of his own will.

Visibly, the heart shrank, maybe a few inches, but it was a sudden shift that made the fire king's eyes widen.

"That was worth twenty years. That is more than enough, young origin being, you have assisted me and so I shall have the true fire sage assist you. You wish for peace, balance, and unity. The flames of the fire elemental plane will also support this. My mark will prove this. The will of fire itself will allow for peace and equality."

There was more said, but it was unspoken. There was a vibrance in the manas and Walker found that the flames licking his body formed a small rune that rested on his arm. A small fire elemental rune that didn't store manas but showed proof of a contract.

"Now return to your journey knowing that this place is welcoming for those who treat it with respect and balance." The flames shifted and Walker was thrust out. He did feel another beat of that heart though. A goodbye maybe.

Chapter 2636: Follow Wind Wisps

Foggy. That was the way that Walker's mind felt right now. As if he had just woken up and all his memories of the recent days were a little harder to recall until he managed to wake up fully.

Walker stood in front of the flames for a few moments looking at them. He could feel that they were even less dangerous to him now. However, he also had no idea what the feeling he had when he had reached out to that elder heart. That thing of fire and pure flame to its very core. He couldn't even properly remember the appraisal for it.

Instead, Walker just knew that the pierce of that mana he had reached out to and used his own mana to help dispel some of the fire mana within had actually taken a significant amount of the mana within his body. It had even taken some of the natural mana within him even without him meaning to pass that on to it.

All of that together made it clear that whatever it was and had once been was more than just what was left behind. That there was something alive within it still allowing for it to keep passing that mana out and in to the fire elemental plane.

While the fact that it was another anchor of sorts for the fire elemental plane, it was also a place of danger due to the potent mana that it releases. The eyes of the fire king were there to safeguard it and the fact that it was part of what made the fire elemental plane the fire elemental plane.

He wanted to focus more on it but the focus for that was much harder. It was like he had seen something in a dream rather than seen something he could learn and use. Maybe part of it had been a dream. Maybe he had not fully felt and processed what that was and instead just interacted with it mentally only to exhaust more mana than before.

He felt that there was a little something more to it though. That what he had done was touching on something a little too grand and a little too old for him to make proper sense of. He might need to work on his fire manipulation and understanding a bit more at the core of what he believes it to be.

The simple idea that a being, no matter how old, was once able to convert all its mana and body in to pure fire mana beyond which even the fire king and embodiment of fire could control was hard to fathom. It was a rule of whatever made fire what fire was, meaning that it wasn't simple and could not be easily grasped in any form. It was a goal for him and surely every origin being to understand things like that one day.

When he turned, he found that the others were a greater distance away. That was before he realized that the swirling and clashing mass of flames was actually smaller. They hadn't moved, he had been the one to move.

In just a few steps, Walker managed to catch up to them. In his movements, he had used fire mana to push off faster. He hadn't meant to use it but his thoughts of getting to the others faster seemed to have worked with his body instinctually to help make it happen.

This wasn't how he normally used fire mana but now, the fire mana was closer to him. It might have been a result of whatever mana had entered his body as he used mana to make that heart's fire mana dissipate even more. While Walker had no direct proof of it, he decided to accept whatever it was since clearly it was not harmful to him.

"Sorry if that took a little longer. I spoke with the fire king and they will support us as long as we are keeping the balance. I think I also helped them too. It's strange, but I would say that we are even more welcome within the fire elemental plane now too." Onyx, Gil, and Su looked at Walker carefully before pointing out that he had some burned armor and clothing. Not terribly but enough that he would need to change.

The shocking part was that the materials were very resistant to fire. The cloak he wore even repelled fire mana to a higher degree since he had made sure to wear one with the best capabilities. Then again, he realized that he didn't feel that twinge of discomfort as he had before in the ambient fire mana. He felt comfortable now. Even the heat wasn't bad at all.

He'd grown in fire resistance too. Regardless, he had changed his clothes in an instant with his multi dimensional storage. He had also seen Su use her skill that changed her armor rapidly using spatial mana. Therefore, he had been able to copy it to a degree. He had hopes he would be able to arm himself faster using the style and eventually be able to develop a rapid armor and weapon swapping skill even faster than how he used various weapons and changed the form of the eternal codex right now.

"I think we are free to travel toward the next elemental plane. I can sense that there is a way through the fire elemental manas toward the wind elemental plane. I think the fire king allowed for a wisp of wind mana to come this way since they knew I would be looking for the next closest elemental plane." As Walker moved with them, he told them what he sensed and saw the others still waiting for them, Remy was standing straight up waiting for him to return too.

As he approached they gave him a strange looks. "What? Is everything ok?" Walker looked at his arms and clothes seeing that they weren't still singed since he had changed.

"Your hair has a little red in it now. I thought you would have noticed." Gil laughed to himself a little. It seemed that Gil was very amused by the slight changes in Walker's hair since it made him look a little odd. The kid of red strands in to Walker's longer brown hair was definitely a different style.

"I... feel some fire mana in it. It's from me helping a bit in that clashing mana. I touched something unique to help dissipate mana. Something part of the very essence of what makes the fire elemental plane what it is. How space and fire come together to allow all this to be possible. There might be more places like this in each elemental plane."

Saying this out loud had a greater effect on Walker than what he might have imagined. He realized that the foundations of every elemental plane might have been created long before the origin being were able to carry more elemental planes here. That something larger had given itself to be the reason all could gather and that it was also one reason why the world was able to form at its center.

Maybe even greater than just the will of existence and was actually related to whatever the will of creation was. But the thought gave him a headache snapping him back to the walk out of the fire elemental plane and following the wisp of wind used to give them guidance outwards by the fire king.

"Everything worked out for you Remey?" The thought occurred to Walker that she had absorbed a larger amount of the solid flame gem cluster than what he'd expected.

"It is. I feel stronger inside and out. Not like I can punch someone harder but more solid like I matter more to everything around me." Now that was an odd way to put things, but Midnight nodded in agreement and so did Onyx. Even Su gave her an approving smile.

"I felt that when I joined with the drop of high elf blood. I felt it more after I fully accepted what I was. Like I had become who I am and screamed it out to everything that was by accepting it." When Gil responded, it made Walker wonder if he'd felt something similar or if he was also still on that path.

"I also learned how to use a little more fire and I can make several potions at once using fire floating around me if I want. The skill is called multi potion brewing, and I use that with alchemy flame potion brewing to make them. Then if I use the battle alchemy potions..." she giggled in glee as all the potential skill combinations offered unique methods to her.

"So you'll need another opponent to fight then" Walker sighed slightly wondering how much trouble this would bring.

Chapter 2637 Line Of Tornados

"Oh, so the changes in your skills are all related to expanding the uses of your abilities overall. They didn't make the skills inherently stronger, but it gave you the chance to make them stronger though." Su was listening to Remey speak about the changes that came with absorbing the gem cluster's mana.

From the way that Su had interpreted it, Remey had gotten a chance to look at how to strengthen the uses of flames rather than just a flat growth in her strength as a whole. That was putting aside the fact that Remey could more easily make potions and use her current flames in multiple ways.

"I think I have a multi casting skill for just fire. That's the same equivalent that a mage could call the ways I can use the skills I have now. I can make a few potions at once. I can make a few different flames at once. I can also use them more easily while in a fight. I basically learned how to mix flames and also how to use all my skills at the same time and unify them."

The way that Walker heard this, was that Remey had strengthened the very essence of what she was. She was better able to use innate skills and abilities while mixing them with her understanding of the world around her, alchemy, battle, and even fire itself. All of which when combined make up her strength and her overall presence.

There was sure to be more as Remey pushed on her own growth, but it was clear that there were opportunities to better establish oneself in many forms through the elemental plane. Whether it was an item, herb, monsters, or whatever. Just a thing here or two that would allow for better understanding of what someone was or even open their eyes to parts of themselves they had been blinded to.

"What are we going to do when we get to the boundary? Shouldn't it be close since we already noticed the fire mana thinning?" Since it was Gil looking at how he might be able to use the wind mana within the wind elemental plane, Walker didn't ignore the question.

"I assume that we will explore it a little bit. It is a unique place, but we should focus more on the fact that we need to explore the wind elemental plane. I also feel like the true wind sage will be waiting. I would bet that they already know we want to meet the wind king as well." He had a feeling that the elemental kings and true sages had their ways to communicate without needing to actually meet. Or maybe, they had a place where they could meet at times. It was hard to know.

"Then I won't wake Zephyr up for that. She has been resting in my bow since we got here waiting to come out when we are only in the wind elemental plane. She wants to see if she will be able to understand something more about herself." Gil didn't say it out loud, but he was worried.

Since Zephyr had been trapped in a bow for many years, she had struggled at first to properly reattach to the world so to speak. But as she regained strength as the wind spirit known to the world as the embodiment of wind before the spirit race, race became a thing and Zephyr was freed from the will of the world, she began to wonder if she too could advance in a more unique way.

It wasn't that she was freed in terms that she was trapped in to following the will of the world. She was freed in the sense that as a recognized sentient race and one of the major title holders and leaders of it, Zephyr now wanted to ensure she was still in touch with what wind mana was. That she was not losing herself in the pursuit to become someone of Genesis, the world, and keeping her deep bonds with Gil along with the rest of the party.

The idea that a being made of wind mana and even understanding in ways that no one else in the world could feel that they did not know themselves was hard to grasp, but it was something that came with being an individual. Wishing to know more of oneself and of the world itself was a step that needed to be taken to find a path to Walker. If Zephyr needed the time to understand something about who she was now, Gil would do whatever he had to to assist her.

"I am still following the wisps of wind that were let through to the fire elemental plane. There is a little extra fire mana around making sure that we don't mix that wind with the fire elemental plane and I have been pulling that wind mana with us so it doesn't cause issues. I think we are- that's the boundary ahead."

Walker wasn't surprised that they had already made it to the boundary of the fire and wind elemental planes. He knew that there had to be some more than subtle manipulation of the fire elemental plane to

allow them a slightly speedier travel. He was grateful for that assistance and would make sure he said it when he met a piece of the fire king again.

In the distance was not some simple clash of mana. Instead, they were all witnessing what could only be called a wall of swirling flames.

"Those are fire tornadoes, brother, will we be able to cross them?" The insecurity in Onyx's words told everyone's doubts to their surroundings. He didn't worry because they were too weak to do so, but because they all had to resist the violent clashing of the two manas to be able to move through it. Therefore, that would weaken their whole group despite Alice being ready to sing a song of resistance for them or Remy giving everyone more potions she had made.

"We can pass through easily. Those are naturally there. All of you should be able to feel that they are there and moving because of how the mana clash, but that they are meant to be there and not something unordinary. Meaning that there will be paths to move that other monsters or races might use. We just need to sniff those out." Midnight glanced at Walker with that being said and looked ready to run ahead and start the scouting efforts.

"We will do it together." Alice didn't like the idea of Midnight running away from her range of buffs. If she couldn't keep everyone protected then she would be the one who came with them as the weakest link in all of this.

"Actually, Alice, I think you shouldn't sing while we move through that boundary. The manas might clash violently but moving between them will be a good way to really push out wind and fire resistances." Now it was Alice's turn to look at Su completely shocked that Su was the one telling everyone not to look for additional protection from the fire and the wind manas here.

"Mine has been growing a lot with the help of potions and the buffs from Walker." She seemed open to the idea after a moment which was exactly what she needed. Everyone ended it. The length at which they had improved couldn't be easily measured with the fact that they had been more focused on resisting the fire mana naturally than using the full effects of the buffs.

Approaching this area would be the same, however, it would also be easier for them than others of each opposing elemental plane. Those beings didn't have the benefit of growing up in the world where they would have naturally developed even the slightest wind and fire affinity at the same time.

All of this meant that the only beings that they would indeed to worry about were those that were within the boundary born and raised. Those would be unique beings that could survive the appearing and moving tornadoes of flame and wind that clashed here and there in a near wall of chaos. Yet, the chaos was natural and balanced, meaning that even plants, monsters, and maybe a race or two could safely live there. A very interesting idea to say the least.

Approaching the border between the two elemental planes just enhanced their focus. Even without the sense to feel wind and fire manas, there were instincts that warned them of all of the risks. Told them that they weren't simply walking in a light rain.

This was a storm of sharp wind and burning flames.

They all needed to focus on their mental and physical strengths to push through this. Whether a safe path was found or they would break through would be up to them.

Chapter 2638 Open Path

"There's no way we are taking that path. It's a trap for whatever monster made it." Now everyone looked at Gil questioningly.

"I have some tracking and scouting skills too, and even if I use the all around appraisal I can figure out what might have made that path. I don't see a way that's a trap though." Walker felt that he was somewhat excited. He would have believed that this path he could see ahead was decent when in terms of the options they had.

The party had already figured that they couldn't fly over the flaming tornados. The winds up top would just be more brutal and cutting. Then the movement to the left would lead them deeper in to the shifting winds and flames making up smaller tornados. Meaning that they would have to face various shifts that could be more harmful to them overall.

This left some paths to the right that they could notice in the almost condensed and rocky terrain made of wind and fire manas condensed. It was one reason that some of the piles of what seemed to be sand were actually a dual elemental rock called floating embers, a sand that glowed red when enough ambient fire and wind mana mixed around it.

It was a nice material for making items that needed to show somehow that they were increasing a certain temperature. Otherwise. It was fairly common in certain areas within the world heavily focused on fire and wind manas. One such place being the edges of the lava fields where winds would heat as they blew in to the fields of lava.

"It's just that I have seen the practice before." Gil had the best scouting ability out of everyone, that included tracking too. "There are the tiniest scratches here. And there are a few pieces of what look to be some kind of dead grass from one of the elemental planes. Nowhere else we've walked these past few minutes looking for a path has them. They were taken from further away and brought here to lure smaller monsters to walk this way."

"This is a great way to leave the boundary here. This place is dangerous and we could take it, but the monster or maybe even monsters, is hunting using this trap and will ambush us when it can. We just don't know what kind of monster it is other than it is most likely focused on stealth and assassination."

Walker also realized that Gil had not said anything about the small bits of denser fire and wind mana in the dead grasses placed in to this little open path way between larger continuous wind and flame tornados. Clearly, this also attracted smaller monsters since they would want the fresher grasses if they could grow here or ahead.

"The reason you might have missed it isn't because of the mana the monster can use, it's because it only sets everything up physically. If you pull away some of the settled floating embers..." Gil exposed some scratches that had been made. Clearly the monster has used sharp appendages to cut away even more of the condensed materials to ensure that there was a lot of hidden traces rather than anything being exposed at all.

"I see, I haven't seen a monster act so intelligently with its trap setting."

"Then it might have a skill for trap setting. There are spiders called trap door spiders that make fake traps in the ground that look identical to the ground, but if you step on them you fall in to a hole of sticky suffocating webs." The more that Gil spoke the more that everyone realized that Gil had also been studying these things.

All the training with other scouts or even teaching new scouts had pushed him to find knowledge that he had not known and that would be valuable in the future. It was making Midnight visibly frustrated since she had been the only other scout for the party, and now she saw just how far behind Gil she had fallen while she focused on improving her naturally acquired draconic abilities.

It wasn't altogether too disappointing that taking this pathway would be too much trouble. They didn't want to fight monsters they wanted to travel and explore. Otherwise, they would have gone out of their way to hunt this monster and gather materials or something of the like.

"Can we make a fire tornado to travel inside of?" Everyone turned and looked at Onyx and Alice. Alice had been the one to speak out but it appeared that the two had been whispering about their idea. "Like a carriage but it would be safe inside and wouldn't hurt the area?"

"I think that's the best idea yet. The fire tornados have space inside them. A few monsters even live in the centers, they use it as a safe place to hide for their nests. I can sense them. We could use the same principle while I control the mana and we move." Walker grinned widely as he began doing this. It was a lot simpler because the fire tornadoes formed randomly as the two manas collided. This meant that they were able to avoid on another or naturally collide because of the mana moving. So the party moving through would not cause any real disruption.

As they found themselves a little wind buffered and a little hotter, the inside of the smaller wind and fire tornado was perfect for their group to walk with. Walker could even feel that a few monsters within nearby tornados had not stopped focusing and hiding themselves as much.

'Wind streaker

A small species of wind and fire affinity starlet. These avian monsters are small and can temporarily survive high heat and wind mana areas. They make nests within larger and more permanent flame tornados to protect their eggs. They are also very peaceful monsters who prefer to hide or use their speed to escape predators. They often hunt for...'

The small monsters that managed to survive in these conditions were interesting. Their dual affinities of wind and fire mana were not at all used to attach or even find prey in the least. They were used to protect them for short times as they moved in and out of dangerous areas. Right now, it appeared they were checking out the new fire and wind tornado to see if it would be stable and be a good small home for them.

They quickly left when they realized that there were others inside and also that it was unstable. They didn't want to live there at all. However, Walker and the others saw the beauty in their red and white feathers. The gradient of color from red to white was different from other monsters that grew feathers. It was also just a show of how some monsters would not use their affinities to fight, but just to survive and remain safe.

"This is a nice walk we are taking now." Su had let her guard down a little since the boundary they were removing through seemed fairly stable. There were monsters who had developed to live here and Walker had created a way to protect them from the dangerous manas here as well. Meaning that now they could enjoy the vibrant flames changing color and even witness the wind taking the form of blades or gusts.

"In the chaos of these two manas meeting, there is still a balance. I can tell what you mean when you keep mentioning that balance this and balance that are so important." Gil's blunt response was showing how much he was considering the uniqueness of where they stood.

"I think it's more than a balance. The manas was to mix and break apart but they don't need to be destructive and chaotic to the point where they can't form even with the same sort of mana." Hearing this from Remy was surprising, but since they had all seen chaotic mana, drawing these conclusions was true.

"That's why the planes form out there too, right?" With Alcie asking this of Walker, he nodded.

"I would assume that it's the case. The manas want to come together and that might be why the smaller elemental planes might form out there. It will be interesting to see more small elemental plane. I bet that the wind elemental plane has a few."

"You would be right about that. But you need to worry about the fact that you are walking toward a silver bug nest. They are very dangerous and need to be left alone." The voice whispering to them like wind was none other than the golem made by the true wind sage. The aloof attitude was all the same as well. It seemed that the true wind sage had been waiting for them where the wind was just strong enough to form this golem to communicate with them.

Chapter 2639: Sky Crows

The entire party stopped and looked at the almost flickery wind golem made to speak to them. The true wind sage had given them a warning that a dangerous nest of silver bugs would be ahead and that they were moving right toward them.

It was a little odd that they were being given a clear and concise warning like this. "What? I am bringing you in to my home. I explored your entire world here and there. I know that being nice to a guest matters to almost every race in the world. Here, not so much for every race." The giggle laughing felt more like the wind was trying to replicate laughter.

There was a genuine feeling from the words though. One that made it clear that they were all able to believe and should expect truth from the true wind sage in matters like this. "We will change course now then. What do they look... nevermind I see a small one ahead." Walker had spotted a smaller fist sized streak of silver trying to move through the air ahead.

The place where the fire mana stopped reaching and spreading was just the same as the last time they had been within the wind elemental plane. Clouds made of pure wind were acting as the ground, the terrain that could have been called ground, was not the same here. But then again. The fire elemental plane had ground too, but it was all purely fire elemental materials condensed in to different forms based on the area, not actually anything to do with earth mana at all.

'Silver bug

Not to be confused with silver fish, silver striders, or even the other species of silver hued monsters throughout the world and the elemental apnea, this silver bug is called silver due to the wind mana it uses having a silver hue to it. It is caused by the fact that its species consumes high amounts of wind iron ores through the wind elemental plane. They will search it out and make nests within the places that it naturally forms.

They can grow to be in the hundreds of thousands and also reach the size of carriages if they have the time to grow. They often fight one another using the wind mana within their body to strengthen their wind iron carapaces. They will use their extremely sharp legs to cut away as much as possible.

This isn't the real danger when facing them. The real danger comes from their wings which are made with the sharpest and the densest wind mana utilizing the wind iron ore they consumed. They are able to fly in to their opponents and cut through them dealing extremely high damage. Their speed also makes them extremely hard to keep up with when they swarm in the hundreds of thousands.

While the materials their bodies are made of are very valuable to many of the wind elemental affinity races, they are only captured during their dormant season after they have already consumed too much of the wind iron ore and are too slow to be able to swarm and chase down predators...'

"So they just channel their wind mana and tackle people to death. That just sound so... pleasant." Remy wanted to hurl fire at the one they saw but Gil held her hand back. He pointed out the other small silver dots well in the distance. To Remy, they were just silver smudges, to Gil's sharper eyes, they were very large silver bugs capable of fighting them and even attacking all of them at one time.

"And that's why we are going to move to the right so we don't need to spend the next two or three days fighting an entire swarm of these things." Walker and Su led the way. It was easy to see that they were not even going to entertain a long drawn out battle like this.

Walker also noticed that the true wind sage had clearly also made the wind amna shaft slightly. It was pushing the sliver bugs away from them so that they would not be noticed. "Thank you for the warning and the help. We had to butt heads with the true fire sage a little since we had to make sure we were not just allowed to come here to be used." This was somewhat of a little test from Walker too, to see if the true wind sage was going to push them toward another dangerous place.

"What you do here is up to you. I would like you to meet the sky crow race. They are like your harpy race but their feathers are blue in the day and black in the night. They are one of the only species that left the world many years ago, developed in to an intelligent race, and kept their ability to change their feathers with the time of day, something that doesn't really happen in the wind elemental plane."

"They are still connected to the world?" It was Onyx who asked this in surprise. He was simply focused on the fact that this sky crow race might be unique like him. Onyx could still hide his body in his shadow, meaning that even in a palace without shadows so to speak, he had access to the uniqueness of his skill. It made him wonder if it was a connection to what dark mana was as part of his body or a connection to the way the world worked in terms of shadows.

"That might be the case. I thought you could study them a little and see if they want to go to the world. They are fighting me on every attempt. They turn away the guardians and refuse to move an inch. Even with the new wind plane added nearby, they don't see the issue with new monsters to fight in their territory."

The true wind sage did have an issue with the nearby new elemental plane, but they didn't want the party to fight and fix it. Instead, they wanted them to convince the sky crow race to come to the world and to see where their species originated before they became sentient. To potentially become the next race to join Genesis.

It was still a little more demanding than just exploring, however, the true wind sage wasn't hiding what they wanted. "Why don't they leave if it's safer?" Since Alice was asking the most important question, that was that, they had to see and what the answer themselves.

"They won't let anyone of the guardians in to their nest now. They call their village a nest and they always remain on guard. Instead of becoming the villain and forcing them out I will be the ones to send you to them. You are from the world and not under my care and orders. You can see the truth of the matter. And If I am the one in the wrong... so be it." The true wind sage clearly wanted for the best. However, Walker understood that they did accept being the evil villain if necessary.

With this as a goal and the silver bugs getting left behind, the party had stepped in to the wind elemental plane. However, something that Walker was letting his mind dwell on was the sky crow race and their connection to the world.

If their feathers still changed with the flow of night and day because that was how they once survived as a species of monster within the world, then that meant their connection might be very unique.

It also brought up the potential that connections to the world through more than just the bridges to the world from the elemental planes could be possible. There had been connections made due to warping space mana and that has caused issues, but this might be a connection like the way that Mordant could delve in to the darkness of shadows and move himself further distances.

Many dark dragons had gone in searching through the shadows of the world to try and get to the dark elemental plane. Therefore, they had rushed in to the unknown and chaotic manas never to be heard from or seen again. While sad, it was a possibility that someone if they were strong enough might be able to get through that chaotic space.

The origin beings did so and survived to drag back elemental planes. Thus, it was possible for a skill with some minute connection to the world to be able to continue on. Meaning that the sky crow race could still be in tune with the world even though they had mostly developed within the wind elemental plane. That they could survive going to the world and being around the mixture of manas dangerous for other races of the elemental planes.

Chapter 2640: Threat In The Sky

The party felt a little happier being within the wind elemental plane and avoiding the silver bugs. Mostly because they were not assumed to be there just to help with whatever task. However, they also were fine with having to help a race that could have once been a monster species from the world.

While it would have been very ancient, this sky crow race that they were going to meet was nearby, able to still have some unique connection with the world still, and were similar to two races already living within the world.

The harpy race and the batman race were both monster races that lived within Genesis and worked very similarly in terms of their expertise in communication and scouting. They both had found it easy to thrive within Genesis and Walker personally believed that there was an exceptionally high chance that another similar flying race could survive well. It was just a matter of what position the sky crow race was in.

Understanding why they were so stubborn to not move from where they were despite the newfound danger would be a major mystery to solve first. That and also seeing what their personalities were like. There were always some people naturally stubborn whether it was for the best or for the worst.

The true wind sage seemed to be keeping the golem with them as much as possible. It made Walker feel that the true wind sage might want to be there themselves but was stuck with important business and was simply unable to be there. But with the ability to speak and learn through a golem, they were making the best of the situation.

The territory they traveled through was somewhat peaceful. Just shifting clouds that they walked on without issues because they were made entirely of dense wind mana. The slight green hue was also a telling origin for the fact that the wind mana was what had condensed so much. While the colors associated with manas were different depending on whose eyes were looking at them, Walker saw it as an easier way to differentiate what mana was which.

He did spread his senses out and focused his mana to use one of the small mapping orbs. While the larger mapping orb would not gain information about this area of the wind elemental plane, using a specialized tool for sensing more was helping Walker's perception.

Using the eternal codex would spread his focus a greater deal further but the wind affinity small mapping orb was allowing him to differentiate the manas a little better. Simply because it could only focus on a smaller area. "I saw the maps you were making, this is doing that too, hm?"

This surprised the group. It meant that the true wind sage had still been letting a golem it controlled move through the world. Much more than what the other true sages were doing.

"The mapping orbs will help a lot more when we meet races that will stay here. I plan to leave some here and there to help them map out their territory. It will help in terms of getting to places once more travelers come to the wind or any elemental plane."

"I agree, your idea is very good. When your delegation comes here they will need to be able to judge where they are other than just the guide I am sending with them. They should be leaving for here in just a few days. I plan to have them guided to the wind imp city. They are usually monsters, but the wind imps here threw that part of themselves aside about seven hundred years ago. Now they are focused on learning about the meaning of wind. If they split that attention to more than just wind they might get somewhere in their research."

The way that the true wind sage spoke it was a frustration of theirs that the wind imps were not growing more advanced in their knowledge. However, what the party heard was that the delegation exploring the wind elemental plane and representing Genesis would be able to learn a greater deal of information associated with wind mana than if they were just wandering around.

"That doesn't matter right now, look up and watch the monsters I was talking about travel around. They won't bother you. I am hiding your influence on the wind mana here. They will just fly overhead." The true wind sage pointed upwards with the windy finger it had as it used a wind golem to speak. The shifting feathers made it hard to follow but when it made gestures like this.

'Endless sky serpent

This is a being that will never touch a solid surface. Whether it be the earth or even condensed clouds as wind, it will never land due to the fact that its bones and body as a whole are made to fly from the day it hatches from its egg until the day it dies. It does so by absorbing and releasing wind mana constantly. It is also why it can fly so quickly.

They hunt for a variety of monsters or whatever they can swallow that flies within the air. They could care less for wind elemental herbs or other materials, they entirely take in mana from the surroundings and also the mana from the monsters they consume. This is why their scales are able to grow so tough, they take the condensed wind mana from their prey and grow the scales to resist projectiles and other wind mana based attacks.

While their movements are utilizing high amounts of wind mana, these monsters also have incredible eyesight to see the difference in their prey. They can spot even the best camouflaged monsters to hunt them. This makes it harder to fight them from a distance as well since they can see and then attack using large wind blades to attack....'

Walker shared what he was learning about the monsters from the all around appraisal. The only one that seemed to really be focused on the endless sky serpent was Onyx though.

"What makes them endless? Just that they never stop flying through the air? Or is it that they can grow very large to the point that this one is small?" The serpent they saw was fairly larger, it wasn't as large as Onyx was if he let his whole body out of the shadows but it was able to be called larger than many serpent type monsters in the world.

"Because it flies without landing ever. Landing is its weakness. The extra information from the all around appraisal says it can grow be dry large but it depends on the environment and food it can get so I assume it is too limited to become a behemoth monster of sorts." The other thought about what Walker said and felt that the monsters might not be a major threat to them.

"They will hunt the sky crows. They can spot their camouflaged feathers. Some have already lost to them and the sky crows can't adapt fast enough to contend with the endless sky serpents. So please convince them to move to the world or another part of the wind elemental plane. I will be listening for an answer." The true wind sage dissipated the golem leaving behind a denser whips of wind mana. Enough to lead them toward the place the sky crows were living.

While the true wind sage had hidden them now they would not be hidden as well. Meaning that the endless sky serpents would be able to spot them now. An added risk but the one they had seen was already out of sight away from the direction they were all heading.

The sorry did quickly notice a change. There were plants ahead growing in hill like condensed clouds. They were not herbs or plants that they hadn't seen but it was good to grab a little here and there to have some differently grown varieties. The high amount of wind mana in them might teach herbalists the differences in growing environments and how to replicate or improve the outcomes.

Otherwise, the party soon saw buildings. Not normal buildings of stone or metal construction but it seemed to be a type of bent wood. Clearly matching wind affinities but developed and growth to be bent and allow for movement in the winds without breaking. There had to be a unique crafting style to go with them but that new something Walker could ask about later.

Right now they all halted as several sky blue feathered humanoid crows flew at them. Not in a malicious way but they were clearly trying to intimidate the party with their speed and strength in flight. Something that was most likely normal for races to do within the wind elemental plane.