

Master 2661

Chapter 2661 Dark And Light

"What did you think of those hunting grounds? A place where your wilderness and ours seem to share the same rules." The true light sage having taken the form of a golem in front of them spoke calmly as the party halted their speedy travel using Walker's magic to pull them along.

"I see what you and the light king wanted us to see. I didn't like everything that we found though." The slight glare that Walker and the others focused on the true light sage seemed to have an effect since the light golem flinched a little.

"The fallen dragon was not expected. That territory has not been used for long. There was a word of thanks for your party and their actions. That is why we are hastening your journey and have prepared a few items along the way. Until the next time we are able to meet." The light mana dissipated and everyone couldn't help but feel it was all due to the awkwardness rather than the true sage needing to focus elsewhere.

It did shine some light on things though. The light king and true light sage might be able to see and notice a great deal of what goes on within the light elemental plane. That was the same for every single one of the elemental kings and true sages. Yet, it seemed that some things were missed like the travel of certain monsters or tribes. Meaning that the party might see more of these things or the emissary groups from Genesis might encounter oddities.

"Well we scared him away pretty quick but I see what they had in mind." The toothy grin from Remy was because she saw a small area right before the manas began to thin where herbs grew in large groupings. Small sprouts of off white leaves that seemed to be barely kissed by hints of dark mana while primarily keeping the light mana affinity that was normal for this area.

There wasn't even any hesitation as Remy began gathering them. "I can use these to help people resist dark mana by using their internal light mana. These will be perfect for that meaning we can have races from the light elemental planes journey in to the dark elemental planes. That might be valuable to a few people." It wasn't a bad idea, but Walker felt that selling potions like that might cause a little drama.

Some races didn't want to travel while others didn't want to accept travelers. There was an innate fear of the opposite mana affinity or generally losing balance. So making something that could allow for that to happen would be rocky ground to say the least. "Stop thinking too hard and store all these away so I can use them later. There are also a few mixed mana crystals here." Remy threw the cut and gathered herbs to Walker while he started to refocus on the dark mana ahead.

The boundary between the light and dark elemental plane seemed to just be a reflective shadowy mess of light mana forming orbs then being snuffed out by dark and vice versa. The flow was not chaotic, it was balanced as the manas countered and balanced one another causing strange scenes of shifting shadows that would be considered unnatural in the world.

There were also some shadows that seemed to shift a little too much, like predators were being shown to them before they blended back in to the inky flow. However, Walker could sense things a little more clearly.

The manas moving were natural and the shadows and light made strange illusions with the two manas clashing. If someone with the ability to use both light and dark mana had focused on this, they might awaken a unique class related to very powerful illusions. Instead, Walker sensed movement ahead of them. Monsters that used the changes in light and dark mana making shadows as stealthy places to hide and attack prey trying to move around the area, or each other from what he could sense.

"I think I will be the one scaring them off, they aren't that strong, there's one right there." Walker pointed out the monster he saw moving, the difference in the flickering shadows was hard to make out but Gil and Midnight seemed to catch sight of them. Onyx on the other hand was looking behind the monster that Walker had just pointed out.

'Shadow assassin

A small shadow being that is able to use light and dark mana to create a larger body than it truly has. It uses the shadows it wraps itself in to both hide within the dual border of light and darkness and also to hunt and attack by condensing the shadows to be used as bladed arms and legs.

When they hunt they will follow the flow of light and dark mana to blend in perfectly. They also use the darkness and light to dampen the sound around them so that they can more easily hunt. They do not possess eyes since they rely on the manas around them shifting to hunt, they also have very sharp ears allowing them to hear anything that they may deem as prey.

When they sense mana that is much greater than theirs, they will hide or flee if possible, their small bodies are extremely weak causing them to be easily hunted if another being or monster can sense them. Their bodies hold very little value other than for fodder sustenance for larger monsters such as the false dragons and illusion spriggans...'

"Brother, what is the monster behind that small one you just told us about?" Walker refocused his eyes and realized that Onyx's eyes had been focused on the larger shadowy shape. Something Walker had misinterpreted as a larger mass of light and dark mana moving around the area.

'False dragon

With a minute amount of dragon blood within them, this larger shadow monster utilizes the dark and light mana to create a body of a dragon. However, it can only mimic the size and shape of a dragon and

lacks the actual ferocity or strength. Due to this, it must use the dark and light mana mixed to hunt by creating shadow whips, blades, and other similar methods of attack.

They live a fairly solitary and still life causing them to be confused as part of the landscape. They are also called shadow terrain dragons due to this when they are not always still and will sometimes move if they have a better hunting spot in mind.

They will rarely attack larger prey and will wait for prey that comes too close to them. While they do not lack intelligence, they are often too slow and tired to take the effort to develop beyond a certain strength. This causes them to be extremely focused on slumber and is why they can not become a recognized race or even higher species of monster.

The false dragon scales that they have all over their bodies are valuable materials to make stronger dual affinity magic staffs, weapons, and arrows. However, they are too weak to be made as armor and will be too brittle in the long run to be of any use...'

The larger creature seemed to be outlining what it thought a dragon looked like and not what a dragon really was shaped like. Walker could tell that the horns were a little too dull. The scales were not all shaped the same. And the claws that should have been there were non-existent. A clear example of a being shaping its shadow body to be what it thought should be intimidating but could easily be hunted as prey by many other monsters with less dragon blood in them.

It was interesting to know that just like the Sigil continent, there were monsters here with small amounts of dragon blood. It meant that the dragons who became monsters, rogue dragons, were still passing strength downwards in a way. It made the elemental plane a little more relatable to the world for the party.

"It shouldn't bother us. It's afraid of us." Midnight spoke up, her eyes had fixed on the false dragon making it clear she could sense what its instincts were telling it and her instincts could also sense from it.

"Then we will move through without any issues. We can pass in to the dark elemental plane and meet with the true sake sage. I can feel that they are waiting for us as well." The outer dark mana wisp was stronger now. It wasn't a golem made by the true dark sage. This was the actual true dark sage themselves coming to meet them.

That alone made the entire party understand that they might be asked to do something a little more than just explore here. They might be asked for their help.

Chapter 2662 A Task

The shadows moved away from the party as they walked into the border. It seemed that the powerful mana that everyone was releasing to deter the monsters here was more than enough. The false dragon didn't even move in the slightest knowing that it was unable to actually fight them or run away. The party was not here to hunt them though, they were where to get to the dark elemental plane on the other side.

This didn't mean that Onyx was not benefiting greatly from this. He had managed to absorb a lot of light mana which helped him grow even more. On top of this, the mixed dark and light mana in this border was proving to be even more valuable for him since he could allow that mana to help him with the dark and light mana within his body.

While he took a spot on Walker's shoulder, Onyx was allowing the purity of mana within his body to rise while also keeping it in balance. The skills he used to make darkness and light manas in to armor on his scales when fighting could improve here. The strength of his dark mana based venom was also growing.

It had always been his greatest strength, the venom that could kill and decay most of what he used it on. However, upon growing and taking up the mantle of monarch of a new intelligent race, he had noticed changes.

The venom he used was both able to be dark or light mana infused now. Some would wonder what a light related venom would bring, but in Onyx's case, it was not so much a venom that would harm those who had the right affinities. If a dark affinity being was bitten it might be a killing blow, for those with light mana affinity, it could work the same as a weaker healing potion that could purify other dark affinity venoms or poisons.

It was something that Onyx didn't like to use still though. This was biting someone and causing them harm. He never used his venom in the first place unless he knew that it was an enemy that deserved it and would need to perish. Even small monsters he didn't use it on since it was against his belief. He was strong and he could win a fight without relying on it. So why would he use it and cause more harm?

Besides this, Walker was also channeling the same manas that Onyx was, not just to bring them closer to Onyx to use, but also because he sensed the refinement of mana going on as well. Onyx was taking another step ahead in his growth. Proof that as a leader of a race and also a recognized hero, that making leaps in his ability would keep him on the path of protection for all of Genesis.

"It's good you have arrived safely." The whisper was a distant voice, one that they all recognized since they had heard it before.

"It is nice to see you as well. It is a surprise that you, the true dark sage, have come to meet us in person." The shadows also seemed to be shifting as more dark mana was pulled in to the border and the true dark sage stood having made themselves a path.

It was hard to discern the sharp and dark features. Like the darkness that the true dark sage was made of was also blending and meddling with the dark mana all around themselves as well. If that was the level of understanding that came with becoming a singular true sage then it was something to be in awe of. If Walker wanted, he could not wrestle the dark mana here in to his control.

"I would like to have come myself because it is just polite to greet you, not that I am one for that as I am often too busy capturing meddling pests that try to get where they should not be." The true dark sage was speaking of the merchant who attempted to sneak in to the world and explore or sell what they could. This was just part of the duties that the true dark sage seemed to have. The shadows and those of dark mana were slippery and sneaky.

"I am here now to ask for your assistance. The king of dark mana and the dark elemental plane requires assistance with something that they can not handle right now due to the addition of seven new dark elemental planes within the greater dark elemental plane." This made sense then, the addition of the smaller dark elemental planes must need the dark king's full attention to ensure that they melded safely with the greater dark elemental planes.

If the party was here, they were a strong force that would be able to act similarly to part of the dark king without the dark king needing to split themselves like the other elemental kings had been doing. They all seemed to do so to handle the problems within their electoral plane. It was a good way to keep eyes on everything, but also presented an issue of being spread too thin. Exactly what was happening here and now.

"We'll need some details before we run off to face whatever monster or chaotic mana things is causing you problems." Blunt but right to the point. Remey wasn't playing around, she knew full well that the other elemental kings had been able to meet with Walker so if the dark king was unable then there needed to be some good reasons and good pay for it.

The true dark sage grew in size slightly, pulling more dark mana to allow them to walk safely in to the dark elemental plane fully. As they did so, they listened to the details. It seemed that the true dark sage

was very approving of Remey's way of doing things. It was easier and would keep them occupied for less time.

"As the dark elemental planes hold decay as an aspect of dark mana, now and then beings from other planes including the small life elemental planes accidentally enter the areas dense with decaying dark mana. They try to use the decaying mana to increase their nutrients and growth but if they can not protect themselves and return to their safe home within a life elemental plane, they perish."

Since life and death mana were not necessarily elemental in nature and existed through all the elemental planes, this was not surprising. The life elemental palming question most likely moved erratically without any predictable path. Making it hard to follow or locate if not paying attention to it. It did not follow the same rules as other elemental planes.

"Their presence has allowed another area of undead mana to gather. It can not form a proper undead elemental plane and is causing an unbalanced area with mixed dark decaying mana and undead mana. The monsters were once plant like as many life elemental planes are host to such creatures. If you can handle that, any materials, herbs, and other unique items you find are yours. I understand you will also gain insight about how life, death, and undead manas may function within the greater elemental planes."

Walker knew he was being played like a fiddle. The true dark sage knew exactly what interested and tempted Walker. Learning more about the intricacies of the elemental planes was a huge part of why they were on this journey.

Seeing a change in life mana to undead mana because of dark decaying mana would be a huge opportunity. Not only could he see the direct changes but he would learn how to manipulate those changes. Or even better, how he could understand them and counter them in the future. Besides whatever else he might learn about dark mana that caused decay to mix with other manas and change their properties too.

"Since you came personally and are also perennially making sure no issues occurred with the bridges that connect to the dark elemental planes it would be fair that we assist as well." Walker agreed to assist and the others also knew that he was thinking about how the true dark sage had ensured there would not be any causes for danger or worry in terms of travelers from the dark planes.

"Then I look forward to the solutions you find. I will also invite the obsidian slime race to visit you as you travel. They are a unique race you will find interesting." The true dark sage left a dense trail of mana toward their task but also seemed to be somewhat excited, if Walker could call it that, for them to meet this obsidian slime race.

"Slime race? So there are sentient slimes then. Wonder what that means for the slimes in our world?" Gil laughed a bit while everyone else began to follow Walker. The dark elemental plane would be interesting for sure this time.

Chapter 2663: Obsidian Slime Race

The party was thinking about the oddity that a slime race would bring. Not that they were hateful of them, the one who had managed to use slimes against the other races of Genesis was evil, not the slimes themselves. They had not caused the harm because they desired it.

Slimes had an important function within the world as a monster species with amazing adaptability. They had uses to the natural order of the world and were also numerous at times. They were both prey and predator allowing food a cycle in certain ecosystems to thrive. Without them the world would be missing a large portion of monsters needed to flow properly.

However, slimes had never really become properly sentient as a race. They had not developed in the same way towards sentience that any one would be able to call noteworthy.

Yes, there were species of monster that became races that could change their shape and form who were reminiscent of slimes. However, they were not slimes at the core of their being and were not keeping themselves as such. A water slime was just a water slime. A yellow acid slime was just a yellow acid slime. They were monsters, that was that.

Considering that the party was now in the dark elemental plane and they were in an area of what could be called barren dark rock and wisps of dark mana, they were sure that the land would not allow for the nutrients necessary for the slimes they knew of to live either. It was assumed that this obsidian slime race might be living nearby and able to survive here. Now that was hard to believe.

"There is nothing around here and they say that there is a race here?" Remey was trying to search for any herbs or plants at all, but it just seemed like the lands here were made of dark affinity rocks, sands, and whatever else had no chance of growing anything.

"This is a place near the border and it is related to decaying dakar mana, the dakar mana here is closer to the more dangerous forms of dark mana. I can feel the damage it can cause." Onyx had left Walker's shoulder and was using his shadow to hide most of his body. The party did notice that his shadow was stronger now, more defined like he had just condensed it better than before.

"So you managed to break through a little with the purer manas then?" Alice paused her humming to ask excitedly when she noticed that Onyx was acting a little more focused and chatty now. She knew that it would mean a lot for him to advance white on their journey so she wanted to make sure she was showing him some celebration.

The others also knew that Alice was thinking about Aurora, she might be primarily the light affinity side, but she was extremely close to Onyx and could be called the matriarch to Onyx's patriarchal role for their race. Since Alice was the one who primarily cared for Aurora and worked with onyx more than enough to be called close, it would mean more to her that they were close right now.

"I have, I can tell the difference like Brother can, this mana is decaying dark mana. It is slower and it eats away at everything. It makes sure that what is here will slow too. That what is here will become what it needs to be to grow anew." This insight was not different from what Walker knew and felt, but he could see it in the way that onyx's eyes flickers, Onyx understood more than he couldn't put in to words.

The duality of light and dark being within onyx allowed for his perception of both to shine that much brighter. The idea that both light and dark mana played vastly in to life and death manas was interesting and telling about their roles to the world itself. It also shed some light on the shadow side of things.

The combination of light and dark mana being shadow was interesting. But the combination of life and death mana being undead? It was like a parallel that could inspire or stump many scholars of mana and magic.

"Well, I am glad we are getting stronger but I think we should worry about what might be out here, shouldn't we?" Both Su and Gil were preparing themselves for a fight as they spotted a shift in the darkness ahead of them. Walker also felt it, a denser dark mana that seemed to be more consuming. It was like the decaying dark mana but more voracious. Hungrier almost.

"You are not ones to be consumed and returned to the flow of balance. You are those brought by those of purer darkness to assist my race to return the land as it should be." The words were a strange mix of mana and sounds that echoed around in the dark terrain. Luckily everyone understood what was said due to the translations of the system but Walker understood it even greater.

'Cleric of decay

Obsidian slime race

Ninety five world years old

This is an obsidian slime race member known and following the value and process of decay. While taking in the dark decaying mana, they balance the manas that cause decay as much as possible. Not only do they worship the one called the god of decay, they are known-

The all around appraisal cut off as Walker realized he had begun to look at something a little too deep for him. This wasn't the world or the will of existence blocking him but the cleric of decay themselves using a skill to block the information. They had used a skill to keep their information hidden, something rare but also clearly sending a message that they wished to keep themselves private.

Walker rarely looked in to other's classes and information like this except for when he was truly worried that they might be speaking or dealing with someone dangerous.

"I ask you to remain private in your and my matters. You are not an ally of mine nor my people. We will only ever act if we see our balance broken and the flow broken. As those said to have returned the flow, you should understand the importance." The dark decaying mana gathered slightly greater than before as some of the black stones and rocks broke in to smaller pieces around the humanoid dark shape.

As the dark mana calmed again, the humanoid form was clearer.

Tall and defined as if trying to copy the shape of other humanoid races, it was easy to see a little of the elven race's sharp ears and maybe a little more of the demi-human races' sharper fingernails. But they weren't necessarily the same. The body was condensed slime making it denser and darker standing out against even the ambient dark mana in the air that would obscure any normal person's vision. Striking even greater were the multiple cores that acted as eyes and what Walker sensed was a heart.

The obsidian slime race had more cores in their body that acted to connect and work as organs. This was where they were able to make themselves a race. Their intelligence grew because they had grown naturally more cores within themselves. Allowing for the functions of their body to grow as well. Walker was amazed.

"We have been asked and have accepted the handling of the small undead area that came to be. We have no intention of offending you. We did not know what the obsidian slime race appeared as. In our world, the slime species are monsters and have not been able to or can advance to a sentient race such as yourself. I don't even know if there are other sentient slime races-"

"They existed once upon a time and were eradicated. The obsidian slime race and a few stragglers of other affinity slime races exist. We are the strongest here because we dedicate our existence to the very source of what we are made of and from." The words were sharp and clear. That the obsidian slime race persisted because they had a purpose and would not deviate from that purpose no matter the cost.

This unwavering dedication was not cruel or malicious. It was pure and clear to Walker and the entire party that it was what drove them from the very center of who they were as a race. To be united so strongly that they would not even consider spreading from their purpose was rare. When it wasn't corrupted, it was even rarer.

"We are prepared to assist the issue at hand. The true dark sage said that you and maybe your people would meet us. We would like to share culture with your people while we have the opportunity." As Walker spoke out, the cleric of decay appeared to shift their body slightly considering what he had just been told.

Chapter 2664: Forms Of Dark Mana

It was an awkward start to say the least. The cleric of decay that represented the obsidian slime race appeared to be straight forward and did not seem to want to chat much. This being the case, it left the

party to travel in science mostly. There were times that the obsidian slime would speak but mostly just to warn against stronger movements in the dark mana that could harm them.

Surprisingly, for someone who had a class called cleric of decay that should focus on the benefits and natural process that decay was, the obsidian slime avoided larger amounts of decaying dark mana. Not just because the party was there it seemed either.

Walker could tell that the obsidian slime absorbed large amounts of decaying mana as part of its survival. For a species that fed on dark mana and also the creatures that had affinities for it, the obsidian slimes were most likely similar to what a dark mana affinity slime would feed on. However, it seemed that the more destructive and dangerous forms of dark mana still could cause it harm.

The cores of a slime could degrade, meaning that they were not immune to dark decaying mana that could break the cores over time. For the obsidian slime race, that would mean too much dark decaying mana would break their abilities to communicate, use magic, and more to do with their bodily functions.

"If you and your people worship the natural process of decay and even assist in the balance related to it, do all of them struggle to maintain that balance of decaying mana within themselves as well?" Walker broke the silence while they traveled toward the growing density of what they all knew as undead mana.

"It is not a struggle when it is an honor to walk this path. Those who can maintain control and fulfill the requirements will gain the support of all. Those who cannot maintain the balance or focus elsewhere will walk other paths still valuable to the ways of our people." It was well said but it made it clear there was a divide of sorts related to the decaying dark mana and the other forms of dark mana.

While the other forms of dark mana were not as clear to many people, it was there. Some dark mana was all about the night and what was hidden within the darkness. The dark mana that was related to

stealth was similar but still different since it would break down the sounds that came with wind mana allowing for better sneaking. There was the offensive but not decaying dark mana condensed in to blades and weapons. Then there was even the dark mana which was peaceful and calm that represented the opposite of the more brutal and vicious side of light mana.

Walker went on a small monologue about these forms which seemed to slow the obsidian slime. From their perspective, it appeared they did not expect Walker or the party to have this knowledge let alone ability to understand. When Walker began to mention that there were those with all these forms of dark mana within the world, the obsidian slime stopped for a half step, its body seeming to shiver slightly as the information settled.

"What of your territory steeped in darkness? Does it rot out of control? Does it grow more than what you would expect? This dragon that acts as guardian, do they demand sacrifice or worship?" The questions made it clear that there was a strange history for the obsidian slime race. Both involving a lack of fertile lands for living and growing on and potentially dastardly dragons who don't deserve the name dragon at all.

"The dark dragon territory is kept balanced with natural and created elemental runes and rune formations. There are many experimental and also nutritional foods and herbs grown on it. It is being built for the dark affinity races that come there constantly since the territory is larger and will most likely expand as time goes on. The dragon, Mordant, is a royal dragon and must live up to the beliefs and needs of his people while also maintaining the pride of a dragon. The dragons of the world rarely fall in to poor habits and actions."

Another shiver moved through the obsidian slime's body hearing this. It sounded like a palace that was peace and protection over all else. "Genesis is an alliance that supports and believes all races can and should live in unity. Everyone is equal. Even the weakest race is equal to the strongest race and will have a representative on the Genesis Council to speak for them. New races join as we make connections with them. We as the founders, leaders, and people of that alliance wish to help expand that unity too." When Su spoke up, everyone in the party stood a little taller. They were bragging about their home after all.

"I will decide if I bring some of the young ones with me when we visit then." The statement was short but it appeared that enough interest had formed for the obsidian slime to show their standing as higher within the race. They could bring the younger obsidian slimes to a new land if they desired, something major for any race. Meaning that the cleric of decay class was held in higher regard than what Walker and the others had realized earlier.

"You would be very welcome to come and see the world. We have potions, armor, and other magic skills to help protect from other manas while you are there. The world is balanced and houses all manas in a balance, so even the dark territory is mixed with other manas." Alice halted to quell any worries. She wanted to make sure that it was known that safety measures were taken just as she had been humming a song she made to buff everyone's dark mana resistance here.

The obsidian slime seemed to have noticed her intention and also seemed to understand her stance as a healer giving her a soft bow of respect. While healers were not all light affinity, they had a respect that came from healing. Many healers who met of any form or affinity could sense the same core beliefs that came with becoming a healer. Respect for the protection of those around them.

There was a change in the terrain that caught Gil's eye as he halted everyone to have Walker focus on it too.

The larger cut sun the ground made a bone white crust easier to see as if it had settled over top the dark barren rock terrain that had been there before being damaged. There was also a black sludge that had gathered in the divers and trenching the ground.

'Decay sludge

This is the refinance of what was once a monster from the light elemental plane. As it was affected by a dense and pure form of dark decaying mana it lost its body and life causing it to degrade in to this state.

This sludge is extremely toxic to any being that does not have high affinity with the decaying form of dark mana, even then it could be considered a poison to them. It can be used to assist in balancing decaying...'

Walker used the all around appraisal and it appeared that the obsidian slime was happy to see this sludge. But since it was used to balance areas without decaying mana then it did have value. It could also be purified with significant light mana but that would leave it inert and not useful for much at all.

That was, they were happy until Walker noticed broken round objects nearby too. "You're people who came here fought well." They all realized these were obsidian slime cores, all that remained of the obsidian slimes who had been unfortunate to come here seeking to remedy the problems.

"They did their duty to balance. Now we will bring them rest by ensuring that balance is kept." A ripple lived through the obsidian slime's body as a staff left their body and came to its hand. It stored the staff within itself but the energy from the deep dark rocky staff was clear. It was a potent and controlling form of dark mana that drew in dark mana from all around to be used.

"And that thing moving ahead is our opponent then." The dark shape that should not have been able to hold out was snapping thorny black vines back and forth. The thorns were bone white and the mass larger than what the party expected. It wasn't just an undead monster, it had changed in some way from what it had been due to the unique conditions.

Walker hastily used his all around appraisal on it.

Chapter 2665: Decay Decay Decay

'Undead thorn disaster

This monster is one that just shouldn't be. There is no natural way for it to become an undead. There is no guideline or evolutionary methods for it to come to be. This monster came to be due to an extreme error in judgment and refusal to properly flow with what nature intends. The little intelligence it had was used to resist the natural flow of life to death and become an undead.

The thorns and vines that should have rotted in a high decay area were instead crystalized using the bones of other life affinity monsters that have already perished. The dark vines holding the bone white thorns are primarily made of skins, barks, and elastic decaying flesh. While it does not possess eyes, it uses smaller vines to still sense the flow of mana around and attack anything that has proper life mana within to extend the length of time it can use the body it has forced to exist.

Some would call this a corrupt being however, it is just one that refused the natural path of life and death and forced an undead elemental plane to begin to form within a decaying dark mana heavy area. The life mana being made in to undead mana is also causing the dark decaying mana to suffer and lose balance which in turn is causing the land itself to change in ways that it should not.

This monster yields nothing of use for materials due to the fact that it is a forced being and the materials left behind will degrade rapidly if the intricate balance is not continued. The best way to defeat this monster is to starve it out since it needs high amounts of life mana to convert in to undead mana or else the decaying mana around will consume it entirely...'

The monster was not at all looking the way that everyone believed it would be. There were masses of dark bubbles and decaying vines mixed in with the elastic looking vine covered in sharp bone white thorns. The smell was also putrid proving that the plant body was rotting and being forced to take shape to maintain mobility.

Worst of all, there were a few other monsters around that had once been wandering dark affinity monsters, but their bodies had been torn to pieces by the vines and thorns beyond recognition. Even the all around appraisal skill was mentioning that they were just parts destroyed by a berserk monster without proper intelligence or will.

"I want that thing gone, can we just use the purifying light arrows and have Alice gather the light mana after so it doesn't cause any trouble?" Gil wanted the quick and easy solution. Use the purifying light arrows he had that would cause the dark mana and undead mana to be purified all around this area. The issue with that was, that Gil wasn't considering the space mana round.

"This space has been influenced by the undead thorn disaster. It's trying to force the dark decaying area here in to being an undead elemental plane. It shouldn't be possible to do that since the same kind of life mana needed to make undead shouldn't be here. Maybe the monster as it was could have gained a proper intelligence and grown beyond what its species could be if it was alive, but it's not and now we have to handle it in a way that won't break the balance."

"Basically he is telling us if we purify the area that it will leave a hole and cause a lot of trouble." Remy turned to the obsidian slime and explained that Walker also had affinities and senses that let him understand the more complex relationship manas had with space mana itself.

"I will take control of the decay here. It will act to consume this monster and allow for the mana it forces in to its control to dissipate as it should." Several of the nearby rocks moved revealing a few more hiding and clearly weakened obsidian slime race members. Walker had sensed their presence but he didn't say anything since it seemed that they were holding on to their strength and waiting for their cleric of decay to assist them.

They were the reinforcements to the injured fighters trying to handle this threat to the dark elemental plane.

"I can make it so that no mana moves around this forced undead area. That way you can isolate and grow the decay to a point where nothing else can interfere. Gil has some dark affinity arrows that can bleed weaker dark mana in to the area and balance the plane better. Remy will give potions to your injured comrades. Midnight and onyx will prevent other monsters from sticking their nose in this. Alice

and Su will focus on making sure that thing doesn't get attacks out of the bubble we make around it. Alice will create shields of light, it will avoid that and she can keep from letting their mana influence the dark elemental plane. Su is just as tough as anything you can imagine."

The cleric of decay looked at them, the slime that made up the face showing an expression of shock. Then again, none of the party could say it was wrong since the party was moving to handle everything already. These obsidian slime race members had never met them and had no idea what they were capable of.

If anyone said that each person in the party would handle a larger task that should take at least five highly trained obsidian slime race elites then yes, shock made sense. But when Walker raised a hand and the mana all around the undead affected area halted, the cleric of decay was forced to move.

Focusing on what Walker and the others were doing couldn't be the main aspect of what needed to be done. Instead of having those waiting for them fight and keep the undead monster occupied, they could assist the overall handling of the decaying dark mana. That was immensely more helpful and was already taking pressure off of the cleric. It also allowed for greater density in mana to be drawn in and used to target the undead thorn disaster.

Just the fact it was called a disaster in an appraisal spoke volumes about how it should not exist. How it needed to be returned to the flow of mana as it should be. "The balance will be upheld." This solemn promise resonates with the other obsidian slimes who have even more of their mana to the cleric of decay who had brought reinforcements to help them. No, not just help, to bring them to victory!

As Walker watched, the undead thorn disaster noticed them moving and halting mana. In response twenty vines emanating undead and decaying mana began to whip out indiscriminately. The ground was torn apart and the broken bony thorns were left scattered as dangerous instances all around.

The decaying man used also caused more of the sludge that dropped from the undead monster's body to be splattered around. With Walker's close focus he ensured it didn't land anywhere near anyone so it wouldn't harm them. He could sense the danger in it though this was different compared to the other sludge, it was more volatile which could cause damage to even the equipment that the party wore or the weapons that the obsidian slime race were using.

Then again, the ten light mana shields that formed blocking a lot of the black sludge sprayed around the area had purified it making it completely useless for anything. It had also caused some disruption in the movements of the undead thorn disaster since it could sense the threat that purifying light mana had against it.

As Walker saw the decaying mana and heard the chanting of what was most likely a mastery spell that the cleric of decay was using, he began to pull away at the mana the undead thorn disaster was trying to pull and use along with its vines to attack the bubble of mana Walker used to isolate it.

The more that he used space mana to help him isolate it, the more he felt that he was able to push even further. If he wanted, he felt he could cut this entire area right out leaving a hole for the dark mana to fill. That realization was something he mentally jerked away from. That would cause a massive unbalancing act that was not at all acceptable for what they were doing.

But it was possible for him and he had not realized that at all.

When he looked over at the undead thorn disaster, he saw the sludge and mass of vines shifting and opening. This fight was very far from over. It had just started to get serious.

Chapter 2666 Abyss Of Decay

Teeth. Not just a few or small teeth either. Fangs that could cut through any of them seemed to have been pulled from different dark elemental monster bodies and stuck in to the body of the undead thorn disaster. It had used more than the bones and a few other parts of monsters to make itself a body. It

had used everything they had, including the teeth to create its very own mouths to attack and spit danger itself at prey.

When the first ball of thorny sludge was spit out from the toothed maws, Walker was able to see it break one of Alice's light shields, something he didn't think would happen. It was the sheer physical force behind the attack that had done it too, not the decaying effects that countered and even overpowered the light mana making the shield that Alice had created dissipate entirely.

This wasn't the same strength as what had been used before by the undead thrown disaster, instead it had increased its strength and even begun to throw the gathered pieces of bodies at them. Menaigh that it was going all out and abusing the undead aspects of what it was.

If left alone, it could become much larger and gather many more monster bodies to keep itself "alive". This meant that it would be able to do more than create balls of thorny bone and sludge to fire at people. It might even make a mess of vines and roots that send these things all around the dark elemental plane.

The very reason why it would certainly be the source of an imbalance.

As Walker was going to tell Alice to be more careful, he saw her face become focused and somewhat angry. To her, breaking the light mana that formed her will due to the swings she was seeing was not just an insult but a show of how she couldn't help and protect others. If the will she had put in to the song that created that shield had failed, then that meant she did not have enough desire to protect others in her. It meant she was not acting as a saintess or anything even close to one.

With a deep breath, Walker suddenly felt a lot of the light mana he had stored in his body try to pull away toward Alice. He let some of it drift away since he knew that it would go to whatever she was going to do that would be helping them. With the control he had over mana around them, he was

isolating the undead well enough that the manas wouldn't get out of contour even if Alice didn't draw back the light mana she was using.

The next song that came to everyone's ears was harsher. It spoke of defensive anger. Of lost allies and those on the brink of death. This wasn't just a collection of memories from when Alice had spent time as a healer, this was a fear and the source of her song of shields.

The desire to protect from death and injury for all those she wished to protect and more. The desire for peace and protection. The outrage and horrid disgust she felt when she was just healing and unable to protect others as well. That was the true essence of the song as twenty extremely dense light shields formed in the same shape and size of the twin shields that Su used.

As Walker also felt a boost to his agility, he understood that the song had multiple effects that Alice allowed everyone to benefit from. Her buff was to ensure that no one would be touched by the attacks of this undead in its final moments. It went so far to attack them when it shouldn't even be as it is at all, it was going against nature and they were here to right that wrong.

The shields didn't just sit idly though, they advanced on the undead thorn disaster. They slammed in to its bones snapping off bone thorns.. They slammed in to the mouths that were about to release balls of thorns and sludge at others to break away. And one even managed to sever one of the vines entirely.

This wasn't just using light shields with magic made of purifying light mana, this was copying Su's offensive shield technique entirely without the need to hold the shields at all!

"I praise the great decay."

"The very source that grants us the ability to grow."

"The source that breaks free from death and offers new life."

"Take upon yourself our mana and faith."

"Cast judgment upon those who break the cycle."

"Fall and return to nature as you were destined to do under our might!"

"Abyss of decay and return."

The sudden cry of a mastery level skill related to decay caused the other elite obsidian slime race members to fall and their slime bodies to fall away, their cores lay on the ground in small piles dormant. They had literally given everything to the cleric of decay so that the mastery spell could be used. A clear example of their unity and faith within the cleric and also in their faith as well.

It was the sudden pitch black mana that covered the entire ground that kept Walker's attention. He could feel the immense decaying effect that it had. So great that even the ground seemed to be breaking down. The ground that was made naturally by the dark mana within the dark mana elemental plane. The skill was forcing that mana to become part of it, part of the decaying skill now swallowing the undead thorn disaster.

The bone thorns were dissolving and breaking apart. The attempts to shoot more attacks and even begin lurching toward them were nothing but futile attempts to attack whatever it could even though it was now losing the battle against the decay that was already within and now outside of its body.

While this skill was incredibly powerful, the cost seemed a little too great. It could not be used without others to allow mana to flow in to the cleric of decay. It also cost them a high enough price that they were entirely weakened and could easily be killed or captured right now. But with walker here, that was not as impossible since he was already channeling ambient dark mana toward them and seeing that the multiple cores had started to draw the remnant of their slime bodies back to them.

He also noticed that the obsidian slime who was using the spell, the cleric of decay, had shrunk having burned up some of their mana and even body to ensure that this skill worked properly. A price that they sued without flinching or hesitating. They knew very well that they were protecting the balance as their race had always wished to do so.

Using the Decay to force the undead to completely break down and return to the natural flow was a great way to ensure that the undead was defeated and also that there would not be any damage left behind. Instead, the nutrients from this attack would be left behind for new life to bloom.

Decay was not always as horrible or evil as some made it out to be. Without it, there would be no way to return nutrients to the earth and grow anew.

Once the skill seemed to end and there was not a single remnant of the undead thorn disaster to be seen, the party came together and found that the cleric was seemingly in a daze. The cost of the skill on their mind must need some rest which was more than fine. However, they also noticed that dark sprouts of what seemed to be dark affinity herbs had begun to grow quickly around them.

While these sprouts would not be able to be harvested for some time, the fact that they had been waiting for a high amount of nutrients like this was just evidence enough that decay was a chance for new life. That the faith the obsidian slime race held true to was indeed worthy to follow.

"We will rest here for a while. The others didn't seem to be fighting many monsters surrounding us. Your skill handled the monster better than if we were to force light mana around here. Alice will also keep humming a buff skill to help you all regain mana while I bring in more dark mana for you." The cleric made a slight nod and the party started to set up a temporary camp.

Everyone had seen the mastery skill and they all knew the strength that it took to sue one. Therefore, they would be looking to learn a little more as they went if they could. The obsidian slime race might be a bit stronger than they were expecting.

Chapter 2667 Led Away

"They can use decay to heal too." Remey didn't say this out of surprise, it was just a general fact. She was just making sure that the idea itself was said out loud since it was something that anyone else would cite as very odd.

There was also the fact that Alice and Su would be the ones who were most focussed on the forms of healing that the obsidian slime race were capable of. Especially since there were many back in Genesis focusing on the fact that there were either forms of elemental healing other than light or life mana based healing.

"They are the ones that use the decaying dark mana in just about everything. They seem to be a race entirely focused on the magical aspect of dark mana and how it works in nature. I have a feeling they can travel the world without much issue." With the way that Gil was taking this, he felt that the obsidian slime race could easily visit Genesis without losing too much or being too much at risk.

"I agree with that, their bodies are made of dark mana primarily and their cores are protected by the slime that makes up their bodies. They need nutrients from dark affinity plants but that's not bad. They can easily replenish it with lower quality herbs or less dense foods with star mana within it." Walker had also been studying these possibilities mentally.

The idea that they would be able to safely transport a dormant obsidian slime race member and help them awaken again was also on his mind. That would mean they could bring a larger number of obsidian slime race members to Genesis to meet and to share culture than what would be possible for many other races.

That would also mean that they could be more easily protected by others while they made their way to the world or even other elemental planes. Walker found himself sitting next to the resting cleric of decay and asked clearly. "Does your race travel through the other elemental planes and would you want to visit the world?"

The cleric looked over and seemed that they were ready for such a question. Like the true dark sage had been ready to ask of them to visit the world at some point already. "Yes, we can travel to other elemental planes but our bodies degrade and we fall dormant very easily. We would prefer to be close or within our dark elemental territory at all times."

The idea that the obsidian slime race felt the same ways as any slime didn't made any negative sounding consequences. Of course they would feel informative to be out of their elemental affinity and that their slime body would degrade. That was just the nature of the purer side of the elemental lanes. They were not there to mix, they remained balanced and properly separated because that was just the way that the balance was maintained.

"We would hope that when the ambassadors from Genesis arrive within the dark elemental plane that there would be a group of your people who wish to travel to Genesis. They do not need to be focused on decay or on anything in particular. Just to ensure that we can form a proper bond and also share our cultures. The world has all manas balanced everywhere. We do have some territories and lands where some elemental manas are denser through."

Walker felt that there were a lot of chances for this race and the other races within Genesis to bind. Especially when it came to the echidna race who put a massive focus on natural mana and the natural balance of the world.

They would be able to understand the ways that the obsidian slime race focused on the natural balance that came with the decaying dark mana. How they would focus on that decay and how it would both break apart aspects of existence and then allow for new aspects to be born. The idea was not simple but it was easy to grasp a piece of it and see the benefits. To be honest, Walker even contemplated pushing them toward the farmers since the farmers required such things to bring crops to a better and stronger form for the people.

"When the group of emissaries reach your home, please tell them that Walker and the party are ready for them to guide some of your people back. I can tell that we won't be staying within the dark elemental plane that long. The true dark sage is already here to lead us ahead." Walker looked up and the rest of the party did as well.

"Too soon!" Midnight was a little annoyed that they had shown up, been guided, and then had to face a monster where they all couldn't actually fight it. Instead, they were now being led away and couldn't learn more about the obsidian slime race. She also had it in her head that they might be able to help her improve her skills.

The shadow wrapping skill was one that she used for stealth and was a hallmark for her. She would use it every so often to get sneak attacks or to scout, it was one of the skills she had learned easily and utilized enough that no other had reached the same level of understanding. While she could use other manas, the effects were not stealth and worked differently.

"You have another race to meet on our way. You must still make it to the earth elemental plane I believe and the true earth sage is waiting for me to pass you to them." The true dark sage spoke, breaking away

some of the attention that the party had divided in to the obsidian slime race members who were looking much healthier now that the party had assisted them in resisting and recovering a lot of dark mana.

"You mean that we have to meet the true earth sage too right away? What is wrong there?" Su didn't mince words. It would be all well and good to meet another race that lived within the dark elemental planes but also focusing on the fact that the true earth sage was positing meant something had to be wrong. That was just the trend of things since they arrived within the elemental planes.

"There is a small matter of seeds that the true earth sage wishes to ask of you. Apparently some extinct herbs may be in your care and he wishes to trade with you personally." Now this caught Remy's attention very much. She was about to leap back up and ask for information before Walker gave her a shake of the head. If they got too in to this right now then they would not know about the race that they would need to meet.

"I hope that we can make that trade after we have met this race you wish us to meet. If you are bringing us to them then I assume they have a special reason to be within your scope of focus?" Adding in this little bit, Walker saw the true dark sage nodding. It seemed that the true dark sage was acting very humble, something to show respect since the party was assisting without argument or questioning. They were just ready to help in the places that were needed and it was more than fair to offer more for it. A very amicable way to go about things that was earning even more respect.

"There is a race of small lizards, they are not what you would call a race if you did not know of their very high intelligence. They also have a habit of rushing off and making shadow golems that are a bit mischievous since they have nothing much else to do. They do not maintain the balance but they are excellent at handling rogue monsters or border breaks since they enjoy creating battle strategies."

Now that was something different and unique that made everyone wonder what would come of it. "How small are they?" Onyx made it clear that he was curious about them. The intelligence that these small lizards might have would be important if they formed an alliance with Genesis, but they were another race with scales and Onyx was more inclined to befriend them.

"The ink lizards are smaller than a finger, but they can speak loudly. They can create much more than you may imagine. They are one of the stronger races and the most solitary at times. Often, they are considered a race that no other race would even encounter unless they wished to be encountered." The true dark sage appeared to wish for them to meet them more so now than before. A good sign.

Chapter 2668 Dark Golems

A tiny race like the ink lizard race was not the only smaller race that the party had encountered. However, it was the smallest.

This presented the worries for the safety of the ink lizards in comparison to the other races. A smaller race like that would be at risk of the other races within Genesis moving around them. However, the youngest of serpents had ways to get through everything. They blended in to shadows and avoided the physical dangers of Genesis on a daily basis. The same for the color sprites, they were in the sky but they could move around and avoid dangers well enough.

This wasn't even considering the fact that it also came with the benefit of them being able to get through places that others might not be able to either. They could live in a smaller area and take over a smaller territory.

That didn't feel right though.

"The ink lizards must live in a larger territory, don't they?" The true dark sage looked at Walker and gave a slight nod before replying.

"They have a very large territory where they test their might. They create dark golems to build larger structures. They battle over larger areas than they would normally live. They also grow crops in larger

farms than would be normal. Their abilities at wielding dark mana to create more than they are physically is their genius and blessing."

Without realizing it, the true dark sage had managed to move the entire party a significant distance. It made Walker wonder if the true sages were capable of using space magic to move. Walker knew that wasn't the case though, he could tell that it was their pure influence over the mana within the elemental plane that they were matching affinities with.

They would use a larger and denser amount of mana to make the space move for them. While this was a lot more control and effort to ensure that what they needed was achieved, it was still viable. Walker had done the same and the elemental rune teleportation formations within Genesis also did the same. It was all just a matter of how skilled the ones working on the mana were at the end of the day.

This didn't mean that the party wasn't shocked that they had not realized they were being moved much more. The true dark sage hadn't said anything. Had not bragged. Instead, they had just done so without a trace of additional mana that Walker had sensed. Proving that even his senses could be called too weak while here in the elemental planes.

The idea was strange to say the least. He rarely had a time or chance to be in the seat of someone who was not understanding what mana was doing and missing what it had done overall. It was an odd feeling but one that inspired Walker to focus a little more on the true messages when he knew they were using their mana to manipulate the mana of the elemental plane around them.

"So, where are we now?" Walker glanced up as Remey began examining the very fine and small black clovers on the ground nearby. There was a lot more plant life here with dark affinities. The same with herbs that he could pick out as he glanced over the terrain. Grassy, hills, and an odd bush or tree here and there. It was a more fertile land so to speak.

When they all turned, the true dark sage was gone, but nearby, the shape of a leopard was walking toward them. It was black and smooth, not furry at all. It also didn't show hostility, it just walked casually to them before stopping for a moment in front of them.

"Welcome to the lands of ink. You are welcomed here on behalf of the ink Lizard race honoring the agreement with the true dark sage. Please continue your journey through our territory to the earth elemental plane and feel free to meet and speak with those you pass, they are curious about you as well."

"It just melted in to a puddle of dark mana. That thing was a golem, right?" Remy was poking at the dark mana that had become like a liquid and was quickly dissipating. She couldn't actually touch it since she had no affinity with dark mana, but she clearly could tell she would have been able to touch the golem that was here just now.

"It was in the shape of a shadow leopard. That means that the ink lizard race copies the form of other monsters to make their dark golems out of. I bet that was a temporary one held together with their mana and dark mana. They most likely need the right materials to make a dark golem more permanent."

The theory that Walker had rang true. It seemed very clear that those who wished to have more permanent golems would need something to act as a core. That was why the golems that the dwarven race made were so amazing. They had cores, moving parts, and so much more for elemental spirits or the spirit race to inhabit and utilize as a more physical body.

"So that means that we have a visitor already?" Onyx slithered around trying to raise his head but worried if he took a larger form he might harm the small ink lizard that may be nearby.

"I don't sense anyone, I believe that was just a messenger that was sent to let us know that the true dark sage had left us here and had let the ink lizards know. So they sent a golem to just make contact." There

was part of Walker that was also considering the fact that the ink lizard race might be more skeptical of them.

They were all larger than the ink lizards and had a true sage vouching for them as they traveled through this territory. Not to mention they might have been notified that there would be emissaries coming to meet them from the world later. That the party who was here now were powerful beings that represented every emissary that would come visit to form bonds with them.

"Let's go!" Midnight pushed Walker forward. She was more than ready to see what new things would be here. The terrain earlier was boring. They met some of the obsidian slimes and saw a monster but they could do much more now. Plus, she could tell Walker was keeping part of his mind occupied with thoughts about the undead they had faced and without a push that the party would end up moving way too slow!

It felt like the fields of black plants and grasses were endless with the rolling hills adding different levels to the terrain. This wasn't the only thing though, there were monsters that the party had spotted.

"Those are hair throwing tarantulas. Then hairs on their bodies get thrown all around them when they see a predator. The dark mana in the hairs will blind the predator for them to escape. That is a long tail pheasant, their black feathers come down in to a longer tail that drags and allows them to dissipate excess dark mana in to the ground. And that one..." The more that Walker rattles off information the more he realizes they had a few watchers.

The small bursts of dark mana he sensed at first were subtle but as they tracked and what he said was heard, they became closer and clearer. It seemed that the ink lizard race was more apt to be called shy than hard to find due to their size. That didn't mean they were weak, the ability to make very larger than themselves dark golems using just dark mana was noteworthy.

"Remey, that plant you are poking at is called a mage ear fern, they fold up like ears when they die but they are very useful for treating rot or infection in wounds." This caused a small burst of mana from the ink lizards around since they were surprised and curious about how Walker was sharing all this information.

"You should take out the dark affinity potions and dark nutrient potions. I think we should stop here to eat something and share it with our escorting hosts." Without any further words, the mana flared around them.

Several shapes formed as dark golems took shape. Some avian, others on four legs, while two or three actually looked like obsidian slime race members.

"How did you know they were escorting us?" Gil felt defeated. He hadn't noticed their presence and he was supposed to be the very best at such things.

"They gave off a little too much mana when they listened in on our conversation. But I felt that they might want to relax a little. I'm thinking this is a good spot for a picnic." Walker gazed out from the hill they had just climbed up. Plenty to look at and a safe place to have an eye out for any danger nearby. Perfect.

Chapter 2669: A Nice Chat

The various dark golems seemed to be watching the party who had set up a small spot to rest. Did the party really need rest? No, not at all. However, Walker wanted to use it as a chance for them all to relax and for the ink lizard race members present to actually speak with them and get more comfortable.

The fact that they were a shy and careful race was very natural. Many years of being the smallest intelligent race had allowed them to learn the best ways of survival. These were instincts.

Remain cautious. Use your magic and hide your body. Don't get sensed. Don't be seen. Be ready to fight with everything you have.

These instincts would keep anyone alive and safe better, but for the ink lizard race, it was just how it had to be so that they could make it through any day. Now, they had become powerful enough to take lands as their territory. The years and years moving through young generations to the older generations learning and growing paid off. They had a territory and were one of the strongest races, something hard to imagine.

When Remey opened the bottles of dark affinity potion and dark nutrient potions, the dark golems seemed to shift slightly. Instead of remaining still and keeping their presence known, a few moved forward toward the party and where they had sat themselves down.

"This is an all around appraisal scroll, you are welcome to use it or multiple if you are lacking appraisal skills yourselves. That way you can judge what the potions are." Walker poured them in to small bowls he kept within his multi dimensional storage. He was sure it would make things easier.

Before anything happened, Walker noticed that a smaller dark figure had begun to darken through the grass. Still trying to reap hidden but also not as wary as the others must be. In a moment, he saw a full little lizard, just about the size of his thumb tap the paper of the scroll with its tail. When the scroll glowed, the ink lizard didn't hesitate to have the leopard like dark golem snag the dark nutrient potion and drop it right in front of it.

"Remey made the potions, she is an alchemical brawler and a founder of the official alchemy guild. She has made potions for all affinities and is always looking for herbs. She has more of the dark nutrient potion and the dark affinity potion. They are usually used for either growth of affinity, understanding of affinity, or to help the body grow. The dark nutrient potion can also be used to feed herbs and plants too so that they are able to grow higher quality herbs."

Walker noticed a pig like dark golem shift, but instead of dissipating, it opened part of its body. The ink lizard in this case had made the dark golem around their body to wear as as it of dark mana armor. It was brilliant usage for the kill since the ink lizard still controlled the golem and it would always have more protection.

He was debating whether he should try and learn their skill to use only mana to create a golem of elemental mana to be used. It would be more advanced than the fire doll or earth doll skills he had that required some physical material that they burned or broke down to fuel their physical form. However, he also knew that learning to make golems out of elemental mana would be a large draw on his mind. Especially when using them.

The ink lizards had generations of testing and learning in real life wild combat scenarios. They were forced to learn more because of life and death. Now they have been safer to refine those skills and advance even more. He would need to learn a lot more from them as he met them.

"Your gift is welcome. We have not seen alchemy like this. Alchemy is not the strong suit of our people." The leopard dark golem spoke for the ink lizard currently drinking some of the dark nutrient potion. "The true dark sage spoke to the strongest of our people and asked that we judge you by our own standards and give you a chance. You seem deserving."

"I am glad you are meeting us and taking the time to learn about us. We are from the Genesis alliance within the world. We hope to strengthen and build relationships with every race possible. Some of us have already met some new races that our emissaries will form ties with and contracts of introduction when they visit Genesis. Seeing how you can use dark golems to such an immense level of skill, your people should be able to remain fairly safe when visiting despite the other manas naturally in the world."

"You have many races with you already. An elf race we have not ever seen, a dragon that is young but powerful, a half race, a spiritual race, one that has blood like the angel races, and another of which we

have not seen. You yourself, are young but of an old and powerful race." It was clear that the knowledge the ink lizard race possessed involved a few things from the world.

"So the true dark sage has shared some things from the world with you already?" It made sense. If the ink lizard race was really one of the most powerful and largest within the dark elemental planes, then the true dark sage might have a closer hand in protecting them and communicating with them.

"As a teacher, the great true sage is able to guide our refinement of golems. Allow us to better protect all that we hold dear as a people. We learn from them and we offer our support in any matter, even in guiding those who fall astray from the many forms of dark mana we all sense and live in." It was more like they were hearing the words of an elder than a younger ink lizard, and that might be the case, just hard to tell age for a race they were unfamiliar with.

"The true dark sage has been teaching your race?" Walker was surprised by this. The true sages had not spoken about what else they were doing with their positions. Instead, they had made it clear that they manage races and other aspects.

"The great true sage is an honorable being that allows knowledge to be shared as much as possible. They instruct guardians to visit others, adhere to laws, and ensure that any analogies are defended against." The reverence that the ink lizard race had for the true dark sage was not small in the least. There was a tone that told the entire party that the ink lizards were close enough that they would work for and with the true dark sage without question if asked.

"Thank you for sharing that with us. We have traveled here meeting the elemental kings and true sages. Knowing that the sages think similarly to how we do and the Genesis alliance does is reassuring." Su broke in to the conversation showing warmth in her words enough to make the ink lizards relax even more. Enough that a few more crawled their way to them and began to enjoy the dark nutrient potion as well.

As the ice was broken, the other rink lizards began speaking here and there. They mentioned the herbs they knew growing around here and the monsters within their territory.

The way that they lived seemed very tribal in a way. They were not a race that gathered in the hundreds or thousands. They roamed and explored their overall territory with one main capital village that they treated as a cultural site.

There apparently was a grand ink lizard who was the strongest and most innovative of their generation. Meaning that the leaders would change with each generation of ink lizards born. Something that happened every hundred years roughly, so a good bit of information about the ink lizard's lifespan.

Having the chance to actually see their bodies, the dark and light gray sections on their scale were reminiscent of ink dropped in to water. Something that was odd since the name of their species shouldn't be related to other aspects of different manas. Yet, no one decided their species name, meaning that it was the system of existence that gave them the name. An interesting jot that Walker wished he could delve in to a little more.

Otherwise, by the time they had all sat and spoken, it was easy to understand that while the party ventured through this Territory, it was going to be a relatively educational and safer journey. One that they had hoped would bring them to meet the dark elemental king but seemingly was being held off since the earth elemental true sage was waiting for them.

Chapter 2670: Seen as...

"You and your people sound to be able to do much more than what we have heard." the ink lizard who had made the dark leopard golem made it seem that they were not as ignorant as the party believed them to be able the people of the world.

"It seems you have been getting some information more than what we understood about our home and people." Alice was genuinely curious. She had been walking next to Walker while the others had been having their own conversations.

Knowing that they were within the ink lizard territory and were somewhat protected made things a lot easier for all of them. Especially since there were many chances for the party to learn about the territory as a whole. It was like they were in a controlled area. Monsters too dangerous would be handled while the rest of the wilderness was free to grow and change naturally.

"We know what we are told and we see what we are shown." The dark mana shifted and grew in to various rough shapes showing people. Different races of Genesis who came together and lived together. It would appear that the true dark sage had gone beyond just telling what they had seen when they popped a golem in to the world to communicate.

Then again, the true wind sage had literally come and moved around the entire world looking here and there to learn more. The odds that the true wind sage alone would know more about the world's terrain than what the people of Genesis had mapped out was a possibility. Not to mention that the other sages might have done similarly to what their powers allowed them to do.

"I didn't consider that the true sages could shape manas to show some of the people they protect and guide what the world is like. That's even better if anyone from those races comes to visit and build connections." Walker chimed in happily with the idea that the races that would come could be a little more understanding of the races already living within the world.

"You've done well to guide them here." The entire place shifted, the ink lizards were blotted out and the party found themselves standing in utter darkness. Even Walker could not see a thing. However, from that darkness came an even darker shape.

While humanoid, the shifting dark mana was clear. It could take different forms but right now seemed to be a humanoid with the deepest and darkest crowns that even made dark mana seem closer to light.

"You have met the other kings at times and met the sages who serve us. You have come to the dark elemental plane looking for sureties that those traveling here will remain safe. I ask you the same sureties. That even the smallest and physically weakest of the races born of the dark and living to protect it are also to remain safe."

It wasn't some random monster or the true dark sage. This was the full and untouchable body of the dark king. Whether they had been busy with other things or not, it seemed that the ink lizard territory was more than just a place for them to govern and live. It was an anchor where the entirety of the dark king could manifest their will and form their body to speak even while mentally divided.

"That is all we had hoped for. Safety for both your people and our people. That is what the Genesis Alliance exists for. Safety, growth, unity. If you need, we can even make a deeper promise, an oath." Walker could sense the others and realized they were just standing in a space of dark mana, they could not see the dark king the same way that he could. They might not even be able to sense that the dark king was there.

The immense control and strength that the dark king has over the entire territory of the dark elemental plane couldn't be measured with any simple explanation or idea. It was something that stood out beyond all other dark elemental beings.

"Then swear to me, you will bring forth a dozen eggs from the ink lizard race to the dark territory governed by the Mordant, that royal dark dragon. That dragon has reached out toward the sage that serves and guides the dark elemental plane, has made promises of travel and trade. Hold that dragon accountable and allow them to give opportunity to the ink lizard race as the first proper dark race to safely live in the world and the dark elemental plane at the same time."

Walker was about to speak up but it seemed his worries were already known. "They are a physically weak race but they can survive other manas. They have drunk water and they have touched fire. They inherit their memories much like the dragon race does at times. Their blood and bones remember their ancestors. They will learn without your need to teach. They will follow what they wish and they will become strong while teaching others. That is their way."

It was stunning information over and over again. The dark king hadn't stopped them because they worried about the safety of all races and the travel between the elemental planes. It appeared that the dark king already trusted those things. Today, they were here ensuring that the relationship would grow with promises made on both sides to do so. To grow together.

"They are a race I personally guided in the beginnings of my influence, before the wars and after. They were held isolated and safe and knew nothing of war, they will not be allowed to know of war and suffering. They will only know of survival and growth beyond just survival." The statement was a promise greater than what Walker could say were just words. It was the oath, the word, and the singular promise of a being representing an entire form of mana.

"Then I will match your sincerity. We of Genesis will do our utmost to ensure that all races living there, including the races like the ink lizard race, will be safe and can live without war if they so choose. They will have freedom to grow and learn. Freedom to adventure. And they will have the freedom to look beyond just survival as an option."

"Then the deal is made. You will hold this in your heart as an origin being. Your youth is your boon and as you age, I expect to see the world and my plane grow closer."

The darkness was gone in an instant, but Walker saw some pure high dark mana crystals left behind. It seemed the dark king had brought them as a gift for the meeting but it also seemed that the dark king was making sure that as the elemental planes grew closer to the world and took their natural forms, that Walker would be acting as the guide. He would be properly ensuring that peace and prosperity would continue, just as the elemental kings worked, so would Walker.

Right now, the elemental kings knew he was young, but to them, time was something they would see pass no matter what. Walker was an origin being younger and weaker, but they could speak to him and pursue closer ties. The other origin beings were always roaming and wandering, they couldn't easily speak with them. Instead, the elemental kings had to handle what the origin beings did and accept it.

He wasn't being treated like an equal, a hero, or even a resident of the elemental planes. The elemental kings were already thinking of him as an origin being who will one day stand above them. Would wield potent strength that could allow so much more manipulation of everything around him. They weren't looking at the now, they were looking at the when, for when he was so powerful he could cut away or mix elemental planes at a whim.

"So, want to tell us what that was?" While Gil was still gripping his bow firmly, Walker noticed that even the ink lizards were on edge. They could sense that the dark mana had not been dangerous to them but it was powerful, so far beyond them that they still felt innate fear.

"The dark king visited us. There's a small gift for the inconvenience but mostly, I was asked to carry with me twelve eggs of the ink lizard race so they can be born in the dark territory under Mordant's protection. Apparently the ink lizards have memories passed down similarly to dragons and won't need much guidance."

Everyone turned their gaze to the ink lizards present. There seemed to be a great deal more to discuss together now. Plenty to occupy their travels to the earth elemental and dark elemental plane's borders.