

Master 2671

Chapter 2671 Carry Them

"That is correct." The few words kept the newly found attention that the ink lizards had. They had not expected that Walker would know of this so soon and wanted to take the time to see what the party was like. If they would have the strength to protect the twelve eggs they wished to grow up in a new land and grow the ancestral memories.

"We are born of one skill no matter the class, abilities, and strength of affinity to the dark mana. It is called ancestral memories carved in blood. A passive skill that allows us to remember our past. It also allows us to learn our natural skills faster."

"We know that some dragons have similar skills that allow them to learn more about their past. The dragons of the water called it the roaring waves' memories. Those of fire call it the song of wildfires past. We hope that those memories of our own race can still learn and grow in a new territory. One that will hold a connection to the future of all the planes."

It was very clear that to the ink lizard race, the world and the dark elemental plane were going to unite more closely. They wanted to be part of it and stand with it rather than being separated and isolated.

There was something else though. A small spark of curiosity and desire that also came with things. They wanted to be able to see the future themselves. They wanted to be able to encourage and grow the memories passed down to the next generation and beyond it.

They knew the might of the dark dragons and were willing to send their young to the territory of one if that meant a better generation. This didn't mean that they were losing these children forever, they were just extending their family further away. Encouraging more journeys outside of their home. They would see more than others before them.

"Our children will lay dormant, like dark rocks on the border of our territory and the earth. They do not hatch because they have the right place or the right mana. They hatch because it is time for them to hatch. They feel when the time comes and they will claim the mana needed around them. You have met the truest of darkness and were accepted by them."

Since the ink lizards were such a small race it made a lot of sense that their eggs had developed the ability to be dormant and hatch when needed. It wasn't mana based like a monster, it was an innate skill for them. Proving that their survival had been hard through the years yet, that survival had forged their race to be potent and powerful. Forged their race to be lasting.

"We accept the challenge to carry your young. I may have a light affinity, but I will encase them in protection so that none will harm them." Alice spoke out showing a soft hum while doing so. Small bubbles of light formed, not seemingly dangerous, but very tough. Harder to touch. Harder to break. Just enough to show the ink lizards that with her by Walker's side that the eggs could not and would not crack unless they were safe.

There was something about the idea of carrying the first generation of another race to be born within the world that Alice had resonated with. Whether it was her saintess title or simply the fact that they deserved to be protected. That they were a future that could shape the world and the elemental planes for generations to come.

Whatever the real reason, they would be given the utmost care from her and the others, none of them had to say it, she had already spoken their intentions.

"Just so we can be sure, there's no threat to your race here that is forcing you to do this, right?" As much as Gil wanted to trust this was a pure desire to expand their race and build new ties, he was skeptical. Then again, they'd met races who needed to leave their homes due to danger and possible extinction.

They had even helped bring an entire city with a race living within to the world!

"We are not under any great threat. We are blessed with knowledge and opportunity and we shall take it as it comes. There will always be risks and the risk with your alliance is small. You have the respect of the great dark sage and the even greater dark king. We will respect you as they have asked, we do have reason to respect you otherwise as well."

The ink lizards had given them a chance. They had liked what they learned and saw though. The party wasn't looking for fights. They weren't looking to harvest every herb and food they saw. They respected their territory and even the safety of the ink lizards who were within their own territory. Why would they doubt and fear this party coming here when those facts had already been seen clearly?

"Then we thank you for your trust." Walker stepped forward, the small eggs were brought from a smaller dark golem that had been carrying them in a hidden fashion. As soon as Walker opened up the high dimensional storage that he had focused dark elemental materials and mana in, the ink lizards showed a glint of excitement in their pitch black eyes. They could sense the safety and beneficial mana within. They knew they had chosen properly.

This moment held for just a few breaths where no words needed to be spoken. For the smallest intelligent race that the party had seen and met, the ink lizards seemed to be very outgoing once they were comfortable. They had been shy at first but that was from their natural instincts trying to keep themselves safe.

"We will finish escorting you. We will pass by an area where a few others train, you may be able to see some of the larger dark golems made permanent by those with the strength." The ink lizards here had strength but they seemed to have only brought dark golems they could make easily. With that easy creation with dark golems which were only temporary, Walker did wonder what the strength of the dark golems they had elsewhere which were permanent.

As if on cue, on the horizon some larger dark golems came in to shape. "That one you can see now is based on the berserk war bear, they are popular in a few areas due to their size and ferocity. The other is called a giant millipede, they are good forms to build a dark golem in to for transportation. Then there's..."

As the party grew closer the ink lizards shared more and more. It seemed that making dark golems permanently and shaping them after other monsters is a favorite of theirs. Their race had the skills for it and were always pushing themselves to make more complicated and powerful dark golems with their skills. If they could find a new monster to copy and create their very own dark golem from, they might be able to use that as their strength. A show of what they could do to both attract a partner and raise their standing within their fellow ink lizards.

It wasn't too long that they had the benefit of this tour through an area of many dark golems and many more hiding ink lizards who were not that accepting of the party. A few made themselves seen but very few spoke out or said anything. Their shy nature was fair enough.

It was the sense of earth mana that truly distracted everyone though. The border of dark and earth manas was small, more like a small road if compared to the city's roads. However, it was clear cut and held a very clear line. The dark golems nearby did not approach it and the few monster tracks that Gil and Midnight could spot on the other side of the border all halted quite a few feet from the border. It was an unspoken rule not to cross in to it.

Otherwise, the strip of dark and earth mixed together was just deep black souls. It seemed more like fertilized soil from a farm. It was enough for Walker to gather a little for experimenting later. Regardless, he tried to say goodbye to the ink lizards, but found they were already wandering off on their own. They seemed to not be big on goodbyes.

"I will allow you to meet the true earth sage. Thank you for your visit. That troublesome merchant will be allowed back when you give permission and punishment has ended." The true dark sage spoke

through the dark mana around them, their own farewell enough to ensure that there would be new things to come with the emissaries sent here in the future.

Chapter 2672 Mountain Alliance

The small farewell from the true dark sage left the party a little curious. They had heard of Walker meeting the merchant from the dark elemental plane, but it was surprising that the true dark sage would be giving that merchant permission to appear again in the world or at the very least, near the bridge to the dark elemental plane when it was connected with one.

"Having a merchant that can pop out of the shadows using dark mana might not be a bad thing. We have merchants that wander already right?" It was a simple decision since many of them had seen the wandering merchants.

There were always a few solitary merchants who popped up here or there in small towns, villages, or just on the edges of cities. They didn't always carry illegal goods, they just preferred to remain alone and without the crazy hustle and bustle of a lot of people.

These types of merchants also wandered in to barren wilderness areas or more dangerous places to procure rare items for sale. Hence, wandering merchants were people with a class that could take a pretty substantial stance in terms of mercantile businesses overall. Some of these such wandering merchants would sell all their goods to larger merchant groups causing a surprise boost to rare goods in an area.

In turn, that area would experience a nice boost to their economy. Allowing for repairs, rebuilds, and even new building that would bring new families or business in to the area. That was just prosperity in one sense for the people and place.

"If more wandering merchants with skills to store their goods in shadows or spatial storage come along, we might have a lot of random large trade areas popping up here and there in the world or maybe the

elemental planes." His perspective was that it would just further enhance the growth of every single place these merchants go. A perfect benefit.

"If goods from you arrive here, we will need to check them for safety." The words surprised everyone as a voice came from slightly further away. The party hadn't walked in to the earth elemental plane just yet but the true earth sage had already made his presence clear to them.

And it was the actual true earth sage rather than just a golem made of earth mana being used to speak to them.

"Well, sorry for making you wait. We were a little distracted meeting a new race and taking on a little more responsibility." Walker's slight apology didn't seem to affect the true earth sage at all.

"I waited because we already have some places I can show you. A few things I need to ask of you." This made the entire party stiffen before they started to walk toward the true earth sage and cross the very small border between the dark and earth elemental planes.

As much as they wanted to be able to help out, they also wanted to explore a little. They had really enjoyed the calmness that came with meeting the ink lizard race. While they were small and very unique, they were also within a territory that they managed. Not necessarily wilderness, but not overly dangerous either. It had been peaceful to enjoy the nature of that area within the dark elemental plane.

Mostly, they had seen the way that the travelers who met and reached the ink lizard territory might live. They might be able to find some peace and rest. Not to mention the fact that they would be able to spend the time learning more about the way of life within the dark elemental plane as a whole. The real question was, would they be able to see that potential in the earth elemental plane?

"I think that is going to depend on what you are asking us to do for you." As much as Su wanted to just change the subject or start conversations, she knew that Walker would want to hear the details plus, they all needed to know what would be the things asked of them.

Knowing the true sages, that could mean anything from asking for a race to be moved to the world, to fighting a monster that they know is causing issues. The potential that they could become very involved in another matter that could bring even more responsibility.

The issue with that was simply because they also wanted to head to the outer terminal planes. The areas where Walker might be able to find some space, life, death, and maybe even time elemental planes. Things that they could learn about the world's aspects and what Walker himself could learn to grow himself as an origin being.

"We have a few travelers that would like to go to the world. They have been speaking amongst their own alliance and made the decision that they need to speak with you while you are here and can not wait for the emissaries to travel through the territories they are currently in." The way that the true earth sage said this was like it was a consistent plea from this small alliance within the earth elemental planes. Maybe even so much so that whatever the guardians looking over these races were also tired of hearing such things.

"What is their alliance like? How many races? What is it called? Why do they need to meet us and talk about coming to the world right away?" These were all valuable questions, but it was clear to Walker that Gil was pushing the questions since he wanted to see what they had for him to look at. He had managed to see the radiant light elf homes and knew that there might be an elf race within the earth elemental plane. But he also knew that if multiple races were together then they might be able to get a larger variety of materials for arrows and other things to be brought back with them.

"The mountain alliance is a group of fur races who used to be at war with one another over the several mountains within their territory. After they caused one mountain to crumble, we have the guardians

step in. Now they are at peace whether they enjoy that or not. They do wish to have an edge over one another. As larger races, they have a lot of effect on the territory they live in." Now it was easier to understand why the true earth sage was both here themselves and also why there was a little added focus on this thing.

"So they are a bit troublesome and want to stay ahead by getting better trade and travel agreements for themselves. What four races are they?"

"Descendants of Arachne, bronze dwarves, steel lamia, and mountain gnomes."

Four races that the party hadn't heard of. While the descendants of Arachne was familiar because one of the more well known ancient monsters was an archaea or the Arachne. Something known to change the landscape itself when they moved. A monster incredibly powerful and evidence of them within many ruins found so far.

The bronze dwarf race might be even more interesting since they could have ties to the world's dwarves race was well. If that was the case then there would be a sharing of history and how the race split in ancient times. The ancient dwarven race must have been very different and learning how they changed over the years.

The steel lamia were somewhat known, there were similar races with serpent or scales but lamia were not really known. They were just forgotten or extinct monsters, not really a race in the world.

The mountain gnomes would be an interesting addition. Entirely new to the party since gnomes aren't even within the world as far as what they knew.

The addition of eating four races also presented the interesting fact that when the group from Genesis arrived they would find things easier. The party wasn't necessarily there to ensure that the races were peaceful and could easily work with the emissaries, but still, they could make it easier for them and if they could help, why not?

"I think we can meet them." The sparkle in Alice's eyes quickly compounded as Onyx and Midnight joined her looking at Walker together. Whether he liked it or not he was outnumbered and they would be meeting this Mountain alliance.

"It seems that we will meet them and set some preliminary rules for when they meet our Genesis emissaries. We can also do a little more trading with them for whatever they have available." The true earth sage smiled, the more human form they had altered themselves to be seemed to be an effort to ensure that the party was more comfortable. And maybe just a little evidence that the true earth sage had spent time learning about Genesis and the world itself too.

Chapter 2673 Four Races Clashing

The terrain that they traveled over became less flat and more full of rocks. Walker caught himself wondering how he ended up around rocky and mountain like terrain so often. It wasn't innately bad, but came with some frustration while traveling. Simply because there was the fact that he would find himself needing to step over or travel over rocks all the time. Adjust his course due to larger boulders. Or just the fact that it's stopping to climb something here and there.

This didn't prevent him from realizing that more and more of the rocks and boulders around had evidence that there were different ores within them. They all had the bits of crumbly rockers around the edges that showed corrosion from natural forces leaving behind the tougher ores. He also noticed that to their left there were tree like rocks sprouting from the ground.

"That would be the descendants of Arachne territory. To the right would be the bronze dwarf territory." That meant that there would be the territory of the mountain gnomes and steel lamia further north from here.

Since Arachne was a monster known to be part woman, part spider, it was easily understood by the party who knew of the ancient monster how the terrain would be ideal for the races descended from that being. The trees would be ideal places to prepare webs, especially since the trees were made of rocks.

'Sprouting granite

This is a species of purely earth elemental tree. It utilizes the earth mana to shape the granite it grows on in to its branches, leaves, and bark. This allows for the inner aspects of the tree to be protected and weaker made of softer earth and densely hold earth mana.

While these trees are easily called stone, they are a valuable material to many monsters that need to feed off condensed earth mana to grow. The monsters that need these trees will cut in to them with great effort and absorb the earth manas within...'

Sprouting granite, the trees were basically using earth mana manipulation to change the stone already there in to its own body. An interesting way of growing, but a unique way to find out that the tree itself was a small plant that hid within rocky armor. In theory, Walker believed that they would be able to harvest the granite from the outside of the tree and then let it heal itself creating yet another layer of granite to be harvested later. That alone would be a valuable resource for some in terms of building materials.

It also presented an odd challenge. Would a carpenter be able to treat them as another tree and cut or harvest them? Or would someone with tone carving or stone harvesting skills be required instead? Something that Walker might need to revisit in the future after more travelers made their way to these territories.

This also presented the fact that the bronze dwarf race was on the more barren side of things. That they focused on the rocky area without any of these trees. Which meant that the ores around the area most likely had what could be called copper, iron, and the makings of bronze within them. The bronze dwarf race had to have that name for certain reasons.

"Neither race will bother us until we reach the center land where I have prepared a meeting areas. A table similar to the ones you use for your meetings." The true earth sage had gone out of their way to prepare something familiar for the party who were not from here. Also for the fact that the party should have some sort of upper hand when dealing with four races new to them at once. It was very considerate.

Very slowly, Walker started to see signs that monsters or maybe even hunters from these four races had been around here. There were small strings of what he believed to be rock affinity silk made by the descendants of the Arachne race. While they were too degraded to be appraised or even close to useful, it made sense that it would be from them in that case. Specifically because spider silk would not last very long.

He also saw some pointed prints that should also be from spider legs. Meaning that this is the remnants of patrols by the descendants of the Arachne race. Small pieces of broken metal told the entire party that while there were tracks from one of the races, that the pieces of broken metal were most likely from the bronze dwarf race armor that had been shattered in fights. A sign that the "peace" mentioned might be skin deep.

"I think we will have a little more issue than what we expect." Remey started to question the structure of peace and the mountain alliance as a whole.

"I believe I will push us forward a little more. I apologize that you will not be able to see more of the territories." The long sigh that came from the true earth sage made it seem that he was hearing more from the four races ahead of them than he wished to hear. Most likely related to exactly what Reey was about to ask too.

The sudden shift of earth around them caused the space to be influenced as well. The true earth sage didn't hide that he knew how to move them through space using earth mana before but having him do it this way again was still surprising. It did change their view of the earth elemental plane very much so.

Unlike the areas where the party had been where elemental planes clashed, they had not expected to suddenly be within such a clean cut different terrain. All four of the territories intersected causing them to seem perfectly clashing. Straight cut lines seemed to have been intentionally made by each race to ensure that neither territory was overlapping properly. The trees from the descendants of Arachne race were cut so that no branch overlapped and their mountain territory was not crossing a line.

The ore ridden lands of the bronze dwarf race were not the same, some rocks were cut straight in half where the more mountain and crumbled boulder territory of the mountain gnomes began. Then there was the steel lamia race territory that showed larger cuts in the ground where they patrolled keeping the other territories from even starting to overlap at any point. It was more apt to say that the territories were cut and divided up by some massive chef's knife rather than actually land itself. Nature surely didn't play a part here.

The ones at the larger stone table in the center of this area were also looking very worked up. The very large steel lamia who was smacking her tail on the ground and cracking stones in clear frustration seemed ready to leap at the mountain gnome who was much smaller but carrying a hammer just as large, if not larger than themselves. The bronze dwarf whose skin seemed to be reflecting some earth mana around it proved that it was more than just because of the metal they used which got them the racial name bronze dwarfs. It was because they incorporated bronze in to their bodies as they grew.

Meanwhile, the descendant of Arachne that stood still had various steel silk threads weaved around her legs and arms waiting to whip them out and strangle any of the other races here. They had clearly just ended an argument and were only stopped because the golem of the true earth sage standing in the middle of the table had been the one to halt them.

When the true earth sage themselves took to the center of the table and the party held off to the side for the moment, they all stood stiffly. They did not make a move making it appear that the true earth sage had once used more force to make them peaceful. Something that felt necessary just by witnessing their actions at the moment.

"While the four of you have had your patrol soldiers fighting again, these heroes of the world have come here to meet you. I believe that any one of them could take on your champions in battle if they so desired, yet they come peacefully with beliefs that all four of you cast aside more often than not."

The force of earth mana that came with every word the true earth sage spoke made even Walker wonder if he had underestimated the often elderly appearance that the true earth sage took on.

"They will share their alliance and goals with you. All four of you will listen and make decisions whether you will agree with them or will remain separated from them. Neither one race nor another will gain more than the others. The failings of one is for the four. The success of one is also for the four."

The standards were set and the true earth sage stepped away melting in to the earth leaving silence and the party with all eyes on them.

Chapter 2674 One Thing Clear

The true earth sage was gone but it didn't mean that the four representatives of the Mountain Alliance spoke up or stopped staring the party down. They were skeptical but also held back. They knew very well that if they lost the chance to take advantage of this situation they would not be able to get ahead of the other races here.

The reason that the true earth sage had been pushing them for this was simply because Genesis had what this alliance did not.

Peace.

Clearly, the bad relationship between these four races was blinding to them. They allowed their hatred of one another to completely cut themselves apart instead of finding ways for them to unify their peoples. They did not mix themselves, instead, they kept their lines separated and allowed for their emotions to bottle up. This naturally made everything worse and worse over time.

Part of Walker thought that he should show a little force, but he knew that it would not be the best way for him to make a good impression. However, he did take notice that Onyx had moved back a little and taken his full sized form while curling up and watching over what Walker would do. It was a little intimidating while also making himself comfortable. Onyx wasn't the one that would do the main negotiating so he felt it was best for him to take this further back resting position.

As if copying him, Midnight also went to sit and lean against Onyx while she had retaken her dragonkin form so that she could rest a little more comfortably. She didn't like to chat much either and since there were no fights to be had, she would rather take the time to eat snacks and watch what Walker planned too.

This just left Alice who was watching the newly met races, Gil who was considering what he could ask of them since it seemed they were ready to make deals right away, Remey who wanted to somehow make the conversation about alchemy, and Su who was acting like any proper guard with her shield at the ready.

Overall, the silence was deafening while everyone was waiting for Walker to take the lead.

"I am Walker, one of the founders of the Genesis Alliance and these around me are my party members and equal to me in every way." he made it clear that they were equal, especially since the Mountain Alliance was a group that did not see themselves as equal to one another from the things she had already learned about them.

"I can't say that I am excited to be speaking with you right now, the true earth sage had us come here to work with you and meet you. However, as we traveled here we saw evidence of past skirmishes and there were also pieces of broken armor and weapons on the ground. They were not faded or damaged by nature. So that means you are all not as unified as the Genesis alliance."

"What he is saying is that you four are all dangerous to the alliance we have. You aren't supporting peace and unity. You aren't learning about one another to share your knowledge. And you are a detriment to our alliance unless you can make changes." The blunt was that Remy butted in while she flexed her wrists and fists made the bronze dwarf begin to dig his fingers in to the larger stone table. It seemed she had hit a nerve.

"You can't-"

"We only fight those that think they can just walk-"

"Just walk in to your terri-"

"Ha! We should just harvest your lands the same way that-"

"Pathetic. They can't even help one another to speak like proper leaders. Walker, should we just leave this alliance to suffer?" Remy snorted while she let a few sparks of flame break out over her hands. She

wasn't letting Walker speak out because she knew that he would have kept them more peaceful. She knew that stressing these leaders would allow for her to see what they were really like when they forgot that the true earth sage was watching.

It also seemed that the true earth sage was not going to interrupt them. Which was a good sign since this meant that the genesis side of the alliance would be able to see what was going on through and through to make a proper decision whether or not they would be bothering with the Mountain Alliance in the future.

"I think Remey is right. I can't even tell if these bronze dwarfs are like the dwarfs in the world. I don't see much carefully crafted armor or evidence that they are geniuses making golems from metal and the help of elemental spirits or the spirit race. The gnomes' just sitting there looking for a chance to hit another with that hammer. Then the descendants of arachne and the steel lamia have just been glaring at one another like they will start a war right now. No point in it, if I wanted arrow materials for trade I can just harvest them elsewhere. There are earth dragons here, we can make ties with them."

Now this caught all of their attention. Gil mentioning earth dragons made all four of the races look at him with slight shock and also a glimmer of disdain. It was like they believed him to be foolish rather than have an actual brain in his head. Like he insulted them and said he would run to his death right after.

"I think you two should stop pushing them for a little bit. Let's make it clear from our point of view." Walker smiled and Su pulled the chair out for him to sit properly at the table. She was making it clear that even if they tried anything she would be the one to step in front, that they would not be able to attack anyone even if their emotions were fueling them or not. Her presence as an absolute guardian was something that Su had cultivated in every single drop of blood, sweat, and tears during her training.

"Genesis is a place where we have brought multiple races, even cities, from the elemental planes, to live in peace and unity. We have rescued slaves, defeated evil, and even been the reason that the world is uniting with the elemental happens yet again. So, we are looking to grow bonds, trade, and more unity to grow further."

"We share all our knowledge and culture. We grow because we are coming together more and more every day. Relationships between different races are allowed in all senses of the matter. There are even races that have atoned for crimes when they were against one another. That is a step that you four would need to take specifically. Especially since I know for a fact you are all prepared to use us to further your fights against one another."

Walker's smile faded slightly as he looked at each of them in the eye. His suddenly growing mana made them all watch him without even being able to pay attention to one another. "We will not be sued. If you wish to join the Genesis alliance you will fall under our laws and will not be allowed to visit, grow, or fight if you cannot be peaceful. If you can not unite when times are hard and celebrate when times are good with those here, then we would not even invite you to our homes."

The force of Walker's mana was nothing he used to be violent. He simply made a statement that if any of them acted out he was the strongest here. Just as the true earth sage could make sure they all were held accountable, so could he.

"Oh, and if you have not caught on, everyone with me and myself included are all different races now. Some of us even changed races as we grew because of the trials we have been through. So to us, race is just something interesting to learn about one another. What do you think? Can we all start learning about one another now? Or would you prefer to argue and fight to the point that we ask the true earth sage and earth king to tell our emissaries they would be meeting other races?"

"You are sharp and you have the strength to be so. The descendant of Arachne would like to speak with you about trade deals. Our silk is extremely valuable and can be enhanced." The descendant of Arachne spoke with a slightly raspy and sharp voice, but, she was holding out a small bundle of silk as a start. A gift and also a chance. It seemed she had been prepared to take a step back so that she could step forward ten times over.

Chapter 2675: Bribe?

'Earth silk

Created by a descendant of Arachne, the earthen affinity comes from the loss of dark affinity after aging in an only earth elemental area. This allows for the flexibility of the silk to be kept and created while still remaining extremely tough. Even some metals can not contend when compared to this silk.

While the fabric made of this silk may be a bit unruly due to the higher weight, it will have very high defensive capabilities while also being able to handle larger earth elemental rune formations and even have small earth affinity mana gems sewn in...'

Walker quickly stopped reading once he had realized that the descendants of Arachne were unique in the manner that their race had lost their dark affinity and become a purely earth affinity race. It was interesting to note since many of those who had traits from such an ancient monster, like general Scylla, would keep their core affinities.

This meant that the bloodline either weakened or adjusted so that those of the descendants of the arachne could survive within the earth elemental plane it was evidence that they had learned and evolved over time. However, it was also evidence that like other races and monsters that there would be a chance of awakening the lost dark mana affinity if they came to the world or was there long enough.

Walker kept this all to himself. He knew that right now information like that would be able to cause a stir for the four races here. It would do more harm than good here right now. It was still very noteworthy as the descendants of arachne race may be able to join Genesis and learn better when meeting other races who had reclaimed past affinities. Similar to the elves rediscovering the path to becoming a high elf.

Besides all this, Walker saw that the actions of the Arachne leader had made it very hard for the other three races who did not bring a single thing with them. It was sharp and sneaky. "It's normal that you

offer one of the weapons you made to bribe them. The ores we harvest don't need to be flaunted to attract attention."

It was the bronze dwarf that spoke out in anger. The gravelly voice was also a note of similarity to many of the dwarfs from the world as well. "Actually, I am curious, is your race related to the elder dwarves that once were members of the world? We have their descendants within the world and they have larger underground cities and mechanical magical golems they created as an army and to bolster their own strength. I wouldn't mind hearing about your differences."

The more that Walker sat and awaited a response the more pressured that the bronze dwarf felt. It seemed that secrets and history would be dragged out in to the open here. There was no point in fighting it since both the true earth sage and this person from the world would be pushing forward without any worry for privacy or secrecy.

"We have records of those who fled the world and came here to prosperity. While they are small and fantastical, they are regardless as true. We do not make golems, we grow and harvest them using the ores we harvest. We forge their bodies and use our metallic traits to link with them through mana and touch."

"So a more natural method of making golems. You are a mix of tamer and crafter. That sounds interesting. I am sure that the tamer's guild and the crafting guild would be very interested to hear how all that works. Both guilds work together now and then since some tamers need unique items forged to help them in their daily life."

A guild? The bronze dwarf was surprised that two larger groups would be prepared to just welcome their race and share information like that. It wasn't something small or simple. This was about their entire history and skills as a race. Yet, that would be something that more than one group would simply find interesting? It should be ground breaking and awe inspiring!

"I can't say I know much about the steel lamia race or mountain gnome race though. Neither of your races is really within the world or has similarities to others. I have seen ancient records of lamia but they are not even close to what I see here. And gnomes aren't actually a race in the world. I have heard that even the idea of gnomes were just ideas of monsters that once lived and might still be here or there at times."

The very idea that their race was a monster or might not exist seemed to anger the mountain gnome who was still gripping the hammer in his hands. While his skin seemed to be the same gray as stone, it was clear that gripping the larger than himself hammer was causing some damage to the hammer and forcing the blood out of his hand. Anger was a dangerous thing.

"Steel lamias are known for our steel magic. We can manipulate the steel and iron of the earth to become our weapons and our protecting. Every scale on our bodies glistens with the color of steel because we are just as strong as steel and even tougher the longer we condense it." The pride hissed out by the steel lamia representing her race was easy to tell now.

The shiny scales on her body had the look of metal but that had been the case of other monsters the party had seen before. It was best not to assume.

"So your race focuses on strengthening yourselves by acclimating to iron and making it in to steel. So you all absorb various ores and can even shape them using metal manipulation magic. That's very interesting. It sounds like you would work better with the bronze deaf race than against them." He was blunt. Walker didn't even dance around the subject. To the two races in question, it sounded like Walker was saying that the two races had been intentionally holding themselves back.

"Do not look down on the mountain gnome race. We are powerful and can shake mountains with our attacks. We don't need to mine or far or anything. We can crush whatever is in our way and we will make sure that nothing stops us." The way that the mountain gnome put his words made the entire party feel that there was a very clear reason for cooperation being an issue.

It seemed that the mountain gnome race might see themselves as the ones always on the back end. Being looked down on and thought of as weaker. Instead of being seen as equal.

"Have you ever heard of the ink lizard race within the dark elemental plane?" It was Alice who had spoken up and interjected. She had stepped away but it seemed she felt she could improve this moment. Walker trusted her and had no intention of stopping her.

"No." The resounding no came from the mountain gnome who seemed to think that he was still being looked down on.

"Oh, well, the ink lizard race is no bigger than my little finger. They do not grow larger. They wield some of the mightiest dark mana magic to the point that they can make permanent golems out of dark mana and very few materials. They are the most powerful because they trained and made sure their next generation would always survive. They are cautious. They are wise. They have asked us to bring a clutch of their eggs to the world to begin surviving there and remain closer to Genesis as well."

It was easy to see what Alice was getting at. The very fact that Genesis had dealt with a race that any of these four would have thought was weak and pointless due to their size had been put well ahead of them. Even greater than that, the dark elemental plane itself thought of that small tiny little race as one of the strongest, if not THE strongest race within their plane.

"Alice makes a good point. You should all pay attention to what she thinks. She is a saintess and someone who would let her own body be destroyed to heal another's minor wounds. She embodies care and protection in healing and in support." Gil made sure that Alice wouldn't feel the pressure alone and distracted the four who were looking at her with some slight confusion and stunned expressions.

"On that note, what are the mountain gnomes the best at, which would be valuable to Genesis? What can you offer the alliance?" Walker knew the same would be asked of him soon, but turning some pressure on the mountain gnome who was currently stuck in his thoughts was the right move here.

Chapter 2676: Young Leaders

The mountain gnome representative looked like all the wind had been taken out of his sails. It wasn't normal that there was a being other than the true earth sage or one of the more powerful guardians that could put them all in this state.

"There is no gem, crystals, or fossil my people can not find. We have the strength to carve in to mountains with our bare hands. We will not be beaten in a fight of strength." From what the mountain gnome said, it seemed that the skills their race had were related to the value and denser mana in rarer items of earth affinity.

Fossils were an interesting note though. While the fossils Walker knew of in the world would be formed due to various elemental reasons, it seemed that within the earth elemental planes fossils formed due to just the pressure and movements of rock. Meaning that they would also have a little more earth mana within. Becoming more valuable as fossils than what they might have had as living beings.

It was an odd thought that it might be more valuable to encase a body of a monster in stone and let it wait for generations than for there to be a use for the body and materials as is. Then again, if it was the body of an ancient monster, there could be a chance that certain summoner classes or even certain crafting classes would get more out of it.

The entire party had heard that some earth mages have unique fossils on display because they are able to help their meditation rooms within their homes. Gathering more mana in a smaller space more easily than just using the earth elemental rune formation alone.

Regardless, this was more information that came with the mountain gnomes allowing for there to be a little focus left for the steel lamia who appeared to be waiting for their turn.

The steel lamia was still making sure that the shiny steel scales were shown off and that the metal manipulation was on display. The magic was valuable and could be brought to be taught or shared with others. That would be the most valuable aspect to bring to Genesis since there were plenty who would find the skill valuable.

"Your metal manipulation magic, can it be shared through books or must it be shared through teaching and showing?" Walker needed to know if they would be able to trade books when the emissaries were here of it there would be a limit on what could and could not be shown and taught.

"We will not share books of our magic and techniques. That would be akin to offering you our necks on a blade." It was a fair response since the four races here were more apt to fight to the death than share anything. Just the idea that they could be giving up their secrets to a race that might

"We have books of other elemental planes, of earth knowledge, and of general knowledge. We even have books that tell of the various races within the world that you would meet in the future. That includes the races of some of our emissaries. We would hate that similar races of the world meeting races that are similar to your four meetings would lead to more hatred rather than equal trust and an alliance." Now Walker made his point very clear.

If the dwarven race from the world came or the echidna race who might share aspects similarly with the lamia, and they were met with hate from the other races, then there was no point. What would the point be if there were just arguments and hatred?

"Actually, why don't they entrust a group of their future leaders to venture to Genesis and see it for themselves?" Su knew that this had worked with the angels and would work with other races. If it

worked with these four races, then there was a higher chance that the hatred amongst the four races would be swept away as the youngest generation stepped in to leadership.

Right now these leaders were set in their ways. They had no intention of changing who they had made themselves to be.

"Su, that is a great idea. We did so with other races so that they could show trust to us and we could show trust to them. We also have the emissaries who will come with earth materials from the world to trade here. Since the world can produce weaker earth materials they are ideal for children and newly born to grow. It's a better idea for us to work that way. Focus on the future rather than the uncertainty of the present as it stands."

The way that Walker worded it held two things. The idea that the future was more valuable than where the four races stood right now. Then also, the fact that he would be willing to teach and show the younger generation the best possible options to benefit in their alliance with Genesis if it was accepted.

The third more hidden intention was that Genesis would have their youngest leaders making it paramount that peace and trust remained so that they were safe. Would Genesis actually harm them? Never. But that wasn't something that these four leaders of their own races knew. They were too used to distrust, hatred, and fighting that they would not consider that Genesis wouldn't harm their younger learning leaders even if something did happen between their alliance and Genesis.

"We would find that agreeable. We could study more. I was told there are spider races within your alliance?" The descendants of the Arachne leader seemed to be the most knowledgeable right away. If Walker didn't know that the true earth sage had dealt with these four races, he would have found the fact that this leader knowing about the races of Genesis would be odd.

"Yes, we have the gray haired spider race. One of them actually became the priestess of one of the spirit trees recently. They used their wind elemental affinity to match the flow of wind within the tree. It was quite the event and has made their race grow some fame other than their close relationship with the forest goblin race. Both were monster races who had grown in intelligence and overcame the aspects that made them monsters to stand beyond that."

Walker also took out a few copies of books that spoke about how Genesis was formed, the guilds currently functioning, and some basic information about the different races. While they were not the most up to date books, they were useful and the emissaries who came later would be able to share what was missing.

Since the descendants of the Arachne race had taken a step forward, it was clear that the other three were now behind. And they hated that.

"We will send those that can travel. They will come with their guards and will not be turned away if they bring those guards." It seemed that the bronze dwarf leader believed that guards would be a deterrent for Genesis.

"They can come with guards. They will also be given guards when they enter the world. Their jobs are primarily to protect them from other manas since none of you will be able to easily resist manas from other sources. The world is a complete balance and moving flow of mana after all." He saw the steel lamia widen her eyes. It seemed that she had worried about this exact situation.

"We will also send some of the smallest. They will show you their magic and we wish them to return with the magic you use. We need to learn of the blood from which we come and the blood of which we carry. The poison witch Medusa, the ancient horror of stone, the cursed humanoid serpent. We wish for what you know as well." A fair request and one that made the nearby lamia guards relax when they saw Walker and the party nod in approval.

"Five will go with your emissaries. They will bring their strength with them and weapons. Two will be ready to defend the three from greater harm." The mountain gnome leader did not say a bit more but Waker could see the internal gears turning. The mountain gnome leader was debating what items to send them with to trade. It seemed they all were thinking the same things.

"Then we have an agreement. In peace and safety, your youths will venture to the world and our emissaries will teach them and guide them to learn about the bonds we will form. As long as peace is maintained here without any fighting or deaths, or injuries, then we will have no issues. If you want to join Genesis, we will not allow for your four races to harm one another. Especially since Genesis is the only place where you can find new and interesting things."

Walker knew very well that neither of the four races could expand. Their territories were halted by the true earth sage and the balance. That was the root cause of their fighting.

Chapter 2677 A Trade

"There was an almost empty silence that followed the fact that they had made a rough agreement. Each race realized that they had not made a permanent and solid agreement to an alliance with Genesis. They had just made an agreement to share some knowledge and look at things.

Simply put, they were not going to be able to keep themselves ahead of trade with this outside alliance. Nor would they guarantee that they would be keeping new knowledge moving to them to push ahead of the other three either.

It also meant that they would need to show that they could uphold their ends of the agreement as the emissaries of Genesis arrive and as they leave, and even while they wait for their groups to return. It meant that they had to just wait without results. Without trade. Without benefits.

"We can send our group within the day." The bronze dwarf tried to sneak ahead of the others but the entire party were already shaking their heads.

"We plan to venture to the outer elemental planes. I am trying to study more about space, life, death, and if I can find it a time elemental planes. I need to expand my knowledge if I am going to keep growing myself." Walker knew that what he was saying would sound insane to them. And their faces of shock seemed to agree with him.

Normally, no one would just casually mention that they were looking to venture outside of their elemental plane. Yet, here Walker was saying he was leaving them just so that he could study different mana from different smaller elemental planes.

"We can do some minor trading with what we have before we look to leave. I know a more solid contract can be written and signed with magical properties once our emissaries are here. Just the cooperation now is enough to help. But it's best that we show you so little of what we have to offer, right?" Walker saw the table's size and began bringing out small potions and herbs over the majority of other things.

He also brought out basic weapons focused around earth. The magic staffs he pulled out of his multi dimensional storage got the most reaction from the steel lamia since they could sense the strong earth mana within them and noticed the earth elemental rune formations all over them. It wasn't more powerful than others that they could make within the earth elemental plane but they were efficient. Just seeing how the rune formations were different from what they knew was enough to say that they could learn a lot from them.

"The herbs were grown within special earth elemental green houses that we built to replicate better environments like the earth elemental plane or where the herbs came from. Then those herbs are made in to various potions. The earth affinity potions can help someone studying earth mana advance better, it may just be nourishing here. Then we have the earth nutrient potion, it's made purely with the intention of helping those with earth affinity or earth mana necessities absorb the nutrients of earth mana that they need."

"That armor, weapons, and even the magic staffs all of earth runes and rune formations on them. The same for the fabrics since we have some arcane seamstresses that have been growing very quickly." Walker thought of his sister and the fact that she was already more mature and more skilled than anyone her age would normally be. Then again, looking at himself and his party, they were also many steps ahead of the people who were of equal age to them.

"What are you looking for in trade?" The steel lamia started to wave over guards who seemed to have brought materials with them as well. The other three noticed this and were also pushing for their guards and assistants to bring over anything for trade they they had brought as well.

Knowing that this trade session would help later, Walker made sure to begin using the all around appraisal on all items that he could. The fact that the four were getting new materials might inspire them to ask about the world more. About Genesis is more. However, it would also focus them on the trade goods they desired or that they could learn from which could inspire them to become closer in a more peaceful way with Genesis and maybe one another.

'Deep earth emerald...

Vibrant earth topaz...

Crackling earth amber...

Dragon's gem

The dragon's gem is just that, a very rare earth affinity gem that grows when a dragon's scale is left within the pressurized earth for years at a time. It takes at least five hundred years to form and will eventually become a very unique gem. For an earth dragon, this would be a gem that they can use to channel stronger earth related skills and even learn to manipulate crystallized earth.

While this gem is useless to many others, it is considered an amazing and beautiful gem that would be held in high esteem amongst those who hunt for gems. Otherwise, it can be used to make unique magical equipment...

Sandstone silk...

Iron silk...

Razor silk

This silk is spun with extremely dense earth mana related to iron. Since this is the form that the mana and energy are woven in to, this silk has extremely sharp qualities and can not be easily crafted in to anything else. It is often used by the descendants of the Arachne race to create devastating traps...

Bronze ingot...

Purified bronze ingot...

Rough iron ore...

Rough copper ore...

Tidal crab fossil

When in a state of battle, the water elemental plane lost various pieces of itself and monsters to the earth elemental plane. Those beings perished while the materials lost their ability. This fossil is a remnant of a claw from a tidal crab. While it now holds potent earth affinity that naturally attracts greater earth manas, it has the potential to be used in a unique earth and water function...

Steel lamia scale...

Steel braided magic staff...

Metal corrosion venom...

Iron snake egg

This egg is one of the most popular pets of the steel lamia race. They will raise the small iron snakes and use them to find better iron to manipulate in to steel. While the iron snake also has a very in tune sense with earth, it can be used to sense the flow of mana and detect predators...'

The sheer number of items brought out was too much for what Walker had expected. He thought that there would be a few things to trade but none of the leaders would be ready to do much else. He had been wrong. The entire party was now standing up and looking at what had been brought out to be traded and shared for the potions, herbs, and weapons that the party had brought. Even the armor pieces they had offered as trade were being snapped up by these four leaders and items thrust in to the party's hands.

"This potion is enough to help several of our youngest. We will ask for more of it when we can." The steel lamia was holding an earth nutrient potion. It seemed that as a leader, her focus on the next generation was very strong. The same was to be said for the descendants of Arachne's leader who also had grabbed a few of the potions while giving multiple wraps of silk.

From what Walker noticed, the pair also realized that they shared similar attention to the youngest of their races. Something neither seemed to realize before. It was a good start for them if the party wished for these races to find equal ground. Especially moving forward to the point that they would actually be joining Genesis in the alliance as equal races.

"What of these earth mana crystals? They are weaker but they can be turned in to more." The mountain gnome was enamoured with the earth mana crystals that Walker had placed down. The hyper focus seemed to be very much related to the mountain gnome's abilities to search out gems and crystals from the earth.

"Forgot that, there are metals here. Forged with other manas but still purely earth affinity. That should be impossible. Is this what you mean by "the world is mixed?" The bronze dwarf leader seemed to be more similar to the world's dwarven race than what anyone expected. He was focused on the metal and how it worked proving that they might have more hidden crafting potential than what Walker originally thought.

Trade items like this will surely be beneficial to you and us. We just need to work toward peace, unity, and one day sign an actual contract. Your youths that you send will see Genesis as a whole and be able to report back to you about what we are like and how we work." Walker said this as a promise, not just a comment.

Chapter 2678 Overstepping

It seemed that Walker had made a lot of progress. Leaving the alliance standing open while still showing what they could bring to the table on their side was immense. However, he was not planning to just leave things as they were. He had made a point to show that he was powerful enough to dictate the terms of their deal to some degree, he also wanted them to see the benefits of their alliance rather than just trade.

"Now, I have a few skills that allow for me to use some crafting skills. My party also has unique skills and other specialties we can show you to give you something to speak to the emissaries when they get here." The four representatives were curious, understandably so.

"You should also ask your guards if they would like to see. This is not the way that we are used to things in Genesis. When we have meetings, we allow for everyone to participate to share what they can do. Of course, the representatives of each race can meet at the table, but for things like this where we are done with business and agreements, we can focus on learning and sharing."

Walker didn't hesitate to stand and begin manipulating the heart mana around. He made the table change, the ground flattened and even more changes that would make the area more comfortable.

The thing was, he manipulated such a large areas that the four representatives looked at him as if he was beyond what they had imagined. They had believed that he would be more limited than what they were seeing. He was not from the heart elemental plane, which should mean that he was not as acclimated and able to use larger amounts of earth mana as they had just seen.

Yet, they had been warned that he was capable of using a great deal of mana and manipulation so that they should not anger him. Yet they had also been told that this entire group had hero titles who would help others without even being asked. So, when they saw the depth of strength, whether it was actually just the surface or otherwise, all four felt that they were looking at a being that naturally stood above them no matter what they did.

"This skill of mine is called portable forge, as long as I have the tools, materials, and whatever else I need within my multi dimensional storage I can call it out. Walker waved a hand and the small forge appeared. "Gil, I can set you up targets too. Su, do you want to grab a few of the guards and train against them?" Walker saw that Alice, Midnight, and Onyx were already making moves. Meanwhile, Remy was standing with the herbs she had just procured and starting to make potions in her hands.

The different manas around were all isolated easily with Walker's manipulation of mana, the four leaders also noticed this and had no words to say by comparison. There was also the fact that Walker was still manipulating the earth mana and setting up a small archery range for Gil to use along with a small sparring area. He was manipulating the entire area without causing any harm or trouble for anyone else.

"Brother, I will explore around a little." Onyx began slithering off in to the steel lamia territory. It seemed that they were more willing to show him a bit here and there since he was similar to them. It also appeared that he had been keeping his eyes on a few of them, especially since they had taken an egg out for a snake monster that they raised. Walker hadn't hidden the appraisals as he read and used the all around appraisal skill.

"Does anyone have any archery skills? Or anything they have that I can test some new arrows with?" Gil was ready to push things forward since he knew that he might be able to convince a few of the guards nearby to help him test and make new arrows. He was fully letting himself relax and bit to push forward with his favorite things.

The guards who had brought materials over were looking for approval to watch anything. From their attitude, Walker could tell they were much more interested than what the leaders were acting.

Although the leaders had to represent the ruling parties of their race, they had to represent it all and the general people, along with guards, would be able to form their own curiosities and opinions. They did not need to be so slow to open up and act so cold compared to their leaders who had to ensure they were acting with the best intentions for their entire race.

"You may visit and speak with them the same as we will. I expect you to show them some of our strengths." With the descendants of the Arachne leader saying that she wanted her guards to look and interact, the others had their eyes focused on the fact that the Arachne guards were already moving toward Midnight and Alice in curiosity.

Walker's portable forge was his idea to make sure he repaired any small damages to their armors. While they had all be easily swapping what they can to defend themselves from certain elemental manas, wear and tear happened regardless.

Even with the strongest of defensive buffs, the mana would eat away at what they wore. Their armors were not the only prepared for it, but perfect resistance would never be a thing in even if they used materials from each elemental plane.

As he began to work he noticed one of the bronze dwarf guards comparing their spear to the weapons Walker had begun to display. He purposefully left them out to be seen since he wanted questions to be asked.

"That spear is made with green lotus crystal. It's a flower that grows in underground caverns. It starts as a water affinity plant but the earth mana condenses within it causing the petals to become crystal. Once it dies it can be harvested as a strong earth material and forged in to spear tips using earth melding. A master blacksmith made it and allowed me to use it for quest rewards when I give them."

This attracted the attention of everyone around. Walker knew full well that he had said something no one thought of as normal. He was exploring the elemental planes with his group of heroes. Yet, now he was saying that he could hand out quests?

It was something that should be impossible.

"I can offer this spear to you, but when the emissaries of Genesis arrive I would like your word that you will help protect them and keep things peaceful between your race and the others of the mountain alliance. Would you accept that quest?"

This made the bronze dwarf leader start to walk toward them. But it was too late to stop the guard. He reached out and grasped the spear, "I would like to accept this quest. Thank you for offering it to me. I do not wish any spear I wield to cause the death of those wishing to live for a peaceful era."

The words carried weight. The guard said each race's leader had not spoken at all just yet. They had gained permission to interact but that was it. They had just started and Walker had just passed a quest to this guard.

He had seen the interest in the guards' eyes when they spoke about races being equal. It had caught the attention of a few guards of each of these four races. Meaning that they did not support or want to fight anything or anyone any more.

This was similar to how the demon race felt. They didn't want fighting or the enslavement any longer. They wanted peace and safety. These four races had similar looks in their eyes from fighting one another in the same territory all these years. Fighting the same fight with hatred as a base.

Not every parent wanted their child growing up in that. The gap between what the future generation wanted and needed and the older generation would be clear here. This situation would show a lot of depth about the future of this alliance and the Genesis alliance.

"Who told you-"

"I would like to accept the same quest if you would allow me. I would prefer your terms and take that on myself." An entirely black carapaced descendant of Arachne spoke over the bronze dwarf leader. It wasn't just them though, there were two mountain gnome guards and three of the steel lamia guards who had come with the same idea as the first bronze dwarf guard.

"I will offer you all quests. I would like to promote peace and growth between our alliance and your alliance. I want to see a future with all our races hand in hand." Walker showed his weapons and kept working while he witnessed and explained their qualities. He knew he had overstepped the race leaders, but he also had shown them more about their own people.

Chapter 2679: Make A Little Peace

Logic? No, there was none of that within these actions that the four leaders of the mountain alliance could see. They did not at all see anything related to logic in the fact that Walker was able to hand out quests and rewards for those quests that would even supersede the guards' current orders.

He had managed to get their attention and pass out quests to their guards while also seemingly grabbing on to their beliefs to make them known and seen. Besides that, Walker had managed to hand them weapons that they could utilize well without the guards each making any changes to their styles or skills. They were perfect matches.

While the weapons had heart affinity, they had weaker affinity, but the unique materials and forging styles used within them caused these weapons to be much stronger than what they had before.

Just the larger axes that had been given to the mountain gnomes proved that the quality of the hammer held by their leader was not in the same realm as theirs. The axes could easily resist a blunt attack from that hammer even though it was one of the best within the entire mountain gnome race.

It only grew stranger when Walker mentioned that the rune formations on these weapons would allow for the storage and usage of earth elemental mana through each weapon. Even the steel lamia holding a bow found that she could channel her metal manipulation through it and gather the surrounding ore to condense in to a slim arrow to fire.

She had basically received a path to a brand new skill for her!

That alone was something to note since there were many who would not have been able to easily adapt to a new weapon. The reason it had been so easy was because the steel lamia guard in question had made small spikes with metal from around her to shoot at someone while fighting with a dagger. When handed the bow, it seemed like she had just been offered a missing puzzle piece.

She had shaped a spike in to an arrow similar to what Gil was using but smaller and thinner. She had easily fired the bow with a rough stance quickly adjusted by Gil as he got excited seeing that she would be able to make metal arrows. He wanted to see if she could make those arrows permanent so he could take a few back to Genesis to experiment with.

The other guards who had taken weapons and accepted quests had been drawn in by Midnight and Su who were now training with them. Even more shocking, the guards had not simply ignored the guards of other races. Su and Midnight had not allowed them to ignore them to be clearer. They had forced them to start sparring and testing new weapons with them. Any time that there was an issue, either would leap in and fight them instead.

The method had prevented there being any issues that stemmed from their races and beliefs. Instead, it had brought a focus on the battle aspects that Midnight and Su had stopped them during. Making them focus on learning to counter the attack that had come at them. After just a few hours of this, the guards had begun to spar without speaking or trash talking in any way. Like their innate desires were finally manifesting.

The peace and desire to follow their given quest had taken root over the hatred. Then again, they had also considered leaving behind that life of hate toward the other three races different from them. Simply because they had grown tired of fighting and felt they were losing more than what they gained by continuing the fighting. Especially after hearing and seeing what this new alliance could do.

The four leaders had been angry until they realized that Walker was not intending to explain himself. Instead they saw Walker return to working on odds and ends repairing what they could. A few of the guards still watched him work who had not accepted or asked for quests. They were more stubborn but they also were not as interested in fighting. They were curious about crafting. Hence how Remmey had returned next to Walker while making potions too. Showing off her skills and making them stand in awe of the two different forms of crafting. Forging and alchemy.

For them, the idea of alchemy was small and almost pointless. They could heal themselves through other means and achieve better results with innate skills, additional earth mana, or with specific class users. Yet, Remey had shown them that potions could remove the need for some of those things. Making life easier because the quality of alchemy used was higher. Meaning that the more developed alchemy Genesis knew could be brought to each of their races.

That had made the guards who witnessed it wonder why their leaders did not encourage the usage of alchemy more. It had so much more potential than what they had been led to believe their entire lives. Or was it that the potential had been missed?

When Onyx returned he had a few more of the steel lamia with him. A few guards who had wanted further off who had been in arguments with the nearby guards of the descendant of Arachne race. Yet, when he had arrived with another steel lamia race guards he had easily swept both groups of guards in to his coil and forced them to stop their arguments before an all out fight actually happened. They had not expected him to possess such strength.

Once the two side had realized that they were basically fighting a monster larger than they could properly fight without immense preparation, they had actually listened to onyx. Therefore, they had followed him to the meeting making the leader of the arachne and the steel lamia freeze on the spot.

They were going to make a move to speak with them when they realized that they were watching something they had never before seen within their lives.

Somehow, Onyx had managed to get the two sets of guards to speak to one another. And not even in the sense that they were arguing, but actually beginning conversations. Whether it was the fear of the opposing light and dark manas within Onyx's control or the fact that he had made it very clear he could consume them without even feeling slightly full. Onyx had managed to break down the barriers that had existed for many years between these two races and allow them to see one another as living beings who also feared and wished to survive.

While it was not a deep bond that would change everything, it was significant enough that the two sets of different race guards were open to interacting with the Genesis party and began sparring while Onyx also joined the efforts to maintain balance and safety for everyone.

Yet, sparring was not a safe matter to begin with. Hence, when one of the mountain gnomes had been injured, the mountain gnome leader began to walk over in a rage. Until, the slow drifting voice of Alice began. She sang of safety and warmth allowing her inner light mana to take shape.

The familiar shape of the cathedral within Genesis took form around the little sparring area that Walker had created. It seemed illusionary and was naturally so, however, the radiant light was allowing for everyone who was injured or even slightly scratched in these sparring matches to heal perfectly well. Even some lasting injuries in joints or scarring was healing a little shocking the guards who had long accepted the price they paid for their past fights.

"Alice is always the best whaler. She couldn't do much like this once upon a time. But now she masters the light mana that moves with every word she speaks. She can use it to show you the core of her songs. Isn't the cathedral a sight your people may want to see?" Walker's words were more like a whisper he used wind mana to transport to the ears of each leader. They did not have to speak back, they just knew that what they were seeing was an infinitesimal part of what Genesis or the world was.

Their lack of knowledge was massive. It was a huge hole that made each leader feel as if they had been blinded by maintaining such a small outlook for their whole lives. While stubborn, even the mountain gnome leader was considering how to ensure that his people were able to see places like this cathedral made of light mana.

Why should they lose the opportunity to see such wondrous sights? Shouldn't all of them have the right to travel to these places? They had all fought because their territories could not expand, now, they might be able to expand and venture elsewhere.

For the very first time.

Chapter 2680: Pushed Along

While each of the four leaders of the mountain alliance found themselves feeling that they had no idea where their people really stood, the party found themselves somewhat enjoying the interactions now.

Su and Onyx had primarily sparred with all the guards and Midnight had jumped in too after a little while. When Alice had stopped her song of healing, she had started another to work on it a little here

and there. The light mana she kept close but the leaders and guards of the mountain alliance could see her dedication and control.

This was to say they were not just impressed seeing that Gil had been teaching archery tricks while managing to convince some of their guards to offer up some materials to make other arrows out of. If they had not known that he was focused as an archer of sorts, they might have believed he was some sort of merchant. The way he spoke was hard to keep up with when it came to gaining any material for an arrow attempt.

There was the enigma that was Remey making potions with just bales of alchemy flames in her hands too. Any equipment was forgotten and she was just producing healing potions or earth nutrient potions to be used later. While it seemed she was avoiding having Walker take out any tools for it, there was also the fact that she had become more silent and secluded. She wasn't explaining the processes, she was entirely focused on the potions she was making meaning that she just showed her high skill rather than spoke to convince anyone.

Everything stopped when it came to Walker though. He had forged to repair some equipment. Handed out quests. Offered weapons from the world. Even began manipulating the very earth mana all around them at a high control level to create more targets and training dummies. Even making an earth doll to fight with others while the sparring was happening. All things that should have required singular focus and not a split focus!

"You have all learned quite a lot from what I can see." the true earth sage rose from the earth around them. This time though, it was just an earth golem and not the actual true earth sage.

"Well, they were interesting to watch and learn from. The spear techniques that the steel lamia can use with their metal manipulation magic is very interesting and will make a bunch of people adapt to their way of fighting. The descendants of arachne are brilliant crafters, their silk should be very valuable for so much in Genesis. While the exploration for gems and crystals isn't always a huge focus, the mountain gnomes might be able to carve out a pretty solid living with the blacksmith guild. Then the bronze

dwarves should probably look in to how they can teach their unique golem skills, our dwarf race will be a little too interested in them."

The true earth sage knew that Walker had said all this for the four race leaders' benefits. So that they would know where Walker and the party stood in terms of them. However, the true earth sage had been watching the entire time with worry since these four races were always at odds with one another.

Yet, things had gone perfectly fine. The party had kept control of the emotions within each situation. Even making it clear that the guards had different mentalities for the most part of what interacting with the other races could look like.

The simple fact that the leaders of their races had missed a changing mentality in their guards and people was huge. This has shown them that the younger of their generation and even some of the older guards within their race were tired of the fighting and arguing. Every single day they were all on edge and stressed by the fighting that could happen between their races. They were stressed by the constant patrols and preparation for fighting.

All these years, they had focused on the fact that they would have to butt heads with the other races right next to them. They had managed to gain an alliance to cut down on the deaths but that had not been a solution just yet. Now, there was the chance of a solution open to them with Genesis entering the stage.

Whether the leaders or elders of their races desired it, the information would spread. A chance for peace and expansion through Genesis and in to the world. Why would they need to fight when they could join the race to improve in the world and have their ancestral home within the earth elemental planes safe and sound for once? It was like a dream come true for many. A fantasy never actually possible until now.

Things would be right for now and the true earth sage knew they would need to maintain many guardians in this area to keep the fighting controlled. A war between the four races would cause a lot of disturbance for the earth elemental plane. But, if they stopped fighting after the leaders and races figured out their stances before the Genesis emissaries arrived... Well, things could finally move forward. Guardians could work on other areas that needed attention.

As much as the elemental planes may seem peaceful. That was due to the work of many beings with the power to maintain that peace. Even more so when they were managing and protecting younger or weaker races who were just putting down roots.

That alone was why Genesis was so valuable to the true sages and the elemental kings. They could utilize Genesis as a place where these smaller and younger races could branch out. Learn more and advance enough that even if they were caught in dangerous situations they would survive and not be wiped out. It was both a way to prolong life and ensure that they saw those who worked hard blossom in to more than what they were now.

Besides all that, this was another method to ensure the balance within the elemental planes while the world fully acclimated and grew due to the attachment. While those of the world had noticed the expansion of the world and the fact that certain aspects like dungeons and ruins were able to be found, there was still more growth potential still. Specifically in mana density and quality.

The flow of weaker mixed manas from the world and the stronger purer manas from the elemental planes would keep going on causing there to be a stronger flow of balance manas in and outside of the world. Further expanding the solidarity of the world in space and existence itself. Meaning that the chaotic manas outside of everything would have less effect on the balance of everything.

"I will be taking the guests in our earth elemental plane to a location they have wished to see. The earth king has asked this of me as the events occupying them are too great to leave themselves. However, your emissaries are going to arrive here within five days." The true earth sage's golem made sure to mention the time frame that the emissaries from Genesis would be there loudly. It was a way to make the four races of the mountain alliance begin considering their first steps and even change what needed

to change. The guards here today would surely not be able to keep quiet when they mention the things they saw, received, and the quests they now had.

Otherwise, the party was pretty glad to start moving again. This was the entire point of coming here besides exploring a little and building a few new connections. Specifically, Walker had stored everything he had put away as quickly as possible. His focus on the other elemental planes other than the core ones would finally come to fruition. He hadn't visited every place he could but he and the others had a long life ahead of them. If they wished they could venture through the elemental plane more and more when they had time.

For now, they have the potential to explore manas and theories about manas that no one else ever did.

"Thank you four for introducing us to your races. We have learned a lot and we hope that you treat our emissaries with safety and respect. They are not necessarily as strong as us but they are curious and ready to learn as much as they can. They were also selected by multiple leaders of the Genesis Council where a representative of every race sits equally." The earth around them began to shift and the entire party understood that the true earth sage was acting to speed their journey along. A nice touch since the party could sense that the earth elemental plane was vast. It also gave them some time to rest.