

Master 2731

Chapter 2731 Quickly Spotted Problem

"You are leaving to do what?" Alma looked at Gil with some frustration. She had already told him that he should be focused now on what they needed to prepare for when the forest elf queen got there. She would surely be examining the spirit trees for their health since she knew very well Alma had bonded with the central spirit tree to care for it.

"I am going to walk the road and meet her as an escort. The elites we have doing so are perfect, but I just have a feeling I should check the chain of trees and roots connecting the forest to Genesis. I don't want any accidents."

Gil had decided this after waking up today. He couldn't say why, but he felt that he had to do this to make sure that the trip went smoothly. Yet, he also had the realization that he would need to go around checking several locations within the city for safety and completion of smaller projects. He didn't want to be some inspector in the sense that he was handed scrolls to go down a checklist with. He preferred something more practical like being an escort.

From the way that Alma was looking at him, she wasn't angry because he was shirking his work here but because he had a point that this might look better for them and be better overall. She hadn't considered sending Gil who the forest elf queen would wish to see sooner rather than later. It made some sense for him to go and create a good mood while also sharing some details about Genesis and its development lately.

"I can also make sure that we have some of the trade caravans heading that way behind them checked before they even reach Genesis. Meaning that they won't need to sit idly in the examination line before entering the territory." That was even better for them since the merchants coming along would be happier. Not to mention the higher class elves who were staying in the forest elf kingdom and just gathering the courage to leave now for the first time.

If they saw the attention to safety, they would not have as much apprehension for leaving and entering an unfamiliar city. For some of the younger elves, they had left and explored Genesis at the first chance they had. It was because they had been born in the city and never left. Yet, those who were living there for many years in isolation from the world had less acceptance to just leaving for another place, even if that was temporary for them.

Therefore, when they had their queen leaving, they had forced themselves to go as well. This was to ensure the safety of the forest elf queen while also generally accepting the alliance they were not part of. They needed to stand for the elven race too.

Since they had the courage to leave their homes for the first time in many years, if not for the first time ever, Gil was also making it clear that he was caring for them. They had not all left the first time their queen had gone to visit, meaning if they stayed behind now, they would damage their future. Their relationship with the queen of the first elves and Alma who would be the queen of all elves needed to be perfect for the betterment of themselves and their families. They were the equivalent of nobles after all.

With all this considered, Alma had let Gil run off but had made him take a few of the more elite archers and assassins. There were some of the dark and earth elves who had joined Genesis and found an excellent place as shadows or assassin guards. They could hide around their employer easily without being noticed and keep them safe when the most basic guards would fail.

Knowing that those coming with him could handle themselves, Gil did not blink twice when commenting that he would run ahead. He had taken to his full running speed to follow the row of trees and the paved road to the forest elf territories. He also had a sharp eye around for any marks of monsters passing by along with any damage to trees he might find.

Luckily, in the immediate area outside of Genesis, the line of trees was well connected creating a partial wall to ensure that monsters of larger sizes could not travel. And with how many patrols he passed by, any migrating larger monsters would have the trees opened to pass. That was the benefit of magic

which focused on nature and plants. Being able to temporarily move and shape the plants around you to allow for certain things like someone or something passing through. A natural protective barrier.

He did start to slow though. That feeling he had in the morning was growing. Gil knew that Walker would say it's his instinct. He was part high elf and that meant he was more in tune with nature and the natural flow. So, if there was something even slightly off it would be him who noticed. The very few elites behind him for the escort who had managed to catch up or stay somewhat nearby were surprised to find Gil walking over and looking carefully at the younger curled leaves on one of the trees. They too soon began following his lead to examine the area.

"We are turning around. I need to get Remy to help with this." Gil took out a dagger and sliced off a small young branch on a tree. He knew it would not harm it, but he also felt bad for doing this. This tree had a connection to the forest of the forest elves and the forest elf queen was attached to it through unique spiritual and physical bonds. So she would surely notice damage that was done incorrectly.

Yet, the elites by Gil's side soon caught up. They saw what he had seen and did the same, carrying a small branch and ignoring their more stressed bodies due to their attempt to keep up with Gil. Even before he returned to Genesis less than an hour after leaving, the guards at the gate he had left from immediately followed his orders to let Remy know he was coming to the alchemy guild.

His bursting in through the alchemy door just a short while later with multiple elite elven assassins, guards, and arcane archers made Remy's announce spike. Then again, she didn't expect that Gil would be the one to interrupt her process of refining over a hundred herbs right now. Her experiments had been constant since she had the idea to break the mold of a grand potion and aim for more.

"I need a poison that won't harm anything but these. It should be like a mist or something to cover all the leaves of the trees along the paved path to the forest elf kingdom. These things are too small for me to kill but they are eating the trees rapidly and I have no idea what to do about them. I had a bad feeling and followed it, it led me to this." They all placed the branches and leaves on the alchemy table causing Remy to stop her immediate response to yell at Gil and also to berate him by bringing simple tree

leaves. Instead, she was looking at the little monster crawling on the leaves and had already used a monster appraisal scroll on them.

'Glutton aphid

These little aphids are a plague to crops. Most farmers can handle them if they catch the eggs early enough. Since the eggs hatch every three years, most farmers do not worry too often and have plans to deal with them. However, when these aphids are left to run amok, they will consume an entire plant within just a few days, sometimes just a few hours.

They will consume as much as possible until they get to the size of a small house cat. This causes them to molt and become a carnivorous monster known as...'

The appraisal was detailed and even shared about their lifespan. However, the important part was that they consumed eating until they killed the plant that they hatched on. Meaning every single tree leaving to the forest elf territory and to the Genesis forest would be a target now.

"Can you help with this problem?" Remy knew exactly why and how this would become a major problem. Not just for the fact that it could cause issues for the first elf queen, but because of left to spread it would cause all the food in the farms to be eaten leaving nothing for harvest.

"I can manage this. It's more important than my experimentation. You just need to send your guards to gather a team to spread the potions I make." Her arrogant attitude was matched with a sharp smirk. She knew her skills and she also knew that when Ignus returned he would jump to help her. He had to protect the food source for his people too after all.

Chapter 2732 Just A Little Poison

Gil tried to leave the alchemy lab, but found that Ignus had already arrived. Walking past him was a no go since Ignus seemed pretty angry to hear that all the food could be at risk for his people. He had been one of the dragons who found the food shortage in his territory to be an annoyance that never changed.

For the royal dragons, they needed to focus on the fact that their people were fed. Whether it was the dragonkin or his fellow dragon elders. At the time, they had been expanding territories enough to find better hunting grounds but for a dragon that wanted longevity, they knew that hunting too much would end their chances of survival.

That was why many dragons often slumbered for months at a time and had developed the ability to use mana as a sort of way to sate that hunger. Hence the reasoning why they focus on developing their innate elemental affinities too. It covered them for growing stronger and also for the fact that they could rarely eat to their hearts' content.

With the way that Genesis had come together, dragons were able to eat properly consistently. Something that was out of the norm for them but something that was already showing benefits. There were newly hatched little dragons gaining strength faster. They were also affected by the better mana in the world, but their bodies grew better because they received the nutrition they needed perfectly compared to how they would have lived outside of Genesis. Especially the earth dragons who had left their eggs to grow by themselves and return when they were strong enough to be considered a dragon.

That didn't mean it was an easy change to their society. Some elders still resisted these changes but could not look at the royal dragons who had all become dominator dragons and were approaching unseen advancements in strength within the world. Walker was very interested to see what the next step for them was since they didn't get chained down like the dominator and spirit dragons within the elemental planes. They had their duties but that was that. Not that Walker was here to see what Gil was dealing with.

Ignus's annoyance at this new pest was enough that Remy was also worked up. Basically, Gil found himself stuck between two fires that could burn him to a crisp.

"What are we doing to handle these pests?" Ignus could burn away all of them, but he knew that was the wrong answer. Only the worst of the worst situations would call for a forest fire using dragon flames. This had to have a solution that Remey could make if Gil had come right to her and then called for him and multiple others who could spread a potion to the farm fields quickly.

"I want to know that too. I rushed here because someone said that the farms might get eaten to ruin!" The burst of energy from Scylla made them understand that she got in formation faster now. The demi-human population relied on farms. For them, the farms were just as important as water was to the water elves or to the merfolk. It was their lifeline and needed to be protected.

"Poison!" The evil grin that Remey had caused Gil to wonder if she was actually becoming an evil villain to face rather than some miracle causing alchemical brawler. Then again, she was always somewhat like this, so maybe it was fine.

"What kind of poison should we use? There are already potions used to handle pests to some degree but there are also monsters used to eat those pests. That's what all the kept cattle are from." Gil made a good point and Scylla was nodding along now that she saw they were preparing the proper measures. She had been rushed before because she wasn't sure if anything was being done yet, now she knew.

"Forget the monsters kept as cattle that eat pests and the farmers or their plants. We are making a poison just for these little things that have eaten five leaves a piece since you brought them here." This was something Gil and the others had not missed. The glutton aphids were eating rapidly if they would starve to death if they did not.

"You are catching on now?" Remey saw Gil's eyes glint. "They are eating so fast because they have to, not because they want to. So, what happens if I give them a potion that makes them not hungry? To anyone else, it would just be a day of discomfort, but for them, it would be a poison that makes them starve to death in just a few minutes leaving them to be decayed back in to the soil as fertilizer."

Remey was grabbing roots, leaves, and a few dried berries. She was moving as if she had made this potion a hundred times. In reality, she had just memorized herbs that caused side effects. The side effect in question was loss of appetite. "So many of the healers complained that some potions and medicines were causing their elderly patients to feel less hungry or not at all. Since that was the case a few of the master alchemists worked with herbalists to make medicines in pill form that could help counter that. Some of the alchemists even remove the oils or burn off the liquid that causes those effects. Instead, I can extract them and we can spray it or have a water mage mist it over the trees."

She was talking quickly but Gil was already sending out a few of the passing alchemist assistants to gather water mages. This would be the first step to spreading the potion that Remey made. "You think you can make a concentrated potion? We can just add to barrels of water and bring them along the path to the elven forest territory?" Scylla was catching on to the idea overalls and wanted to make sure that she could help with what Gil needed too.

"Exactly, so just watch and learn how awesome I am." Remey had her pride and it wasn't unwarranted, but it was a little more prevalent since she spent all of her time with Ignus and a few other dragons lately. Then again, she was giving everyone exactly what they needed or better when it came to alchemy and fighting. So, she could have that if it made her feel better.

Flames formed balls around each herb while smoke started to stream off of them. However, the smoke was carried away by the larger wind rune formations and the cleansing rune formations in to chimneys. Remey had the control of her flames to such a high level that it was better to use them than focus on a cauldron unless she was in need of a larger ingredient amount for something.

Regardless, the sparks of color that came from the balls of flame were the elemental manas being forced out and only certain manas remaining. For anyone, especially a young alchemist, this was a scene close to awe inspiring or divine. No other alchemist used flames like this to create something so unique. Even Remey herself would never have imagined she would be at a level like this in her lifetime, let alone any alchemist at all be able to do this.

When Gil noticed that the herbs inside the fire balls were being brought together, he grabbed a larger glass jar to be able to hold the liquid that would run off. However, he was beaten by Ignus who had also grabbed some water mana crystals with density of water mana that caused ice to form around them. He had helped Remy and learned a great deal more about potions. He even had enough knowledge to be able to properly understand when he could draw away fire mana for Remy and cool potions down faster.

The dark yellow liquid that came from the fire balls after they were condensed was sour smelling and syrupy. But it was clearly water soluble and could dissolve in to a bunch of barrels of water easily. "Like I said, for a normal person of any race or even monster, it would cause them not to be hungry for a day or maybe just a few hours. For something tiny like this food obsessed glutton aphid, it will kill them because they won't eat enough to keep up their survival rate."

None of them worried about how this would affect the population and food chain. The glutton aphid multiplied quickly and was surely a staple food for some monsters. But even more so, it was a pest that could multiply fast enough to forget that it should be eaten and kept at bay by certain monsters. It was just growing in the wrong place right now so other measures needed to be taken.

Chapter 2733: Growing Trees

"You called me from a meeting to help water mages spread fertilizer?" The growl in Current's voice was met with an equal glare from Ignus.

"If you are a fool then believe that to be the case. If you listen this time, you would know you are helping with all of the farm lands and food that the entire alliance relies on." This matching growled response from Ignus was enough to make it even clearer to Current that this was not something small and worthless.

"Ignus, stop fighting with Current and have him take the larger barrel in to the sky and start spreading it along the route to the forest elf territory. The sooner the better before those pests start to spread in to

the forests and fields." Hearing that Remey was serious and not acting the way he had seen, Current finally took the situation more seriously.

While everyone had their own thoughts and judgments of one another. Current and Ignus had butted heads a few times lately in terms of supplies and who had what right to have elder dragons govern what. The past between them had also been like this. They had even fought for a territory where the lava fields and a river clashed.

Regardless, they had moved past that but still struggled when one or the other would call on their elder dragons or even their dragonkin for something. They would always be slightly obtuse. Right now, it was clear that Current was giving back the same response she had received once upon a time. At the very least, he was hearing the same tone of voice and frustration he had been given.

Yet, the fact that others were involved proved that Ignus had just missed the details when sending dragonkin to get him here. Now that he was seeing the little monsters that were bringing him here and all the work done with the odd potion Remey was dripping in to these larger barrels of water, he turned to a more serious tone. "How large of an area do we need to spread this?"

"Just enough to cover the main trail to the forest elf territory. We have a few elder water dragons and water images working together to get the farmer's fields covered. The herbalists are stocking some of the potions for the greenhouses and herb gardens just in case. These glutton aphids are a problem we have to handle now while they are too small to cause major issues." Hearing Gil explain things and witnessing Scylla call forward a squad of soldiers to bring barrels away was more than enough for Current to begin instructing others as well with more vigor.

Once Current took off in to the air and the mist started to fall in how wake, the water mages nearby also started working faster. When Current returned, if he were to see them working harder and hear of their effort, they might have a chance to learn something from him. Out of all the royal dragons, Current had been the one to stop what he was doing and randomly start to help the water mages or anyone with water mana affinity fix issues in their manipulation of water mana.

While some would say that was due to his arrogance in how powerful he is for manipulating water mana, others would know more. The other royal dragons had noticed this along with the party too, Current was more focused on what he had missed out on his whole life.

As a royal water dragon that could see the best aspects of water mana manipulation, he had always expected his abilities to be the best. His understanding to be the best. Yet, he found he had not known an extremely large amount of what made water mana water mana once he had met Walker and begun meeting other races. Hence why he had spent months going in to underground rivers and studying the flow of water.

In his mind, he was learning about the flow of water within the world. Meeting those who did not understand the flow of water like him often led to a new understanding of water mana from different perspectives. Current was learning while teaching. He was growing rapidly because he didn't realize he had been stagnant for so many years.

Thrusting the party and believing in them at first had turned in to something well beyond what he had ever expected it to be. Especially since he had supported them but also had a solid distance between them due to the party not being dragons. Now, he had changed his function so much that it was hard to tell if he was the same Current as he was now.

Gil was sprinting along behind Current. He was carefully watching as the mist came around the affected trees and noticed the glutton aphids halting in their movements. It also most seemed more peaceful for them.

They were a small monster that could grow much larger and metamorphose in to something more dangerous. However, they were born with the obsessive need to eat without rest or halting. If they did they would die. But because they only had that one instinct they lacked even the smallest intelligence to preserve their lives. Meaning that they were essentially mindless.

While they slowly fell off the trees and perished, they were relaxed for the first time in history since Gil was sure that these monsters had never sated their hunger even one time.

He did see a lot of damage to the younger trees which was the reason that the farmers were being escorted behind him. They would be healing the damage to the trees. However, there were more than just farmers following him. Some of the other elites who had the strength were carrying herbalists, plant mages, and even a few young druids. Simply because they would sense what the trees needed and be able to begin offering the worst off trees healing so that the forest elf queen could safely travel.

Yet, when Gil found himself looking at three trees almost barren of leaves, he knew that he had to use the potions Remy had prepared for him as well.

The nutrient potions were not just made for people. There were nutrient potions made for each race since Remy had worked so hard to ensure that that was a special subject of research to help the youngest of each race recover or grow properly. The alchemy guild had an entire team dedicated to researching this side by side with healers.

Yet, the farmers had also had their nutrient potions made to be able to help their plants. The herbalists had also made sure to work on this. It was already something done before Genesis existed, but had only improved by leaps and bounds since Genesis appeared in the world. The alliance provided the place for these minds to meet. To grow freely.

The potions were poured as quickly as Gil could manage. He didn't need teaching since his parents had worked hard farming all their life. His father as a hunter taught him to respect nature while his mother guided him to see what plants needed.

The reaction to the trees getting added nutrients over their roots was almost instant. Some leaning branches began to stiffen while a few buds sprouted out showing a light new green. The trees hadn't lost their life; they had just struggled for a bit. But they would recover.

"Did you come to meet us? Or did you solve the problem from your end?" The voice came from a formation of vines and roots on the ground.

"Thank you for the compliment there. I came to solve the problem you seem to notice. I hope you and I can meet properly soon." The forest elf queen had connected her senses to the tree and followed the feeling of relief only to find and sense Gil. Her skills were unique and her attunement amazing. Even more so, the fact that Gil immediately understood it was her proved the value in his strength yet again.

"We set out and have worked on the glutton aphids along the route. Your method is more efficient. We will be interested once we meet you in a couple of hours." The roots and vines melted back in to the earth and trees. Gil just needed to wait now for the escort and forest elf queen to arrive.

As more of the elites caught up to him along with those helping the trees, Gil explained the situation and prepared to meet everyone. He had managed well enough by gathering those with the skills necessary to assist. From this point on, he just needed to ensure that everyone got along safely and happily. The stress could be tossed away now that the problem had been dealt with quickly before it escalated.

Chapter 2734: In To The Ruin Depths

"Healers arriving!!!" The shout was a warning to make room for the large group of healers who had arrived. By the time Alice had led her healer group to the camp where Walker, Midnight, and Su were, it had meant leaving behind smaller groups to follow leaders to smaller villages being built or other nearby camps working on herbs, logging, or crafting.

Midnight shot out of a tent and leaped in to the air to spot Alice before dive bombing her in to a big hug. The welcome was enough for Alice to let loose a small giggle that shook the light mana around her.

However, she was back to being serious just a few moments later once she noticed how many of the guards and soldiers were prepared to head in to the ruins. She seemed to have arrived with the best healing students she had at the right time.

She cleared her throat and spoke up, "as you see, the guards we are working with are ready. Healers do not always have the time to sit down and relax. We must keep moving. This is why you train physically too, you will not be able to stop in a time of need. So we will divide up and join the groups following the orders of captains and those above the captains."

With their orders out, the healers started to split off from the main group as they had been taught. The few who complained about needing rest or needing time to recover were reprimanded by the nearby guard and soldier captains. Alice didn't need to tell anyone that they were acting too weak for the training they had already undergone.

To be fair, it was a rarity that healers of any kind would have gone through any physical training just a couple of years ago. Now, it was a main focus so that a healer could enhance their ability to move and defend themselves. The healers who had come from adventurer teas had ensured this fact was passed down to those they taught.

It wasn't founded just because of traveling though. It was about survival. In the wilderness, a traveling caravan, a ruin, and even a massive battle the healers were weak and easy targets. They could be killed off without issue if they had no sense to dodge and keep moving to avoid dangers. Right now, the healers, while young and inexperienced, had been taught to move and dodge. They had the basic training that should be the foundation of continued survival.

"Alice, you made it safely. That's good since we are about to begin the clearing of the monster nest. We have several known nests and unknown corridors to map out. The adventurers are split up since they have scouted the known nest and can help the most. You are joining Midnight and I while we clear some areas right?" Walker knew that Su would potentially head off by herself since she had to teach the elite guards, so he didn't mention her just yet.

"I can come." She was smiling happily while Walker showed her the map. She had enjoyed the walk and seeing how the young healers adapted to the wilderness with minimal guards. Especially the youngest battle healers who had to adapt to the fact that they were set apart from normal healers.

The different kinds of healers were already varied compared to what she had known just a year ago. Now, there was a lot more to worry about since those different forms that healers took needed different training. Different experiences to allow them the best path of growth.

In the terms of battle healers, they could also use basic attacks utilizing a smaller weapon or potentially using magic to attack and defend. They were somewhat similar to the support healers who could use a basic elemental barrier with whatever their affinity was. Otherwise, they were both good classes to have which were perfect for expeditions like this.

"Perfect. We are heading to the largest next of a monster called dragon tick. Apparently they have dragon blood in them that causes them to grow to the size of an average human. They have six sharp legs and they just want to drain the blood and whatever else from prey. They will gather in darker areas and wait to feel a very large monster move passed so they can latch on. Sometimes they will swarm though. That's what we need to avoid."

Walker had a basic appraisal of the monster that he was leading them to deal with. However, he would still grab an all around appraisal when he could. It was better to know more in any circumstance. Especially a monster that had a small amount of dragon blood history which allowed them to grow so large. They were not a simple pest like other ticks might be. They were fully predators now.

"Walker! The guards are asking if it's time to move!" Su shouted from a few groups away getting everyone's attention. She was also ready to make a move, her shields were swapped to those that had an affinity with earth mana. This way in the ruins she would have better defenses to block entire routes if needed.

He smirked and looked at the few healers unsure of what they needed to do who were glancing at Alice. "All of you need to get to your groups now. You are not on the front line to battle but you are their protectors. You keep them alive and safe so they can see their families. So they can build their families. They have a future and it is your job to make sure they live despite any injuries they receive in this endeavor. We will rely on your hard work." He nodded to Alice and to Midnight as they moved ahead. Walker saw Su come next to them as well. It seemed she had planned to be beside them regardless.

The four knew their route since Walker could easily memorize the entire map so far. He also knew that they could pursue the other passages leading to the inner workings of the fallen floating island. The more that he and the others cleared the better and faster the research in to the creation of proper and lasting floating islands and cities would go.

The ruins were impressive from the edge. Plenty of statues with broken angel wings depicting the strength this city had once possessed. There were damaged homes or warehouses as well, remnants of a once flourishing city fallen due to war and loss of direction. This was one city that had fallen from the sky because of the fighting between the two factions of the angel race. A loss due to their internal strife that buried a great amount of history from themselves.

It was hard to think that there were races who caused their own decline even though the world had been cut off from the elemental planes. Yet, it was also easier to understand in that respect. Plenty of races had been lost to time whether within our outside of the world. Meaning that any race still surviving had plenty of opportunity to see what would come next. What they could do to advance yet again.

"We are going to enter a cut path. It's not a proper entrance but the ruined area and monster damage proves that it was cut out over time. We have a lot to cover to get to where we know the central control room and formations overlaps should be. That's the very place we have to get the researchers before we can get the last information needed for proper tests."

Walker dwelled for a moment on the attempts at gravitational rune formations like what had been used on the floating ships. However, he knew that those were at most small and supportive. They were not powerful enough or refined enough to be able to be used entirely on a small island let alone a larger one that could carry a city. This was what they needed to learn. How that formation worked and how it was able to connect and be controlled.

The angel race lost the knowledge to properly maintain and build new floating islands. Today, he would put himself and everyone else on the path to recover it.

"I have the lead then. Midnight, think you can keep a sharp eye out for any approaching monsters?" The smaller space meant that Midnight could only fight in her dragonkin form, not a bad thing, she was still very powerful. However, it was her sharp senses that would help Su the most, and it was why Midnight took a close stand behind Su to match that plan.

"Nothing to worry about then. We can proceed safely." Walker made sure Alice was in the center. She was their support and he would cover their backs.

Chapter 2735 Dragon Ticks

While the smell was not as bad as previous underground ruins the group had been to, it still had the same musty smell like a basement mixed with too much mold growth. That and the odd sour scent that must come with whatever prey the monster dragged in to feast on from time to time. However, there were many places missing the telltale signs that monsters had been there.

Normally there would be cuts on the ruin walls or ceiling. It was a way to ensure that they would not have unwanted intruders. Since that was the case, it meant that the monsters here were deterred from doing that over the years or that they had no worries about the other monsters around trying to enter their specific territory.

If it was deterrence, then most likely it came to be because of the residual mana throughout the rune formations in the walls of the ruin. If it was the way the monsters lived, then they could have a natural balance due to their unique methods of survival within the ruins. Larger and stronger monsters might have once hunted them outside of the inner ruined floating city, causing there to be a reason for them to survive together.

The idea of mana being the cause was interesting. Since the rune formations were a huge part of what made the floating city function, the mana at first could have been a major deterrent to any monster. It would seem dangerous and off-putting since the mana did not naturally flow as they should, making the monsters in the area not come near the ruins.

Over time, that would change as the rune failed and some formations would have lesser mana moving through them. The weaker mana was still off-putting for monsters but they would come there and understand instinctively that their predators may not follow them there. Making the place safer if only a bit uncomfortable for them.

It would then fade more and more until that point where the monsters had many nests through with different species of monsters living within the ruined city. It would also be the reason that they did not damage everything as much. They had generational instincts of not hammering this place to a certain degree. Not that it would remain forever, eventually this would keep breaking down in to just a bunch of stone caves and much less ruins able to be discovered and researched.

Not that it would reach that point, the Genesis forces were here to help reclaim the fallen city.

"Looks like they actually brought some prey back. They are supposed to be ticks but they hunt smaller prey too. It sounds like they would be more of a hindrance to nature's flow than a help." This insight was not unique, Su had said something similar before when hunters took down larger prey and found dragon ticks on their bodies leeching away their strength.

"They are technically prey monsters mostly. They hunt what they can because they are influenced by dragon blood, but they are also not the top of any food chain. They are eaten a lot and I believe the scaled wolves gang up on them whenever they are out in the open." This was something Walker had heard from a few guards who patrolled the perimeter of the ruins. They were able to see what happened to some of the monsters left outside of the ruins since they all made the perimeter.

"Since some of the monsters nesting here couldn't leave with gourds outside, those already outside were left to the wilderness and the monsters around capitalized on it. We enabled a few extra meals for the native monsters here." Walker could have felt bad about it, but he also understood that the monsters within the ruined floating city should have been out in nature in the first place. They would not go extinct because of the actions here today but they would be relocated at the very least.

It was better to imagine that they were just cleaning the house though. This was meant to be a city for the angel race to live safely during their time of strife and war. When giant monsters roamed the world and other races fought for resources on a daily basis. Not fall to the ground and be forgotten in time.

"Two ahead." With Midnight's sharper senses she caught the slight movement of two dragon ticks sitting on the ceiling waiting to drop on top of them.

'Dragon tick

This monster has an extremely weak remnant dragon bloodline. It is nearly bred out of their species leaving them to become a giant tick species of monster. However, that requires several more generations...

They have a numbing poison in their bite so that they can remain attached to their prey. They will latch their six legs in to their prey to remain attached and even allow their bodies to become more attached

as skin grows over them if possible. They will only detach when they have enough nutrients to create offspring or their prey had died and been entirely consumed.

They will prefer to consume blood but will eat the flesh if they are in dire need of nutrients. This is why they will drag smaller prey back to their nest where they can share it with the smallest dragon ticks and allow them to grow larger to easily attach to the larger monsters.

They have a natural hatred for fire due to the fact that they did not receive enough dragon blood in their lineage...'

The small group understood that having a weakness to fire was a good thing for them due to the fact that all of them had resistances to fire. Not to mention both Midnight and Su could cover their bodies in flames without taking any damage. They would actually increase the damage that they did. Walker was an outlier since he would simply control the fire and even make a temporary golem to fight for him. Regardless, they had all grown enough that using fire in such an enclosed space was not a true danger to themselves and others.

The two dragon ticks dropped down trying to land on Midnight and Su, however, Midnight opened her mouth and spit out a small ball of fire. She had done this before in dragon form but found herself unhappy with how small the flames were. But the potency was there causing the entire dragon tick to be engulfed and burning on the ground instantly.

Su hadn't done anything so magnificent. She had dropped one shield and grabbed the dragon tick slamming it on the ground before using her other hand with a shield to smash it flat. Then Midnight helped her by also burning it to ashes too. Their flawless teamwork proved that they were prepared beyond a doubt for the entire mission they were on.

"If we are seeing some smaller ticks here, then I assume..." Walker focused and noticed that there was water dripping from the ceiling. That wasn't normal since there shouldn't be any water falling from anywhere in the ruins. If this was the case, then there might be an issue with rainwater trapped within parts of the ruins. A dangerous risk for some of those who might cause a collapse and drowning.

"I am going to try and seal the cracks in the ceiling. Above us might be a flooded passage. We need water images to clear out slowly over the next few days. But we should know there is not a monster that is able to live in those passageways easily. The same for the runes adobe us, the water might have ruined any mana flow left." it would be a hard spot to research.

Before he could try and leave a message for the following forces that would keep cleaning and researching, Walker heard a skittering of hard legs on stone. It was the nest of the dragon ticks ahead. The sound of two of their fellow monsters being killed had stirred them up. A few would be coming to investigate while the larger dragon ticks who could actually fight and attach themselves to larger monsters would be looking for prey.

"We need a little warm up before we go exploring." Su stretched her back a little and grinned. She had liked fighting more and more as she accepted her state as a half dragon. However, she also was mirroring the excitement that Midnight had. Midnight was very interested in testing her ability in her dragonkin form here. She felt stressed by the smaller space making her feel it was a good chance to learn and adapt.

While Walker didn't say anything, he too felt excited to see how the pair could work. Su was Midnight's guardian after all. They would be seamless in battle regardless of their time training together.

Chapter 2736 Somewhat Cleaner

The larger dragon ticks were nothing to be impressed by. Their features were only uglier since they were creatures that grew only to be a parasite on something else. Their sharp pincers that drew and sucked blood were like hollowed spears waiting to attack the small group as they approached.

Yes, they had stirred up this trouble, But Walker didn't like that one of the larger dragon ticks was charging toward them right away. They were not some easy prey they could just grab and be done with. These monsters were overconfident and needed to be dealt with, so maybe he should take his turn.

That was until he saw that Alice's humming had made a spear of light that shot through the air piercing the stubby head of the larger dragon tick. She looked at Walker who was giving her a quizzical glance, "they spread illness when they bite monsters and leave them when they are full. Ticks are troublesome."

From the perspective of a healer, Alice had everything right. These monsters could spread disease to those they bit and left when they were sated. It would make sense that as a healer, Alice had tangled with healing those affected by these things before. Su also gave a nod in agreement, she'd seen it as well, it was something many farmers had to deal with. The only thing was, that right now they were dealing with larger ticks than would be in a normal farmer's field.

Then again, as the next larger dragon tick started charging, Walker had already made a small arrow of flames using his fire mana manipulation. It shot through the air and pierced the dragon tick further away this time. It also started to burn it up in to ash without creating a lot of black smoke. Walker knew all too well how much better it was to use some water mana and air mana to trap and cool the smoke so that they would not need to breathe it in.

Midnight sprinted forward gathering her dragon flames in her hands. Doing so in dragonkin form was a little difficult but she found it exciting to be gathering her dragon flames in to her hands and fighting like Remey did. She had seen Remey use punches and felt this was the best chance she had to really experiment with new styles she had somewhat trained since she had been focusing more on the dragonkin form.

It was a fun experience for her. Midnight had fought in her proper dragon form more often than not. She had taken a while to get the dragonkin from in her perspective. Then again, she had watched everyone fight before. Using her magic to make a ball of flames and throw it was nothing too troublesome since she had seen Walker train his magic. Seeing how she could wreath her fists in flame

and strike down on the back of a smaller dragon tick was because of Remy. Using the flames to act as a small shield? That was all from Su.

All three of them watched as Midnight went full battle frenzy trying to test her abilities and get more comfortable against real enemies she did not need to hold everything back against. She was gifting freely to ensure that she would be able to properly use her dragon form without needing to harm herself and the others by taking her main dragon form.

When she opened her fist and slashed down with her clawed hands, it caused the flames she had wreathed them in to fly through their air and hit a further small group of dragon ticks. They were all skittering around in panic with the flames scaring them. Some of them made foolish choices to attack while others retreated deeper in to the next.

Walker took notice that the next they had walked in to was not far from the entrance they came from. It was making a lot of sense since the regain ticks would leave here often to try and find prey to latch on to or to eat entirely. He also saw that the room must have been some form of storage area. There were many bits of rotted wood remnants and piles of what could have once been food but were not just scattered black soil. Otherwise, he noticed the runes covering the walls all seemed related to keeping temperature constant. They were known rune formations.

There were small eggs no bigger than marbles which made it striking that these dragon ticks could grow to be so large. Then again, dragons would be born fairly small and grow pretty rapidly. Walker had seen it with his own eyes and knew that Midnight would most likely be larger than the royal dragons in their dominator dragon status when she reached adulthood.

The flames Walker controlled began to sweep in a small vortex. Not quite a flame tornado, but enough to gather the ashes of the monsters he burned in to a single place. Alice also hummed a soft song of purification to enhance the flames and remove any dangers from the remnants. It was better to be safe than sorry in case anything here could make anyone sick. The dragon ticks were not really a clean species seeing that they were monsters that lived on the bodies of other monsters without being cleaned.

When they had calmed down and Walker had stored away the ashes, he looked around the larger room and heard the faint sounds of retreating dragon ticks. There would be more within the ruins but for now, he was interested to see what the rune formations on the walls looked like.

Despite being cracked and damaged overall, the runes carved in to the stone made it clear that they could be salvaged to some degree. It would take a lot of effort to repair them though. Not just some work here and there, potentially a slow and steady rebuild of each wall over time rather than just allowing the ruin to fall apart or to be entirely replaced.

This state of things would make the entire process take years rather than a few months. The angels had certainly believed that the ruins would have better material and formations to work with in terms of repairing the city. However, this was simply because they based the ruins off of what they had seen elsewhere and also within the current damaged floating cities being repaired. They had not realistically assumed that the damage was this grand.

With a long sigh, Walker spread his mana sense out and found that there actually were runes still working to some degree. He could feel the stone passageways were laced with small rune formations and lines. Not the kind that carried mana for useful things like keeping the island floating, but for keeping a door closed.

"We can allow the main cleaning force to follow the few remaining dragon ticks. We are going to go through this passageway and reinforce it as a new area to explore." Walker placed a hand on the largest wall and the stone began to shift. He also used earth mana manipulation to repair small cracks that could have gotten bigger.

"Oh, separate passageways that haven't been mapped? This is going to be interesting." The glint in Su's eyes showed exactly how she imagined all this would go. She wanted to see as much as she could since she was able to be herself and not keep an eye on those she was training. Right now she was able to

relax and let loose, so she was doing exactly that. She knew she could protect those around her and she had the buffs from Alice as a benefit too.

"I want to see it too." Alice whispered as she pushed Walker ahead of her. She wanted to make sure it was safe and let Walker handle that was fine by her. Plus, Walker was already watching the runes change on the walls. This passageway hadn't been touched by these monsters so they were already cleaner. Duster, but cleaner in terms of remnant bones or rot from prey brought through the passage.

"Midnight, you and I in front then." Walker smiled and pushed ahead. He saw the rune on the walls all carried mana but didn't seem to be in use. Like whatever they had originally been connected to was taken out leaving them to degrade with time rather than due to the cracks and damage from the higher ruins of the city above them.

"Maybe we should have some light." Walker conjured up a few light orbs and realized that along the ground there were marks from what could be small rodent type monsters. Proof that other passageways might connect or at the very least they could still run in to monsters to deal with too.

Chapter 2737 Following Rats

The light shone on the walls allowing for some of the rune patterns to be clearer to Walker. However, it also lets the faint colors that used to be there also be clearer.

As much as any race in ancient times used pigments from flowers or other sources to cover walls or create something beautiful, time would eat away at the color since it was natural in the first place and everything would return to that decay and growth cycle. So when he noticed some of the paint was still there he was curious to see what he could make out. It was different from other ruins he had seen that were only carved in to the walls or had no remnants of color left within them.

The angel race had been one powerful enough to fight against the vampires and the immortal chasing races. There were three of what he believed to be the most powerful races in the world in ancient times.

The elves seemed to have been mysterious and few due to their high elf focus and internal strife. Otherwise, any other race was divided and not even close to being able to work well enough together to be a threat.

Therefore, records of what the other races believed or saw were valuable. Especially the angels since they had the floating cities, a genius design that allowed them to flee from massive monsters or fight the other races wherever they needed to. Not that they were able to maintain it after their own internal strife and the changes in the world in terms of lessening mana density.

"It looks like they used blue paint to follow any rune formations that transferred water mana. The same with red for fire, brown for earth, and a slight green grass color for wind. They tried to use the color and the images over top of the runes to enhance the effects." That was the theory Walker was building.

"That would make sense though, right?" Su was looking at what Walker had focused on. The slight blue moving like it had once depicted a river. "If art can also channel mana to some degree, if someone combines runes and art on top of them, then wouldn't that make the rune more natural and flow better?" She had heard plenty of the art movement within Genesis since some paintings and sculptures could be used to teach basic styles of swordsmanship.

"You might be right about that. I feel like it was also part of keeping the runes looking like they were part of their beliefs. I would say this was a city that held true to the purity of the main elemental manas and not belief in the other manas of the world." This was the crux of the angel race's split. The belief between the main elemental manas and the belief behind the other manas like life, space, death, and time. Not to mention mixed manas being a harder argument between them.

"So they could mix different techniques to make more for them to fuel the city. It sounds like they were less advanced in some ways and more advanced in others." Alcie had begun to see the past angel race as if they had gotten too advanced and forgotten to focus on other things.

To be fair, this train of thought was very true. The angel race in the ancient times had focused on survival and battle. They made these rune carved cities and advanced them for fleeing and attacking when necessary. However, they did not invest their time socially leading them to divides in belief rather than in fact. It caused them to split more and more until they had lost their footing.

Yes the decrease in mana due to the world being cut off from the elemental planes played a very large part in all of this. Yet, it was not the spark of all their issues. The in fighting between the angels would have kept going and could have even been worse if they had not been forced down by the lack of mana. That might have actually saved their race from an internal civil war ending them as a whole in ancient times.

"Watch out for rats." Midnight stomped down and a small squeal came out. She showed the greasy body of a small rat a moment ago. The black fir was covered in oily grease making Walker worry about the cleanliness of the ruins if these monsters looked like this.

'Oil fur rat

This rat is a species with dark and earth mana affinity. They prefer to gather the plants that they can find along with scraps of food that they can find within their nests. This causes a rotting build up of oil that they love to live in. It deters pests from getting near them and also makes them immensely hard to capture unless much stronger than them.

They will grow and breed rapidly causing them to become a menace to smaller prey monsters that need to gather food in their territory. This often causes other monsters to be forced out of an area and eventually causes the oil fur rats to lose their own sources of food since they mainly scavenge or gather.

Some have a horrible habit of gathering anything shiny or dense in manas , even the manas they can not use themselves. This is due to their innate desire to gather, which was one reason they were once called greedy rats...'

"If we find more of those we are going to kill them. But they have a decaying dark mana based oil on their bodies so don't light them on fire or else we could light their entire nest on fire." Walker was internally grateful that he had not been subject to this before when they burned up the dragon ticks. It would have caused a lot of issues if they had a ruin fire to deal with. It could have ended the entire exploration and clearing.

Then again, he could have solved it to a degree, it was the other groups he would worry about. All things aside, he was interested in finding a nest and cleaning it. What if they found something taken from control rooms or storages? These ruins were of the angel race who had once been more advanced than others of their time. Meaning they might find some ancient pieces of technology still filled with mana that could teach him a lot.

"We should get rid of whatever pests and monsters we can. It's better than them getting brought back to Genesis by accident or escaping in to other villages nearby. It could become a problem for everyone and everything else." Su's point was clear and Walker looked at Alice who already started humming softly. She knew that the purifying light effect of one of her songs was ideal for this.

Coincidentally the light orbs that Walker had conjured up began to enhance the effects. Alice seemed to have expected this, making Walker smile in surprise. She had understood her songs could influence his ambient magic as long as he was not keeping them in greater check with his light mana manipulation. Now she has added light mana to make her purifying light song even stronger.

With this resonance between his skill and hers, Walker understood the depth that it allowed. Changes to work in tandem with Alice since she might need the outer light mana he could provide. This wasn't even touching base on what could happen if he utilized natural mana to enhance the light orbs even more. He hadn't even used a huffing skill to improve her purifying song so he didn't know what level the purifying light song she could produce would lead to eventually.

It was working on the signs and residues left behind by the roaming oil fur rats. This was ensuring a healthier and safer travel for the researchers later. It also made the air easier to breathe for the four of them right now which was always a good thing.

It also made a few sounds of squealing reach the group's attention. It seemed the small oil fur rats didn't like their nests being purified and they were beginning to rush out in panic. Right in front of Su and Midnight who had been able to pinpoint the entrances to their nests.

Swift movements ended the small monsters lives while Walker realized that their nest entrances were not broken areas of the walls. They were small cut outs for water to flow. It had been a system for water to drain out of the city through certain tunnels and passageways during rain. It was a wise building decision and might help him out later when the researchers discovered which floors were full of stagnant water due to the state of the ruins.

However, the real boon was finding several new passageways they could map out now. The small mapping orbs were becoming invaluable right now.

Chapter 2738 Layered Runes

Side passageways were anything and everything. Right now the passageway they had gotten in to lead to a small round room attached to multiple other passageways. Unfortunately two of them had already collapsed and would need care and time to fix enough to investigate. The other passages were different.

Two more didn't have an air flow so Walker warned everyone that there was no chance that they could make it through. Even if there was a door or something, he felt that the air wasn't moving at all, proving that it had collapsed somewhere down the line and it wasn't just a closed door. The others that he had noticed due to the rats were smaller rooms since one had shown them fight to what was once a rat nest but only had bits of metal and used shards of mana crystals. another , he was starting to look at now since this small room might have something interesting attached.

"I would guess this is used for mostly storage. That's why the oil fur rats have so many nests here." He sighed and watched at Midnight defeating another of the small pests while the light from Alice's song purified the residue left on her clawed hands. "But this next is larger..." He tried to doffed while he used some of the light mana and also used his white purifying flames skill.

While it was a skill better suited for undead, Alice could change that by making the light mana mixing with his fire mana in to an overall purifying effect. This was more about the ambient mana around him rather than her manipulation of the light mana itself. Regardless, the oily black goo and decaying scraps started to be burned to dust leaving a larger piece of metal.

'Copper rune rod

This is a copper rod with various runes carved in to it. Surprisingly resistant to manas due to the method of forging and the layered rune carving, this is a key and also a centerpiece for multiple rune formations. The ancient angel race had trouble memorizing and identifying every single rune after several layers were created to identify a formation. This excessive layering caused many issues and to interact safely this pool was also used.

The resistance of mana by this copper rune rod allowed for some formations to be halted for a moment while adjusted. Others would activate beneath whatever layer was being adjusted. However, as a key, this also allows access in to control areas with higher rune formation security. For some rune carvers, being handed one of these rods was considered the greatest honor since they would be working on the most important aspects of their home...'

"So the angels of today and the ancient angels had this difference. I never heard anything about how the angels needed to use copper rune rods as keys or to activate any of the runes in the currently working floating cities." Su was looking at Walker for an answer.

"I would assume all of the copper rune rods would be inserted and the angels wouldn't remove them because they don't know how to utilize them properly any more. They lost a lot of their important knowledge while fighting. Everyone nowadays researching their own city would see the rods as anchors rather than keys or tools. I would think that too without taking the time to analyze everything more carefully. I don't even know if my appraisal would tell me it was a copper rune rod if it was mixed in to the center of multiple layers of rune formations."

"This does explain some things though. It tells me why there are so many issues with the floating cities and the repair rates. There are too many rune formations layered on top. If even the ancient angels got themselves in to problems memorizing it all, how can our people make sense of it? They could be finding different runes and mixing layers up. Or they could just be looking at a mess of ropes all tied together without any sense."

He sighed loudly as he understood the issues that they would face. Even if they started to change the layers of the rune formation in the functioning floating cities, they were not forced to deal with the fact that those floating cities might not be able to be properly repaired. It was a flawed system from the start.

The ancient angels were geniuses in carving runes. However, they had done so over the top of other rune formations as they advanced. They hadn't replaced or repaired the materials, just added another layer over and over. And while layering some formations could strengthen equipment, it might not be the best decision for every single aspect of a city carrying its people.

"So the city can't be rebuilt? No, the two cities will fall?" Su and Alice had both spoken at the same time realizing that Walker might be warning them of something even worse than they had expected.

"I think the two cities need to be grounded to be repaired safely now. I just need the research from everyone here to prove it so that everything can be done safely. But if we can break down which layers

and formations are responsible for spreading and countersign the natural gravitational effects of the stone and everything, we might be able to make the islands and use the same ideas we work with on the floating ships for small greenhouse islands and maybe small village and town islands."

It was hard to theorize now. Walker could tell there was a lot he had just learned but even more he didn't even scratch the surface of. "I think we need to consider that the researchers will be busy for even longer and might be better adapting and testing what we know now as they learn what used to be." This seemed to be the most efficient way to Walker. It would allow for them to alter things as they studied and understood certain smaller aspects of the ancient rune formations and layering techniques.

"It sounds like it will be a frustrating puzzle. I prefer helping to heal people than this." Alice had an expression that told everyone the runes were just a mess of lines and mystery to her. To be fair, she had a focus on the body and how to heal it safely and quickly. To her, the rune formations were some crazy form of art that she couldn't use but would enjoy having if it was on equipment that enhanced her natural abilities.

"That's more or less what they are doing. The ancient angel race messed up by rushing their rune formation. They put everything right on top of one thing or another. Yes they were in battle or war constantly, but they left problems for their descendants." Since Su was judging the ancient angels, it was hard to argue against her. She gave them credit for what they had managed at the time, but now with more information and insight about the state of the rune formations at the time and now, it was clear that there was a lot of oversight in terms of designs and functionality.

"For now, we can take the copper rune rod and bring it with us. Some of the doors are still properly working. We might even be able to use this to get closer to the central rooms for controlling this fallen city." Walker was also using more of his mana sense now. He was also utilizing his eternal codex and a small mapping orb to enhance the speed of mapping the dead ends and following toward where he knew more mana was gathered.

While everyone might believe that mana has been dissipated enough in these ruins to keep everything dark and dim in terms of functionality, Walker had sharper mana senses than just about anyone.

Meaning he could follow along enough toward the smallest bits of residual mana that might have been places fueling the entire city when it had once floated.

This was also taking in to terms the fact that some of the rune formations had been to direct and gather mana. Meaning that his mana he let free roam around the passageways was also swept up by the few active rune formations and brought toward the same locations. He could feel small crystals and orbs trapping mana in the walls, they were small and not worth looking in to. It was the larger presence he followed that made him more curious.

"It smells wrong." Everyone took the time to smell the air and understood what Midnight meant. The air felt damp and heavy. It also prickled their noses making it feel like the air had something toxic in it. With Alice's skills they could safely travel here, but anyone else might be in trouble.

Chapter 2739 Ancient Angels

"Is that mold? Or is it just a mass of fungus growing here?" Su had stopped walking because she felt that the more they traveled the more this sickly green mold was growing around them.

"It's definitely a mold of some kind, but I think it has been growing here for too long. It's making the air toxic and without Alice's song purifying the air and us we would be getting sick." Walker knew that they each had their own ways of countering this sort of poisonous thing, but they would still feel some effects from it when they encountered it.

'Vile bloom fungus

This is what many people believe to be a fungus easily scrubbed away, however, that would make this monster grow more vicious to those who inhale its toxins. Like a mushroom or any fungi, this fungus releases spores to try and grow pieces of itself elsewhere, those spores are incredibly poisonous and will cause paralyzation, bleeding, and a decaying effect on the body.

While unmoving, this is a monster and intentionally aims to poison and kill others so that it can use the rotting corpses as a place to rest and grow more. It also hopes that those poisoned by it travel further from where it poisons them and allows for new pieces of itself to grow elsewhere.

Surprisingly, it can be used to make a very potent paralyzing poison ideal for some healing work if properly applied to needles for stitching and amputation when needed. It can also be used in war as a method of poisoning walled cities...'

Walker stopped reading the all around appraisal out loud. He didn't want to know how the ancient angels might have used this. If it was here there was most likely a reason. If that reason was that it had been stored in a room for war purposes later, he didn't want to know and would prefer just to burn it away for ever.

"Gross." Walker turned to see Midnight kicking a patch of the green mold, it seemed to be dripping toxic water and she was already using some of her dragon flames to clean her feet and boots. While she disliked having her scales get dirty in her dragon form, she felt the same for her clothing and gear in her dragonkin form. Some could say it was just the way her dragon's pride worked.

"Just start to burn it up slowly while we go. Alice's singing is purifying it but that is a monster believe it or not so we should treat it like one." Walker had a feeling Midnight had been too curious and wasn't listening to what he had said. However, Su was already looking around the passageway more disgusted than before knowing that this might have been a tool of war. The implications were horrendous.

"What do we need to do to get rid of this and make it safe?" Su had a feeling they were heading in to much more of this judging by the way the walls and floor were covered.

"Fire and Alice's magic is all we have. I think we will find a lot ahead so we should take it slow and just move as we need to. Midnight, can you leave the cross marking on the wall behind us to let everyone know to stop and not follow us?" Walker knew this was a simple symbol but it was the best they had for the time being. They didn't want to turn around and leave this problem to keep growing.

Moving forward though, was troublesome. The vile bloom fungus was releasing more spores in to the air with each step on to it. Not to mention the caustic green slime that was trying to decay their boots. If they didn't have buffing skills and good gear, they would have been looking at something breaking away their gear entirely and even burning in to their feet.

It was also clear that the passageway was getting wider despite the thicker layer of fungus on everything now. Not that it was unexpected, Walker knew that they were removing toward a larger open space. Exactly the kind of place that might have a way to explain the rune formations and everything else about the fallen city.

"Is this a storage room?" Alice had paused in her song and looked around. The way that the fungus had grown was like it covered certain crates and shelves. However, there were several pillars in the middle of the room that seemed too out of the ordinary to be a storage room.

After scraping away a little fungus using a shovel that Walker kept within his multi dimensional storage, they saw that the wooden crate Alice was looking at had been almost fossilized due to the decaying and ageing of time. The fungus wasn't doing anything to it because it wasn't able to decay in the same way any longer. This was something they had seen in other ruins but was very interesting to witness here now due to the state of this area.

When he used his strength to break it open, the remnants were surprisingly intact. However, they were not food rations rotted to dust or anything bottled like potions. They were small metal tubes. Each covered in runes of their own.

'Rune coded tubes

These tubes were covered in runes. Each can be used to create a small rune formation. While not complicated, these rune tubes have immense teaching ability to share the basic formations of runes for young rune carvers. The fact that they were used in ancient times makes it a testament to the angel race and their desire to learn more about rune formations.

These were invented by the twelve winged angels who were remembered as the founder of layered rune techniques. When they passed away these rune coded tubes were mass produced to share more knowledge. While these are somewhat damaged, the legacy can still be passed down to the...'

Walker halted in reading and realized that he was looking at what could be the last remnants of the way that the ancient angels used to teach people how to carve runes. They had become so trapped in their own fighting about elemental purity and what elemental manas to study that they had lost some history. Something like this history was so valuable that it could be called one of the foundations of the angel race as a whole.

"We just found something that will make the angel race and every race sit in shock." Walker's grin was enough to light up the disgusting mold covered room. Yet, with the constant purification from Alice and the flames from Midnight, the room was beginning to show a great deal more. Especially the three pillars he could now begin to identify.

'Spent mana crystal pillar

This pillar was once a solid mana crystal that had been carved in to shape to ensure that mana gathered and flowed in to it to field the rune formations within the floating city of Grenin. As such, these pillars were made to move through and attached to several pillars acting as control rooms within the entire

city. Due to the loss of mana and the decay rate of the carved mana crystals, it is impossible to utilize them once again.

The angels that controlled these pillars in the collapse spent their own mana to lessen the damage to the pillar control rooms allowing for there to be remnants left behind for their people to receive. The carved runes upon these pillars interact with the copper rune rods so that they can activate various formations. Unfortunately, in the current state that is impossible to achieve.

To create another pillar, several years of rune carving, mana crystal carving, and harvesting must be taken in to account. Each pillar took seven years to prepare before they could be incorporated in to the greater city of Grenin...'

Now it was Su's turn to look at Walker with a smile. She knew that this meant they had uncovered one of the places that the researchers absolutely needed to get to. Besides the rune carved tubes for imprinting runes for education, this room was protected by the angels with their last breaths. Their bodies taken away by time and monsters, but their knowledge and history preserved.

"The fungus is coming from the side passage, most likely leading to a proper storage room. We can purify it all and make sure that the researchers can get here as soon as possible." Walker internally praised the ancient angels who had ensured all this was safe. He knew that the angels of today would find great pride in hearing this information while also beginning to learn where they had come from. It would mean the world to them to know that they had a history deeper than fighting amongst themselves.

Chapter 2740 Solutions And Connected Dots

The remains of the storage room proved to be nothing entertaining. Instead of anything fossilized or properly preserved, it was broken glass, more of the fungus, and even more of what had once been monsters scavenging here. It was clear that the monsters had come looking for food or smelling the rotten bodies and looked to take them too. Yet, they had only found a place to die and nourish the fungus growing.

However, after finding the origin of the fungus, it was a monster easily dealt with. Many people would still have identified it as a normal fungus without an appraisal like Walker's, then again, it was basically that minus the fact that it actively caused spores to cover the air and poison others to death so it could keep growing.

It was amazing though, the area being cleared and purified through multiple skills and plenty of light mana left it surprisingly clean. Out of the ruins thus far, they had not found something so well preserved. It made it clear that they had managed to find a place better protected even before it had fallen.

The knowledge that the ancient angels used tubes with rune formations on them to teach was stunning the researchers escorted here once Walker had managed to contact a scout passing by looking to register the mapping orb information properly.

Two researchers were already taking the rune coded tubes and rolling them in ink. After they had done so, they rolled them across larger pieces of parchment to see the shapes and flow of the runes carved on to the tubes. It was a miraculous way to easily share basic rune formations or just the basic forms of runes used by the ancient angels.

The ancient angels had failed in some ways and the realization when a few of the angel rune formation researchers heard Walker's theories and appraisals showed a clear broken heart. The information about how spectacular their race had been in some ways but failed in others was hard to accept.

Yet, the researchers quickly overcame those feelings. The negative emotions they possessed did a lot to show them that today's age was filled with opportunity. Not just to rewrite the failures, but to improve on the successes as well. That was why they were here. Not just to raise the cities that had once floated as their united angel race, but also to find ways to utilize everything in new ways and forms.

"Here! This one is the one!" The shouting and the clamour of several researchers caused Walker to come and look at the complicated rune formations on the parchment. It also came to the copper rune rod in the researcher's hand.

"This pattern here is a gravity rune. It uses runes made for metal, earth, and even what I believe is a space rune piece to make the gravity reverse from other earth. It's just like the magnetic metals we have found and how some affinities for lightning can be used with them. I know a mage that could help with that."

The rambling kept going until he started to point out to the group the matching rune formations on the copper rune rod and the symbols just copied from the coded rune tube. "This means this rod could influence the rune formations that had to do with the entire island floating. It means that if we copy this and remove the extra layers we can find a way to replicate it. Not in just a day, maybe in the next few hours."

That was stunning. No, it was impossible to what Walker and everyone else had imagined. Before he could speak again, several angels were rushing the researcher out of the ruins realizing that he had some ideas that needed to be tested. It wasn't just the fact that this researcher had connected the dots to a puzzle that had been all mixed up. It was the fact that he could see the connections where others with different experiences could not.

They weren't rushing him to a simple tent to research more, he had just become one of the foremost presences within the the researchers here and maybe even in Genesis who could begin improving and shining light on how the floating islands were built. It meant a lot of improvement faster than what Walker expected, increasing new smaller floating islands and even improving the flying ships for the next generation to travel further. Maybe even begin properly mapping islands across the oceans.

"I think I should head out and start to work on the dark dome side of the project. I might even start to work on making things to help making all elemental domes of focused mana." Walker spoke quietly to Alice, Su, and Midnight.

While he knew that there were still monsters to clean up here, they had helped a great deal and also understood that he had to achieve what he had come here for. If the two projects would be combined, he couldn't just help with one aspect. He had to ensure he was taking everything he had to offer and giving it fully. Only then could he uphold his determination and word when he had agreed to assist.

"You can do that here too?" Alice had long stopped her songs since she knew very well that other areas would need her to purify them within these ruins. So, she was trying to gather her mana back to her faster for that time later.

"There should be a small herbal garden being made in the nearest village. I believe it is a testing ground for some of the herbs extinct near the forest elf territories. They will grow them here and bring them over when it is time, but they are using it as a place to test some more unique ideas for propagating certain smaller herbs used in medicines."

He didn't want to leave Alice and knew that Su was going to stay with her to help clear the monsters. Both of their teams were working well here. Especially the elite guards who had joined with the healers who had begun to also use purifying skills. Their teamwork was actually proving to be a valuable experience for them since they were not just whaling those injured. They were ensuring safety for those who would come well after them.

"I will come too!" Midnight knew that if she left Walker to run off he would end up somewhere else doing who knew what. Especially since he was about to use a lot of magic. However, she also had another thought in mind. "I am going to learn more magic too!"

She had seen the ways that Walker used magic, she had trained her own dragon magics to be able to combat her body and her battle prowess in different manners. Her dragon breaths alone were of multiple elemental manas and she could even mix them to a degree. Yet, she did not have the ability to do what Walker did and what even Su started to grasp.

Other dragons could make a territory around themselves. A domain of their mana and the elemental manas they used which would enhance their strength and also allow for them to damage opponents with their mana without needing to directly attack them. While her fame body skill or even the shadow wrapping might have effects that rocked on contact, Midnight wanted to see what Walker did differently than others.

If she could see what he did without having him hold her hand and show her every single detail, she could make her own form of the dragon domain skills she saw. If she did that, then she would be able to fight against Walker much better. Even if she knew he would always win their sparring matches, she wasn't going to just leave him to get immensely more powerful than her. That wasn't anything she wanted.

She was going to make sure Walker had to keep working for his strength. She was a dragon after all. Why would she roll over on her back?

"That's fine then. Watch me try and make a dome of protective and nourishing mana to help the herbs. Maybe you can learn to do it too and make Remey drop her jaw on the floor." He knew that if Midnight actually managed this then Remey would be asking her for a lot of help. Plenty of herbs needed specialized transport from mages and rune formations nowadays to maintain their quality. If Midnight could make a temporary space protecting them like the idea of the dark dome project, well, it made sense she would be invaluable.

"I will catch up with both of you later. We have to leave and return to Genesis to meet the leaders as they come." Walker couldn't forget that many kings and queens would soon arrive to see their people and meet with all representatives of the Genesis Alliance. It was a big deal.

