

Master 2741

Chapter 2741: Farm Or Garden?

While leaving the ruins, Walker saw that there were some interesting monsters being brought out. There were sand worms that he did not expect to be found here. However, with a little listening, he learned that they were a sub variant of the sand worm species.

These sand worms had been trapped in caverns due to earthquakes which led them to slowly develop a water affinity related to their environment. Those who survived tunneled toward the drier stone and began to live by breaking away the tougher stone and making that their nests to hide their eggs. Their eggs still needed to remain entirely dry no matter what.

The other monster that Walker saw was something called a gravel spider. A species of earth affinity spider that enjoyed making their hunting webs underneath gravel. This way when something stands on top of it, they fall in to the hole allowing them to ambush whatever prey had just been tripped up.

Having these monster parts for sale and materials would be great for the camp as they developed a longer term housing here. Especially since the ruins would now take years if not more to make their way to any form of functionality for the angel race. That wasn't a bad thing though, these monsters were also plenty of information for those living here and working here.

The more that was learned about the monsters in the area along with what they were doing where would mean better safety for everyone working here over the years. It was also a certainty that more adventurers would come here to work on quests including monster hunting quests. That alone meant that the knowledge would go a long way to protect the adventurers in the area. Let alone the adventurers who would be escorting craftsmen and others around the area as it began to develop.

The odds that this would be a temporary living area were gone in the group's minds. They all understood that they would be considering this as a major development leading toward a new village

and even a town or maybe even a full city in the future. Just because the ruins may one day return to the sky and float around the world did not mean that everyone would want to live on it. There were plenty of races and people of those races who preferred to live on the ground firmly and safely.

The nearby area for testing of herbs and the protection of an herb garden wasn't a town or anything even near a village. It was more like a farm protected by many guards.

This was not at all something unusual. It was something that was already present in a few places nearby the kingdoms that had helped found Genesis. They farmed unique or high quality goods, some being grapes that produced the finest wines. They were family run and had the best of the best guards and farmers in their specific field. While that was rare, the herbalists that came together here had followed the same principles.

This small herbal garden was the size of a large farm yet the herbalists when registering with the alchemy guild had called it small since they believed there would be larger farms that produced more herbs than them in a short time. To be fair, that was already beginning to happen.

What stood out though, was this herbal garden solely focused on nursery and breeding herbs that were considered extinct or endangered in other places not on the Sigil continent. This was due to a great many being from the same family of forest elves who had been able to see the return of herbs they had only ever read about. They had kept documents about these herbs for many years and finally were seeing the very thing they always wished to see.

All things aside, Walker found that the angels, elven archers, and even the demi-human guards with boar features were incredibly well trained. The moment he and Midnight were spotted flying nearby, several groups spread out in formations ready to intercept them. It was only when one of the archers with sharper eyesight saw that they were not monsters did they lower their guard slightly to speak with them upon landing.

"Your walls and pathways look like you had some very good builders and earth mages work on them. I assume that you have even more planned for those boulders you had moved in to the back corner of the property?" The way that Walker casually came up and started asking questions put everyone at ease right away. A few recognized him and Midnight while those who did not know him quickly grasped that he was a little more than the average person who could come asking questions.

"Sir hero! Those boulders will be for a small false waterfall that will make mists to grow the water trailing moss from the southern canyons. We were told that once they are completely prepared with the right rune formations and flowing water that we will see how rapidly the moss will be brought back to common rarity for the herbalists and the alchemists who need it to extend the life of antidote potions." The excitement from one of the guards clearly showed passion in what he was doing.

His boar traits as a demi-human were ideal for defensive reinforcements behind his shield. He would surely have a better ability to protect these herbs. Plus, his passion had to be due to some form of what he had experienced in life and the necessity for herbs that extended the life of other potions or brought them back to the world stronger than ever. Passion always had a source and this man was clearly using it well.

"Just call me Walker and my sister Midnight. We came to look in on the herbs being farmed here and talk about how we could try and made one of the smaller areas in to a dark dome that lasts longer than the temporary ones already being made. I might even experiment a little with other manas to make elemental domes that can house herbal gardens for a future project involving floating islands around a floating moving city." This sparked stars in the eyes of all the guards who heard it.

Some had been privy to the projects being worked on here and in the larger part of the herb garden. However, not everyone had been told outright what they would be witnessing. This sounded like a lot more than anything they had expected. Not in a bad way, but an exciting way. They could be the first to see history being made. It was one reason many were here right now.

"Let me escort you to the head herbalist working here. He said he was waiting for important guests but we thought they were the dark rune carvers who arrived just last week." The dark rune carvers who had

only affinity for dark mana were just one type of rune carvers who focused on specific elemental runes. While they could carve others, their focus on dark elemental runes and rune formations allowed them a higher class in creating formations that lasted longer while only using one mana, dark mana.

This allowed much more in versatility and focus for the dark mana in terms of areas that were made to decay and create fertilizer, or rune formations that allowed for the nocturnal races to better live where lots of light was present, and even in situations where some herbs and goods being transported needed to be in denser dark mana. Yet, the specific elemental rune carvers often focused on the advancement of their runes rather than researching all runes from ruins. It wasn't a bad thing since it helped places like the herbalists in their herb garden.

"I smell food!" Midnight had caught the scent of something sweet. To her it seemed like they had managed to find fruit. Which was not necessarily odd since the herb garden most likely had some fruit trees planted that had medicinal effects.

"That would be the decaying orange trees. They are a dark affinity fruit that rots while still on the tree leaving behind a sappy fruit that's exceptionally sweet. If you feed it to black mist bees they produce a honey that is easy for children to consume and also helps them grow stronger bones. Something about the dark mana helping break down harmful build ups inside the bones. I sent some to my child too." The guard seemed to have learned a great deal about the herb garden.

Looking around, Walker noticed that every guard of every race present here was nodding along. They were extremely well versed in what was going on here and the value of what they guarded. It was impressive and would surely lead to even better protection in the future.

Chapter 2742: Herbalist And Runesmith

Midnight also seemed pretty happy to see that every guard here was so involved. She was pointing at a few herbs she didn't recognize and getting answers better than most apprentice alchemists or herbalists right away.

"Some of us have gotten her herb guardian class. It's less like the city guardians who use shields all the time and more about protecting an herb garden. It also allows us to know how to pick some healing herbs or mana related herbs and use them to keep our strength up. Just us being around herbs in the garden makes us stronger too."

This was some good information. Walker had somewhat expected to know about a few unique classes different from what he knew. But for there to be classes related to just protecting an herb garden it set a very unique precedent.

If there were guardian classes for protecting different areas, then those classes would be tuned to those areas as a whole. While the herb guardian allowed them to become stronger, along with the health and strength of the herb garden while using some herbs to assist them, then what of someone who was a school guardian or a guild hall guardian?

If classes like those existed wouldn't they gain buffs associated with the strength of students or the guild they protected? It made sense in theory but would need to be checked in practice over time. Then again, there were very few chances to see if someone could gain a class like that.

Clearly, the guards here had committed themselves entirely to this herb garden and the goals it possessed. In basic terms, this meant that they would not focus on guarding anything else but this herb garden or another herb garden split off from this one. So, the guards of a guild who often left to handle tasks like escorting or side jobs nearby guarding the city or apprentices would not be as specified to just the guild. Therefore, they would not even have the chance to gain the same class.

This just made it more clear that as everyone and everything advanced more and more people would develop focused classes. They would have better talent and skills for specific aspects of what the entire alliance needed. Not just this, but they would be major powers in advancing the society being created as a whole. It was hard to grasp the true depths of what this would turn in to over time as more knowledge was gained about the very world and whatever was outside of it.

The musing of Walker's thoughts were broken when they stepped in to the walls properly and he saw the various greenhouses in rows. Some were focused on specific elemental manas while others had generic herbs growing too, not only nearly extinct or once thought to be extinct herbs were being grown here. Then again, the basic herbs would be income and could be used toward getting better equipment as the herb garden expanded to fill the very large space they had to work with.

"Hello, welcome to the recovery gardens. I knew you would be coming but I am impressed that you managed to gather so many of the guards. They seem very excited to see you here." The man that the guards brought them to was older than expected. He was also human, maybe even an old man older than the old master alchemist whom Remy was always worried about doing too much.

"We are happy for the warm welcome. I know that the dark dome project was already sent ahead of schedule and some testing to prove it was already done. However, the idea to make more of that project and expand even further should be less well known just yet." Walker didn't play with niceties. He could tell that this old man, despite his age, was sharp as a tack. Waiting to get started on something interesting and eventful.

"Hey! Don't get started without me. I have my team waiting for the project plans." an exasperated younger woman ran over, her blond hair was a mess but Walker didn't notice that. He had noticed that she wore a robe with several rune formations sewn in to it. All of them drew elemental manas toward her making her have a slightly denser amount of mana around her overall.

"I am the leader of the rune carving team working here for the next six months. This old man keeps going off without explaining the plans, so please keep me up to date with what we are working on." she glared at the older herbalist. Clearly, there was a bit of rivalry between them that caused their spirits to burst in to competition at any moment.

"We came to work with both of you. First though, I heard there is a temporary dark dome rune formation that can help us get a base for what we plan to do, care to show off?" Walker saw the young

rune carver smirk like she had won a larger battle than just being able to show off first. The older herbalist shook his head but motioned for a few of the other herbalists to gather herbs and bring them behind their group. It seemed that this would not end in just a few minutes.

Then again, some competition was a good thing. These two were clearly put together because they would push one another to a whole new level of competition than what they had been able to do before. If they kept succeeding, this garden could be an immense undertaking in both the current projects and future projects.

"I know that this garden is made for the sake of returning nearly extinct and maybe even extinct herbs back to the world. I hope that this focus is maintained even though we are using it for testing of new greenhouse methods that will allow for more developed and higher quality herbs. The herbs made with this new project might be perfectly attuned to become potions rather than used as basic medicines or for consumption. Some of the herbs you will eventually work with are from the elemental planes and will be grown for specific races coming here or already beginning to develop here."

Walker was thinking of the ink lizard race who were about to begin living and growing in the dark territory of Genesis. When they were hatched they would require herbs mixed with the manas of the world yet still focused on dark mana. That would be able to give them the best resistance training naturally for them to remain living in the world as well as the dark elemental planes.

"I want the greenhouses we make to be the best quality for whatever herbs we are making here and everywhere. I already formed a wind turn formation to help pollinate certain flowers, but I can do more if I can let my body understand all the manas like the nature healer told me." It seemed that the young woman had worked closely with one of the echidna race healers. If she did adapt herself to natural mana there would be a huge advantage to her rune formations. They would be better attuned for plants and nature as a whole.

"That's why she succeeded in helping that natural rune grow nearby. She had the herbs we grew to be the base for watching that natural earth rune form." The old herbalist didn't let her take all the credit. He also made it clear that they had success in growing herbs that allowed the formation of one of the

naturally forming runes used to help make a small magic tower. Something that would soon be an anchor for the main magic tower to be connected to and enhance the mana and availability of mana flow for everyone around.

"I believe that the cooperation between the both of you will lead to a great development in both fields. The goal to expand on the herbs for the health of everyone is already admirable. Utilizing rune formations to allow further research is paramount to that goal and goals we don't even have just yet." The diplomatic response was all Walker gave before he focused in on what Midnight was examining.

She had noticed the runes around an empty greenhouse. They looked damaged and unusable. "That would be the last attempt to make a dark dome that failed after seven hours. The mana draw is rarely enough to sustain the entire formation and quickly causes a degrading effect on the materials. The same happened with fire but we believe that was due to the heat."

"We can't grow herbs around the formation without the herbs growing and damaging the materials the formation is carved in either."

The two began explaining the facts of where they stood. Enough to get Midnight and Walker thinking about what they might be able to do to help.

Chapter 2743: Full Circuit

Knowing more details about where the experiments to make a longer term dark dome around just a small greenhouse was good.

Since the issues with planting herbs that would naturally draw in more manas from the surroundings was the fact that they would grow and damage the rune materials was useful. It meant that if any methods of herb ground around the greenhouse was used, it would eventually lead to constant maintenance. And since that was the case, the dark dome would fail whenever repairs were made or needed to be made. A higher chance of failure.

If the rune formations used could only be temporary because eventually the manas would become too dense and damage the materials they were carved on, then it also made sense why the materials were being stockpiled nearby. It was clear that even focusing more heavily on the formation itself might be the wrong path due to the fact that the more mana drawn in the faster the degradation would be.

There was also the issue of the form the mana took. For example, dark mana has many qualities. Saying that Dark mana was all about the fact that it was dark would be wrong. Saying it was all about decay and rot would also be wrong. Those were aspects of what made up dark mana but would not always be the core feature. Dark mana could heal but it would do so in different ways for those with different affinities.

However, dark mana was a mana with pressure and the more potent it got the harder to control or hold it. This was the case for every single mana. Just as fire mana could be warm and bring forth life in the coldest of places, it could also bring forth pain and burning. It was a balance of care and understanding that was needed.

Walker had considered trying to make a skill to create a proper dark dome. That would need a mage to maintain it at all times though. Something that was a counter to the goals being discussed right now. The rune formations worked but were temporary because no matter what the potency of dark mana always failed. This left Walker wondering if he could search for a mix of the two.

Somewhat seeing where Walker's thoughts might be going, the old herbalist spoke up. "We tried to have a few mages monitor the manas but they had to keep pulling manas away from the formation so that it wouldn't become too dense. That allowed more manas to seep in and cause the herbs to suffer. They weren't balanced."

The idea that drawing away manas to control the degradation of the materials used for the rune carving was good. It was what Walker would have tried. But if it was a failure because too many other manas

ambient in this area caused there to be a disruption for the herbs when it was something that needed to be focused on.

It all pointed toward having just an area where dark mana was used. However, that would be against the goal. The goal was to have these greenhouses in places where there was not a density of whatever mana made up the dome. Allowing for herbs that would not normally be there to grow and be used. If this succeeded, there would be a lot more opportunity for those who were far from certain herbs due to the environment. Especially when the floating islands could be created to make moving greenhouses, workshops, and even more.

For a moment Walker felt stumped. This issue wasn't simple and maybe it was partially because they were trying to control the mana in one area without any drawbacks. Yet, he had a feeling that it was possible to keep minimizing the costs. Especially for the fact that there were rune formations that lasted from ancient times for multiple races. Meaning that they had managed to cut the degradation of even the densest rune formation they used by utilizing certain formations and techniques.

"What if we look at it as part of a system? Not just making a dome of elemental mana but circulating some of that mana to be stored elsewhere. That way we can keep the mana density higher but instead of degrading the material, it works like a filling station. The mana filling mana gems or something?"

This seemed to intrigue the young runesmith. She was looking at Walker like he had given her a bounty of ideas to experiment. She had always tried to dissipate the manas by calling on mages or using different rune formations. Yet, those had failed because they weakened the original rune formation instead of allowing it to maintain the same output to isolate the space inside of it with just one singular mana over the other naturally occurring manas.

"We can make that happen. Should I try to have mana gems for dark affinity brought here?" She began to send off different attendants who had gathered. Each was in their own right a great rune carver who knew exactly what she would need to progress any further.

"So you won't need me for the time being then?" The old herbalist was looking at Walker and Midnight for assurance. He wanted to be sure he could wander off to work on what he found to be important. It wasn't his fault that he found the rune and rune formation to be something boring and unimportant if they weren't being used actively to help his herbs.

"Actually, why don't you bring seeds of dark elemental herbs we can test on. I want to use some skills to grow them rapidly in and outside of the dark dome we make. That way we can see if there is a greater or weaker effect." Now that caught the old herbalist's attention. He thought Walker would be here just to control mana and to make sure the project was moving ahead. Not necessarily to be entirely hands on with everything going on here.

"I can have the extra mana absorbed by my eternal codex. It has been storing natural mana for a while and we can use the natural mana to help enhance the growth of the nearby herbs to free up some space." Walker knew that as a bound weapon and tool overall for him, the eternal codex was still incredibly unique. Oftentimes, it stayed as a piece of armor on his body or he wielded it like a staff or sword. However, when it came to storing mana, it was considered an abyss with too much space to fill. Or at least that was the best way to put it.

He and Fleur actively filled it with natural mana to have it available at all times. But using some to help the herbs and the land itself be better for growing everything was not a loss to him. It had the space for the excess dark mana while they experimented too so this was just another benefit without needing to make a ton of mana gems or connect the rune formations right to something that could store a larger amount of mana in general.

"We might need to ask about those pillars in the floating cities sooner than later. They stored a lot of mana for the floating city and we might need a core like that for the greenhouses. But they will need to be tailored to different manas." Walker was speaking to himself but Midnight was sleeping a close eye on him. Walker had started to manipulate the natural mana inside the eternal codex.

She came to learn more about the way that Walker manipulated mana. Since they had a bond between them, she was able to better understand how he did so. As he did, she used that bond to feel his movement while she also witnessed them. It gave her more insight on the flow of mana and how delicate he needed to be when moving the natural mana and splitting it. Adding that to how she manipulated and mixed manas, then she should be able to use the same buffing skills that Walker did for mana.

Even better yet, she might be able to mix the dragon breaths better and make an attack that allowed her to be the strongest dragon using a natural dragon breath or some elemental clashing mana breath. Her mind was excited but Walker pretended he didn't notice it at all. He knew all too well how Midnight would get if he kept pushing her on this path. She would get way too dedicated and he would end up sparring with her rather than helping here at all.

"Start carving the rune formations and try to keep in mind that it needs to keep the same strength while the mana flows to and from the eternal codex. We are making a constant loop that can be drawn from without causing a loss."

Chapter 2744: Calm Mana For Runes

Watching the rune formation be carved was something very interesting. The young rune smith had changed robes before she began to work. It was an interesting choice since Walker thought that they were more focused on using every form of mana than to focus on just one rune. Yet, even the dark affinity rune carvers were only helping and not working on the main runes.

Although, when Walker began to feel the ways that the dark mana was moving, he was somewhat amazed. There was a calmness in the way that the dark mana was being attracted to the formations and each cut of the runes she made. The material aside, it was most likely the cuts that she decided to do first.

When Walker had studied some of the rune formations and even the individual runes, he had seen many different techniques. The ones that the wandering blacksmith used were always to enhance what he was making and allow for the skills or focus of the work he made to better function.

In rune formations that drew mana, it was more important that the form allowed for the mana to flow through the runes efficiently and calmly so that there was not a degradation or a larger explosive amount of mana brought in all at once. Destruction was never the key and the goal was often related to maintaining something instead.

Therefore, seeing that the dark mana around them would slowly move with every cut of the rune benign made, it made sense that the outer aspects of dark runes being carved before the central were the ones that interacted with the ambient dark mana. It was enlightening since the rune formation as a whole would have an established connection and draw on the dark mana before they were able to do anything with it.

This further meant that if there was an issues, that the rune could be adjusted to properly balance the mana being drawn in without a higher risk of failure later when the mana was flowing through at greater purity or density.

It was a great form of carving that came with a lot of experience. For someone that was so young, this young woman had managed to become more experienced and in touch with her craft than those three times her age. It all came down to talent and her own understanding on her own path.

Basically, she had put herself in to positions to learn better than what others had done for themselves. Her hard work had been the perfect place and time for her to better develop an understanding of the rune formations she was able to utilize.

"I understand that she had used the other robe to always have natural mana around her. But seeing that she is working to make the dark mana and the rune she is carving more closely bonded, I feel like it is why she wore those robes and changed them. She is trying to make sure that her own body and the methods she uses are closely bonded together at all times." Walker could understand why she did what she did now.

This was the same way that images would try and understand elemental manas and get closer to their affinities. They would spend a lot of time meditating so that they were able to grasp deeper aspects of the mana that they had the ability to manipulate or had an affinity with. Therefore, they would be able to control more of that mana or refine their control as a whole.

"She is stronger then?" Midnight was watching carefully and could sense the changes in the mana through her bond with Walker. She was clearly beginning to feel what Walker sensed in terms of how calm the dark mana was here compared to how it would move in shadows or in caves naturally. The mana was almost tamed so to speak.

'Yes, she is very strong. And we can feel that the dark mana in these rune formations is more applicable in terms of growing plants too. Here, hold some of these seeds." The old herbalist had just arrived and was holding seeds in a few vials. He saw Walker and Midnight talking and followed their actions to join them in holding a single seed.

"This is a seed for an herb called the poison sickle leaf, it grows oddly shaped leaves that let off a small oil that is very poisonous to touch. But the steps of the leaves have an antidote for itching and rashes that young children usually get, so it is very helpful to mothers and families." Walker explained a little, making the old herbalist impressed.

There were always many people who he had met in his lifetime who had said they knew a lot or could do a lot with herbs. Yet, they were often overconfident or they were merchants trying to get better deals from him. That was just the way things seemed to go normally, but here, Walker was explaining aspects of the herb seed he had just given without rattling off a basic appraisal of it. This, to him, meant that Walker recognized the curved shape of the seen and knew that it was a common dark affinity herb used to help the young in a family. A very good thing to hear and see from a hero title holder.

"If you can see the mana in the seed, it is dense and needs a little coaxing to even be viable. That's why this herb is a little harder to grow by some herbalists unless they had the affinity for dark mana necessary in the first place. But, the calmed dark mana because of her rune carving is allowing for the dark mana to encompass the seed rather than to just bounce off this harder shell or cause damage to the seed as a whole."

This was something that Midnight had heard somewhat. She had listened to Gil's mother explain how some seeds were always struggling to grow because they had an affinity for a specific mana, but they were too weak to properly absorb that mana and too much would actually harm them. She related this thinking to the ways that the pure manas within the elemental planes could actually cause people to become sick or dead if they absorbed it too quickly. Their bodies just couldn't keep up with the speed at which the mana moved in to their bodies.

"Now, you should notice that the seed is actually bringing in little bit by little bit of the manas. It's becoming a better start for it to grow and set a root down. Not every seed will work like this, but this helps those that had a lesser chance of growing in the first place already."

As the three watched, they all understood that the rune carving was about to reach an end. Walker also saw the smaller side formation where the mana would flow to be stored elsewhere and understood that the waiting dark mages would provide a denser dark mana with their skills to start the formation as a whole.

A few sighs later, the young woman stood up and stepped away. She didn't give a signal or speak, she was clearly tired and Walker understood why. She had used almost all of her mana on carving those rune formations. She had taken the brunt of the work because she knew she could provide a very high quality. Yet, she was younger and needed to grow more to have a bigger mana pool to make even larger rune formations. That would need time and more experience.

The dark mages acted quickly and Walker took a stance. He was focused on the flow of mana beginning to move toward the side area where he would have the eternal codex store it. While this began, he acted as the controller for how much mana was stored and what density it was stored in.

The eternal codex accrued in tandem with the runes as if it was meant to do so. This was a testament to the quality of work put in to it and the unique bond Walker had with it as well. Together, the mana was being gathered and instead of circulating back in to the rune formation all at once it was balanced and calm still. The flow was consistent making the dark mages activate the full formation.

The sudden wall of dark mana that rose up around the small greenhouse was dense, but it was not violent or scary in any way. It was peaceful like a starless night allowing dark mana to nourish what was inside without bleeding mana outward or degrading the formations as a whole.

"Now for the real test." Walker took a deep breath before beginning to manipulate the store mana.

Chapter 2745: Thanks, Bye

Walker began to pull at the dark mana. Not from the air around him, but only using the eternal codex to take dark mana from the formation. He could sense the gathering quantity within the formation and understood that the formation would always be pulling in more and more dark mana. However, the rate that it drew it in was consistent as long as nothing unusual happened.

There were times it might change based on the time of day, however, that would easily be adjusted. It was the mana that got circulated over and over without dissipating properly that caused extra stress. The mana that gathered in the materials that the rune formations were carved on and the mana that gathered and stopped filtering through properly.

The issue was that the mana eventually became too stagnant because there was nowhere else for it to go in the first place. The rune carvers couldn't make anything to have it go elsewhere because they would have caused all the mana to move in an unbalanced fashion. That would cause the entire formation to break and degrade faster.

This was all that Walker could sense. However, when he used the eternal codex to store small amounts of the mana instead of dissipating it, the mana was not being unbalanced in any way through the rune formation as a whole.

The dark mana wasn't actually that much being gathered within the eternal codex either, it was shockingly lower than what Walker had expected. Although, that meant he would be able to say that with better mana storage or connection to a form of mana storage, then it would last longer when connected to one rune formation like this. That would all change if there were multiple rune formations like this though.

The issue was that there would have to be a solid enough storage to ensure that it would not fill up and cause any damage to the formation or the greenhouse itself. Therefore, it would need staff to monitor it constantly and they would need the skills to both manipulate that mana and also change the mana gem or storage material itself.

"Let me see if I can increase the density of the dark dome..." Walker started to slow the mana being gathered and allow more to circulate through the rune formation. In return the dark dome expanded slightly beyond the rune formation causing a lot of dark mana to dissipate in a more chaotic way. It caused the light mana and wind mana around to be pushed away because its density was higher than theirs.

After pulling back, Walker tied the opposite and drew even more mana from the formation causing cracks to appear. "It looks like we can't expand it without having a rune formation to control it better. That means if we make this in to a skill it would cost potentially ten times as much mana from an individual to make a dark dome. Maintaining that would also be the same as when I just added then took mana away. It would be unbalanced unless the one using the skill was entirely calm at all times."

There was a deeper frown on Walker's face as he also understood that the stone that was used was a dark affinity granite, it should be able to handle the stress he just put on the formation but it had begun to show some degradation from both too much and not enough mana. "We will lose the materials if we have either too much or too little. It's not the amount of mana but the unbalanced and uncontrolled

mana. So we would have to tie a rune formation right in to the mix of the floating greenhouse as a whole. Meaning we would need two cores, one to control the moving and floating aspect and another for the dome around it."

"We can use a mana sensing formation to enhance the control someone will have over it. I have seen it used for smaller rune formations related to the movements of flames within a dwarven golem utilizing a burning flame to create fire magic effects or metal melting effects." This piqued Walker's interest since he had not considered a rune formation like that to be effective here.

"Then that rune formation could balance mana between multiple formations without needing to layer them in the same way that..." Walker relayed he hadn't seen any such rune formation in his exploration of any angel related building or ruin. Even the floating city he had been on didn't have a mana sensing formation.

The mana sensing formations had been invented to help mages gather specific manas and learn to do so better. It had only been used by the dwarven golems when they began to be made to help spirit race or elemental spirits reside within the dwarven golems. It enhanced their ability to sense the mana needed within the golem as a whole to move it safely.

When considering it here, this meant that if they had a few powerful enough spirit race members to work on it, the dark dome could be monitored while also allowing mana to be safely siphoned off. It also would allow for other floating islands to better connect and share mana. Therefore preventing degradation of materials and also allowing for the dome created to continuously offer the right amount of mana to nourish the herbs on the inside. It was perfect. All it needed was more cooperation from a member of the spirit race to work.

Even better, once a natural rune could be formed more easily, it might become like a connection to the small mage towers. Mana could be siphoned in that way allowing for the spirit race member only needing to be there to monitor and not even control.

The better side of having a member of the spirit race is also the fact that they already work closely with other races more in tune to mana like the echidna. If the elves join more closely as well in the terms of monitoring, the inner workings of the floating greenhouses could become the same as what the herbs need in nature as well as in the alchemy side of production. It would be a unique joint venture allowing for even more growth between races that might not interact in these ways.

When Walker halted the dark mana and the dark dome began to dissipate, he also noticed that it caused the rune formation to degrade slightly. Meaning that stopping and starting the dark domes would cause a larger issue for the materials used in production overall. "If I were to have someone make a formation to make a dark dome for a longer term, it would have to function without stopping for a longer period. We won't be able to turn it off and on like other rune formations."

This made it clear that longevity was a goal that the rune carvers would need to work on. "I want to make a formation for the last generations. The materials we used are for experimentation but we can look at getting a denser dark affinity stone."

"We will need denser and stronger materials of all mana affinities. I want to make fire domes, wind domes, water domes, and light domes as well. We are using these chances now to make herb gardens that can travel with us where they need to be more than just here."

"That sounds perfect! I can have metals forged to be within affinity with whatever runes we need. If you give me permission I can even bring over a small group to forge experimental metals for the formations. We could make a larger section by section carving surface like some of the rune formations around smaller villages or around buildings for security." Walker's eyes widened. He hadn't expected that the young runesmith would already have answers ready for this.

"The herbs are already affected by the way you tested right now. I can make this herb grow in three days instead of four. It will only be a sprout of seven inches or so, but it will be enough." The old herbalist spoke up making it clear that he understood the speed difference in growth and was

murmuring further about soil adjustments and nutrient potion requests. It seemed that the pair was going to stop any bickering between them and had plenty to improve.

"I will get to work, we will have a group bring a prototype to you in the next three days." Walker and Midnight were waved off and the other rune carvers and herbalists started to move around like they had too little time to do anything. Walker had expected he would be more involved but it appeared he had done what they needed him to do. Now it was just a matter of waiting for the experts to show off their skills.

Chapter 2746: Back To Busy Streets

"You two were sent away?" The laughter in Su's voice was a thing to behold. She was trying her best not to show it but failing entirely. To be fair, it was an exceptionally comical thing to be told. That two of the heroes had been sent away while someone needed to work and experiment. Normally Walker would have been pulled right in to the center of everything to keep working and developing whatever he had been brought in on. Moments like this were rare.

Although, Midnight didn't seem to care too much. She had been playing with mana for the entire time she was around Walker after they left. It appeared she had seen how he used his control of the eternal codex to easily take away mana from the rune formations with no issue afterwards.

She was trying to get the manas she absorbed to be calm and smooth like that, it was just a small struggle since she had to try and figure out how to do it with every single mana and they all had different nuances to make it possible.

As much as Walker wished to help her, Midnight had shaken her head to tell him she wanted to figure it out alone. Meaning that Walker was left feeling doubly lost as to what to do with himself. "They need to grow on their own without your intervention. They can learn and you can go there if they need you."

From the perspective that Alice had, it was the same with how she allowed the whalers to split up and go on their own trips to help villages, working camps, or other places within Genesis. They had to learn from real life experiences without a hand holding them from falling. If the healers did not, then they would find themselves lacking in times of need. It was tough to do, but Alice had learned this from her father so she would not fail to live the lesson she was taught.

"Then I guess we head back to Genesis and greet the leaders as they arrive?" Walker didn't see what else they would do since the groups Su and Alice brought had been doing a spectacular job assisting in the monster clearing of the ruins. The little work that the group had done to clear and find some unique items within the ruins and also mapped enough for the teams to begin sending in researchers to check on their theories.

Everything with the project was on hold until more of the information was sorted through and studied along with the elemental domes for greenhouses and even cities or towns as well. It was all waiting on more knowledge and experimentation. If Walker wanted to push any of that forward, he would have to be the center of it all, and that wasn't his job here. He had come to help and that was what he did. Now he would trust those who spent their lives learning it all.

Without holding off any longer, Alice and Su left orders for their groups. The elite guard trainees were to keep assisting until they were dismissed to return to Genesis by the captains in charge of them. This meant that they would most likely spend a few months here learning more and more each day. The same was for the healers, however, they were to remain until there was a well rested existing healer force here. Those who had been working were a little overworked due to the chaos of keeping camp, building, and clearing monsters. This break was enough to establish better formats for healing here in the long term.

"I will be excited to see how strong they are when they come back to me. Then we will be able to see what they can do on an expedition in to the wilderness." Su was already planning how she would be bringing her trained elite guards in to the wilderness. It was somewhat terrifying since Walker knew just how intense this training would be once the trainees were experiencing it. She wasn't going to let them be anything but great.

Getting back to a teleportian rune formation was as easy as breathing for them with Walker enhancing their movement through the sky. Alice hadn't frowned a bit when Walker picked her up to carry. It seemed that the slight spark of happiness in her eyes had been waiting for gestures like that. Plus, he spent a decent amount of their time flying talking about their teamwork with her singing and using his light orbs to assist in purifying the ruins.

Walker greatly enjoyed that he knew their magic skills could overlap and complement one another like that. He wanted to work even more to see if she could make an illusory light field around him and he could use that mana to use stronger light oriented skills. Or even better, if he acted out the emotions and desires behind her songs if he would be buffed even more than normally. It was something he hoped they could practice and something Alice looked forward to since he was clearly using it as an excuse to spend more time alone. Something that hadn't happened because they were so busy lately.

This would all wait for a bit though, as the group appeared, they found that Genesis was buzzing. Not simply busy, but crowded and busier than what they left it as.

"I would say that we already have our guests here." While Su hummed, pointing out a few known nibbles from the human kingdom and high ranked soldiers from the demi-human kingdom, Walker and the others noticed that there was a great group of dwarven craftsmen standing in lines outside of the crafting guild. They were waiting to see the newer experimentation furnaces and techniques being done there.

This wasn't to miss the smaller groups of older elves being escorted by younger elves who had spent more time within Genesis. It was all too clear that many had arrived for the conference, even if their leaders were not yet present. Two things were sure though, Walker sensed the demi-human king Rorick and the forest elf Queen's vines keeping her anchored to the city for the time being and her safety. Two leaders had come here safely and it was a certainty that more would arrive sooner than later.

"Lord Walker, ladies Su, Alice, and Midnight. I have been waiting here with a letter for you." it wasn't a letter but a stack of papers handed right to Walker before the attendant rushed off. It seemed that they

had been waiting there so that they could throw Walker and the others right in to the center of the chaos.

"Well, this scratchy note is from Gil, I know that." Walker laughed as he read it, then he used wind magic to make the papers they had float around him. He could easily memorize them all and read them as needed. Then again, this also sorted out the actual important documents related to temporary housing, slightly marked up inn prices, and even the fact that new food vendors were allowed to place their stalls on temporary festival streets during the visits of their leaders.

All things that would help them, since they would not be able to assist anyone that was lost or in need of basic assistance on how to do things in the city. Besides this, Walker also saw the reports about the issue with the trees connecting roots for the forest elf queen. But when he noticed that Remy and Gil had worked together to fix the problem before it was actually an issue, he didn't even have to say anything out loud. He was just silently proud that they worked without any arguing or fighting.

Then again, Walker was sure that the two would be bragging just a bit since they each did quite a bit in this event.

"I want to have a sparring match with some of the royal guards that came with King Rorick. I have a feeling that they might be able to help you see any issues in my style if I don't use my full force or magical abilities."

"I think that's a good idea, you have been sharing your offensive shield style with many people and altering it a lot. If you find any basic issues you can make it even higher class. You might even help some people awaken classes related to it." Since Walker knew that Midnight would tag along with Su, he quickly started them walking toward the Genesis building. His mind also focused on the grand mapping hall where he could see the progress made so far.

Odds were it would be a small bit of progress since it took time to get in depth mapping done, but even that alone would be amazing to see.

Chapter 2747: Gil Knows His Stuff

"Gil!" When Walker spotted Gil ahead of them, he didn't waste time shouting to bring him over. He was sure that Gil was caught up in this or that, but it didn't matter so much right this second.

"You missed a whole bunch while you were off helping with the ruins. I did hear you managed to find a few interesting things though. A lot of the rune carvers, rune smiths, and rune researchers left to head to the ruins." It was always amazing how quickly information could travel now.

That was the deal with everything though. The faster information could be shared the faster work could be done. The information guild was always phishing to make sure that everything communication improved. The harpies, batmen, and even the spirit race had worked very closely sharing their methods to keep that improvement going. Just using communication crystals were not always the fastest method now.

"That sounds about right. Then again, you and Remeye were plenty busy here too from what we read when we got here. You even had attendants waiting for us." Walker gave a slight smirk to Gil who just shrugged and offered a small nod to make sure that Walker knew he was glad they had caught up.

"The forest elf queen and her attendants, and some of the older elves met me halfway in to the road to their territory. They even saw we were handling the problems with the trees and potential issues with the farms. Scylla already has the farmers up to date and they are preparing to handle every issue associated with this. We just have a few weeks of slower growth in the farm raised monsters." This was expected and Walker knew exactly how to answer the questions.

"Safety is the priority for the food. We can worry about side effects of the slow down later." Su was already beating Walker to a response since she had swapped her armor in to her armor for meetings.

She knew that things would have gone that dietitian and even seemed to have become more prepared than Walker. It was actually sort of funny for him realizing he was the slow one here right now.

"Then we should go meet them?" Accepting the situation, Walker noticed that Alice was sticking close and Midnight was also fidgeting impatiently. The two were ready and he was the one keeping them back. "We also need to meet King Rorick, right? Or is he busy?"

"Oh, he had been staying in the coliseum fighting some of the younger elite guard captains on their time off. It seems like he is more entertained with that than seeing how the farms are being tested for efficiency or the experiments in rotational crops right now. Then again, he brought several guards with him who have also been analyzing the structure of guard training. A few of them have even been beaten in sparring matches with the guards that Su trained, so we will see how that goes."

There was a brilliant smile on Su's face hearing that. She knew how much the demi-human race put in to training and battling. It was a massive aspect of their culture. Just as someone may dream of being a mage or learning to forge the best weapons, for the demi-humans, they cared for the fact that they would be able to fight like their fathers and brothers. They wished to pursue strength in battle to show off their prowess and ability.

Scylla had risen to the position of general because she had been powerful and accepted. She did not shy away from showing the people who she was and what she could do and she lived it.

"We should also make note that we might need to deal with another aspect of king Roick's guard, he had a new general."

This caught Walker and Su off guard. Midnight raised her head in interest though. She knew that a new general for the demi-human people would be someone she might get to meet and spar with. If that

were the case, then she would be the first to show off her new skills and also see if she could bring out the true strength of a general from the demi-human people.

"She has serpent characteristics, almost like a lamia, but apparently she has the traits of an extinct monster called venom king cobra, it lived on the edges of jungles and is in quite a few ruins as art or carvings. I assume that she will want to learn more since the archives have some records of the monsters she had traits of."

Now this gave Walker a lot to think about. The increase in mana across the world was a way for them to see how the world should have been. However, the changes that happened were not just in the size of the world or the ruins lost to them over time. It was on a person to person basis too.

New classes awakened, even the fact that the classes existed instead of isolated systems unique to everyone was a massive change that only the younger generation would be able to take proper control of. Otherwise, these person to person changes were often very prominent in races like the demi-humans who had traits of monsters or otherwise.

The traits in their bloodlines were not being seen more clearly because they had needed the more potent and dense manas to allow them to demonstrate their full potential. This meant that their classes and their characteristics worked hand in hand. They could grow more fluidly compared to what they were capable of before now and were becoming clear signals for everyone else to focus on themselves in a way of understanding and interest.

"I assume that they will want to spend some time looking through more than just the research on ruins. There are books about ancient monsters based on myths and stories. If we can gather those we can make a better impression by sharing them. I assume Scylla has yet to meet this new general?" The shake of Gil's head proved Walker's assumption correct. Scylla had most likely been too busy dealing with the farm issues due to their recent pests.

Then again, that was Scylla's priority. She could ignore her king because she had every right and duty to the people first. That was how she was and she lived and breathed that. There was no way she would turn away and bend the knee to a king that did not understand what she needed to do over all other things.

"The forest elves also brought quite a few new merchants ready to begin exploring new trade routes. I tried to explain that we have mapped routes with the merchant guilds but they have some older beliefs so we will need to put our foot down with that." Gil gave a warning while they neared the Genesis building.

They had a separate hall built for meeting like this. It would allow for attendants and nobles from certain kingdoms to sit behind their leaders while larger conversations were had. It was a way to welcome everyone in properly.

"The date for the main meeting is already set, but the human kingdom and the dwarven kingdom will arrive within the next day or so. I think we should head to meet the king of the humans, it's been a while, and we sort of lived there too..."

To say this was an odd statement would be all too true. Walker and the others had the city of Diamond as their home. They came from there and even became adventurers meeting there for the first time. Yet, they had changed so much and gone off so many different ways since then.

The nostalgia was greater than what they had realized since they had always tried to keep moving forward. But looking back at where they came from was always a good thing now and then. It also would be due to show some respect for where they came from by greeting the human king themselves. Markus Raven would surely like that since he was the human representative on the Genesis council. He too had come a long way since the founding of Genesis and his work with the finances had brought out the best in over thirty members of different races who now managed entire teams for financial honors.

"Is this who we have been waiting on? Why would we need to wait so long!" The arrogance in the words were only from someone who saw themselves as too high up to be kept waiting. Walker, Su, Alice, and Midnight all took deep breaths. They knew they would still have some pushback from the older elves. These were some who had never left their homes and didn't even show presence when the forest elf queen held her meetings. They were the stubborn few who believed in the older ways or no way at all.

Chapter 2748: Dumbstruck

"Yes this is who you have been waiting on. These are the rest of the hero party that helped your kingdom and also act as some of the core founding members of this city and this alliance. You are welcome." Remey's frustration was shining through clear as day. She had been here tolerating some of these older elves for the past hour while Gil headed to meet the others. Yet, it was clear that onyx was nowhere to be found making it feel like there was still time to wait.

"Remey, looks like you have been holding down the fort well. I heard about the hard work you did making potions and how you supervised water mages using them to cover the fields. Glad the pest was dealt with before it became a problem. A food shortage would have been the worst thing for development right now."

The cheerful attitude that Walker showed Remey was very clear. It was saying that he held here as one of the most important people in the room. Next, he looked over toward the forest elf queen who was silently observing. Her hand held an herbal tea that he knew Remey had made as well which proved she was just watching to see what these older elves would do.

"I am glad that you made it here safely as well. The elves from your kingdom have been a brilliant help through Genesis. So many of them have managed to grow or change what is known about the elven people by the other races. It's gone a long way to helping every single race bond together here."

"Please do not be modest, there is something here that no other city or kingdom has. It attracts those with the desire to grow and prosper without being chained to negative emotions or old ideals. It is very impressive and part of what united my people as well." The forest elf queen seemed to be speaking very formally, it appeared she was upholding a lot more due to the older elves here.

In some ways, it made a lot of sense why she would be more guarded. The forest elf queen could speak and understand the spirits of those who had passed away and given themselves to the forest. That was what every elder elf seemed to do. Meaning that even though the current elder elves who had passed were mostly understanding of the situation and changing times, there were those within the roots she communed with who would never hold Genesis or other races in high esteem. The same for the older elves here right now. Many of whom were glaring at Walker and the others.

Actually, Gil was getting the most hatred. Maybe to them it was like Gil had tried to steal away their culture and call it his own. He has been able to work hard enough towards understanding the elves and their ways to even recreate a lost technique that the high elves used. In that pursuit he has been able to unlock a legacy and gain a drop of high elven blood allowing the change of his very race. He was not born an elf but he lived higher than the elves of today and helped others reach that height.

"The people of Genesis work very hard. I have seen people who have nothing find paths to become so important to the growth of everyone living here that I can't imagine life without them." As Gil chimed in, he motioned for a small group of elves, mostly young, but elves waiting for him.

Each was equipped with different rolls, battle gear, and even one dressed very lightly. They all appeared to have different purposes but seemed to be extremely confident. They held gazes with the elders in front of them and most even dared look the forest elf queen in the eye. A very new experience to be seen from younger elves like this.

"Hello your ,majesty, esteemed elders. I have been studying here in Genesis and begun the unique class called forest rune carving. I can utilize special runes and rune formations to assist in the development of plants, monster, and mana growth within a forest. It can allow me to shape the trees better and ensure their health and safety for longer terms. Some can even be used to create temporary weapons to defend the forest or temporary barriers as well."

"Your majesty and esteemed elders. I have gained a class called dungeon scout. I began working with those scouting the new territories unknown after the world expansion. I have discovered several small dungeons and have gained a class specific for researching them and ensuring the safety of those exploring them in the future. I can even differentiate the dungeons that are more or less dangerous with basic scouting skills related to them."

"Your majesty and esteemed elders. I have gained a new archery class called the dragon guard archer. I work closely with the royal wind dragon Ventus and she guided me to utilize my wind affinity in my archery. She allowed me to spend time with her children granting me the path of a new class. My archery utilizes wind in a draconic way. Brutal and precise. I can be called one of the best guards for any dragon or dragonkin when it comes to protecting their young."

The three who had spoken out first had made sure that their confidence and pride were on full display. They hadn't simply carved new paths for the first elves, they had done so for the entire elf race.

"You chose to serve a dragon and their children instead of being loyal to your people?" One of the older elves was furious. His face contorted in to a disgusted scowl.

"Do not belittle those I care for! I am a pride for our race. I am the closest elf to the wind dragons and one of the most trusted individuals within Genesis with the ability to interact and guide young wind dragons. If you insult them or our people I will be forced to act as I see fit." The response left the elder dumbstruck.

All the while the forest elf queen was beginning to show a grin on her face. This pure pride and respect for another race along with their own was new. It was a spark of something she had felt was missing. Something that she felt her roots were interested in because it spelled out a unique future with more driven young ones than what they had right now for the elf race, let alone just the forest elves.

"Don't worry, I am sure the elder did not believe you to be less or the races you brought together to be less. They have not left home and seen the changes in the world and Genesis just yet. You too believed that no one would rival you in archery before you came to Genesis. But if I recall you were beaten in an archery tournament by the harpy sky archer, right?"

"I will not let her beat me again." The statement made Gil laugh, lightening the mood around them.

"I see that there is much for me to witness. If I am cooped up here waiting for some meeting I will be blind to the benefits my people have been part of creating. I will walk the streets. If the elders wish to see the future, they may join me. Gil, can you please ask Alma to join me? I wish to hear more about her bonds with the spirit trees and if she needs any assistance." The forest elf queen ended any chance the elders had to respond. They looked like children sent to punishment, not the old beings with many years over any other.

"I can, I hope you won't mind me tagging along while Walker and the others go to meet King Rorick. He is spending time in the coliseum enjoying the changes of guards and soldiers. I think he is even more excited than you are." Gil was acting a little too polite but the forest elf queen was showing so much more emotion that Gil was fairly acting like this. He wanted to show off Genesis even more than before.

"It was nice seeing you. I hope you can explore to your heart's content." Su gave a slight bow of respect and Midnight gave a small wave. Alice and Walker also gave nods of approval as the forest elf queen began moving with roots from underground helping her walk. She was not looking weak, on the contrary, she seemed more vibrant than the last time Walker had seen her.

All of the mana and growth in the area has done an immense job of helping her health and ensuring that the connection to the spirits of her ancestors was clear. It was natural that she would be able to exert herself even more while here in Genesis.

Chapter 2749: Demi-human Battles to come

"I think she was just waiting to show those elders that the forest elves who came here had grown beyond the forest." Making this statement, Su started to walk out of the Genesis building with the colosseum in mind. She wanted to spar a little but also wanted to see how the guards she had helped train were doing against the royal guards of the demi-human king. They should be some of the best trained demi-human soldiers around, meaning that if her guards were already beating them or making it a challenge, well, it was all fun.

"I am pretty sure Su is right about that." Walker laughed a bit. A few of the elder forest elves had remained, however, their attendants were meeting with forest elves who had already been within genesis for some time. Family members and also those who had worked with them in alchemy or herbalism from what Walker could gather.

Having connections and maintaining them even though they had been separated by such a great distance and change in living was impressive. It showed the value that some of the elder forest elves shield over that of those stubborn ones who argued against the queen or the ways of the younger forest elves.

What caught Walker's eye the most were the small handful of forest elves introducing the elders they were related to to other elves. The snow elves, fire elves, and water elves. These other elves had taken residence within Genesis territory but appeared to have residual knowledge or connections with the forest elf elders. It might have been something they had done to attempt to reconnect with their fellow elves at some point but failed to manage in the terms of their entire people.

"Hm, I guess this also showed the forest elf queen who would be supporting her and the youngest generation the most. She might be preparing for changes in the forest elf territory as a whole." This thought was what Walker left out loud while he pulled Alice along. She didn't appear to have any intention of heading off to the cathedral. In fact, it appeared she was watching and absorbing everything she saw and heard.

Normally Alice would speak a bit more or be doing something. It was curious to Walker since he expected her to have a little more action. But he wasn't going to argue if she wanted to stay with him.

However, he did sense the slightest bit of movement in light mana around her. She was humming at the quietest and smallest amount he had heard her hum. If he didn't have sharper senses because of his skills and race he would have missed it.

"Are you trying to train something like the silent song skill?" He had heard of the song as one of the theoretical songs some bards or other music related classes could use. They would be able to use their skills in an extremely limited manner but they would not have to sing out loud or play their instrument out loud. The sound would be dampened and inaudible to the majority of those who could hear.

Some claimed it was because monsters and other races could hear different sounds naturally so the one making the sound to activate a skill could alter the way that they used their skills and hide it from certain races or monsters in certain situations. The control for this was immense but came with intense and consistent practice utilizing their skills. It was something that was known.

However, it was the entirely silent aspect that was being chased and considered impossible. How could sound be made but not be made at all?

Besides just sitting here and learning or listening, Alice had been trying to buff herself and Walker who she was holding on the arm. Not just because she wanted to be closer, but because it was the best way to attempt to test her skill in this silent song approach. If she could buff him because she was close to him while using this style, then she would be able to buff many more people secretly without alerting anything dangerous that might react to her. It was an attempt to become stronger without being seen.

"You are pretty smart." He gave her a nudge but returned his focus toward the coliseum.

Midnight seemed glad that they were following Su now since it was clear she would have dragged them out toward the coliseum of walker and Alice hadn't started to move. Walker had left thoughts of the elves and Gil's work behind since that was the simplest way to refocus his busy mind. All the people here causing an uproar or cheering was just how the coliseum should be.

Bets were clearly being placed on smaller fights but some of them were not going the way patrons wished. It was just the life of those who chase easy riches in placing bets. While there were gambler related classes. Most of those gamblers were on one side or the other. Raking in the gold coins, or losing everything. There were those who worked the middle and ran the show, but those were all hired and contracted by Genesis to ensure that nothing untoward happened. They couldn't abuse their position whatsoever.

The roar of the crowd only grew once they walked inside the coliseum and saw that there were ten fights going on at one. The largest central arena in the coliseum was where King Rorick was sitting and waiting for another opponent. It appeared he was both watching everyone and also challenging those that sparked his interest. A small group of younger adventurers, guards, soldiers, and even what appeared to be new class holders all were sitting exhausted near his arena. He had tested them a bit to say the least.

Just as Walker set foot on the dirt ground of the coliseum, King Rorick turned and stared at him. In the past, he had challenged Walker to see his sword style and even begin to learn and develop some fighting styles. To be honest, Walker was sort of worried about this. He was admitting to himself that he would do fine if he had to fight him in a sparring match. The only issue was that King Rorick was all about style and strength within that style. No magic or special weapons needed. Just dedication and training.

Meaning that Walker who was somewhat holding back on training his battle styles using weapons to a more refined form would fall behind. Yes the magic focus in Walker's skills was massive now. But that matched the fact that he needed that to be able to help Genesis and everyone where they needed him. Without it he would also fare in multiple areas to support the exploration of the elemental planes as they were now.

Su was still in the lead but Walker took the chance to separate his arm from Alice's and noticed that Midnight was grinning while waiting to see what would happen. She was much more entertained knowing that she would get to watch Walker fight this time. She had been watching him closely to understand his usage of mana better to help herself improve. Now she could watch him using weapons and fight with just his physical strength. That too would give her new insight, but also just be fun.

"I see you have come to enjoy the progress as well?" King Rorick was not one for greetings. His lion traits were very clear as his blond mane like hair was even denser than the last time Walker had seen him. However, he also noticed that this king was more muscular along with being more sensitive. The clang of swords or shift of someone near him drew his attention for the slightest flicker of a breath. It was enough to know that the training this kind had done did not end but only became even more ridiculous.

"I came to greet you but I know that Su wanted to see how some of the elite guards she trained are faring. Right now her youngest group of elites are working in ruins to learn teamwork and escorting from experienced guards and adventurers." This was something that seemed to disappoint the king but that was just the facts of life. Training couldn't happen all in one place after all.

"I have been very impressed so far. Some of my guards and soldiers need some additional training. I may send them to you for that." He nodded to Su, his toothy grin showed off the sharper lion teeth matching the white of the moon. "And I would also like to see how you have grown. You seemed to be a little too focused on magic from what I hear. I want to make sure you are not like the mages who could be beaten with a single punch."

Chapter 2750: Carried Away

It was inevitable. Walker knew exactly how he would end up once he had gotten here. But this was a good thing. Sparring with King Rorick was a chance for him to forget some of the focus on mana and maybe enhance the weaker side of his skill sets. Especially since the focus of this demi-human king was in battle.

The amount of time that king Rorick spent training against different weapons was enough to be called a master at understanding battle. Specifically one on one battle.

If he were to watch someone use an ax, he would see the flaws in the technique and how to adjust them. The same for any weapon. However, it was more interesting seeing as king Rorick primarily used swords. This overall meant that his skills were higher focused on one thing while learning enough to teach another. Something astounding since he hadn't changed classes to some form of battlemaster class.

Any guard, soldier, or even general training with him always gained new insights or a larger leap in growth than if they trained alone. The demi-human culture was based on their farms and battle. They didn't go to war constantly but they spent so much time keeping their territory and people safe that they could easily be called some of the strongest people of this age.

"I have spent a lot of time on my magic. It has allowed me the ability to understand space, see glimpses of time mana, learning about both life and death, and most importantly begin helping in the expansion of our understanding. We now venture in to the elemental planes making bonds with new races never to set foot in the world. Some are even venturing to visit us again or for the first time." Walker was smiling, he knew very much so that if he used magic he could win the match easily, but it was not about winning.

It was about learning.

"I have seen your reports. I have been told of the adventures your people go on. I have to say that every single thing I read I am more impressed with. I have to see it myself, this constantly changing city now that it has expanded to such lengths." King Rorick drew out a silver and gold sword, clearly not for battle but for display while he trained. Its edges were even dulled so that it would not cause a lot of damage.

"It's good to what you are up to date. That means I can focus on my weapon training. Having the time to do this is well worth it. My bound partner, this eternal codex, has been waiting to be tested in switching

weapon forms since we upgraded it. Let me show off a little, alright?" Feeling the energy in the air, Walker didn't want to hold back.

There were people here that came to watch the training matches here. They had come to challenge themselves. They had come to learn. However, now that Walker and king Rorick took to the central arena, all other matches had stopped, the attention was all on them.

Who else could show them a level of battle above what they were capable of? Those who had just set foot on a path to be a warrior, or other class related to close combat were able to witness something much more advanced giving them insight on a variety of battle techniques.

Pressure erupted around the small arena. King Rorick had a variety of skills but one adding pressure on his opponent because of his standing as king and his lion traits was enough to show that just being around him would debuff many opponents. It also would be a skill that expanded to increase the morale of troops beside him in battle. Last time Walker had sparred with him, this was not something he had experienced.

In a large leap, Walker shot forward, the eternal codex taking the form of a spear. His rapid jabs made Rorick move side to side to dodge. Walker was holding back his speed trying to make better use of the rapid pierce skill he had. It was one that he gained while training with the spear and found that it was a good way to set the pace of a battle.

Yet, when Rorick struck out with his sword, it deflected the spear upward and opened Walker to a slashing attack. Unfortunately for Rorick, Walker had already begun to change the form of the eternal codex, it shifted in to a shield blocking the attack and causing Rorick to step back slightly as his stance had been shaken.

The change of the shield form in to a spiked shield was enough to give Rorick the chance to dodge the shield charge coming at him. This was a move that Walker had seen Su use enough times for it to be second nature when wielding a shield.. But when Rorick noticed a short sword slashing at him too, he realized that Walker could have the eternal codex make multiple weapons at one time, they were connected by flowing mana, but seemed to hold different manas within that Walker was not making use of.

As Rorick lowered his sword in to his own piercing attack, Walker caused the eternal codex to swap to a broad head axe. His shift in stance and large spew forced the piercing attack back and also knocked Rorick away. The weight and strength Walker was showing off allowed for there to be an extremely clear example of how much Walker had grown physically. The downside was that Walker clearly had less practice in using a broad head axe and adjusted himself by making it in to a full halberd to use an upward swipe with a spiked back of the weapon.

The shifting nature of the eternal codex as the two danced around the arena was making Rorick grin with brutal desire. He loved that the weapons were changing and forcing him to think about different reactions and actions. His counters needed to be precise while his mind needed to work constantly to adapt. This form of training was his ideal that he could never really achieve when fighting multiple people due to their lower levels compared to himself.

The next shift Walker took was to chained sickles, something that Rorick did not expect since it was a mid ranged weapon. But range was what Walker wanted. He could swing them attacking enough to keep Rorick held back and dodging more and more. The few times that Rorick managed to get under his guard, Walker would swap to gauntlets and parry the sword strikes in the same ways he had seen Remey do it. In this respect, he was making distance and defending constantly. It was enlightening since Walker rarely used this quick swapping battle style. He focused on Magic because that's what he needed and what the party needed when they were together.

When Rorick began incorporating fist strikes and kicks, Walker began to be forced backwards though. He would not be able to do too much more without utilizing his full speed and strength. Then again, the idea that he was still not using the sword style he had fought Rorick with before came clearly to mind.

Sparks began to flicker around Walker as he had the eternal codex take the form of dual swords. The lightning sword style he had gained through training and focus resonated with the manas within the eternal codex. Some dark mana seemed to seep out since quite a bit was left within it due to the recent testing of the dark dome rune formations.

Not noticing this, Walker started to attack at a much more rapid pace. His mind gave in to the entire focus of battle just as Rorick seemed to increase his own abilities. He had stopped just sparring and was using his own self buffing skills, the lion traits on his body becoming more clear. Ears twitching to follow every step Walker took, eyes tracking him, and even the mane like hair reacting when the air changed due to Walker's rapid movements.

The lighting sparking off of the eternal codex became a deep black causing the training sword to be kicked back with intense recoil. Yet, Rorick seemed to love that even more. He wanted to be pushed back. He wanted to feel this pressure!

The sudden clang of twin shields stopped the pair jolting them from their sparring match. To them this had just been a few moments of sparring. However, they had been fighting back and forth for the last twenty minutes in an intricate dance.

"The two of you are breaking this arena and started to scare off a few patrons of the coliseum. It's time to relax again and maybe remember that you should be focusing on technique and not using your strength too much." Su had stopped them in their tracks before they had fully let loose.