

Master 2781

Chapter 2781 Sharper Senses, Better Sight

"Why is this room closed?" The confusion came from Gil as he had tried to catch back up to Walker. He knew that Walker was busy preparing for the expedition and wanted to review all the condensed information from other books found about the continent.

He even had managed to track down a book from an ancient elf ruin that explained stories of other continents and the giant monsters that could eat entire mountains there. Yet, now he found that two archivists were doing their work right outside the door of the room Walker worked in for the time being. They also were turning away everyone and sending them on side tasks for the day.

"We discovered that there is a meditation happening inside beyond our capabilities. We did not wish to interrupt and followed protocol established to make sure that everyone during an enlightenment or focused meditation is safe and undisturbed."

These sorts of rules had been set up after Walker had done similar things in the past. However, others had random experiences that led to enlightenment or focus on breaking through in understanding for certain skills or affinities. So to ensure safety and success, people often allowed them the space to make that breakthrough.

"This is so much like him. I bet he was reading something about the potential magic methods and nature or something and started to work on a skill. I will head in and wait until he is done." Gil gave them an approving nod.

This change to the rules had given many people space as they had fallen deeply in to their skills and training. Several warriors had become able to use certain skills that would often be seen as impossible, yet they had been in an enlightened state breaking through their walls to learn something they believed possible.

The same had happened for many mages who had seen something different from their perspective of a certain magic skill or their interpretation of a mana as a whole. It led them to understand new ways to use this skill or mana causing them to be in meditation or experimentation for hours.

Yet, Walker had gone for days before in states like this, meaning that Gil just had to hope he was catching on at the right time. But even if Walker did take a few days, he too could take the chance to meditate.

While he wouldn't say it to anyone else, he had begun to understand that meditation wasn't just for a mage. He could use it to check in on his own body. Be more informed about changes that occurred in his growth. To understand the mana flowing through him and the bonds he held. This was how he had refined his eyesight once again to be able to predict movements of targets he was aiming at better. He had not understood the ways he could track a target by focusing on the smaller movements they made while he could see them with his more refined vision skills.

As he settled down, Walker was beginning to draw in a lot more mana toward him and condense it.

While the multidimensional storage space needed a lot of mana to make a normal storage space, Walker had already made one for specific manas. He had the entire elemental array made. He just lacked the unique manas but that was fine since he knew very well that they were parts of the very foundation to make all of the storage space.

However, when he was pulling at life and death mana and using natural mana as the base of the new multi dimensional storage space he was creating, he was still hyper focused on the mana around him due to his sharper senses.

He had sensed the ambient mana that Gil absorbed and released just by being near him and had a fleeting thought that he was able to have someone near him despite not speaking. Sometimes that silent bond and just benign around those he called family was enough to increase his mood, but that was the same for everyone.

As he focused on the space mana being the foundation for the skill and how he was trying to pull natural mana instead of a specific mana, Walker felt the flicker of light blue that had been like a ghost in the side of his vision all this time. He knew very well what it was but didn't try to latch on to it.

If he did so, he knew that the time mana would be gone from his senses before he could even begin to understand a thing about it. Yet, his sharper mana senses allowed for him to grasp a bit more than before.

The thoughts that struck him weren't basic either. It was actually going against what he had believed time mana to be in the very basics of itself.

Instead of expecting time mana to accelerate or reverse time, Walker found that those sorts of abilities might be completely foolish. He gut told him that those desired effects were small and improbable. Reversing someone's time or something's time? It would be temporary at best since it broke the flow of what time mana should be.

It felt wrong to the point that the world or existence itself might counter him naturally because he tried to do it. Because that would be going against the flow of all things. It was similar to trying to force space mana to bend and break because that would cause damage to everything around it too which was also against the flow of nature and existence.

When he contemplated the enhancement or acceleration of time, Walker felt a dreadful downside in his very bones. Like the repercussions would leave scars that couldn't be healed or undone. Like speeding

up time around a plant would just lead to it wilting and dying just like a farmer that forced his crops to grow, stealing too many nutrients from the soil and leaving it barren.

Both reversing or speeding time just felt wrong beyond a doubt.

Time obviously moved. That thought rang out clear. It was just the flow of time mana moving along all the other manas.

Space gave other manas a foundation to grow on.

Time gave manas the means to flow.

They worked together to become the overall framework for life mana and death mana to encourage the cycle needed in the world to become balanced. The slight imbalances were a greater balance to all things. That was how natural mana formed and broke while chaotic manas tried to push in to the world as it was just the way of all things.

But time mana was a view of potential. It was a whisper of what could be.

"Time mana isn't about manipulating time at all. It's about seeing what could be and offering what you can to help that potential blossom..."

His whisper was more like a scream. Not in voice but through the mana he was currently allowing to flow toward him.

Gil felt the sudden shock. It caused his body to shiver as if he had just felt something peer through everything he was and ever could be. This wasn't just like when they had encountered those powerful beings in the outer elemental planes.

This was as if he had just been glanced at by something he couldn't even fathom. Yet he knew it meant no harm, it was just a glance. A curious eye. Something that noticed him then moved on to something else.

While other mages within Genesis and even outside of it felt their mana shiver, many warriors or common folk also felt the slight change. Nothing terrifying to the same degree that Gil felt, but they could sense something had changed and would always be different from this point on.

Something had taken a step forward and it couldn't be undone.

As mana condensed and a tiny wisp of time mana was pulled in to the multidimensional storage space, Walker felt that he had figured out the very thing he needed the most. No he didn't need it, he wanted it. He had theorized a space he could build where time moved and he could store something alone properly. Something that wasn't in a dormant or dead state.

Right now, the smallest cabinet sized space he had just made blossomed with enough mana to fuel a single houseplant or herb placed there. It could grow slowly and be protected while gaining the same balanced manas as the world.

It wasn't a massive space he could call a world but it was the foundation of something new. Proof that he could delve in to this form of magic or whatever the proper term would be for it. He even felt he could condense the mana even better if he were to use his senses and manipulate mana in the same ways as the elemental planes moved individually.

Yet it was out of his control right this second. His focus had slipped and his mana sense was blurry.

"Just relax. I can tell that you gave your little experiment too much and you're exhausted. Wherever you did was amazing, but maybe try not to cause too much chaos, alright?" Gil's voice anchored Walker while he glanced up and realized he had no mana left to keep trying to do anything. He'd run himself out of mana and mental energy. It wasn't something that had happened for some time.

Chapter 2782 Theories To Relax

"It wasn't intentional, I just kept thinking about how my mana sense was improved and I could potentially sense more from the manas around me. But then I got sidetracked and focused on the multi dimensional storage skill I have. It led to me making a small space that can store a plant."

As much as Gil wanted to make sense of this, he knew that his own train of thoughts would never head that direction. He was usually a little more focused on the arrow she was making, but he did know what it was like to be distracted in just that. The number of tested and experimental arrows he made was a little higher than any average archer.

"It can store a single plant? So you can make more space to store something alive, like rescuing an injured person then?" Gil saw this being the ideal thing that Walker might want to create or use. He also understood that he would surely use this skill to help as many people as he could because Walker always thought of others.

"Not really, I would need a lot more mana and a lot more time to make that possible. Right now it could probably store a single herb. But it can grow and move forward in its natural lifespan without being harmed." Now Gil was beginning to understand.

"You managed to figure out time mana then!? You were all worried about that a while ago saying that it was completely impossible to even see for you since it was so abstract. You even got angry and said it would be easier finding new snacks that Su and Midnight hadn't tried than figuring out what or how time mana worked right now."

"It's not like I can manipulate time mana. It has its own way of moving and trying to manipulate it to do anything like we might think would be way too dangerous. But some of it can be pulled in to the storage space I made and helps the manas move as they needed to. Don't go thinking we can go back in time to the ancient world or anything. That would ruin everything. It would be the same as dragging all the chaotic mana in to the world then saying we were just going to be fine no matter what.

"So ridiculous, it's ridiculous to think that way. I can't wait to see you tell the researching mages that time mana is an impossibility. All the theories you just broke apart..." The slight smirk on Gil's face was because he knew that he wouldn't need to deal with any of this. Especially the fact that no one else knew much about mana also meant that he could use that as an excuse for not being able to speak about it too.

"That doesn't mean time mana is altogether useless. It can be used to see potential. Time mana might be connected to those seer classes and prophecy givers from stories. They aren't all set in stone, just like mana everything flows. So there is a chance that everything could happen and time mana just shows us those options."

"Walker, you are just saying that time magic is basically gambling but while we get to know the odds of how lucky we will be or how unlucky we will be." While Gil had just made Walker lost for words, he also saw that Gil was sort of happy that he had been here to witness Walker figure this out.

"I did manage to sense that something related to my race clicked together. I think I haven't been really whole yet until now. It was like this with space mana too. The Origin race needs to mix itself with every mana to keep growing and I definitely just took a big step. I have a feeling the origin race isn't about time but about understanding. That might be why they work to bring elemental planes together."

It seemed that Gil was relaxing more and more now that he was bouncing ideas back and forth with Walker. A lot had been going on recently and even more with the fact that Gil's mind was focused on his future family. He was taking yet another step in to new territory for himself and Alma. It was a lot of weight on his shoulders, but something that would feel lighter if others were there to support him like Walker.

"So the origin race heads out to learn more about everything and comes back to see how it all develops. Sort of like a garden but they are also somehow tangled up with the will of existence and how it's growing the world and elemental planes?" It was odd to Walker that Gil seemed to grab on to the theory he had so easily, but it was also perfectly on point for where Walker's thoughts were.

For him, the origin race was something of a mystery ever since he took the step toward being one. He had been confused and lost even with his encounters with powerful beings and other origin race members. They were insanely powerful or had deeper control of manas and concepts of existence itself than he did. So for him, they felt like entirely different beings beyond what he could ever be or ever understand.

Now, he sort of grasped an idea of how it was all possible. The origin race and other powerful races needed to develop through unique hardships and understandings. Things that the world could somewhat show but couldn't perfectly illustrate because there was so much unknown in the chaotic mana of the void or whatever was beyond that. They used that chaos as a way to see the impossible become possible and build it together with the rest of the world to greater elemental planes.

"I think it's a big deal but you're right, I need to explain a few things we might need to ban. Like time magic trying to speed up or slow down time. Too many repercussions or damage that can come with it. It's similar to how your mother says we can't force plants to grow too fast or we would ruin the whole garden." Gil understood immediately and made a mental decision to share that point of view with the echidna and the elves.

"Hey, other than your break through, did you hear about the vampires and the goblins? Apparently there used to be a goblin tribe in ancient times and they served the vampires. Not really like slaves or anything, but as the goblins were starting to learn things some vampires saw potential and wanted them to be indebted to the vampire race, so they taught them a lot before that clan of vampires went to war and they lost everything."

Gil was clearly trying to share some new history that the vampires had uncovered but it sounded strange. "Ancient times might have been more developmental than what we thought. The vampire sliced for a long time and so did the immortal chasing race. So both races would think a hundred years ahead, right? What if they had a bunch of plans for races and other things that never happened because of all the issues with mana and elemental planes?"

Now Walker understood why Gil might be thinking of this and think it was a good swap in topic. If he was right then there could be a lot of plans that these two races had before everything fell apart, literally. It could mean that plenty of ruins could spell unusual results for researchers rather than some enlightenment of the ancient times.

"The goblins found it interesting and noted that some green skin goblins and red skin goblins have myths passed down about black skinned goblins with dark affinities. But that's just stories and not so much proof because of how they lived and what they lost before regaining it in this age. The vampire's accounts match the black skinned theory though."

"It's good to think so many years in the future. And if goblins will show their affinities more clearly as the generations go on by their skin color, they might have a closer bond with elemental spirits or some of the angel race." Both races showed their affinities clearly.

"We should also consider what we could track down about long term plans the immortal chasing race had. Like what if they actually gained proper immortality? It might help us understand a lot more about the ways that ancient races got in to wars." Walker was starting to understand Gil's thoughts too. The pair was learning a lot while not actually digging up pure facts. It was fun and they could forget about their duties for just this short while.

Chapter 2783 Knowing And Changing

It was only a few minutes before one of the archivists returned with the books Walker and Gil had been asking about. Whether they had realized it when they first started bouncing around theories or not, there were already records and evidence found of some immortal chasing race plans.

"We have referenced the terms you mentioned along with the books related to other immortal chasing race ruins we have discovered. Some of what appear to be the oldest and damaged documents were related to experimentation. Others are related to development and clearing other races from territories. If you need more help, please let me know."

The archivist was clearly trying to curry a bit of favor with the pair of them, but generally, it seemed to be useful to have an expert who could hunt down the books and topics they needed.

"This one I have seen before. It's about the experiments on others to try and awaken unique skills. One of them being a self regeneration skill that was common in a species of frog that no longer exists. They believed that demi-humans with frog traits might possess the same skill." Walker grimaced while mentioning this to Gil.

While everyone knew that the immortal chasing race had thrown out all good aspects that came with morality to pursue immortality for themselves and their people, it was still hard to accept what had happened. The amount of suffering that this race caused alone in the ancient past was what had led to the breakdown of the world flow and damaged countless people and species within the world.

Not to mention those outside of the world in the greater elemental planes being forced in to a more chaotic flow of mana in turn causing a war there. They had been the source of various strife for years on top of years because of their foolish actions.

"This book should be about the buildings they made and the tools that were discovered. I saw one of the craftsmen working on arrows for crossbows reading a copy. Apparently, the reinforced needles the immortal chasing race made are actually a good design for tougher metal arrows with hollow tubes so they don't use as much material. It's also being used to make hollow stone pillars to reserve material and allow for secondary storage."

Now it was Walker's turn to be surprised that Gil recognized one of the books he was seeing here. He hadn't expected that this would be the case, but then again it was a lucky discovery that could help them search for more specifics related to expansion plans and what might be valuable to Genesis and themselves now.

Speedily flicking through pages and reading was something both of them could do. Gil's extremely sharp eyesight let him focus on the keywords he needed to find and push through faster. Meanwhile, Walker could easily speed read and memorize the contents of any books to look back later. Let alone split his mind to focus on reading what he saw while he memorized even more. Not that he was competing with Gil to be faster right now, but, the two still seemed to be racing a bit.

"Here, there was a plan to encompass a mountain to trap a species of snake. It mentions that they had the ability to manipulate their own soul but were almost impossible to capture because they could change the form of their bodies like a golem almost." This seemed to be a path to immortality that the immortal chasing race had tried or wanted to try.

Yet, as Walker looked more the information about the snake was little and the mountain they wanted to pasture was also covered in vampires since it was the territory of a vampiric clan. Meaning that it was a war to get the territory. Meaning that research on this topic had been lost due to that war.

Not that this meant there was information missing. There was plenty gleaned from old documents and condensed here by the archivists.

The information that caught Gil and Walker's attention was that the partial plans to expand rapidly and find other ways to grow the immortal chasing race were immense. Some passages they read detailed their battles against the monsters and how they might be able to make them more tame and serve them as sustenance or materials for their growth.

There were other writings about the lack of experimental intelligence that came from the other races. How vampires were considered monsters that mimicked the appearance of intelligent life but were slaves to their own desires for blood while pretending to be a proper race. Then the angels were seen as blessed but foolish since they could not put aside their own inner squabbling leading them to be constantly getting weaker rather than growing any more than they were now.

Seeing that the immortal chasing race found the other two major races of their age to be beneath them despite the power they had was astonishing. The angels had made literal floating war cities dedicated to magical combat despite their splitting beliefs about mana and what should be researched or studied. Then the vampires could maintain significant clans and powerful groups with much higher lifespans than other races. Meaning that they accumulated knowledge constantly, despite their own inner fighting as well.

While neither race was better than the other with the ways that they failed to unite properly, they were not just some lower race, they should have been seen as some form of equals. Then again the immortal chasing race believed their goals to be greater than any other. They were blinded by their ambitions, unfortunately leading them to have horrid beliefs and morals.

Even worse, there were small notes about experimenting on angels and attempting to remove their wings to implant on other monster species or even the immortal chasing race themselves. This way they could utilize the abilities to absorb mana faster from the surroundings and potentially use the other race grafted on to them as a core for the mana to be held rather than the need to constantly absorb mana.

It meant that the ancient angels had to worry about being captured by the immortal chasing race. A potential reason why they might have originally begun to create the floating cities in the first place rather than just the monsters on the ground that were so dangerous.

In terms of experimentation on the vampires, it appeared that the immortal chasing race wishes to create servants that were nearly immortal so that they could control them without the downsides of being forcefully changed in to a vampire. Something that's not done nowadays since the vampires know that it is not a moral or proper way to treat other races. In ancient times beliefs were different.

This was mostly lost research which Walker and Gil didn't mind being lost since it was cruel and unusual. But it still proved that the immortal chasing race wished to turn other races and monsters in to servants for their immortal reign.

There was one particular note that didn't match anything else.

A small spot that mentioned a side note about utilizing elemental spirits to create a mana heart connected to the elemental planes creating a permanent endless mana flow for the user.

Unfortunately, it had been a tough side note within an already damaged text leading to the copy made to only hold that tiny bit of information.

However, if that was a small note, the immortal chasing race might also have sealed elemental spirits within mana gems, armor, weapons, or even the bodies of those they experimented on. Including themselves.

It made Walker angry to think of this. "We have already helped rescue and bring back plenty of elemental spirits. If we need to go explore more of the ruins we will do it. Fleur and her people have already awakened many dormant spirits and the dwarves have helped undo their past errors. I'm sure that they will help undo the wrongs of this ancient race too."

The glint of anger Gil saw in Walker's eyes proved how much Walker detested learning about the immortal chasing race and their experiments.

"I know we can undo some of the wrongs but they still happened. So far they caused so much damage to the world and it's growth that I don't know how much more we might find. I just hope that we are doing what's right to make sure it won't occur again."

"Really? Walker, you and I both know that we are all doing what's right for the people we help and lead. I believe without a doubt we will be finding so much more in the future." The brightness in Gil's words were enough to push the dark cloud from Walker's thoughts.

He knew all too well that their effort was making a better life for so many people. They just needed to keep working together to maintain it and be transparent about the wrongs of the past and how to protect against it repeating again.

Chapter 2784 Don't Talk Bad...

"He's really been in the archives and library helping Walker? That doesn't sound like him. If he was making a hundred million arrows I would believe it."

"I was surprised too, I thought he would be trying to get more elves to join the expedition and audition for it. Instead, he apparently has been asking for books about the ancient vampires, ancient angels, and immortal chasing race. They are studying their failures so they can help everyone else." The pride in Alma's tone was higher than normal.

Then again, she knew why Gil would be focusing on the failings of ancient rulers and races. She knew very well that he might be able to learn from those failures and make everything better for today's people. He was helping Walker and just relaxing a bit in a different way than normal, but he was also becoming a better leader himself in a way he hadn't done before.

"Whatever you say, But I will still tell him no next time he comes asking for potions or poisons to add to his arrows. Did you know he made an arrow that had a tip like a sewing needle? He uses it to shoot arrows full of high quality health potions. He said it's good to have archers that can heal too. He's so weird."

As much as Remy knew the benefits, she still thought that all his ideas like this were somewhat weird. Especially when he would come asking for potions out of nowhere just to show her some weird arrow he was making too.

"It's nothing to worry about, he is just like that sometimes. You should have seen how fast he moved when the news got out properly. I had an idea but... you know how you would question how you feel and the changes in your body. I did that all the time when I was building a connection with the spirit trees."

Remy knew exactly how Alma felt, the changes to her body because of her strength growing and becoming connected to the grand spirit tree was something hard to handle. It would take a lot of adjustment. Yet, she also was providing for a child now with her body, it meant more stress and changes complicating a whole lot more than just her senses.

"Well, this batch of nutrient potions are tailor made for you. No one else will be able to sue them to the full properties within. I also made sure that there is a relaxing effect too since I know your job is stressful. I also have a few tea blends to help you wake up in the morning if you are sore and to help you sleep soundly. So take advantage and if you need more the alchemy guild has an open order ready for you whenever you need it."

This has been a quick stop for Remey since she was actually heading off to meet a few fire dragons who worked under Ignus. Apparently they had been a little more than upset after they had returned from their duties gathering a few of the smaller villages of dragonkin and lower ranked fire dragons. They found out Ignus was basically attached at the hip to Remey and they thought he might be showing weakness.

While this was basically asking to be beaten up, Remey somewhat hoped that they reached Ignus first. If they did they would get a pretty solid slap or tail whip sending them to a healer before Remey even had the chance to stretch her punching muscles.

"Thank you for coming by Remey, I will see you later." Alma smiled and felt that she was better cared for than ever. Regardless of everyone knowing her business, she was glad that those close to her knew. She felt she had a family waiting to help her in every way possible.

"Also, if your child seems weak, I have a special potion to help them make the best of everything." Remey stepped out heading toward the fire dragon territory. She knew very well that Alma and Gil would resist the usage of her new potion. But if their child was born weak for any reason, Remey had no qualms with using such a high tier potion to make sure that child lived a good life. She would even make more celestial potions if she had to to help everyone.

"Midnight? Don't tell me you are waiting for me. I have to head out already."

"I want to go with you!" Midnight had known that Alma would want some time alone. She had also been told by Su and Alice that she should find something else to do since today a lot of healers would be practicing paperwork and other boring things. Plus, Midnight knew that her hyperactive energy wasn't always wanted. But Remy, she could handle the running around energy part and might even train with her.

"You want to fight a bit? I am going to bully a few dragons who weren't the nicest about me, so you can help too." Remy welcomed Midnight joining her in this, especially since Midnight had been fighting and training in her dragonkin form a lot.

While this was a good thing since Midnight adapted and learned to control her strength, it wasn't good that she didn't remain in her primary dragon form often. Neglecting it could leave Midnight unbalanced just as Remy was when she learned to use her newfound affinities and dragon like abilities to make herself appear as a dragon using flames. It was hard to adapt to that since she had always been human and changing to become a true fire dragon spirit was rough to start.

That and the fact that her body and soul were entirely fused together presented an entirely new method of learning. Not only did Remy need to watch the manas she absorbed more carefully, she also needed to train the new sense of her body that was deeply connected to her mana and the inner flames she possessed. It was like getting a whole new muscle group she had never trained before at the time.

Midnight walked with a pep in her step quickly moving in to the fire dragon territory and enjoying the higher heat. They both liked seeing the open space since there was still a lot of room to grow those who preferred to live in an area with more fire mana. Especially when it came to nearing the fire spirit tree that had developed amazingly with all the time and care given to it.

Ignus was busy nearby giving some orders to a few dragonkin that had recently arrived. They would need to learn a lot since they had never been in a larger village nor had they known of Genesis. Those

more experienced dragonkin who were nearby were clearly stronger and had an aura of knowledge and power about them. Proof that they had gotten well ahead of what the others who just arrived were capable of.

Nearby three dragons who seemed to be on the edge of growing in to proper elder dragons had begun to glare at Remey. They easily sensed that she was the one that Ignus had been speaking about and they really did not like that she was attached to a royal fire dragon. To Remey, their gaze at her was them saying that she did not belong and did not deserve to be here.

"Actually, Midnight, why don't you just watch. Those three are being rude." Remey slimed sweetly, but Midnight knew all too well that this smile was one of excitement. Not one for a good time but one that meant she would be using her full force to smack some sense in to someone. She often only had that grin when Gil teased her too much during training.

In a burst of flames, Remey had shot through the air causing even more flames to bloom around her. Ignus didn't so much as glance behind him knowing that she felt the need to teach the three soon to be elder dragons a lesson. He had expected it and even wanted it to happen.

He didn't want any fire dragon to believe the one he put his trust and shared his strength with was weak. He wanted them to fear her when she came near. To know their place in the packing order.

The following roar of flames was Remey's flames taking the form of a fire dragon dwarfing the three soon to be elder fire dragons. The next crack and wave of what was simply her fist reaching the first dragon still daring to glare at her.

"You weak little lizards have some nerve talking bad about me. I have beaten up monsters three times your strength. So get over here and take your medicine!"

Chapter 2785: Calm and Focused

"I did believe you three would learn quickly, however..." Ignus glanced at Remey who was still seemingly smoldering with annoyance that even after the first punch the other two dragons had glared at her. "It was a harder lesson for you to understand. Remey has changed her race to become a dragon species that can not and does not live and grow in the world. She has half of my very core. She stands for people beyond dragons. And she will beat those like a dragon asserting dominance. Learn this lesson well."

The words Ignus spoke to them were heavy, but they also had an unspoken meaning. A clear and very clear meaning.

Remey was to be considered a royal fire dragon as well. An equal that could crush them and no other dragon would look at the issue twice.

"Remey is very strong. She can fight anyone, even Ignus!" When Midnight interjected, the three widened their bruised eyes expected Ignus to be enraged. Naturally they were also foolish in terms of who, Midnight was to the dragon race, even though she had taken her full dragon form and was showing off her perfectly clean and shiny scales.

"And this is Midnight, a true dragon champion holding multiple titles such as hero. She is one of the founders of Genesis beside her family and Remey. She also holds connections to every royal dragon along with the one we call the honorary and recognized true nature dragon." This silence any inner though the three soon to be elder dragons possessed.

"You will train with her while she teaches you how to prepare to learn to take a dragonkin form and walk amongst the people of Genesis or our territory. We are protectors of other races and leaders of our own. We are equals with others but also examples because we will live long enough to see generations grow around us. Learn those words and live them." Ignus turned away toward Remey again.

Midnight stepped forward and seemed to grin wildly. These three dragons knew very well that she was much younger than them. However, their innate senses told them that they couldn't beat her even working together. They had been stunned when she had calmly claimed she could fight Ignus, but wasn't that an understatement?

This was a dragon that could use all manas and fight with them just like they were the first affinity she had. She even had a bond with her own guardian who took on her blood to alter race and a bond with the hero that was already said to be the strongest living in the world right now. They knew all that very clearly, so how could this training be survived?

"You went easy on them. Most dragons would have taken a tail or limb. You managed to just break scales and leave bruises." Ignus knew very well that this was a sign that Remy was helping the times change.

"They didn't need to become that weak. They just needed a beating to learn a lesson. Don't mess with me or I will punch you. Simple right?" Remy's sweet grin was all the more terrifying. "Anyways, you are going to send some dragonkin with me even if I tell you not to, right?"

"That is to help the entire expedition since I will be remaining here. You could choose to remain as well." Ignus knew the answer was a no before Remy even responded. He had tried to keep her here and learn more about the dragon side of things. But he also understood she had an internal duty to the family she was a part of now. She would not desire to hear or see them injured if she wasn't there by their side to make sure whatever or whoever did it was beaten to a pulp.

"Just be careful while you are there as well. I have been finding it strange that there was no evidence of bridges to the elemental planes being on that unknown continent. There may be a reason why." Now this was new, Ignus wasn't often this calm about things. But it was very logical. He understood a risk and with his intuition felt it spelled a bad omen. He would prefer to handle something like this with more strength so additional dragonkin was his answer.

"I will be careful, and when I get back we can work out our own path. You said you have a small mansion being built nearby, right? Why don't you tell me about it?" With this, Remy started walking with Ignus, the atmosphere much more brilliant than it had been earlier. Well, despite the dragon flames trying to deter Midnight from training with the three soon to be elder dragons, those three would not be resting until they couldn't stand on their own four limbs.

"I know that look, you are worried again. You need to stop thinking like that." Alice had been worrying since she had left Walker earlier in the day. Su had been around helping a bit in the cathedral again since she knew that the newest group joining basic healer education was going to be slightly larger this time around. It even included a few adventurers who came to learn how to bandage and treat wounds without themselves possessing healing skills. They wanted the best for their future after all.

"I understand." Alice hummed a little as she helped prepare some bandage rolls so she could demonstrate speedy usage later. Especially with the pre treated medicinal bandage rolls for burns or larger wounds. "I will go with you all on the expedition, it feels like the right thing to do. I just worry that there will always be too much to do for us and for Walker."

As she looked at Alice's face, Su saw her worried clearly. It wasn't just her being worried that Walker might not have time to help others. It was the fact that she worried Walker might not have time for developing a family with her. That she and Walker might not be able to have the life that she knew they both wanted.

These internal struggles weren't new because Alice had considered how large her role was within the cathedral. She was one of the saintesses that had been able to take a title no one else possessed. She knew very well that others with saint titles might come along, but right now she was the head and face of the cathedral and healing efforts. She took so much on herself despite having many trusted aids. She felt that even just her work here could limit her goals and dreams to help others.

"Stop that. I know you are a selfless person who wants to give everything you have to others. But you are still someone who deserves to have rest, love, and peace too. That isn't selfish to want for yourself or take for yourself. All of your time and effort goes to helping others and your work is seen and an example to those people. So let them have the space to grow. You will be surprised again and again by how amazing they do when you let them take the lead."

Glancing at her with a brilliant smile, "You are speaking from experience, I know. But I will worry nonetheless. I am glad I have a sister like you." Alice had never said this out loud, but since she didn't always speak as much until recently due to her learning more about her own abilities, it had been missed that she truly considered everyone in the party as her family too. She saw Su who was always looking to help others as well as her real sister despite not having one by blood. She was adopted after all too.

"Just remember to lean on me if you ever need help. That's what family is for. Plus, who else is going to help you plan a wedding with that thick skulled magic obsessed fool, right?" This made Alice giggle a bit since she knew all too well that Walker was most likely in some sort of studying or researching focus right now too.

"I hope Onyx is as ready for this as we are." Alice sighed a bit. She knew that Aurora had been closer and closer with Onyx despite the fact that they were the two greater figures of the serpent race right now.

"Oh, I think Onyx has made sure that his little territory is perfectly prepared. I heard a few rumors about him and Aurora making a few big leaps in their training together. It's why he keeps disappearing now and then. That and I am pretty sure those two are thinking about whether or not they are going to actually start working together on an adventure or two." The gossip started all over again while they worked.

Stress aside, everyone was making progress, it was smooth, but focused. In just a short while, everything would be coming together for yet another expedition.

Chapter 2786 Just About Ready

"That looks like the dark dome rune formation you were working on, but you managed it for fire already?" Walker was shocked by what he was looking at.

The runesmith that had come to visit him on behalf of the researchers and testing staff at the herb garden was looking at him with clear excitement. The stone tablet that was in his hands had a clear small scale design for the formation that he had witnessed and had given some insight on. However, there were some differences.

The lines that formed the entire formation were a lot of lines which interconnected so that the mana could be delayed or move at different rates. It was like slowing down the flow enough to cause the flame to be there without causing harm to anyone who came in to contact or moved through it.

Furthermore, the mana could be held in place if there was a break in the connection keeping any form of overflow or damage from occurring. Like an explosion.

This was all connected to three mana gems that would be standing in place of a larger mana storage gem set up for the overall dome if made.

"That is correct. There are four other prototype tablets like this all relating to dark, fire, wind, and light. The other manas are being worked on right now due to the needs of materials. It is believed we can establish a proper formation within the next two months at full scale. There was a brilliant breakthrough when an angel rune researcher noticed that some lines we were using in our formation were not as efficient."

This made Walker curious how one of the angel researchers coming from the study of the ruins in the Sigil continent came across this research. Catching on to this, the one showing him these tablets spoke up again.

"The angel researcher was looking for insight from some colleagues they recently traded notes with. When they saw the formation being experimented with, they saw a connection to how some of the lines could be crossed causing a beneficial reaction in the overall formation. It is similar to the layering rune formations but without the complicated repairs needed due to constant layering. This is an improved technique called rotational crossing."

Now Walker understood. Many of the angel researchers who were trying to decipher the rune formations within the angel ruins would need to look for different references. Especially when they were trying to figure out which layer of rune formations were doing what in terms of ensuring that the floating cities remained in the air.

While researching the current floating cities of the angels race, many aspects could not be seen or touched in fear of being damaged. Hence why the repairs done on them were so limited. Not that they hadn't made a lot of adjustments in this area so far, it was just hard to risk the homes of everyone for a repair that might work or might not work at all.

"Once prototypes are finished, please speak to the crafters working on the gravitation rune formations for the floating city. I want to see if there can be a similar formation utilizing everything you have learned and they are working on. We already have a basis for how the floating cities work, if we can use the knowledge you have we might be able to prove more in the larger scale of this project."

Without any hesitation, the tablets were left behind and the researcher delivering them to him was off. Clearly there was a lot on their mind since they had been so energetic delivering a report and the tablets. It was also just the general fact that they had succeeded and were moving forward months ahead of what they had planned everything out to take.

Just a tap and some mana flowed in to the dark dome tablet creating a small dome on the tablet of dark mana. It wasn't decaying or harmful. It was perfect for creating a false night that would be ideal for

herbs to grow in, even better for some races to live. It would be perfect to bring to the Genesis building for some leaders to see since they too would want to see the developments of projects.

All the resources being shared and used within Genesis and outside of it were always being called in to question. Especially since everyone and everything was developing rapidly right now. But that was a good thing.

They had proof of a project so that everyone worrying could share with their people that their hard work was showing progress without a single doubt. Those who worried that they might never see some aspects of these projects would begin to see a clearer vision of the future too. Walker was imagining unique training areas better than what they developed for the exploration in to the elemental planes.

The space could be drunk and left to half the size or smaller to train certain elemental manas for a longer time allowing for the emissaries to better travel in to the elemental aliens. Furthermore, these areas could be used to shelter those who came to visit from the elemental planes more safely. They wouldn't need to feel as much stress as they did when they encountered the world's mixed manas.

"Now let's look at the roster..." Walker mumbled to himself and saw that there was a substantial growth in the number of people coming to the expedition today.

A larger area had been set aside along a training area outside of the adventurer's guild so that teams could meet. Not only were there groups from the dragons sent, but there were those from every race who had unique skills. Even those from the spirit race who had spent plenty of time in the past weeks learning to use dwarven golems as their bodies would be attending to properly hear the full plan and the organization of their leadership while leaving soon.

An astonishing record had been set for the amount of unique golems created within the forges these past weeks. Specifically since there was so much done in terms of cooperation.

Many smaller forges had seen the quality of work being done and jumped at the opportunity to enhance their name while also learning from larger forges. It was something that had surprised Walker and that the crafting guild had made very public.

While the guild had done so because they wished to pursue more cooperation in the future. It had also shown those of Genesis and those who were more stubborn the benefits of working together for a project.

Many of the crafters on these projects had taken larger leaps ahead. Not just because they had learned more from one another but because they had felt that spark in their hearts igniting in to flames for new techniques. They were seeing how to use their skills in better ways or ways that they had never done so before.

Meaning that a few new genius golem creators had just appeared who had never been seen before. Especially when they had started to use the templates of ancient monsters and underwater monsters to create the golems that the spirit race would use.

"We have a total of three hundred that will be going with us. Onyx, how many of the serpents did you say would be coming working under you and Aurora?" Walker had been reading a lot out loud to Onyx who had arrived just a little while before.

"I have fifty serpents between the two of us who will be coming. Several have learned to use darkness and light as their weapons and will act as guards for those who can not fight. Then we have the rest who work as scouts or healers. They are learning more from the cathedrals and the scouting parties already established right now."

This was a good sign since there would be so many coming along. This wasn't even counting the craftsmen who would need protecting while they worked on the flying ships and the floating ships. They were taking to sea and sky to make the journey before splitting up in to different camps when they reached the water, islands, and proper land of the continent.

Mapping wise, Walker also had a few of the wind dragons under Ventus who had been using the small mapping orbs. They had progressed the research along the islands to find the best places worth stopping and researching. Not to mention the benefits of resting in general when there.

So far they hadn't found any dangers in the sky other than smaller monsters, which would not be an issue. The groundwork had been laid now there was just the last of the organization to do before they took the leap to explore.

Chapter 2787: Squads Up

"Your groups will be made to balance one another. You are not going to remain a squadron of archers, a squadron of healers, a squadron of warriors and so on. You will be mixed to match an adventurous balanced party to ensure you protect those you are assigned to. The threats in a continent entirely full of monsters will present threats that are not all the same, this will allow the best chances to survive and explore the area."

Looking around, Walker also saw the various aquatic members of the teams. "As you see, there is a two stage expedition. Half are going to be searching the underwater aspects of the land to discover the lost magic towers, islands, and land in general. The other half will continue on to the larger continent that is entirely land to do the same."

"The information in the packets you have is your research for the night. Read through and find your name. Read the associated tasks. Some of you will be protecting the flying ships and ocean ships. Either or both will be around at all times. Remember that they are your safe haven, camps will not be built right away until we determine safety and long term potential."

"As you know, once we do have a proper land camp, we will have the rune carvers and crafters condense for the most part to build a teleportation formation. The formation will be a new and improved version that should allow us to begin travel between Genesis and the new continent."

This captured everyone's attention clearly. They had not expected that the materials would be safely traveling with them to the new continent to explore. Especially since they understood the delicacy needed for rune carving and its materials.

"I would also like every single one of you to know that while we are on this expedition, we will have elites from each royal dragon working with team leaders. This is because we may encounter dragons entirely separated from those living with us side by side. The hope is that they are able to recognize Dragonkin in that case."

"We may also see descendants of giant and ancient monsters. If that is the case, those with the capability and marked as elites on the provided badges will handle the fight. The rest will focus on safety and survival. That is why there are battle plans and defensive plans within the packet as well."

This seemed to make a bit of stress for everyone. They did not expect dragons to be mentioned here.

This was because the remaining rogue dragons within the Sigil continent had been weak or their bloodlines spread out through other species of monsters. Making it seem that dragons anywhere else wouldn't be that big a deal since in Genesis the dragon races were intelligent and united.

However, taking in to consideration that dragons might have lived in a continent of monsters for many years fighting for survival, they wondered if they would be intelligent at all. Yet, many had begun to read in to the other monsters theoretically there. Descendants of giant monsters called the mountain oxen, silt serpent, and even the forest needle boars were something they believed would be a bigger challenge on top of everything.

These ancient monsters had to have survived in some respect. With the world returning to its proper size due to the connection to the elemental planes, then it also presented an issue with the fact that some monster might have returned from dormancy just like they had seen and heard here recently. Further meaning that there was no one on that continent fighting them to preserve balance.

All in all, they might be entering lands and water where trouble has been brewing for months now. They would need to work much harder to handle every issue they faced now and in the coming future as they slowly explored the entire continent of wilderness.

"You will also see on the supplies list potions will be given to you along with other medicinal salves and teas. This is to prevent any risk or for emergencies. The bandages and other basic materials are provided by the cathedral and associated guilds. You will have a card to display and use to pick up your supply kits. They are made for you and your class and duties on this expedition. Do not leave any behind even if you feel they are excessive."

"The training you have undergone since joining was to increase your ability to carry, utilize, and ensure your safety while on this expedition. You can see who your team captains are now, so please begin your own private meetings now."

The outburst of talking was simply due to the fact that everyone had to find their team captains. The adventurers joining didn't argue and found theirs much faster but those with less experience in teams like the scouts had to struggle a little. Otherwise, Walker was glad to see people moving so well.

He also glanced behind him, noticing that king Rorick, the forest elf queen, and the human king with his daughter were watching him. The dwarven kings hadn't even bothered to come to the surface, apparently they had been fully immersed in aspects of their own culture brought here together within Genesis. Something he didn't mind hearing.

However, all these leaders had seen what they ended up seeing and were leaving within the day or two back to their homes. Their progress here has been achieved and the assurances that their people were more than well cared for was found.

They had also seen the progress they needed to justify everything spent on Genesis to this point. Now they could keep encouraging Genesis while they brought back more information, technology, and anything else from other cultures to their homes. It would rapidly expand the strength of their people over the course of the next few months. Beyond just this, they too would understand what their own capital cities needed to be able to adapt and grow in the coming years so they didn't fall behind Genesis too far.

"It seems like this is done then?" Gil was stretching his arms knowing that he was planning to train a few of the younger archers here in the adventurer's guild after the training field cleared. They had only booked the time here for this meeting of squads and captains. Everyone would be leaving soon.

"I didn't think you would look this excited to meet some new young adventurers and teach them archery." Walker knew all too well that Gil was usually on edge with new archers. Especially since they had a habit of breaking bows or firing arrows in the wrong places.

"You know that I have to make sure they know a thing or two before I come back. Didn't you hear about the group who came from the forests? They were trying to show off and end up picking a fight with a young squad just finishing training. They got so badly embarrassed that half of them quit training from the forest elf city and fully came over here or quit all together." Gil looked stressed thinking that this might repeat.

"Situations like that will keep happening until people realize that they need to expand their minds to other forms of archery or any crafting or warrior related lifestyle. Too many people are looking through

a tunnel and thinking they can see the whole world from the other side. But they are missing the mountain view if they actually traveled the path on the other side of that tunnel."

Lately a lot of people have been saying this, but it was all too true. "Look at the people here. They are all considered high quality or elites. Some of the adventurers are even called geniuses compared to other kingdoms. But here, they are not as advanced and are trying to join this expedition because they will advance so much that they could be considered veteran adventurers when they get home."

Gil nodded along. He knew all too well the stress that many leaders or employers faced in these situations. Plenty of people were realizing they had begun to fall behind without coming to Genesis or learning what was happening here. It was quickly proving to be a source of strife amongst those who could not travel here or get ahold of what they needed to keep growing.

But that was why the education program was moving forward so rapidly. Copies of books, scholars, and plenty of other related teachers were traveling now and even more in the future.

"I will go with Su and Remy to check on the golem line up. There are golems that are being tested and a similar meeting taking place right now." Walker watched as Gil moved out, he knew that in the next day or so they would all be fully geared up and ready to leave.

Chapter 2788: Golem Bodies

The number of golems made was not small, however, some of them were very small. Waker had personally been amazed by the size of the parts made for the fifteen rabbit shaped golems. They had been made to move through forested or grassy areas at a rapid pace and were even controlled by members of the spirit race with wind affinity.

This meant that the rabbit golems had been made with rune formations to absorb and store wind mana along with increasing their speed using wind mana. While their lighter metal bodies would make them

weaker to any attacks, that wasn't an issue since they were able to move at a much faster pace. Hitting them would be extremely hard for basic monsters.

It was a good idea for the first scouting squad, especially since the others were golems shaped like different small birds, however, they had different talons with poisons in them to mildly paralyze or force a monster in to slumber. The design was more of an assassin design since it would make moving through certain areas safer rather than having open ended fights that may attract other monsters.

Just these two types of golem bodies for the spirit race members were extremely clear and perfect for the needs of the entire expedition. Yet, there was a lot more in terms of monster inspiration taken so that there were more aquatic golems.

Originally, Walker expected that there would be a small number of golems that were aquatics since making them function underwater with the right materials and right mana gems would be tougher. But he had forgotten that the dwarven race had always used their golems to travel through the caverns. Some often filled with water due to the way nature just happened to work with underwater rivers or rain flow.

Looking closely, the underwater golems mimicked after the baracuta were speed based but focusing on water flow related to natural currents. The rune formations on them allowed for better sensing of water changes that would allow for better speed.

Then there was the two octopus golems that were for defending the ships on the water. They would be attached to the ships when in need and able to capture or halt any monster in their tracks that tried to bother the ships. That way the other soldiers of golems could handle the trapped monster. It was a smart way to handle a very dangerous open space that had to always be monitored.

Along with this, there were several golems based on the ancient monsters sand sharp. They were able to utilize earth mana to blend in to the sea floor where the sands lay. But more importantly, they were made to be tougher and attack faster with their water affinity. This together allowed for a guarding force hidden but ready to defeat anything around where the ships would anchor later.

It would make the guarding situation easier when the merfolk and water elf soldiers were unable to be awake at all times or they were focused on exploring.

"Looks like you finally made it here, we were just looking at the armadillo golems that would be guarding some of the camps we make," Su shouted a bit and drew Walker toward them. The larger golem was rolled in a ball but he could clearly see the layered scales that would allow the golem to deflect attacks more easily while also being used as a form of attack if it rolled fast enough.

The form was ideal since defense would be the largest focus in terms of safety for those moving through the unknown lands. Any attacks would be blocked well by these armadillo golems and with the fact that they also had earth affinity spirit race members piloting them, they could make small earth walls in an instant.

"Anything else that might be useful? I know that they have already beaten my expectations." Glancing at Remy, Walker understood that she had a golem she liked.

"They copied a flame ape but made it smaller and took some traits from the tree hopping baboon. It's better for attacking and handling everything from small monsters to larger monsters when they work together. They also have a fire type version and a water type version." She was pointing out the dozen golems labeled combat golems for the expedition.

They were good ideas. Having diversity along with all around battle potential was what they ended for some basic coverage. Especially when there might be territories that needed the usage of someone capable of moving through trees.

"These will be the main forces in terms of golems. They should be able to take the front lines, coverage, and scouting. Meaning that everyone else will be able to separate their teams in to areas that the golems can't cover." It appeared that Su was very interested in helping guide or lead the golems. More so than the squad captains she would also most likely take some leadership over since she had the most experience in terms of teaching and leading guards.

"As long as I don't need to bother with them as much. I have to deal with the dragonkin escort that Ignus is sending with me. They are all dragonkin warriors with fire affinity who can fight alongside my flames. Apparently, he chose them just based on their fire resistance instead of their actual strength." The annoyed look at Remey's, face told both of them that she didn't like having any escort at all.

Yet, when she fought she focused on fire a lot more than the other elemental knuckles. Simply because she could control them a lot better. Meaning that she would definitely make it more dangerous for others around her if they did not have some sort of what and fire resistance skills to defend themselves naturally. For the party, that wasn't an issue since they had all trained well enough to resist her fighting. Yet, others were not up to the same standards as them.

"That just means he is taking the time to make sure you can fight however you want. If they are guarding you then they will make sure that you are not having to worry about everything around you. Basically, they are guarding the craftsmen and you can fight to your heart's content." Remey knew that Su was right but that did not mean she wanted to hear it, it was clear from the slight humph she responded with too.

"The spirit race seemed to have worked quickly to help make themselves a core to control the golems. That wasn't just Fleur encouraging them or the golem smiths working with them either." Walker looked around and noticed that the spirit race around were clearly bragging to one another about the golems they could control.

Whether anyone else had caught on, this seemed to be something greatly growing in the spirit race. They wanted to be able to better interact with everyone and this was the way. They all appeared to have the desire to do more with what they could see around them and again, this was a way to do it. That bright mentality despite some of the spirit race having different temperaments due to their affinities was amazing.

It also meant that in the future, Walker might see the spirit race change characteristics and classes to better manage the golems. They might even begin to take on forms that better suited them to utilizing golems overall.

"Are you inviting that puppeteer class holder?" The question coming from Remey was out of the blue but she had been thinking about the golems trying to distract herself from her dragonkin escort on the future expedition.

"Puppeteer class?" Now it was Walker's turn to be confused.

"Oh, you didn't hear about it?" Remey sounded a little too smug so Su took over.

"There is a demon who can use materials like your fire doll or earth doll and make temporary puppets. They can also build wooden or straw puppets that they can control by using thread infused with their hair and mana. It's an interesting class but as long as they have the thread they can send their puppets in to dangerous areas."

Now Walker had something interesting to think about. He had used the fire doll and even ice doll skills but neglected them since he had the party to support him. However, this was an interesting idea to

pursue since using a puppeteer skill could be a better way to test for traps, dangerous conditions, or even to approach toxic areas.

"I will need to meet them and see if they are a good fit for the teams we are making. They could fit right in with the scouts." With a knowing look, Remey and Su just glance at one another since they knew they had caught enough of Walker's curiosity that he would be off to meet them after this.

Chapter 2789 Mana Threads

Expecting a larger workshop or maybe a lot more movement, Walker was somewhat disappointed finding that he was looking at a small workshop behind a bar of all places. He had entirely expected that he would have been somewhat nearby the crafting guild.

He even imagined that he would find this workshop in the heart of the merchant roads so that materials could be bought. Yet, this demon had found a spot on a farm and was quietly working in a field full of corn. The farmers weren't even nearby.

Yet, the demon had paid the rent and was working easily without a care. It was even more shocking since the demon was barely ten years old. Just old enough to know the truth of the slavery they had been born in to and young enough to be able to go out in the world and face the new potential that was right there to grasp in their hands.

Regardless, there was also the fact that this peaceful environment greatly contrasted what they were able to see compared to what they were born in to.

As he understood this, the setting didn't feel so wrong. There was peace in the environment here. It was simple and calming. Food grew all around that would nourish many others allowing for a better future without suffering or chaos.

"Maybe asking them to come on an expedition will be wrong..." Onyx curled around Walker's neck before coiling up on one shoulder. He had been resting while Walker moved here but he wanted to help a little more before they were all leaving for the expedition. This was his way of offering support while also preparing himself.

"Brother, I believe that asking them can not hurt. They have something to offer if they join us. They may also wish to see more of the world, we don't know yet." The way that onyx saw it, was that this demon might not understand anything about the world other than the chaos and peace they had been in and were now in. They might be isolating themselves instead of facing what the world truly has within it.

The mix of good and evil.

"Hello?" Walker grasped what onyx was thinking but he just nodded as he opened the door to the workshop revealing a saw dust covered mess.

Thin threads hung from the ceiling and various other tools or shelving. It was like someone offered a ball of yarn to a herd of cats and they dragged it through a workshop someone forgot to clean after sanding for the entire day.

Yet there was a balance in this. The tools had some thread wrapped around them and it appeared the thread was full of mana. It was not stagnant. And to prove this, one of the wood carving tools was rapidly pulled away deeper in to the workshop only for the sound of cutting wood to be heard a moment later.

Moving further in and dodging the mana infused threads, Walker could see various parts of dolls. Some had a more human shape while others appeared to be replicating demons, angels and even a few small

monsters. The scariest part was that some had bits of metal carved and inlaid in to them. The eyes of some were also mana gems used to absorb mana using some small rune formations.

Whoever had first met this demon puppeteer were wrong in their evaluation. Their skills were much greater than just controlling puppets. Su and Remy had heard about this demon before Walker but they had not gone to check them out themselves. If they had they would have known that this puppeteer class user might be more than just a puppeteer for dolls.

Two sawdust covered horns matched slicked back hair as Walker finally found the thin demon toiling away with various tools pulled towards him by threads. It seemed that the fine mana control and dexterity were part of the class features trained to be a puppeteer.

The spark in the demon's eyes also made it clear that he was seeing more than just what he was doing in the dim lighting. He was seeing the flow of mana in the pieces that he was carving. Although, the more that Walker examined the demon boy, he realized that he was entirely wrong.

"Got a problem? Huh? Yeah you think rough hands and short hair makes me some crafting apprentice boy hm? Maybe you should stop being some hero if you can't even observe that."

"You did surprise me, I thought you might be a young demon boy with the puppeteer class, but I am using my all around appraisal skill and I figure it should show me... or you can use your threads to keep trying to block my vision." Walker sighed, he wasn't actually using his all around appraisal, he was just trying to make sure that the annoyed response wasn't all he would get.

This also aggravated the puppeteer girl to move her threads more. He saw the ways she moved her mana. So perfectly that the threads were like extensions of her limbs. While she clearly couldn't use outer magical skills or spells, the puppets she used would certainly utilize her mana to use rune

formations and other items attached to them to replicate magic or skills. It was like having extended magic tools rather than using magic herself.

"And what do you want from the demon who makes puppets outside of some farm then? Want me to make toys for kids or something?" The bad attitude didn't disappear, it only seemed to grow even more. "That's what I was told would be good for me, a puppeteer, puppet builder, doll craftsman, or wherever they say I am."

"Whatever your class is, I actually came to ask you to join the upcoming expedition to a new continent. We will explore it and your puppets might be a safer way to test the waters so to speak. No one would be hurt if they went to check out dangerous areas or passageways. Especially if we are going in to magical ruins."

"Why would I waste time on that? I could stay here and do whatever I want."

Walker sighed a bit and then took various materials and magical rune carvings out of his multi dimensional storage. "Because I can get you materials you would have to spend years working for the fund to purchase. Meaning you can get a headstart on being more than just a puppeteer or wherever you are."

It was blunt but it was true. It was also better than trying to convince her with sweet words or talk his way around what else she could get. It felt like she also wouldn't say yes if he tried anything but being blunt like this. Then again, years of being raised as less than made trusting even a hero probably impossible right away. Actions had to speak for themselves here.

"Arcane puppeteer, Mela. I make puppets using magic and other things that can move at my command." The threads all around the workshop began to move, pulling away to wrap around her arms and legs. Several puppets stood up and walked in to a line around her.

An angel with wings holding needs missing an arm. A small dragon the size of a palm. Several guards in wooden guard uniforms matching the guards that protected the main walls of Genesis And even what Walker believed to be a smaller version of Su carved with twin shields and struggling to move fluidly due to missing a few parts around the legs.

"The pay is acceptable. I will come but I won't stay after we explore wherever is needed. I also want to take more materials up front so I can finish these dolls and make them better. I also want to be able to work alone so that I don't have to worry about anyone breaking my threads." Her demands were not hard to meet.

If she fights beside some people they might cut her threads and cost her a doll she made. But they also would wrack her flow of mana. It was risky for her to work with others. But the bounty she would gain from going was enough to keep her inner spark going.

"Then it's nice to meet you. I am Walker and this is Onyx. we will help you with what you need before we leave. There isn't much time so I hope you can improve your dolls easily." He didn't see her shake her head since he was examining the dolls. However, she also was looking at him very clearly.

She was measuring him mentally to see if she could make a doll that she could use like him. She could see the ways that his mana might flow. How she might be able to do more with a puppet like him for combat and protection.

Whether he realized it or not, their party had been the ones to directly free her from the demons who had treated them so poorly.

Chapter 2790 To Sea, To Sky

"Where are we starting again?" Gil had a little trouble accepting that a team had already gone out and made a temporary teleportation formation on the northern coast. It was even avoiding the city where Walker and Alice had trouble with their beliefs about the church and worship.

Yet, it was more impressive that through all the preparations, every ship had been moved there. The flying ships were held on the ground in temporary stables to remain ready for takeoff. The water worthy ships were on the coast waiting for a full crew. And even better, there were plenty of additional staff that were exploring the area of the coast with small mapping orbs.

This was a double benefit plan. This area was both getting the camp ready for the ships and the expedition, but mostly it was allowing for a more in depth mapping of the coastline. Something that would need to happen sooner than later since there were plenty of caverns interesting to the dwarven race.

It could hold connections to unknown caverns that could push to new deposits of ore they could harvest for the production going on through the continent and even in other continents. Besides this, it was also because there were smaller villages trying to spread out in to the wilderness where they could build the lives they wanted. People needed to know where they were living and if there were any monsters nesting in caverns yearly or not.

Besides all this, Walker found that the squads of guards, adventurers and golems had all begun to leave before they had to. Meaning that for the first time, the party was actually behind in arriving somewhere. Then again, those who volunteered would all be gaining a lot out of this.

Putting aside the immense benefits in leveling up and strengthening their skills, those who came would have the knowledge to teach others what they encountered. For some, that meant they would effectively become guides for other adventurers coming here. For others, that meant they would have an idea of how their merchant companies could profit from gathering natural materials within this unexplored land.

Furthermore, the merfolk had become much more focused on what they might be able to achieve here. Since they had learned that part of the continent had been flooded over time due to the world changing, they understood it would be ideal for them.

The merfolk race used to live in much deeper waters than they did now. Their main people left those waters for safer waters which were more shallow, but they were still somewhat uncomfortable due to all of this. They had also managed to achieve retaking their older cities but did not have the same usability due to advancements.

This left the merfolk race wanting to rebuild and grow themselves a new home in safer waters that would be more consistent to live in. An underwater continent, if only a portion, would present them with an amazing opportunity.

The lands underwater would be more even and controlled than the bottom of an ocean floor that naturally formed. In this continent, they would be closer to any settlements on land so trade and teamwork would be easier. They would also be able to mine for ores or explore the underwater better allowing them material gathering potential to improve their own economy so to speak.

It was a small plan right now, but if they could see some viable living conditions, then they would begin to build a new city and grow corals there as much as possible. It just all fell on what they learned here.

Knowing this was also why Walker considered stopping and searching the underwater lands and the islands first too. He knew that moving on to land would be his best bet since he could more easily see ruins left behind by these struggling mages of the ancient era. However, he did also have the curiosity that made him want to know everything. So underwater ruins did tempt him again.

That needed to be out of his thoughts.

As the squads split up and got on board the flying ships, Walker examined the lighter metal hulls created. They had various rune patterns all mixing manas together to allow safety and proper usage of every connected tool. This really affected the fans made to control direction along with the protective wind absorption to protect those on the deck from rogue wind currents or any dangers that could appear while fighting monsters in the air.

He also noticed that the reinforcements on the hull were allowing for better structure. While he didn't innately understand the why and how, he could tell that it would be much harder for these improved flying ships to be damaged compared to the first iteration. Not to mention that it would also be able to hold more weight while traveling.

The same could be said about the ships in the water. They had been outfitted with better structure that allowed for overall better movement through water and waves. After being through storms, the craftsmen who had been with the ships clearly understood what was needed for there to be safety and storage for the supplies they needed to make the trip or return with new materials.

Safety was also a huge focus since he would see the mounted ballistas. They had been improved to shoot larger arrows and grappling hooks. Not to mention the ability to set up connections for divers or those underwater who might need to be reeled in from dangers faster or generally so the currents didn't sweep them away.

"Listen closely!" The boom of Walker's voice covered the entire area and everyone moving froze. "We are leaving in just a few moments. We have a rough course plot. The air ships will protect us from a distance, they will also be mapping out our course better. The water ships will maintain a close focus on one another and any changes in current or approaching underwater monsters. All of this will be communicated. Please keep a close ear out for your captains, leaders, and one another's observations. Continue on!" Walker didn't want to risk someone missing important orders whatsoever

With this announcement, the rest of the party came to Walker's side. He looked at Alice and noticed that she was keeping a lot of focus on him to make sure he wasn't getting away from himself. Clearly, she was keeping in mind that she would be busy making sure others were healed or buffed but still worried about what trouble he would rush off in to.

"We aren't telling them that the journey on the water and sky are shorter than they realize?" Gil knew that Walker omitted this for a good reason. If everyone was prepared to be on board their flying and floating ships for longer, then they would have a better mental fortitude than where they currently sat. Otherwise, they would be focused on the trip being short and relax more.

"It's better that they think we have three or four more days of travel. That way they are keeping themselves controlled in what materials they use or food they consume. They need to plan this out like a walk through all of Genesis territory in the wilderness. We have veterans who have sailed before and newbies who are just coming along on their first real adventures."

Remey was summing it up perfectly. She had her dragonkin escorts waiting on her but from the look of a few they were young and just waiting for the opportunity to show off to her. Naturally they wanted Ignus to know about how good she had done.

"Su, can you stay on the water bound ships? You can easily fly to the floating ships if you need to. The same with you Midnight, I want to make sure that they have the diversity you offer."

Gil, you need to be in the sky. Archery is better there. Remey, I know you will be working on potions to help everyone who has trouble in the sky or on the water. The better you work the better everyone adapts." Knowing that adapting those with sickness from the waves or air was half the battle, they could be treated and helped sooner than later.

"Brother, I will hide in the shadows and check on others. I can move as I need." Onyx already slithered off leaving Walker and Alice as the last two moving to one of the boats heading to the ocean bound ships. They didn't stress where they would be, they knew that for the time being neither would be needed right away.

That aside, the sky and water ships moving at once was an impressive sight to behold. It truly spoke to the power Genesis possessed in terms of coverage. They could travel as they wished and remain safe as they needed. They were a force with promise and the world was recording that in its history.