

Master 2791

Chapter 2791: Not Really An Island

Walker took to the air to watch as the sky oriented ships took off. He wanted to feel the changes in mana and watch the results. Not just because he knew that the new rune formations had been worked on immensely to create less gravity and even caused a whole new study of different forms of earth mana in the mages, but because these flying ships were larger.

They had been brought here in advance and prepared to handle harsh battles in the sky while also transporting goods. Yes this slowed them down a bit, but speed was not the biggest issue when traveling in the ocean or the sky. It was safety.

As the ship moved off the ground, Walker noticed hatches that could be opened to expose other harpoons or archery shooting areas. They were perfect for targeting monsters just below them which the last floating ship did not have since it was the very first successful ship.

He also noticed that there was a constant small wind barrier that was made additionally on top of the one that allowed the wind to be blocked from those on deck. This one was made specifically to deter smaller monsters, push away light rain, and also to block projectiles from the ground.

Being able to have this was a good option for those leaving the ship in a hurry as well. It meant that the flying ship could float above the ground and using ropes guards could descend to the ground. It would make protecting returning scouts much easier or joining dangerous rescues that much more successful.

This didn't mean he wasn't looking at the ships on the water though. Walker noticed the magically reinforced glass as windows on the sides. They would function as watch areas in case underwater or just at top level monsters approached. More so, it acted as a potential escape area if everything went poorly. Saving everyone below deck from being trapped in a worst case scenario.

All of these potential safety measures really spoke to who the craftsmen were in terms of skill. They cared for those using their products and worked together to ensure that people would be safe no matter who they were working on the ship.

Looking at the watch guards already positioned, Walker also knew that the squads each had properly prepared for this expedition. They were not waiting to see what might happen, they were entirely prepared for what they needed to achieve. The serious focus in their gazes told him everything they needed to know about one another and their future goals for this expedition.

Success, that was that.

"Walker, one of the scouts said that there is a flock of cloud ospreys ahead, should we adjust to avoid them?" The shout was easily heard but Walker lowered himself to the ship that Onyx was currently on and responded with a simple solution.

"I will release some mana and deter them. They aren't violent and just might get too scared if I don't do that. The flying ships are large and will cause them to fly recklessly. My mana will make them veer away before we get close." It was a simple solution for a simple problem.

However, they had just set off and Walker was already working to avoid unnecessary problems. It made him wonder what else they might face after they had begun nearing the islands...

With the amount of force and preparations, the next hours leading in to the next full day and a half presented no issues that he had to really worry about.

Small mechanical issues were fixed before they even needed to be brought to the main party. Even the small problems with people unhappy with where they were resting between shifts that would happen with any group of people were resolved. Making it feel more like this was a slow vacation of travel rather than a real expedition.

"Are those the first islands in the distance?" Gil had been speaking with Walker about the small improvements made to the flying ships he had noticed but stopped and looked far in to the distance.

"Not yet, there shouldn't be anything just ahead. We should be another full day away from seeing islands right now." The strangeness of how soon they were seeing what appeared to be an island made Walker and several angels and harpies take to the air to head off to scout. The small mapping orbs the harpies and angels held had been quickly built just for this purpose.

When they began to get closer where they could have a better look, they realized it wasn't shaped the same as an island, none of the five they could see looked like normal islands at all.

"Be careful and examine everything from a distance. The sands on those islands are too white and the greenery looks like it might be more like seaweed rather than trees or bushes." Walker started to use the all around appraisal finding that the plants were all semi aquatic and could survive inside and outside saltwater. The sand was also sand crushed finely by the deep tidal waves. But he still wasn't sure how it would have gotten way up here on an island.

"Sir, the islands appear to be moving with the waves slightly." This observation was able to be seen as a particularly larger wave moved and all of the islands shifted. Even worse, as they watched, another islands seemed to be slowly surfacing.

' stilt island crab

This crab is known for having incredibly tough shells and extremely long legs allowing them to hold on to shallower water and grow to reach the surface of the ocean. They collect sands, seaweeds, and even monsters at times to grow on their shells and show off to other stilt crabs. If they are able to have an impressive shell they may be able to attract a mate.

Often, they will be surrounded by predators that prey on the monsters that hide around their legs or on their shells. The predators wait for the crabs to sink under the water in the night before raising to the surface in the daytime.

Normally they will be a peaceful monster that just wishes to move around shallow waters, however, they have sharp needle like shorter limbs to fight others of their kind when they are searching for a group to live with. They also possess these appendages to fight off the shell sharks which need to fend on tougher shelled prey to grow their own tougher shells over delicate skins...'

"We will move around them and avoid them. They are peaceful monsters that live in groups to impress one another. They are not islands. They are crabs. They are also dangerous since they have longer limbs that focus on piercing the predators and one another they face." Walker quickly gave the order to move around these seemingly floating islands.

He knew from the all around appraisal that these stilt crabs might think that the hills of the ships on the water might be some dangerous shell shark or worse. They could attack them or let them pass but giving them space was the safest option.

"Let the underwater scouts know that they have to come closer to the ship or board the ships. There are predators living in the waters around the legs of the stilt crabs. It's better we are close to one another."

Just as Walker said this he watched a few of the merfolk and water elves return to the boats with warnings being shouted about small predators and other monsters approaching the bottoms of the ships. It was clear that the predators who were used to waiting for the night had spotted them and thought they were getting a lucky free meal.

Others were pulling up strange looking monsters with larger eyes better suited for the night. He also spotted a few spear eels which were better known for moving quickly through the water and burrowing their sharp spear like noses in to prey to draw their blood then feed on them after they had bled out.

Overall, some extra hunting was happening rather than just retreating. Walker easily spotted those with better battle abilities calling on the less experienced to come underwater and watch and learn. It was a good way to learn a bit here and there since most of the predators were not strong enough to fight the main fighters head on. Meaning it was an ideal way to practice for those who needed the training.

It also meant a little extra food to be stored and prepared for the overall expedition. Not to mention a new monster to note down in the books for when they returned. Just that alone would make traveling safer in the future. But this was also a sign that the waters were becoming shallower. A sign they were nearing land faster than their original plans overall.

Chapter 2792 The Warmer Waters

"They build islands on their backs to show off?" Gil was curious but he also knew that if he asked more than once Walker might head back and start collecting samples of the plants of the crab's backs.

"Weird right? But we managed to get some good hunting out of it without any real injuries. Just small scrapes and cuts, but everyone under the water got some learning done."

"Interesting. I wonder if we will see much else, the ride has been the same, nice weather, steady wind, and very few monsters. Do you think it's because the wind currents are different due to the islands and how close they are to our continent too?"

While at first it seemed like Gil was tempting fate to throw something difficult their way, he actually made a lot of sense.

"There might be something like that happening. The way that the islands used to be mountains must have some effect on how the weather moves in the sky. I would assume if it was still mountains, the clouds would settle more and we would see more fog around because we are getting to shallower waters. But instead, because the water is higher the clouds are pressed higher."

As much as Walker knew, this might not be fully true. But it somewhat explained what Gil was thinking and it made Walker worry if the water would recede in the coming years. The only reason that the continent was partially submerged was because the world had lost connection to the mana of the elemental planes and there was a lot of water melting on the continent.

It also presented the idea that the continent might have had a very large section frozen in ice and snow. Meaning something might be encountered in the more northern areas or there might have been plenty of monsters that adapted over time. Either way, they would have some interesting theories to research in relation to that.

"That's definitely an island though?" Gil slowly pointed out the smallest of small rocks with barely a group of seaweed growing on it.

"I guess you could call it that, but now we have to keep changing course to maneuver the changes in the underwater environment." Without hesitation, Walker dove from the flying ship and straight down in to the water. He didn't feel any pressure when hitting the water since the water opened up and cleared all around him. Using water mana manipulation was always a nice benefit to have.

Using the water mana around him, Walker could sense a lot more activity. Extending that feeling to the life mana, and the flare up of different monsters smaller and larger in the greater surroundings was high too. He also noticed the guards moving around him since they were waiting to see what he had to say. They knew all too well his sensory and scouting ability would be much greater than theirs.

The ships had already navigated around the rocks they saw, but Walker also understood from this point on they would be handling what had once been a very large mountain range. It was underwater, covered in seaweed and corals with different monsters living within it, but it was a mountain range.

The cliffside they had been near which was why they only saw the top of one rock was proof of this. Walker could clearly see the hefty drop in the clearer waters while also analyzing the change in water currents. He could sense the warmer water of shallow areas clashing against the minimal colder water that only formed in deeper depths.

The mountains had acted as a break point for colder and warmer waters drastically changing the environment. Showing higher growth in seaweed ahead compared to behind. It also gave plenty more homes and dangers related to monsters ahead as well.

"We need to ensure that we have every guard prepared. Not only scouting ahead to avoid other high rocky points, but to make sure we can't enter too many dangerous territories." While underwater species of monster might not have the same territories that above ground monsters had, it still rang true to worry about. There would be monsters that hunted the same areas often because that was the ideal location their prey could grow. It just made sense.

This also presented a few mysteries.

What sort of monsters found a safe haven here? What monsters of that size could even live here because the water was more shallow and the currents were not as strong as they would be without the

underwater mountain range keeping the larger currents at bay? What plants grew in these warmer waters because there was a better condition here than just about anywhere else?

Just these three questions were enough to make it a little harder to decide on where they would go or what they would do. The unknown was what they had to prepare for as much as they all believed that they were strong enough to face anything.

That was also the issue. The party could handle just about everything. They knew that the world had mysteries and dangers that they had yet to face. However, the soldiers, guards, and everyone else associated with Genesis were not at that level. They had yet to reach the same strength or even half of what the party had risen to through their constant challenges and work. Let alone the level of what the party had gained in terms of adventuring through the outer elemental planes.

Therefore, the party had to consider the best ways to protect those with them.

Walker also knew that he was stronger and different from the general people. He had considered it. But the rest of the party hadn't quite grasped the absolute difference. Only Su had truly begun to understand the immense gap between themselves and others since she was always teaching others. Whereas Gil would teach some here and there before rushing off to handle other responsibilities.

Looking further underwater, Walker could barely make out the sands on the deeper end below them. He could see that they were rougher, less broken than the sands of a normal shallow area. This actually was a good thing since it allowed for more seawards and corals to latch on. Meaning that the further they moved in the ships toward the land, the more coral and seawards they would find.

These different varieties were perfect for helping expand the knowledge of what plants they may find and what monsters lived in which areas.

'Sand stalker

This is a small fish that has razor sharp fins and teeth. It hides in sand and waits to see smaller monsters it can attack. It will then use a large burst of water mana to propel it at the target and devastatingly cut in to them...'

This was the first monster Walker's eyes spotted. They were small, about the size of his fist. But they blended in with the coarse rocky sand easily. Meaning that they were a predator perfect for the environment here. But they also were staying fairly far from everyone swimming around to scout out the same passage through this area.

But that was also the key to everything. They stayed away from the larger rocks which would have been boulder piles or perfect hiding places for other monsters if it was above ground.

Not that this changed underwater. It actually made these crevices even better for monsters to hide.

Swimming up, Walker found that many of the merfolk and underwater golems were leaping in to the water. The forces to protect the ships were being used in the best way possible while the flying ships had lowered themselves to be closer to the water. They were preparing to be able to defend from any monsters that may get foolish enough to attack the ships on the water.

"Monster spotted in the distance. Larger and awaiting appraisal. Stand on guard!"

The bellowed order was enough to put everyone on edge, it also made Walker take to the sky again just to hear the appraisal from one of the tamers ring out.

"Giant Saltwater crocodile. It might fight us, but it might be scared away by our larger size. Do not splash around a lot because it will go in to a feeding rage!"

This was good because Walker didn't need to call out his appraisal, he could just examine the dark green scaly skin of the monster slowly approaching in curiosity. It didn't appear violent but with its size it could easily do a decent amount of damage to the ships if it flailed or tried to bite it. However, a few groups prepared arrows, harpoons, and magic to cast at it. This was a perfect chance to grab a monster for materials, a lot of food for the starting camp, and to work together as a team before anything else appeared.

Walker chose to watch and see what might need improvement, the forces were strong, so he should let them show it off properly.

Chapter 2793: Battled Together

It appeared the rest of his party had the same thoughts. He could see everyone taking different positions on ships they had been checking watching over what everyone else was doing. However, not a single one of them gave out a single order. It was the high ranking captains and squad commanders giving the orders.

This put in motion the mages and archers who could work together. They took up instances on the flying ships which had been lowered closer to the water. But first they held their position with sharp eyes tracking the movement of the giant saltwater crocodile heading toward them.

They were not hesitating or waiting because they were not ready, they could begin whenever they were ready, but they were waiting for two things.

The order to attack and the buffs from the healers and support mages around.

With a flow of mana that Walker sensed all too clearly, he watched as more mana gathered around each of the archers and mages. They all had some sort of damage boost given to them from their squad supporters and healers related to their affinity and strengths. Some of the fire mages received fire mana enhancements which was a surprisingly specific buff to receive, but also very perfect for them.

This was why the squads had all met before the expedition though. They had met because they needed to be able to handle the skills each other possessed. They needed to know one another better than anyone else so that they could cooperate. Hence why the buffs were ideal for the marksman and mages within their groups. They knew exactly what they needed to be able to fight properly here.

When the shout for attack rang out from each of the captains and commanders, Walker also saw that several harpoons from the ships on the water had been fired.

He hadn't taken them in to such great account since the chains on them would be holding the ships causing the ships to rock on the water. However, Walker noticed some of the mages had aimed at the water and used ice to help lock the ships in more steadily. The tactic was brilliant to make the harpoons even more of a weight on the target they were attacking.

This also allowed for mana to be sent through the chains. That was a key point that not many people would know unless they had been trained to use the larger ballistas and harpoons on the flying and floating ships.

The canons were made to be swapped with amazing speed and precision. All so that different mana gems could be attacked and different mana could be filtered through the chains causing damage to

those impaled by it. This was basically a massive debuff since the flow of mana wasn't enough to kill anything, but it was enough to immensely weaken the target.

Hence why the giant saltwater crocodile was currently thrashing around in pain since water and fire mana were being sent toward its wounds. The drastic difference in manas was causing the wounds to tear even worse than what they would normally do. But this also spoke to the high amount of strength it had.

There was a very thick layer of protection in its toughened scaly skin, proof that this monster had developed here for a very long time becoming tougher and tougher over the years. It had fought and the way that it was struggling proved many times over that it was used to using its body as a weapon.

Every whip of its tail broke arrows in the air and landing on its body. The magical effects in the arrows that had been created were barely making any damage. However, that was the point the small bits of damage were coming together to cause a whole lot more weakening the skin as a whole.

When Walker saw the next moves, they were from those with the ability to swim and fly. They had been moving using their abilities to keep out of range of any damage, however, they were able to position themselves with spears to attack weakened points. Each stab caused more damage.

Every single time an attack landed, the giant saltwater crocodile attacked that direction leaving the opposite open for another strike. While this method of attacking the same weak points over and over seemed tedious, it was brilliant. The damage to the hide was much less. It was also showing the high level of coordination that these squads had with one another.

This was a proof of training in all of Genesis forces. Even proof that the adventurers with less experience were able to fight with much greater strength than what could be imagined. Then again, they had been

getting advanced training compared to what the adventurers used to get when Walker and the rest of the party had joined.

Standards for safety and quest completion had grown since Genesis had become the center of the adventurer's guild. Simply because it just made so much more sense that the beginner adventurers would need to take some sort of learning and educational classes based on the basics of what they would be allowed to do. Not to mention tests to prove that they were able to accomplish more difficult quests once they had reached certain experience thresholds.

When Walker noticed the movement of the dwarven golems, the giant saltwater crocodile was already on its last legs. It was moving slower and wasn't able to let out the sharp hissing sound it had made when it first began its fight.

Two of the golems modeled after underwater monsters called horned dolphins used their sharp horns to pierce its belly while the sudden appearance of a spider like golem using wire threads to tie it and allow the harpoons to be detached as the now defeated body was brought back to a single ship for break down and processing.

The entire battle has shown exactly where the true strength of the forces brought on the expedition came from.

It wasn't in their individual powers or skills. It was entirely in the ability to coordinate with one another. The buffs were made so that those fighting were protected and strengthened where they could use it the most. Their communication was barely needed since they all knew what position they should be in to help one another.

There were also additional forces waiting if they were needed for the fight. There were not too many fighting that they would not be able to survive the battle alone. Overall, it was an ideal that proved itself here.

"Su, Gil, Remey. You three all had a hand in training some of the forces that fight just now. Onyx, Alice, you two had some hands in it too with support. I think we need to worry about less and less because of all that. Midnight and I will head in to the air and scout around a little more before we get closer to the other islands. We also have to think about the coral and rocky bottom areas of the water."

It was both a compliment and proof that Walker was ready to move forward with everyone. They knew that the ships left in the area of the islands would be scouting the ocean floor, so he had to do what he could in this moment of rest after battle.

He had already given a basic all around appraisal of the giant saltwater crocodile's body so that the people harvesting it could keep some parts intact. Surprisingly enough, the bones were very valuable for making underwater weapons. They were filled with small mana pathways that allowed water mana to flow better. Meaning that magic staffs or water affinity spears were perfect.

Otherwise, the skin was thick and perfect for basic armors. A leather made from it might be the best deal. Then there were the pieces of meat that would be saved for when they needed additional supplies. The ships could split it amongst themselves for the store rooms.

Midnight seemed the most ready to scout out more. She had held herself back from fighting because she knew that everyone else was doing so as well. But if she and Walker moved ahead then she could fight a little bit while understanding the threats hiding around the areas and guiding others. She too had trained some of these guards and soldiers. She wanted to see them succeed as well.

As they moved away, the others didn't move from their posts. The party was still watching for anyone who might have been injured and were not showing it. Just because they had been in battle and looked fine now did not mean injuries might not be around the adrenaline could be hiding it. They had to do their duty for the guard's safety as well.

Chapter 2794 Large Island First

The real islands which had once been mountain tops slowly came in to view for everyone. Walker and somewhat scouted ahead with Midnight, the pair hadn't seen any other larger monsters which was to Midnight's dismay. She had wanted to fight something since she had only been raining and helping the dragon hatchlings lately.

Regardless of her feelings toward not being able to fight, Midnight had managed to spot the first island which seemed to have some interesting plants.

"So, what's ahead of us?" Gil knew he could have easily scouted ahead too since he could step through the air, but it would have just burned mana and was easier for Walker and Midnight to fly ahead instead.

"There are a few islands, the first two or three are mostly rocks but on the first there are some bushes growing round blue fruits, like blueberries but they have a fuzz on the outside. Might be worth exploring a little. I also assume we are starting to reach the point where the general mountain range will start to disappear."

Everyone knew of the past history of what this area used to be according to the books found. Meaning that the mountain range that was now islands would slowly begin to lower in to what should be fields. Meaning that this would be the flatter, warmer saltwater they needed to explore for ruins.

It would be harder to track everything, but each ship had a small mapping room where the mapping orbs could be examined properly. This allowed for everyone to share a similar map that did not cause confusion.

In the past, maps had been out of date after a certain amount of time. Nowadays, the small mapping orbs were taking off since the adventurer's guild was actively pursuing having more of their adventurous order small mapping orbs to map areas when they traveled. Therefore, even weather related changes to the terrain were easily tracked when they happened and the right adventurers responded.

It was a small effort now, but would lead to everything being clear for those traveling. The work being done now meant that the islands and even the landmarks underwater would be mapped out for everyone that came to this area later. It would only become more advanced once all the information from this entire expedition was melded together by the grand mapping hall in Genesis.

"I also saw a few avian monsters around the islands but they were smaller. Only one island looked like it was a nest. Midnight and I decided to avoid it since it wouldn't be necessary to scare them away from their homes when we aren't planning on doing anything there."

Both of them understood that it was better to keep the natural order of things rather than go and cause chaos in the area. Not to mention that these monsters living there and being smaller in size meant that they would be prey monsters. They would be hunted by something but that island was a safe place.

It allowed for those with the knowledge to gauge where predators might hunt and why they might avoid that area. The information potential was more valuable than just hunting these birds and analyzing them.

"That's good then, the tamers are looking for research areas." Gil was mentioning the group of tamers who came and their interests. While they had come searching for more monsters that they could tame in this unexplored continent, they also wished to study the habits of those monsters or all monsters.

Specifically, a small group that worked in the tamer's guild who didn't tame monsters were known for living out in the wilderness entirely hidden. Simply so that they could study the natural habits of monsters in every way shape and form. It was why so many in depth documents about certain monsters existed and how some tamers could get the knowledge about how to take care of their partners no matter where they went.

"Where do you think we should start to explore the underwater sections?" when Su came up behind the three, she was mostly searching for what they could do before everyone began moving toward the land well ahead of them.

"According to the theoretical mapping, we have a cluster of islands up ahead. Maybe a full thirty small islands with a few larger islands. It should be the highest peak of what used to be mountains." It sounded good in theory but that meant it would be a more dangerous area.

"We might need to stay behind for a few days then." Su didn't wish for anything to happen that they could have protected everyone from. If they moved on too quickly people could be left in danger.

"I understand, that's why I am thinking of leaving behind one of the flying ships. It's not the plan but they could handle the majority of the islands and overall guarding that way." Increasing the number of guards around keeping watch was the best bet, especially if the party would be handling the main land exploration and guarding around where they were making a teleportation formation.

"I want to see the islands first though." Hearing this from Remy made everyone understand exactly her thoughts.

These used to be mountain tops. The change over time as the continent partially became an underwater area with warmer salt water and controlled wind due to the area allowed for there to be a massive change in how any plant would develop. The herbs that once were growing on an absolute mountain top cold and surrounded by air were now right next to the water and having to handle open sun more often with the beating of waves or salty wind.

This change could alter the mana affinity or make unique crossbreeds of herbs that had various effects in terms of potions or basic medicine. It would also mean that they might have beneficial and negative effects that needed to be focused on when creating a potion or medicine.

For Remy, this was an opportunity to bring back immensely valuable knowledge to all of the herbalists who were working on altering the state of herbs in their growth. Many of the greenhouses were being used to study why and how herbs developed certain traits. Seeing herbs that had changed so radically and managed to survive would be invaluable.

There was also the potential that some herbs might have been left in dormant seed form, trapped in rocks or whatever place on the islands. This wasn't uncommon since many herbs only sprouted under very specific environments. Specifically, mountain top herbs would need to have whatever was on their mountain top. Without it, they could sit dormant for years and years.

"Yes we have to stop and make sure that the anchoring point is safe. We can search the islands. They should only be about three or four hours away from us now." Walker no more than said that as he saw some of the last parts of the giant saltwater crocodile being brought on board the ships. They were about to start moving again.

"Some of the healers want to venture with teams on to the islands. They don't want to remain steady." It wasn't surprising that Alice was asking this. The healers were trying to become better, too so it made sense that they would be willing to go in to dangerous places to achieve the growth they needed.

Some had seen what truly dangerous battlefields were like. They had seen attacks by the sin title holders or they had seen the army of undead. They had also seen the risk of those who enslaved their own people. They wanted to make sure that even in horrible places like that they could be there to save someone's life.

"I assumed they would. So they should. Su?" Walker looked at Su, who had spoken with the split forces of defensive guards. She gave a nod proving that they already knew that their jobs would be to keep a monster's attention away from mages or healers who would be their salvation no matter what injury they might face.

"Then we are more than ready. Midnight and I will head to the larger island... Remey, Midnight, and I will head to the larger island and wait there while giving it a look." Walker had just wanted to head out quickly but the way that Remey glared at him told him if he didn't bring her he would regret it.

Then again, it was better to have her since she would get more specific information using her talents that his all around appraisal. The herbs that they might find could be more valuable than he realized since he was not as well versed in what the herbalists and alchemists were working on right this moment.

Chapter 2795 Island Exploration

The larger island that Walker had headed toward with Remey and Midnight was easily reachable, it was also clearly the larger island because it had been the tallest mountain at one time for this range of mountains.

However, it also had a lot more growing on it now that he was able to see it more clearly. So much so that even the coarse rocky sand had a lot of plants growing in it right up to the shore. Not only making it harder to come on to land from the water, but allowing for better hiding places for all kinds of medium or smaller monsters.

Although, Remey was already interested in what she could see. The plants growing in the coarse sand only seemed to be in the first layer of plants and not directly growing deeper on the island. Meaning that they needed to be closer to the saltwater and also needed to be exposed to more sunlight.

"That looks like a bamboo but it is thinner and has a duller green color, use your all around appraisal on it so I can get a little extra information before I start to cut it down and gather some." Now Remey was giving him orders. Walker could only sigh since the three of them had just set foot on the small space between the water and plants of the island.

'Salt home bamboo

While it appears to be a water affinity plant, it actually is an earth affinity plant that gathers salt from nearby sources. It enjoys being near the saltwater since it can absorb the water and take in the salt to be stored within the spaces of its fiber body. This also makes it ideal to be stored and dried for cooking.

Otherwise, it can be used to absorb salt from lands that have too much or areas that have been contaminated by salts. This will take time but the salt home bamboo grows rapidly under the proper care.

It is often eaten by monsters that lack salt and need it; however, it can also be used as a way to alter the pure water in an area as some ancient races used to do so to watering holes...'

Remey didn't look as happy but Midnight appeared to be happy and used her hands to break a few and have Walker store them away. She fully intended for the salt home bamboo to be handed over to Walker's mother so she could use it at her restaurant. They might just get to try something new and unique with a special ingredient holding special sea salt.

"There are caterpillars eating its leaves?" Remy looked at the small white and green striped caterpillars and found their slow movements to be more jerky like a golems than anything else.

'Salt golem caterpillar

These are small golems that feed on salt mineral deposits. While they are one of the smallest naturally forming golems in the world, they are also one of the slowest to advance to a larger stage. They will never progress to a butterfly form and fly however, they will eventually gather enough mana and salt to be able to grow in to a different form.

This form is unique to them in the fact that they alter their very core at the time and become almost an entirely different monster. This is due to them constantly absorbing the earth mana from salt and also focusing on the more volatile form of salt removing impurities from it. While they have short lives after they have changed their form, they are extremely dangerous to most people and hydrophobic.

Captured, these golems can be used to consume toxic plants that hold various forms of salt, they have never been kept as tamed monsters or pets but have a high potential to be used as such. They are also able to be killed and their small golem core can be used to make unique jewelry to create unique rune carved items that may regulate small rune formations or assist in controlling larger rune formations like a key...'

The uses seemed interesting, Walker grabbed a few of the small jerky caterpillars and broke their bodies killing them instantly. They were golems so the cores were the important part to grab. However, they were barely the size of a pea each.

Yet, he did dwell on the fact that they could grow to be extremely dangerous and they hated or feared water. It could spell some dangerous happenings later if anyone were to use water magic and they discovered these different forms that the salt golem caterpillars took on later in their life.

"So avoid any weird looking golem monsters that we think came from these things. Got it." Remy shrugged while Midnight and her looked around even more. The two had become caught up on gathering some of the seaweeds they found on the coarse sands as the ships neared them.

It appeared that the ships were more than ready to send smaller boats out and that there were more of the aquatic forces in the water now. They might be finding corals and other important aspects right now, but that would be something Walker asked about later. He definitely wished to know what the underwater of such a larger mountain would be like here.

Caves had to exist here.

To consider an entire mountain range underwater or above it not to have a cavern would be foolish. Right now and right here, Walker was sure that within the area everyone had just arrived there would be more than one cavern which they could access.

This meant that the merfolk who wished to find a place to live in these, hopefully safer, waters, might be able to mine ores as they wished. It also meant that the dwarven golems made for underwater mining and exploration would be entirely perfect. Not to mention that the dwarven golems could be built with even more quality and focus for mining underwater in the future.

Not to mention what monsters might be inside these caverns. They would have been unable to be monsters that adapted to the situation over time. Mostly because some caverns had to have been cut off from the outdoors entirely. Meaning no air for them to breathe if they needed it.

That didn't mean that some failed to adapt, it just meant that there might be entire cavernous areas with rotten or decayed monster corpses within them. Meaning the potential for undead to be down there too.

Walker didn't want to consider this as much as he should right now. Caverns and exploring them along with mining ores from them was something to come later.

"Remey? Can you tell me if you see anything worth grabbing on the beach? Or can we explore the island a little more?" Seeing her shrug, Walker just nodded back and stepped in to the brush. He knew that the monsters he had seen so far were not much of a threat and he didn't think that he would need to worry about them so much right this second.

It was nice being surrounded by different plants. Walker felt that he was sensing a different flow of nature compared to where he had been. The natural mana of this island untouched by intelligent races in so many years if ever was enough to understand that some places were better left unexplored. Not because they were dangerous but for the simple fact that it was peaceful.

The natural mana Walker brought in to his body was a bit stronger than normal, but it didn't stand out. It did help him expand his mana sense and see more little monsters feeding on different plants. He even noticed a small mushroom like monster feeding on rotten twigs and leaves. The red cap oozing out a poison that he was sure would cause a horrid rash if anyone was foolish enough to touch it.

It was the little spiders he worried about most though.

'Great weaver spider

While it may appear small, it is about to wield its webs in incredible ways. It can even make false bodies out of them and cover itself like armor to fight medium sized monsters. This compared with its paralytic venom makes it a much grander predator than what many would expect.

It has a habit of wrapping its prey and storing them until they just begin to rot so it can more easily consume them. It also has a bad habit of gathering much more prey than it needs leading to webbed and trapped undead within its webs in many cases.

Otherwise, its threads can be gathered and used for special weaver silk fabric that is better at conducting mana...'

There were uses to these spiders, though. Very much worth researching.

Chapter 2796 New Species?

Midnight came up behind Walker surprising him a little since she was curiously holding a few flowers she had found. "What are those? You usually don't go collecting flowers." While different from what he was used to seeing in her hands since food was her primary carrying item, Walker still used his all around appraisal.

'Withering lilac

While this plant is a dark affinity herb that grows in the shadows of larger trees or bushes, it is actually extremely beneficial to the environment. They often consume the nutrients from rotting leaves and broken branches from the larger plants they grow under. This allowed for the soil to always be refreshed and clean in the long run.

Their flowers are a deep purple that almost appears to go black, however, these flowers can also be dried and used to create a powder that attracts monsters that consume dark elemental herbs. Often they were adored by the night cats which were a species of monster that hunted in the night using their pitch black fur and surprisingly small size...'

Seeing that these flowers had an ability to attract monsters with their dark affinity flowers made it clear that Midnight's original dark affinity played a part here. With a single hand, Walker sorted the flowers away so Midnight could enjoy the smell of them later. She seemed very happy with this before looking ahead in the direction that he had been traveling.

"I am trying to reach the larger rocks that lead up to what used to be the mountain top. I have a feeling there might be a few interesting plants or monsters. I also might happen upon a cave or something." Walker shrugged since he really didn't know what he might find.

"It smells weird." The sniffing from Midnight only increased now that she wasn't infatuated with the withering lilacs. But her nose was naturally sharper than Walker's, so he trusted that she was on to something and let her take the lead.

He wasn't at all surprised that the trees around him barely grew larger than the bamboo. They were part of an island that used to be a mountain, the tallest mountain in his perspective as well. That meant that any tree that used to grow this high up had to be smaller and grow in shorter lifecycles to be able to survive.

The winds and temperature at the highest mountains were always brutal. Something that not many monsters or planets could survive. But being smaller meant that they could grow rapidly in times of fortune for them and then break down easily to become part of the next generation.

As the mountain became an island, that meant that these trees would have better conditions and explained why there were so many. Enough that it was nearly impossible to be able to walk in certain ways without breaking some of them down.

'Rubber trees

These small trees are called rubber because they mimic the condensed sap from a larger tree after being hardened. It bounces back from brutal winds and even from extreme changes in temperature. This makes the branches valuable to craftsmen who are making certain traps or making small parts that must be made of wood.

The sap is very toxic since the sap has small crystals of earth in them due to consuming some of the minerals within the rocks their roots take hold of. Otherwise, the leaves can be used as a packing material in sleeping bags since they will retain warmth fairly well.

The small fruits that grow on their bark are often mistaken for the food called bark nuts, however, they are actually small fruits that attract insect type monsters called boring gnats. They live within the bark and act as a way of deterring and destroying diseases within the bark that would normally kill the small trees...'

A lot of what Walker read related to other plants but the all around appraisal also presented a unique symbiotic relationship based on the monster that needed food and found a way to live with the tree without causing harm. It also was showing a reason why other demonstrators might mistake it and end up in some trouble. Not that this was odd in nature.

As Midnight kept moving forward and Walker continued to use his all around appraisal skill, he somewhat wondered what happened to Remey. Then again, the odds that she was focused on an herb she found was more plausible. She would catch up with them later.

But the broken stones ahead appeared to be the target that Midnight was sniffing out. An open space that had proof that some rocks were harder for the trees to anchor their roots in. but it was a perfect spot for some deep yellow moss to grow.

'Sulfur mosses

This moss only grows in extremely high sulfur areas. Most of the time it will grow in rock outcroppings that used to be part of a volcano. There is also the fact that they will consume the remnants of past volcanic eruptions. Most of the time signalling volcanic tunnels in larger mountains.

The remnants of this moss are often consumed by fairy drains with fire elemental affinity because they need the sulfur to survive and grow properly. Otherwise, this moss can be used in forging to help increase the strength of a metal or an alloy. There is also the fact that it can be used to clean up areas affected by volcanic eruptions and harvested for beneficial uses afterward...'

Walker read the all around appraisal out loud since he realized the value that it had. He hadn't just been led by Midnight to a good material to harvest. He had been led to a material with hidden beneficial knowledge.

The forging uses were amazing since he would be able to bring this moss back to be used to test out new forms of forging. The wandering blacksmith could utilize it so that he would see what else he might be able to achieve. And since he had seen the wandering blacksmith take a residence within the flying ship workshop to forge with whatever new materials they found, he had a good idea that he would be giving the wandering blacksmith something he wanted no matter what.

It wasn't like the wandering blacksmith had plans to head in to the elemental aliens anytime soon. The discovery of another con intent had captured his interest enough to explore it as well. It was literally what he did as a blacksmith.

There was also the fact that this moss could be used to help clean up areas with volcanic activity. The lava fields would have times when larger plumes of smoke and ash would be dropped all over a nearby area. The wind currents and rains might accidentally cause trouble for those that lived there.

This being an issue for clean up already meant that mages and other specialized cleaners were needed. There were quite a few farmers who searched for crops that would revitalize the land affected by these troubles.

This moss would allow for a larger portion of damage to be recovered.

But most of all, the thing that captured all of Midnight's attention and sparked a glimmer in her eyes was the part about the fairy dragons.

They had not heard of a species of dragon called the fairy dragon and now they had. Nothing on any of the places they had been or explored said that smaller dragons the size of a fairy might exist. If this was the case, then they might be venturing in to the perfect places to look for them. Whether they were intelligent or a monster didn't even matter.

If the continent where monsters had reigned supreme in ancient times over all other races had a new form of dragon, then Midnight would be the first one to find them. That was already major. But what if the dragonkin who came with them also found them and could report that back to the royal dragons?

Nothing about this discovery in the appraisal was small and even Walker was ignoring the fact that he wanted to see the once had been mountain top. Although, he was desperately trying to appraise other plants hoping for more hidden information about the fairy dragons. Not that he had enough success.

"We are going to harvest a bunch of this moss and I will even store away the stones that have sulfur in them." This was when Walker replied that they had missed the biggest part out of all of this.

"This mountain range might have once been a volcanic mountain range... not that the world has returned to proper flow, do you think it might become active again?"

Now they had a potential danger to consider.

Chapter 2797 Off Limits For Now

It became even more evident as Walker began to follow the yellow streaks in rocks where the sulfur mosses were growing. He also spotted deeper black rocks that had once been magma, yet they had been broken down by winds and saltwater over time. Not that it was hard to track that since he had seen other islands and locations affected by time similarly.

Yet, the issue he found biggest of all was the fact that if this was a volcano once upon a time, it might have been snuffed out due to the change in the water around the mountain range. If that was the case then the stronger flow of mana and the very fact that the world was changing majorly again might cause this entire area to become a range of islands becoming mountain again.

The high amount of danger in that for anyone exploring was already clear. But the even riskier aspect of exploring caverns while that risk hung over the explorer's heads was there too.

Yes, it was normal for the dwarves or others who went in to caves normally to worry about many dangers.

Flooded cavers, crumbling caverns, and even the risk of finding lava flow were always present. These risks were just part of mining and exploring. However, it was even greater if there was a situation like this one where something that caused this area to become radically different occurred and a similar event was happening again.

"Brother, can you just check it?" Midnight placed a hand on a larger boulder wrapped in a few tree roots. She could tell what he was thinking about and why he was following the rocks so closely. She could also feel the anxiety that came with his discovery.

"I could try and see if there is fire mana moving through the deeper earth manas, but I don't know if I can sense it as clearly in practice as theory." This wasn't something Walker had tried to do before. To be honest, he was sure that he could figure it out since his mana senses were so focused and pure now. The issue was how long it would take him to differentiate between moving magma, normal magma flow, and volcanic magma flow.

All of this was sure to be manas mixed in different variations causing other changes in mana all around them. There was also the potential for him to need to learn how to sense the changes that would signal which was happening and why. It was a lot of information to gather and translate in to a solid theory.

"I think someone with a specialized skill set for it would be better. I would need more time and theory to make a proper guess. Someone else might be able to do it in shorter time with more certainty." Midnight deflated slightly thinking that Walker was just doubting himself. But he was right.

It was better if Walker were to focus on his priority goals in this expedition. He should allow those with certain skills to focus on what they could learn and help others with. He knew there were mages and

other related classes who could track volcanic movements. They had been working with Ignus to develop the fire and earth dragon territories around Genesis along with moving some monsters away from areas in the lava fields.

Those people had the experience and time to keep pursuing goals like this and would be valuable to the expansion of the exploration in the area. It just depended on when they could get here and when they would be able to start helping out.

"We will be fine for now. There shouldn't be any major changes until we have some time to get camps and teleportation formations on the main lands. From there we can worry about how this might affect the exploration of caverns or living in the area." Walker thought to the merfolk and made a mental note to share his worries openly. That way if they began to get ahead of themselves, they would be able to keep themselves realistic instead.

The slightly disappointed huff from Midnight only lasted a few moments as she realized they could climb above the trees now and start to get nearer to the highest point on the island. For anyone normal, they would struggle with the sudden change to more uphill terrain, but for Walker and Midnight it was still just a casual walk.

Both were examining the bushes growing out of the rock crevices. Some were unique and others familiar. Walker stopped to look at one small bush the size of his fist that had sharp leaves which deterred monsters from nesting within it. But that also kept it protecting the small ant monsters that lived inside of the dead roots it lost every time the seasons would shift.

It was a plant and monster pair that had survived since ancient times without getting stronger or weaker, they were symbiotic and valuable in that respect to one another. No real other predators or prey to worry about. Just their own small ecosystem within one another. A very interesting perspective to take since there was so much about the world that changed and here, something had remained the same.

A small huff of surprise escaped Midnight's voice making Walker turn sharply. When he saw that her hands had accidentally dug in to the rocks that they had begun to climb, he wondered how that could have happened. The rocks shouldn't be so soft and her hands in dragonkin form were not as sharp as her talons when she was in dragon form.

Testing out the toughness, he found that with a little more force, he could push his own hands in to the stone as well and pull out chunks. It was why he started to use his all around appraisal skill.

'Volcanic cap stone

After years of being part of an active volcano, the sudden change in environment, while not having the same effects as on other aspects of the ecosystem, this and multiple other mountains lost their ability to spill molten magma out of them consistently. This left out larger bubbles of stone that hardened and held back unstable volcanic stone.

The properties are all radically different causing a strange amalgamation of different stones and materials to form. It is very useful for aspiring miners to experiment with since they can use it to train their knowledge on what each stone does and how to differentiate the parts of the mixed amalgamation.

It is also very dangerous due to the fact that it can crumble much more easily than other stones and often is not entirely covering the open space beneath or around it. This had caused some mountain collapses and leading to larger issues such as rockslides or other similar issues.

In this case, there is a larger potential for flooding underground magma tunnels or causing a mass change in water currents leading to small tsunamis...'

Walker halted Midnight with a single look. She understood that his glance was not one that said they were in the best position. It was the same look that he had when they had gotten in to a precarious situation which could cause more issues than good if they did not tread carefully.

"This entire upward area of stone is volcanic cap stone. It's not stable and could all crumble away at any second. It could cause a huge problem for the exploration of this area and we need to warn everyone about it. Many of the underwater areas might have similar stone too so we can't even explore caverns connected to this area without better scouting and appraisal abilities."

Flapping her wings, Midnight removed her weight from the equation and Walker stepped in to the air using some wind magic. He was stuck on the fact that he and everyone else would need to deal with this in special ways.

They couldn't treat this like a normal area, they would need to treat it like a caved in mine rather than a solid mountain with potential mine areas to be used for their exploration. It would need miners and mages with special skills related to delicate materials. "It will be like when they harvest dangerous materials that cause damage if sparks come off the stones or if the dust gets in the air."

It added some stress to Walker's plate and meant that he would have to make certain islands and areas entirely off limits until more people could teleport over and begin creating a better plan for the future. But this also would produce some solid jobs. Materials from areas that used to be volcanic were always abundant. So growth and work were hand in hand despite the delicate and risky terrain here.

Chapter 2798 First things First

"Well that sounds like a mess."

"Maybe a small understatement Su, it sounds like it's just a huge explosion away from making the whole area unlivable for years." Remey was a bit more blunt but she was right. This was a challenge that could halt exploration in the area around these islands and also be an issue for those who wanted to live around here.

"There are also the issues with caves that looked like normal rock or even sand and people could fall through. We will need earth mages or miners, even someone with trap expertise might sense the dangers." In Gil's mind. He was trying to see who they might need for the explorers of this area to move about safely.

They all knew that some classes had natural attunements to dangerous places. Miners who were naturally inclined to cavernous dangers would have an innate sense of when they were in a dangerous portion where they might fall. It was like a sixth sense that told them they were not walking on steady ground and that they couldn't mine somewhere.

"It's not that large of a problem now that we know about it. We will prepare and everyone that is exploring underwater, they will know not to go in to any caverns without proper scouting."

"We should worry about the inexperienced scouts." This was the first thing that Alice had spoken up about. So far she had actually had a peaceful journey. She had been working to teach a few of the craftsmen how to use the small first aid kits that she and the other healers prepared. Overall she has been a teacher this whole time.

"They have already been returning with small injuries. Some of them are not taking the right precautions so we need to send more of the golems to assist them or to scout in their place." Alcie knowing this was because the healers handled the injuries. Even the smallest injuries needed to be checked.

It wasn't overly worrying or paranoid beliefs that came with that either. They were in an unexplored land where something small might have enough poison or venom to kill someone before anyone even realized it. Therefore the safe protocol was to send anyone injured to a healer first.

"I have noticed that a few of the weaker potions are missing faster than I planned. Is that what's causing it?" Alcie nodded to Remy to affirm her suspicion. "Then we need to tell them to back off and recognize actual injuries. Potions put weight on your body and using them for all the little things isn't worth it."

It was fair that Remy was annoyed by this. Overreliance on potions that should be used for larger than just scratches would make a difference on someone's body. They needed the nutrients within their body to ensure they healed, so using potions often would make them hungrier or weaken them if they were not eating properly to replenish what their bodies used.

Even the smallest scratches happening time and time again when treated with potions, would have a negative effect. That wasn't to mention that some people might develop resistance to the herbs used within that batch of potion. Something rare but more common with the people who utilized potions constantly.

"I think we should make them understand the risks and change the procedures. Captains only can approve potion usage or healers themselves." Onyx was already making solutions. He knew that his serpents were all around every ship whether it was flying or floating. He could make sure they also kept a close eye on the potion usage and make sure that it was not abused. Some wounds were better to heal naturally anyways.

"That would be wise, we should give a few warnings and make sure that people are using the training they have to actually resist, prevent, or heal naturally from wounds." This might end up with a few unhappy scouts and guards, but it was for the betterment of everyone in the long run.

They also had to consider how long rations and potions would last. They couldn't be foolish in their usage when they were so far from home. Even with the hero party with them, that was not an excuse to be excessive.

"This isn't new, there are adventurers that have the same problem, but now they can learn from us rather than learn the hard way." The long sigh that Su had after saying this ended when she looked at Walker who was holding up the sulfur moss. "That's the moss you said fairy dragons eat? Are you going looking for them?"

"I want to, if there are other types of dragons here I want to learn if they are intelligent or if they are the same as monsters. It could be a big deal for the dragon race if we have more answers for this." Everyone knew why Midnight might want to look, but Walker also seemed to be interested in uncovering more aspects of dragon history.

It had split when the dragons in the Sigil continent had gone wild. They split their bloodline and went rogue becoming nothing but monsters. The dragons who had remained in Genesis's continent were maintained but their number had dwindled along with their strength. And potentially, something entirely different had happened here on this continent where monsters had lorded over everything.

"I think that's important too. The dragons in the elemental planes are so different too." It wasn't surprising that Remy caught on to Walker's thoughts.

They had encountered those who had been stuck in the elemental planes and vice versa for the world. It meant that they had all developed entirely different from their counterparts. Some races within the elemental planes or the world had ceased to be where their other halves had changed immensely to become something entirely different.

The light angels in the light elemental planes had become less like the angels here in the world. They were sharper and they served the rulers of the light elemental planes. They were a force of order that maintained the rules of the light elemental plane and they were less like a race than they were a force of guards.

Whereas the angels in the world had maintained their potential to have different or multiple affinities. They also grew and developed differently while caught within their own inner racial struggles. It was very different but also separated them as entirely different races now.

"So we are going hunting for dragons. Sounds fun. But you are going to look in the water a little first?" Double checking, Gil looked at Walker to see if they had to go for a swim.

"I actually think we should leave it alone and just give warnings. The underwater golems and scouts are already working. We should let them know the dangers and how to avoid them. Otherwise, I think we should take the flying ships and set camp now." It was a little surprising that Walker was making this choice, yet, it made some sense.

Leaving the underwater forces and the floating ships would allow for the merfolk who wished to attempt to make this a home for their race which would be much safer the chance to do so. They would not have the help of a hero unless they asked for it. Instead, they would take all the growth they had achieved and grasp a future they desired with their own hands. It would hold greater meaning and inspire the generations of those who did not wish to lean on others for help.

"Agreed. When do we go exploring on solid ground?" Alice leaned forward waiting for an answer. Apparently, she was not enjoying the constantly moving ships on the water of the shifting ships in the air. But to be fair, she was not necessarily one to have to deal with these situations often.

"You are just waiting to see if you can teleport home to sleep in your own bed, aren't you?" Walker watched as Alice's face turned a little red. He had hit the nail on the head. However, it went a long way to calm everyone's nerves and relax them. From this point on they would push on to the mainland, those here would set their floating camp and explore with extreme caution.

"We can reinforce the exploration of the water once we have the teleportation formation made. That's simple. So let's make it happen." It was the best move. Prepare better defenses and ability to get more help or send those home who needed to return. Overall, it was the best and first priority.

Without any more talk, they all finished a few snacks and began issuing orders with all the information that Walker, Midnight, and Remy had gleaned. It was just a matter of time before they set foot on the mainland.

Chapter 2799: More Potential

As the different ships anchored in to the rocky bottom, a few of the dwarven golems returned to the ship to show their small mapping orbs. They had found outcropping under the water that had become coral covered hide aways for monsters. This was good for hunting and for exploring while the ships were here.

This would also allow for the experienced merfolk to come and look at these places. They could see what plants and monsters they were used to live there and if there was the potential to use this as a good place for their people to live.

It was hard to consider that these guards had partially come with this desire in mind. Walker hadn't put a greater amount of thought in to the moral examples of this. Yet, he also understood that some merfolk would never travel to Genesis because they would miss the water. They would want to feel the changing tides of the oceans around them at all times.

It was just what and who they were.

There was nothing wrong with it.

Otherwise, Walker also considered that the merfolk who had come here to explore were going to be doing an immense duty to the future of Genesis and the exploration this entire massive continent would have to offer the future generations.

While some people would not try and glimpse so far ahead, Walker had a familiar feeling while he and the party had watched the guards and supplies being swapped between flying and floating ships.

The continents that they lived were not necessarily the only or largest there could be. Once they were entirely mapped and people had settled in to researching ruins along with living on the land, the adventure would disappear in some ways.

New places untouched would be impossible to find.

Ruins yet to be exposed and shared wouldn't be seen any more.

Even the new monsters and herbs would become something experimented and grown to exist rather than a mystery of unknown out in the world somewhere.

Everything would shift to purely going in and out of the elemental planes. That would happen way too quickly making people focus less on the world where they came to unite even more closely with one

another. Changes that would happen over many generations wouldn't occur because the flow of how the world and all that made up the world would lose its pacing causing no change.

People could potentially lean toward living in the elemental planes only and forgetting the world over the years instead of becoming more unified with it.

What Walker felt from the potential he saw with the time mana resonating with him, was a better course that might be slower but would allow for more. Allow for greater growth in everything the world had to offer.

Explore this new to them lost continent. Find all of the potential the world had to offer as it changed and became the flow it was meant to have.

Only in doing that could Walker find more of the potential he believed everyone to have as they unified even more.

"Hey boss!"

Snapping out of his thoughts, Walker realized that he had allowed himself to meditate while considering exactly what he had begun to believe that time mana was. He was resonating with it while considering the potential of this new continent and how it could help everyone, not just everyone, but the growth of the world itself too.

"Yes Mela?" Walker didn't have much to say, the arcane puppeteer mela was brash and had been isolating herself the entire time since they had gotten on to the flying ships. The entire expedition for her had been one where she was just focusing on her puppets.

"I have some testing to do. You said you had some summing puppet skills or doll making skills too, show me." With a new train of thought in curiosity, Walker was wondering why she would want to see his skills when they were temporary and not as unique or advanced as her own since she could make puppets she controlled and were physical.

Regardless, Walker used some burnable straw and for the first time used it as fuel to create a flame doll. The moving doll of flames only drifts in the air in a vague humanoid form. It was only unique to the fact that it had no thought and could only follow orders Walker offered.

"I can do the same with earth using more mana, I assume water and wind too, but I do not use skills like this often. They cost materials to work and they drain mana. They also can't fight as intelligently as I can."

It was why Walker didn't even go looking in to magic like this. The dwarven golems were entering a huge prospect of growth too. There would surely be golems made by all races much better than if he focused on skills like this.

"It's not the same, you aren't connecting mana to it and you to make it hold still. You should just make a straw doll." Mela huffed, obviously not seeing everything she wished to learn from the skill that Walker displayed.

"It's good for seeing how manas move. Useful at least. So I can do this better." She rolled her eyes and made the familiar puppet he had already seen move. He had seen the small threads she wove with her hair and her mana move to connect to a shield wielding puppet.

However, when she moved her fingers, the thread absorbed her mana and so did the puppet holding twin shields. In that moment, rune formations burst to life and the two shields became covered in ice for a few breaths. Just enough to strengthen defenses.

"A bit better."

"So that's why you wanted to see how I did it. You wanted to know how to smooth the mana out as it activates the rune formations and changes from your mana to elemental mana being manipulated." Grasping a little more of what Mela could do in terms of her puppets also helped Walker. She had some good defensive abilities in terms of the puppets. Meaning that her skill could allow her to travel and always have bodyguards even without other people being with her.

It also would allow for her to be her own adventuring party if she made more offensive puppets. "You made that puppet styled after Su because of her shields and defensive abilities. You should speak with her about training some time. She would certainly help you learn more about defending yourself and how the puppet should move."

Walker wasn't just saying this since he was still considering potential. He was doing this because Mela had been a demon freed from the demons who had enslaved their own people. Pushing Mela to have more strength and self security would lead to her being able to face the worse life she used to have and grow now.

"If that's an order sure." The annoyed tone didn't leave but Walker felt that there was some happiness in her tone too.

"I have seen you with a few designs when I first scouted you out. Those small bird puppets, are they ready to scout and start sensing the wind currents better?" Walker knew that this doll had been made

so that the win could be sensed better and recorded through her mana threads to other mages. It was a very good idea for a doll and creation of a skill.

"That was a project. I have a hundred carved up. They are easy to make. Small things." Walker waved for a few mages he had seen watching the changes in the wind as their duties. "Work with these two. I want to see your skill now." He smirked because he knew that Mela came out here to test exactly this out.

Despite the rough personality, Mela adored the hero party who helped her. She wanted to show them all at some point that they had saved someone worth saving. While she would never say it out loud, Walker understood.

He too saw debts in everyone who offered to teach him when he had first been searching for his system. Now, he was uniting and pushing for all people to have a better future. He was paying off debts too.

Small birds, dolls made to mimic humming birds, flashed out of some hidden space. Mela didn't have to say she had a spatial skill, Walker already sensed it when they had met. The dolls hidden away started moving with brilliant wind green rune formations flashing on their bodies. They recorded the flow of wind as the ships moved in the clouds. Sharing everything the wind mages needed to research the area.

Chapter 2800 Arcane Puppeteer

For the moment, Walker was watching the small birds made to look like humming birds. He understood that the wind elemental rune formations on their wooden bodies were made to absorb wind mana and allow for the attached rune threads to share the information. However, where the skills and techniques changed was clear.

The threads didn't have one end but were intertwined to have three. This allowed for control from Mela's side to the dolls directly. She could control them to reach higher heights and spread out to capture more information on wind currents.

Whoever, she did not need to feel the reciprocal wind mana from the currents changing around the dolls. She couldn't do much with that information. So, the third end could be connected to a wind affinity mana gem to store the mana and changes in it. Yet, the best use was what was being done right now.

There were the wind mages holding the third ends of the threads using their special skills related to tracking wind mana currents to record the useful information. This would then be used to work on the maps and come together to track better potential travel plans and general migration information for monsters.

Being able to watch this form of mapping was valuable to Walker since it enlightened him about the skills people were developing.

Before everyone had come together within Genesis, scouting was the same as tracking to a hunter. People would make notes of the terrain, weather, and tracks of monsters or whatever else they were searching for or avoiding. Yet, scouting now utilized various other forms.

Magic in scouting now allowed for the very conditions of the weather to be guessed at for days if not weeks ahead. It also helped understand why a group of monsters might be moving ahead. It also looked beyond just the tracks but why there might be certain tracks with different patterns.

It was all about getting more information to develop better and safer theories to move forward.

Regardless, Walker watched until the dolls were pulled back in to the spatial storage and the mana threads pulled back to wrap about the demon's arms and legs again. Most people would find the large amount of threads on her arms and legs to be odd, but to Walker, he could sense Mela's mana moving through them and giving her multiple other limbs so to speak.

Where he also noticed something unique was that the mana threads could easily move in to the spatial storage she had, a skill he heard her whisper out loud to activate. She had called it, Puppeteers closet, an interesting name but since the puppets she made were all part of her it was easy to relate them to clothing or gear.

"That should be enough to help you understand?" She was gruff with her words but the slight spark in her eyes told Walker that she was looking to hear more from him.

"What other dolls have you made mimicking myself and the party? Do you want to meet with the other snow?" as if to make this even more believable that Walker would bring everyone over, Onyx slithered out of the shadows and Midnight came running up next to Walker. She had been watching and found it very interesting too.

"You think I have time to make all that? I only have one that looks like the serpent king Onyx. I can't make a dragon doll like the glutton dragon Midnight."

There were two reactions. Onyx coiling in curiosity as he was called a serpent king and Midnight huffing in annoyance as she was called a glutton. Both were a little different than Walker's reaction since he was very amused by the ways that this arcane puppeteer was calling his family members, not that it was false.

"The dark runes don't let my puppet hide in the shadows. No rune carvers could tell me how to make that work. They were useless so I just have a small puppet that can bite and inject poisons or venoms." The small serpent was the length of Walker's arm, it seemed to copy the shading of Onyx's darker and lighter scales using different woods. It also seemed that they would be sharper if someone touched them, just enough to cause pain or damage to weaker people.

"Onyx is also much larger than that, but looking at how you control the movement you must have learned from the snake and serpent golems that the dwarves made?" Walker saw a slight surprised expression from Mela before she looked away again. "If you watch how Onyx moves you can copy him better. He coils and puts a lot of strength in to his tail due to the pressure, that's how his tail slam skill is so powerful. Midnight does the same, they both use their natural body well."

"Su!!!!" Midnight shouted and across the deck of the flying ship, Su turned around from her conversation with Alice and several guards who had been cleaning their shields in the open air. She walked over curiously since Midnight rarely called for her. "The doll maker is mean. She didn't make me a doll." Her fake huff and puffing made it clear that she was trying to get Su to work in her favor.

"Oh? I thought you would be angrier that she made you one not as perfect as your scales." Su immediately started teasing as Midnight tried to push back, Su trying to pinch her cheeks and push her around was rare but enough to make Midnight feel like a big sister was calling her cute too much.

"The boss told me that you could show me how to make my guardian doll move better. It doesn't have wings like yours as a half dragon but I would like to learn. You are amazing and can protect anyone and everyone, please let me learn."

Now Walker was shocked, the annoyed and brutal attitude was gone as Mela appeared to greatly respect Su more than him. Yes she has seen Su's actions fighting and defending others in her village, but it still made him slightly jealous of the treatment.

"Of course I can spar with your doll while you learn. I would like nothing more than to see how much you can grow. I heard a bit about your skills and I think adding you to this expedition will make you a bit famous." Now Mela was even blushing and seemingly embarrassed, Walker felt like he had lost in every single way here.

"I am curious, have you made any dolls copying Gil, Remey, and Walker yet? Can you show me?" Su tilted her head since she wanted to see just what these arcane dolls would be able to do. She knew that Mela could use some magics with them but that was wildly different from proper magic.

"I have one of the aloof Gil and the potion crazy Remey, they are partially built because I don't know archery well or how to sharpen the metal claws for Remey to fight with..." The disappointment seemed true but Walker spotted some excitement in Mela's smile. She clearly wanted to know how to make these things possible. If she could she would be able to have much stronger dolls that stood out for the heroes she held close to her own heart.

"Then we will have to have them come and show you a bit. I can also make a few of our blacksmith friends help you. I assume all your dolls won't be wooden right?" Su was getting more and more information from Mela than what Walker had managed. He was a bit more jealous until he began to smell a few changes in the air.

"I smell the beaches. We might have something to scout so Midnight and I will do that while you get to know the arcane puppeteer better." Walker looked at Mela and found she hadn't even glanced his way. Su just giggled a little while Onyx stole a spot on Su's shoulders to also help and watch.

Midnight followed Walker trying to act like she didn't care at all. However, Alice saw them and reached out to grab Walker's hand before he smirked and stepped in to the air carrying her. She wasn't being left behind when she could see this new land as well.

It would make this a bit more fun. He could smell the changes in the air that meant they were approaching a larger beach. The smell of seaweed dried in the sun and the scent of seashells opened by monsters for food all told him that they would be looking in to a different seashore than what they had seen before. Of course he and everyone else would be curious.