

Master 2801

Chapter 2801 Marsh or Swamp

As expected, the beach he saw expanding fairly far before curving was covered in rocks. It also appeared that the area becoming a beach had changed it quite a bit.

Many of the larger boulders had a lot of wear and tear on them, proving that the test of time was still ongoing to make these rough rocks and boulders in to soft sands one day. Although, the waves were not that violent compared to the vast ocean's waves. The waves here were cut from being too wild by the islands that used to be mountain tops.

Regardless of all this, Walker could see plenty of proof that monsters had been around these shores. The clear markings of crab legs along the beach were enough to tell that there would be some larger species of crab monster. The drag marks he saw though, those could be from multiple different monsters.

Then came the holes in the gravelly sands. Walker knew that clams, crevice worms, and other species of ambush monster might be living in them. It almost felt like the entire beach was made in to a mass of traps and trials for anyone who shied to land anywhere nearby.

Looking past the beach, Walker could tell that the small streams of water were from a larger river breaking up. Just like marshes, the water split up and pooled for a time before eventually reaching the salty water. This area could have been a massive wetland before it became a marsh due to the change in terrain.

Yet, from this height, Alice, Midnight, and himself got to enjoy the ways the tall yellow and green grasses moved in small breezes. It was almost like an illusion. The perfect movements of the wind across certain areas proved that this area was much like the larger plains around the demi-human territories.

A soft hum came from Alice as she used one of her songs to buff Walker's speed. She did this so he would keep moving and she could keep seeing more. "I am your tour guide now then?" He laughed before stepping through the wind and watching Midnight flap her wings to push well ahead of them. It seemed he was the slow one right now.

Moving above the marshlands proved to be the right thing though, Walker quickly spotted larger monsters and what had to be neststs for even bigger monsters. "There are large mouth frogs waiting for

prey, cow sized flies, and whatever made the neststs over there." Walker was most worried about the monster he didn't see.

The nests were large enough for an adolescent dragon to curl up in. proving that even if the monster that made them wasn't too violent, it would be dangerous regardless. The biggest issue with larger monsters was the destruction they caused just by moving. It wasn't intentional, just a consequence of their size.

"Brother, food!"

"Food?" Surprised that food could be out here, Walker dashed through the air so he and Alice could take a look at what Midnight was flapping her wings over.

'Swamp apple

This apple grows out of rotting remains gathered by certain monsters. When it grows, it is unlike other trees and remains very small. However, all of its nutrients and mana go in to forming a single fruit that contains a hundred seeds that will be spread after being consumed by various monsters.

The fruit releases a dense dark and water affinity mana allowing for it to attract monsters that will consume it and distribute the seeds by doing so. However, it also allows for the best nutrition for those monsters causing them to grow faster.

The swamp apples are toxic to those without the affinities needed to consume them and cannot easily be gathered and transported elsewhere. They will rot rapidly if they are harvested poorly and they are only found to grow sporadically based on the movements of other monsters..."

It was an apple but Midnight seemed like she wanted to just eat the new fruit she had found. Unfortunately for her, Walker snagged it and stored it away. Midnight didn't want this but she knew that it was because the greenhouses or farmers could utilize the fruit in better ways.

"What about there?" Alice pointed out some smaller fruits, definitely different from the swamp apples that had just attracted them here.

'Floating poison puffs

These are underwater plants that require the bodies of monsters to grow properly. However, they grow beneath the muddy layer under the water making them hard to add nutrients to naturally.

They adapted to grow poisonous balls of dark mana infused fluff easily consumed by foolish monsters. After perishing from the poisons they fall down in to the water and become nutrients for the plants growing the floating poisons puffs called silt poison roots...'

"Those are not really edible. They are poisonous and intentionally so that whatever eats them dies and floats to the bottom of the water. That way the plant roots down there can get even denser nutrients. This more so makes this area seem like it used to be a swampland before it was forced to become a marsh."

The more that Walker considered this, the more he realized that this would be a very good thing. "If it was all swamps before becoming a marsh, most of the monsters and plants might have survived without changing all that much over the years."

"So there will be better chances to research. I like that." The smile Alice had on her face said that she read the books Remy had gifted her. It seemed the books were all about the herbs found in toxic growing conditions but had immense medicinal properties.

Seeing a large change in the water, all three of them focused on it to see they had a massive snake looking out right at them. It seemed to sense the changes in the wind mana Walker manipulated to help them all fly steadily with ease while scouting around.

'Titan constrictor

This is a descendant of the titanic boa, as time went by and prey was harder to come by, their size became smaller. However, their size can still grow over many years allowing them to be much greater in length compared to other smaller snake monsters. While they have long given up their usage of venom like their ancient ancestor, they have instead enhanced their musculature over the years.

This makes them a terrifying predator that will often consume hundreds of other monsters when it is on the hunt. It will often search for prey not based on size but based on the strength of mana within the prey. This is because it needs an immense amount of mana within its body to grow and provide for the eggs it will lay.

Often the titan constrictor lays three eggs at a time then goes dormant for two or three years afterwards to recover from the strain. This is often when monsters nearby will attempt to consume the eggs and grow rapidly due to the nutrients within. However, the titan constrictor is known to guide other monsters towards its nest to act as guards under its protection while it is awake...'

"That seems to be the larger monsters that made the nest below. And if it made a nest then it might want to lay its eggs soon. We will have to have everyone avoid this area since it will hunt everyone with denser mana than the monsters around here. Those frogs nearby are protected by it because they can act as guards so to speak. It's smart enough to hunt good prey and keep certain monsters alive, but it doesn't have the intelligence to work with us."

This was a delicate line. A predator that was able to work intelligently but was not developing to become a recognized race. While some would argue the potential here, many would face the fact that this species of monster just couldn't go beyond what it was. It was certainly an apex predator, but something within it was lacking the ability to go forward even more.

Even Walker sensed it somehow. Maybe it was the affinity he had with time mana to a degree, recognizing a lack of potential, or just what he was as an origin being. Regardless, he knew that it would be easier to avoid this monster and even better to give it a little fright to deter it from attempting to hunt him and the others.

With a simple wave of his hand, Walker sent a cold burst of air toward the surface of the water causing the titan constrictor to sink away to the depths of the marshlands. It seemed effective enough of a deterrent. The cold for any snake was often a weakness it couldn't resist easily. For now, this would do since he didn't want to hunt a monster that might be rarer to cross paths with than others. It was better to allow the world to survive naturally than cause extinction.

Chapter 2802 Land Here

"So giant monster snakes that could probably eat everyone in our camp will definitely be hunting us. That sounds soooo amazing."

"All that sarcasm makes me think you might go out looking for it Remey."

"Says the one looking for an arrow to hunt it right now."

The bickering between Gil and Remey had been continuous since everyone hadn't yet found a good location for a camp just yet. Meaning that the flying ships were holding steady near the beach.

It was good though. There was time for everyone to focus on the fact that monsters moved beneath them along the beach regardless of the flying ships being around. It was a chance to gather more information about what monsters lived here and how they moved. It also showed some interesting ways a few of them gathered food.

Specifically how the crumbling mountain crabs moved larger rocks and boulders to see what hid underneath, often leading them to snag a few eel species of monster to eat. That wasn't the focus once a few of the scouts and researchers present spotted them though. Even a few of the tamers began to theorize who might use them as tamed monsters.

The crumbling mountain crabs used to be a pure earth monster. That had been gleaned from the appraisals on it. Their lives were lived in the mountains moving boulders and climbing in to caverns. They even carved out some caverns to make nests for themselves.

However, they gained a water affinity once the seawater had risen and some had been trapped on island. For them, they had been forced deeper inland or they had been forced to adapt. Making them a unique species of monster that took two different growth paths over many years.

These on the beach possessed the water affinity and could utilize it along their hardened earth claws to easily move and cut through stone. Hence the term crumbling. Their counterpart that fled inland had a pure earth affinity but the appraisals didn't give their names. Unfortunately, these crabs were both good and bad.

They could be hunted for their shells which were tough, but they also were aggressive if they were challenged. If they were left alone they might just wander away without a care that someone or something was nearby. But this was also why the camps were not going to be put here. It would be a constant fight against them making everything unsafe.

"Could we use earth magic to make a camp?" While Alice's question and suggestion was worthwhile, it wouldn't be useful since the marshlands were also full of monsters.

"We will need to go more inland, where the ground becomes drier. I know there should be some plains past the marshlands. We might want to just call them salt swamps though, there seems to be more comparison to the swamps with the monsters and plants there." As much as Su wanted to go with what Alice said, she had the foresight to guess what led up to the salty swamps.

"I can spot a few trees past there. But that's in the distance. I can't tell you what kind or any details." now that surprised everyone.

Yes, Gil had amazing eyesight, he was now one of the high elves and an arcane archer with many titles to boot. Yet, that shouldn't make his eyesight so great that it could see even beyond Walkers. Walker had the advantage of using his mana to also expand his sight.

"Don't look at me all surprised. Just accept that I enhanced my far sight skill in to arcane far sight." As much as Walker wanted more details about the skill being increased through some form of training related to the arcane marksman class, Gil would surely let his ego go too far if Walker did ask.

Plus, having the ships move again was better. The order was also easily given and there was nothing anchoring them before the wind began to build and move them ahead.

This gave everyone a moment of sunlight to contemplate the sheer immensity that came with the runes being used all over the flying ships.

Not only were some using the newly created gravity rune formations to lighten the weight, there were also reinforcement rune formations that worked with wind rune formations causing the flying ships to move without drawing too much mana. Then on top of it the side sets of rotors to channel wind magic to enhance speed even more was altogether spectacular for travel.

A few harpies and angel scouts returned as they began to leave all carrying small mapping orbs and some notes. The information that they gathered would be compiled elsewhere. For not though, Walker focused on where Gil had just told him to look.

And trees, were right. While it was a large plain ahead, it had some sporadic trees in clusters of ten or fifteen. All seemingly intertwined and leaning on one another to resist the weather of whatever wind storms might sweep through the area.

"They aren't trees in the sense that we would call them a single tree, they are like trees and vines got smashed together in to the same plant." This seemed to be the best way that could describe the trees Gil was seeing more clearly as they neared them. Once Walker got close enough he used his own all around appraisal a few times to get some good information.

"Tangle vine tree

This tree used to grow over the entire plains of beasts. Unfortunately, time was not friendly to them after multiple battles of ancient monsters and change in temperature, they have fallen and become fewer and smaller.

This does not change the thin branches growing and intertwining with one another to become pillars that protect from vicious storms and even their roots bound together to resist brutal earthquakes. Their entanglement also allows for them to share nutrients when in tougher times.

Untangling them is near impossible which is why no race ever attempted to do so. Instead, they could be grown in specific ways using arcane farming to create natural walls and natural defenses for magic towers. Otherwise, they were avoided due to the acid ants that often make nests within their tangled branches. These groups of acid ants often leave their tangled nests to fight one another for sustenance and territory.

The tangle vine tree is also known for the fact that its leaves grow in curled shapes which allow for them to be blown far away during harsh wind storms. This is why they are also able to grow far from the tree of their origin since seeds are trapped within the leaves and break down to grow anew...!

"So we will have to watch out for territorial ants that live inside those tangle vine trees. But if we can make a solid encampment, they should avoid us since we would be too dangerous of an opponent to fight." It sounded like a good theory and plan. The plains here were flatter along with the monsters more easily avoided using intimidation. Plus, the acid ants seem to care more about fighting one another than bothering larger monsters or us in this case.

The agreement shifted between the entire party and as Su, Alice, and Gil passed the information to the guard captains waiting nearby, the message to land in the most open space was made. The flying ships anchored first and let ropes down for the guards, however, no monster appeared to be around since the wind the ships created scared off most things around.

A few small holes in the ground proved other monsters lived here but they were rodents that seemed much too afraid of them to even come near. It did mean that provisions needed to be kept on the flying ships to make sure nothing snuck in and ate them though.

"I don't see much in the distance for ruins or towers, but I have a feeling Walker has some ideas."

"Of course he does.. He is probably thinking about using his mana sense to go off tracking this and that. But he should stay here for a while since I have a feeling we can follow those ants to some good herbs to gather."

"No, we should find food!"

Walker returned from speaking to a few guard captains only to find Remey, Midnight, and Gil arguing about what to do next. He also noticed that Su and Alice were laughing at the three while Onyx seemed to just be basking in the sunlight.

"I think we should all remember that we have a lot to explore and we might want to grab small mapping orbs before we try and find anything." The long sigh at the end of this came as Walker realized he was thinking about doing all of that and more of him could help it. Not that he didn't notice a few of the guard captains nearly shaking in excitement too.

Chapter 2803 Dangerous Plants and Monsters

Studying the acid ant that had wandered near him, Walker found that its yellow color would match the dried grasses all around the tangle vine trees they lived in. However, its thin legs were ideal for dashing around and avoiding larger predators. It also must make them more mobile in the tangled mess that was their home.

As the smaller scouts like the one he was watching came near where the camp was being set up, they would rush away. A few other ants had approached but they hadn't attempted to even spit acid at them in any way. It seemed that they understood the larger threat that their camp would become if they bothered them.

Meanwhile, another group of scouts had already reported back on a few acid ants carrying away the remnants of what had to be a separate colony living in another small grouping of tangle vine trees. It seemed that the expedition had arrived just as a war between small colonies had finished.

The small holes where rodent monsters had been thought to live were also figured out.

'Sand field mouse

After being forced from their home due to the changing terrain, some of the dashing field mice species managed to make it from the sandy fields they lived and get in to a different territory. As they lost some of their wind affinity, they became primarily earth affinity mice able to dig through sandy soil more easily. While some have remained in the rocky areas others have lived only in sand.

They forage for any food they can find...'

The worry that provisions would be eaten in to was justified once one of these sand field mice were caught. No one had any arguments about having to go back on to the flying ships to eat.

Where time would be taken was building the teleportation formation. It required care and slow work to make sure it was perfect. The distance people would be teleported with magic might not be further than the Sigil continent, but it was still important to make sure every single detail was done properly. Especially with the new formation being more refined.

This left Walker to be able to scout along the area and see what he could learn. The others were also enjoying this as long as they had taken the small mapping orbs with them. Shockingly, Alice had gone off with Remey and Su.

There was an interest in herbs for Remey but Su and Alice had seen some of the plants gathered by the first scouting groups heading out. They had noticed that some were similar to fibrous herbs that could

be used as makeshift bandages and wanted to find more to see if Remy could identify them as being useful.

It seemed that Su and Alice had gotten in to a long conversation about survival healing. Su had started it by giving advice to some of the guards and scouts who were less experienced. This brought Alice in to the conversation and new theories.

To be fair, Walker actually found it as a brilliant idea as well since he believed that any survival based knowledge and skills would greatly help everyone. If the worst case happened while guards or adventurers were out scouting or protecting their camp, they would be able to adapt to it and survive.

This was why when he went off on his own for a little walk closer to where trees got thicker and they were not all the tangle vine trees, he kept an eye out for plants.

This didn't mean he found a good one though.

'Howling bloom

This is a strange species of flower known for the fact that when it blooms the pollen attracts the howling baboons known to become extremely violent when hungry. These flowers have absolutely no use other than to be used by certain meat eating birds to be dropped in to the howling baboon nests...'

This flower was quick to be burned in to ashes when Walker saw it. He wanted nothing to do with an extremely violent monster that was attracted by a single flower. Not to mention whatever flying monster was smart enough to see them to draw that monster nearby and fight to its death just so it would become food. It was a strange and annoying potential fight to be in.

This just showed him how the environment here had developed due to the monsters always being in competition without anything intelligent to hunt them for prey and their body parts. This made Walker wonder what it would be like if there was more to it.

For example, his mind lingered on what it would be like if there was a competition like this between races because they could not see the error of their ways. Would there still be starvation to extreme

levels along with the death of many people? Would things have even gotten worse if all the races now were just less intelligent?

'Strangling vine worm

This is actually a monster that covers itself in the fallen bark from trees. It is extremely strong but must rely on the earth affinity to see and sense movement. When it can, it will find a sleeping monster and wrap itself around parts of their body or neck to strangle and break that limb off. It will then slowly eat that limb or body as it rots.

While this monster is known for rarely being caught in the act, it will be hunted by various small lizard monsters due to the nutrients it gathers while eating decaying monster parts. This allows for dark affinity monsters to get a denser nutrition...'

This was another plant that proved to be a hiding monster, something unique again and also very dangerous that now he would need to warn everyone about. Especially those who camped in tents alone. Just proof that staying in pairs would be the best idea for the current standing of this trip.

He also spotted some white flower petals falling from what seemed to be an oak tree. He was surprised that even the oak trees would be different yet so similar here on another continent.

'Parasitic petal

This is a small single leaf plant that anchors in to other trees and bushes. It looks like white flower petals but actually feeds on the sap of that plant. This allows it to steal the water mana it needs to be able to easily grow and then fly off in the wind to another location where there are healthier trees...'

He was sighing with every strange plant he tried to use his appraisal skill on. He found that the environment here was becoming more and more deadly due to the fact that every monster was always in battle with one another.

This was survival of the fittest and there was always proof around the corner that this would be the case. Especially for just the plants and smaller monsters.

Yet, he did find that it was a good thing there were so many of them. If this was the case then the environment was healthy. It meant that with care and clear rules there would be enough materials to keep every race growing together in their homes for a long time. It also meant that it would be easier to regulate and create a sustainable ecosystem here.

His idea of inhabiting this continent with a few cities was falling apart. Instead, Walker was considering that he would be able to try and make this continent less touched by the races. People could come here to adventure slowly and develop as he had thought, but instead of making any larger and established villages, he could push for it to remain a temporary resting place for those adventurers.

This would allow for there to be a more natural form of growth rather than changing a lot.

Although he would need better experts than himself to worry about this potential. He had to see what everyone thought in terms of leadership in Genesis and also those with natural mana perception skills. They might have better thoughts about how to do all this than he had.

Otherwise, Walker was able to get most of the fields they had landed in mapped out again along with seeing the edges of the more forested area. He also sensed that there was dense water mana ahead so he had taken to the sky to test out his theory.

When he did this though, he realized he wasn't sensing a stream or a lake.

He was sensing a massive river three maybe four times the size of any river on the Sigil continent or anywhere near Genesis. So large that it would take several ships to even near crossing it halfway in just length.

Chapter 2804: Obstacle

It was even more insane watching the water churn in this massive river. It seemed to cut right across any path toward where the expedition might explore or travel, and from the looks of it, this river was more or less a way to cut the continent in two before breaking in to hundreds of smaller rivers and streams to become the rough marshlands they had seen.

It proved that before the saltwater had risen and turned mountains in to islands, that this river might have been the source of the swamps and maybe even a gathering of lakes. It would have provided enough water for all of that while also being a home for the largest monsters on the continent that needed water.

As if to also reinforce this though, Walker glanced at the movement on the distant shore of the river. Larger creatures with deep black leathery skin sat in the sun enjoying the heat. They looked familiar but well too large compared to the species he'd seen before.

'Brute hippo

Violence is the best word that is associated with this species of monster. They have an affinity for light mana and need to rest in the sun to absorb it, however, they have adapted their bodies to attract as much as possible leading them to have an excess. This mostly causes them to overheat and run in to a rage.

They are often in terrible moods due to their affinity and use their water affinity to also cool themselves while moving rapidly through the water to utilize the enhancement of their body from light mana. This makes them exceptionally strong and one of the few purely physical beasts with self enhancement magic despite only fighting with physical force.

They will fight one another or other monsters no matter how small, they even get one another riled up when they see a small mouse or bird causing them to stomp and destroy the entire riverbank.

While they are the most violent monster within the gnashing river, they are not the strongest. They are actually prey for quite a few monsters. This is because their muscles are very dense and can last many a long time as sustenance, this skin was once used as materials to create carriage shielding after being tanned...'

Scouting this area would take a lot of time. Not because it was just a larger river than anyone had ever seen. It was because they would need to find an area without these dangerous monsters to worry about.

While the flying ships and most of the guards having spells to help others temporarily fly or flight being a skill they had themselves was useful, it would not help scout the underwater or the banks of the river easily. That would be an entirely dangerous and intense focus that would take time to achieve.

It might be better to wait to even go near this river until there was a larger and more powerful group in the expedition.

While that thought could have come across as doubting to anyone else, it was just the safer option. Most of the powerful forces who could go underwater or explore safely in watery areas were searching the islands right now. They would be doing so for the foreseeable future as well since the islands and the underwater area that used to be mountains would take much longer to explore since the small mapping orbs needed to map the ocean floor of the area.

Taking a deep breath, Walker used wind magic to propel himself forward faster. He didn't want to get caught up in any fighting with the brute hippos, he didn't need to fight them and didn't need to bring back any monster materials or food right now. It was better to just use his time wisely since he was also carrying a small mapping orb that would map this area better.

Once they had a small line of mapped area, the researchers and geographers that came with them would have the ability to better guess what was around the area as a whole. Just a little more information could move on to a great deal of theories about the overall terrain and just what might be needed in terms of exploring further parts of this monster continent.

The sharp cry of a bird monster made Walker turn his head and look down. He was absolutely stunned to see behind him that a larger monster was carrying one of the younger brute hippos away with its talons.

'Kidnapper bird

This bird is a species of monster that has gained its name through the abduction and consumption of younger monsters. It does not care what monster it does after as long as it can carry them in its larger talons. This has caused it to develop powerful talons and even more powerful wings that work with all of its wind mana capacity...'

He didn't even read the entire appraisal. This monster had specifically adapted to steal away prey from every monster around. It didn't care about repercussions since it could fly away under most circumstances. It even seemed to use wind mana without thought to fly higher before going out of sight of the now enraged brute hippo group left behind at the riverbank.

Things only seemed worse when Walker also noticed that there were more of them hiding in trees watching the brute hippo group. It was like people waiting in line for their favorite dinner table to be open. The chef already had the food waiting, they just had to race to be the first to sit at the table.

This wasn't on his mind for long as he noticed the trees become more substantial and his mana senses picking up on the fact that many manas moved through the trees.

It wasn't just the mist that made the jungle like environment important. It was the fact that there was only a jungle like mist to his right while to the left he noticed a change to dryness. The forest was different because manas flowed from outside of it one hotter, while the other was more full of water and some dark mana.

"Maybe a desert on the other side, and a few waterfalls and rocky terrain on the other..." mumbling out loud, Walker looked north and could tell that if he pushed far enough he would definitely move in to a colder region, what that entailed would just have to be seen later since he was not separating himself that far right now from the rest of the expedition.

The curiosity in his mind wanted him to rush off in all directions at once, but that would be impossible unless he actually looked at developing skills like the true sages in the elemental planes. Even then, he was sure that doing so would leave him weakened and defenseless right now, not something he wished to try out for simple curiosity.

With another deep breath, Walker used wind magic to speed himself through the air and back to the flying ships, which were surrounded by a rough camp. The tents being built up and a rough earth wall made all around everything by the heart mages made everything seem all that much safer. Everyone has been doing a lot of good work.

Unsurprisingly, Walker found Remey making some small potions. She was watering down some of the higher tier healing potions so that the pants they found could be soaked in them. The plants were similar to what Walker would call a rope or a dried fiber, but when he appraised them he found they were called coiling cork tree bark.

It was a tree that allowed its leaves and bark to peel away from it each season so that the softer buoyant wood underneath could absorb more water when it rained. It was an interesting plant but harvesting from it to make sanitized and soaked bandages would actually be an amazing possibility for farmers later on when they were brought to Genesis.

"So, what's the word? Scout out enough land to tell us where we will head out to?" Gil easily caught up to Walker since he had been assigning the archers to watch out on taller posts made along the walls out of denser earth.

"There is a massive river ahead. Infested with monsters. I don't mean large. I mean, absolutely massive. So we aren't going to cross it. I think the territory to the west becomes dry like a desert and to the east becomes hot and steamy like a jungle. Meaning that north should be something with ice."

It appeared that Gil was even more excited about this. He could explore a whole lot and find plenty of arrow materials. More so though, he seemed worried to hear that there was already a major obstacle to any expedition in these lands. "So we need plans, sounds about right."

Chapter 2805 Come along

There was a lot of talk as the captains of each group heard that there was a massive river to the north. One that was uncrossable if they tried to swim or use a boat right now. It also got more stressful when they heard there were monsters that would attack them just for existing anywhere near them or the water. It was a harsh reality.

Yes this was a dangerous expedition and nothing would stop that. However, being told that it was too dangerous to explore was a hard hit for them. Everyone who came, the veterans in particular, had come with the desire to explore and make a name for themselves. Finding that they were limited was a harsh hit to their pride.

For the less experienced adventurers and guards, this sounded like they weren't trusted enough to be able to defend themselves and achieve their goals.

This was exactly why Walker had brought everyone to the mapping room within the flying ship and allowed for the information on the area to be displayed. The grand mapping room in the Genesis building could show so much more, but the smaller version which used less materials, mana, and technique to make showed enough.

As the guard captains saw that the river Walker spoke about wasn't just a larger river as they imagined, they grasped the depth of what monsters could live there. They had also seen glimpses of the markings made by the titan boa, so they could understand the immense size of what could hide within those waters.

Luckily, the direct area around their camp had already been fruitful. Walker and the party had gathered to plan out the expedition areas while the final touches to the teleportation formation were being made. This allowed for everyone to understand exactly what could be done in terms of general gathering or hunting for the time being.

It also presented another small challenge.

"There is a dungeon entrance within a large fallen tree?" The words sounded like Gil struggled to think of them properly. Maybe because he was sure that they hadn't brought any researchers focus edon dungeons since they had opted to highlight those who could create and improve the rune formation for when they needed people to travel back and forth.

"We wanted to have you appraise it since the appraisals we have used seem to struggle to identify it with more details. It just gives us the name, slumbering forest dungeon." One of the guard captains who had taken their team to see what this was after the scouts found it had used multiple appraisal scrolls, however, it seemed the skill was not good enough to get more information.

"I take it we will need more specialized class users who can appraise dungeons and such from now on then. It was an eventuality that the world would shift in that direction." Since Su had seen this sort of thing in the forge or even the adventurer's guild, it made a lot of sense.

The world might be changing, but so were the people. Instead of general skills, many had specialized in what they were best at. It was just the way everyone was growing since they could take their own class

and learn or grow by their own hand. They weren't limited by what system they were lucky to have. They all had connections to the world system and could get a class as they worked for.

"I will go and get an all around appraisal. If it seems to be something dangerous we will mark it so we can keep anyone else from accidentally going inside. If it is safer, we can set a small camp there for those who go to explore it and map it, if it can be mapped." Walker knew that some dungeons might not be mapped.

However, as he had always thought, Dungeons might be something even more unique since they were technically alive in a sense. They absorbed mana, grew, and even offered quests. They were deeply blind to the way the world had been meant to function before the breaking off from the elemental planes.

Due to this, he considered the potential that this dungeon could be very valuable to the growth of the people of Genesis and the world. It could make this new continent exploration even more important. If it was a larger dungeon or had valuable plants and monsters, it could be the boost needed to complete the floating angel cities or even the projects to make floating workshops, healing tents, and herb gardens with elemental domes.

"Is there anything else you have found?" This was what Gil and Remy wanted to ask as Su had asked before them.

"Some herbs that we need identified for usage as healing herbs or medicine that the alchemists here wish to begin using. There are also pieces of stone to the east that seem strange compared to the color of stone we have found from the mountains or naturally in the area."

Now Walker was torn.

He wanted to look in to this dungeon. Mostly because he had a feeling that there was something interesting about it. Not simply because it was the first that they were finding on this continent, but because he just had a gut feeling about it. Something pulled on the edge of his mind saying that he needed to get a little more information about the dungeon so that he could look deeper in to how the monster continent worked.

Yet, he was tempted to go looking in to the fact that different stones were found to the east. The ruins that they were here to search for ruins. If the ruins were there then so could be valuable documents about magic and how the ancient magic these mages used to fight literal giant monsters survived. Not to mention how their magic related crafting and runes could work with what Genesis was developing now.

"I will prioritize the dungeon. If you can send scouts to search for the source of those odd stones, then we might discover some ruins. They could hold valuable knowledge and become one of the first major locations for research. The dungeon is more important for gathering materials though, the people need that more."

It was a purely logical decision that led to Walker giving the order. He and the party would go to check it out and potentially even go inside the dungeon if they could.

It was better if they could go inside the dungeon and see what the environment was about. The name, slumbering forest, was all and good for some theories but it was not necessarily the best description of what they might find. Especially since there was a lot of potential in what they might need for materials.

Just building permanent camps on the very edge for the teleportation formation would be major. It would be a special place for the movement of materials to Genesis and the Sigil continent. The second city was still not built up to the level that everyone needed to live comfortably.

With a large breath, Walker channeled some mana and buffed everyone. They wouldn't be flying through the air to get to the dungeon, it was better to run. However, he did wave over Mela.

As much as Mela was a novice in terms of expeditions, battle, and adventures, she would have her puppets to check out dangerous areas. It would also be perfect to have the entire hero party show her the strength they had while they traveled. As much as others may object since it would be better to have her follow with a group of guards, the party could easily protect her just the same, if not better than a group of guards.

"Mela, you are coming with us to check out a dungeon. You will have the chance to see how every member of my party moves. Take mental notes, stay in the center of us, and if Midnight tells you to move or takes her full dragon form, be prepared for danger."

Mela looked terrified, her hottie attitude was gone since she had just been speaking with scouts and even training with a few of the guards who learned under Gil so that she could do better with the doll she modeled after Gil. Yet, she also had a slight shake to her hands.

It was exciting. For many, this was a dream come true. She wasn't just watching the hero party who saved her from her fate as a slave to evil demons. She was working with them so she could also become a pillar that helped others. Plus, she was using her puppets, the dolls she spent hours making using a class that she hadn't met another else using.

Chapter 2806 Dungeon Changes

The party was interested in the dolls that they saw. Mela seemed to be nervous, but she quickly threw up a tough mental wall and seemed to be stomping down her emotions. She also had called out the doll, mimicking how Su moved.

"You are already doing better with that doll. Its shields aren't dragging or getting caught on anything. I think you just need to look at finding a way to swap shields to different rune formations for each situation."

The compliment distracted the arcane puppeteer, but she managed to respond nonetheless. "I adjusted the joints to hold them higher naturally, it changed the balance so I needed to add more weight to the lower core and slightly shift the mana gem in its center."

Walker was still a little annoyed that Mela was so polite with Su, but it was what it was. He was more interested to know that inner adjustments to a doll like this could be done quickly enough to enhance the overall usage of the doll.

He was still thinking that this demon girl had a great amount of potential and wanted to see her taking advantage of that while they were in this unexplored land.

"Sir, the dungeon we discovered is just half an hour walk from here. I will move to check the surroundings with the remainder of the team." Gil gave a nod in response since the scouts who had found the dungeon had quite a few elves who looked to him for approval.

"That's good for us since it will free up space for a little fighting. Onyx, why don't you take the batting role and Mela will take the defending role. I will buff her so she can compete and partner with you." Mela shot a glance of fear before covering the look with a stern expression.

The grasses that led up to some more trees of different varieties on the way toward the dungeon gave more hiding places for monsters. Hence why Walker had kept his senses sharp for when they might approach.

That didn't mean he was going to deal with everything or let Midnight take out everything. He wanted training to be done for the arcane puppeteer who would be assisting them in checking the internal lands within the dungeon they were heading in to.

As a larger brown furred boar burst from the surrounding foliage, Onyx took a slightly larger form but not quite his larger natural size. He instead did so just enough to be able to make a more intimidating presence.

Unfortunately that didn't stop the momentum of the boar, that was where the doll made with Su in mind took the lead.

One of the shields flashed with a water rune formation causing it to be covered in ice. The weight of the boar hit it and pushed the doll back. Walker sensed a decent amount of mana leaving Mela's body through the mana threads and in to the doll as spokes formed on the shield causing the brown haired boar to bleed slightly.

It was a smart offensive and defensive move at once, but it clearly needed practice and refinement since it had drawn a lot of mana from Mela, much more than when she controlled many more small bird dolls to sense the wind mana. But that was the key, she would have to refine her mana threads, rune knowledge, and anything else related to the core of the doll to make sure she didn't need as much mana to activate the rune formations.

Realistically, Walker knew that she would have to refine the doll with a core similar to a golem instead of just a mana gem. That would allow her to have a larger amount of mana within the doll perfect for activating rune formations whenever she needed them in a battle without enough time to send mana through the mana threads.

That, or she would need to enhance the flow of mana through the mana threads made with her own hair. That would take more time and much better materials to braid strands of her hair in to. Something that was not as viable right now for her.

Onyx snapped out opening his mouth and biting the brown haired boar. His venom killed it in just a few breaths while the pressure from his bite broke its bones. Without waiting, he made a deal of it since the internal dark mana in his body would break it down quickly. He also didn't mind taking the body since he was already a bit hungry anyways. Not that he didn't prefer better cooked food to this, but he also wanted to make a point that battles would be brutal.

Mela was wide eyed seeing that Onyx was able to fight and consume the monster. To her, this was a larger threat than what she imagined she would face as a first battle.

"I said I would send a buff for you, but you didn't need it. You used a lot more mana than you needed for just one of your arcane dolls. I feel like you will be too limited if you want to use multiple combat dolls at one. Try to imagine how storing mana within them would benefit you. Later, reference the golem cores and mana gems used in crafting weapons or armor."

"It was a very good block too, it gave Onyx an opening to attack without worry that he would have to take a harder hit."

"I want to see you use another shield and do what you did with fire. I can help you figure it out." Walker, Su, and Remey all offered some words while Mela absorbed the situation that had just occurred.

"It was a brown haired boar, it's common in some places near Genesis, so it's nice to see something familiar around here. They breed quickly and can be hunted for food for the guards and explorers." Gil's mind was on food and providing for others.

Over the next ten minutes, the group walked without any interruption until another boar shot from the woods and Su took it down this time. This time she made it slow and clear how she fought defending herself until Midnight dashed in and slashed at the boar killing it. The two had danced around dodging, blocking, and attacking so that Mela could learn more.

After another few minutes of walking, Mela looked ahead and saw a larger fallen tree with rocks cropping out of the open hole. "There is the dungeon entrance. It looks like a stairwell in to the tree, interesting." Alice hummed while looking around. She hadn't really gone and looked at many dungeons but her sing song voice of curiosity was enough to keep her focused while everyone else began to set a small camp.

'Rampant forest dungeon

This dungeon has shifted due to the mana flow nearby. It is now in the rampant forest form causing it to be filled with more violent monsters.

While this dungeon may change based on the mana around it, it also changes with the group entering it. Only groups of ten at most can enter and the dungeon will place them in more dangerous areas of the massive forest within.

The elemental planes that were absorbed through space mana to cause this dungeon to properly appear are all linked forming in to the ever changing forest. Some species of monster hide within and can not leave unless the dungeon feels that the outer environment is safe enough-'

The all around appraisal cut off as the dungeon seemed to change again.

'First of slumbering sparks dungeon

This dungeons has shifet-'

'Resting forest dungeon'

The dungeon seemed to be shaking slightly while changing its location to drop the party. Walker could sense the mana within and around being pulled in as if something was struggling. He placed a hand out and released some natural mana causing calmness and balance to regain its hold. The dungeon seemed to absorb it and also calm after a moment.

"The dungeon is a massive forest with many different sections. It tried to adapt to who is entering. The issue is we are very powerful and release a lot of different manas around us naturally. It had some trouble so I helped it. Now, let's see if we can..." Walker seemed to trail off as the all around appraisal changed again.

'Fairy forest clearing dungeon

Home of the few remaining fairy dragons, this location within the dungeon can only be accessed when an intelligent dragon is present to also enter. It is impossible to force the way in even with space magic due to the world's involvement.

This dungeon was altered by an ancient mage to protect the last of the fairy dragons they found from another ancient...'

Chapter 2807 A Haven

"This might be much more interesting than we thought."

Walker had expected that he would find a dungeon that could be valuable for the resources within. Yet he found that this dungeon was not only one that changed depending on the manas that it absorbed, but also that had been changed by ancient mages.

This wasn't even taking in the full fact that at one point, fairy dragons were going extinct and those ancient mages made a special place within the dungeon for them to hide. That made it very clear that the dungeon itself would be massively unique beyond what other dungeons they had found.

Some of the researchers believed that dungeons would have multiple entrances if they were large enough and within the same environments. However, this one had proven that there were multiple entrances. All working together to bring people to different locations within the massive forest that all the dungeons came together to make.

The dungeon has even absorbed multiple smaller elemental planes so that it could grow and create such a unique forest. Meaning that a connection between the elemental planes and dungeons was more than just proven, it was a clear and unarguable fact!

Slowly, Walker read out the appraisal, he kept with the beginning but also moved in to his theories about the dungeons and their usage of space to bring in mana and the elemental planes they need to form. It more than confirmed that dungeons were a living being of sorts but also played a little in to Walker's new idea that some origin beings might have a hand in making the dungeons that appear in the world.

It also begged the question if dungeons of singular elemental affinity could appear within each of the elemental planes. If so, then they could somewhat be bridges to the world as well one day or if more experimentation was done.

"These ancient mages seem like they did more than we thought. They even brought in a species of small dragon that eats a whole bunch of different things to survive. But it makes sense that we haven't heard of small fairy dragons before." As much as Remy wanted to think about herbs or whatever else for alchemy might be within the dungeon of this massive size, she saw how much Midnight seemed focused. It made her focus on the dragon side of things since she could share the information with Ignus too.

"You said that ancient mages changed the dungeon, that means they could use space magic or elemental magic strong enough to influence space and a dungeon which is impossible for us to manipulate right now."

When Su chimed in, Mela finally started paying attention to the things that the party spoke about. She had struggled with some of the topics since they were so far over her head.

Mela had no idea about some of the projects going on in Genesis that she heard the party speak about while walking, but she had begun to understand the kind of forward thinking going on right now. It wasn't some small hope or dream that the party had in mind, it was a way to guide the future and build even better foundations for various kinds of people living inside and outside of Genesis.

This was even harder to grasp as they began conversations about how the elemental planes could be different sizes, potentially absorbed, and even manipulated to be made in to other things or places. It was all way over her head.

However, Mela did understand that this dungeon most likely had multiple entrances, multiple places someone could explore, and even had hidden areas made by ancient mages who could use elemental mana to make other manas move as they wish. All things that seemed incredibly impossible, but were actually possible and just lost to the people of today.

"Does that mean you don't need me to help explore it?"

Everyone stopped their conversation around the small camp they made. It was a good chance to take a very short rest and eat something so that's what they started doing after setting up a few tents if they would be here a while or for others who were on the way and scouting the surroundings.

"Actually, we need you even more. Walker said you can scout with different dolls you made. Ones that look like mice." The movement of Onyx outside of his shadow and taking a larger form to stretch out scared Mela, but she also was somewhat in Awe to see how he could coil up taller than everyone else. "I would like to know that I can rest easily in their shadows instead of ready to fight."

Despite his stature at the moment, Mela sensed that Onyx would prefer never to fight. He did so to help those around him, but his focus was on the new knowledge he could take for those he cared about. There was more spoken behind the look in his eyes rather than the words he spoke.

"There you have it, so send in your dolls." Gil gave a small push toward the dungeon entrance, completely shaking Mela out of her own thoughts and confusion in all the things she couldn't understand.

The rest of the party knew that they had found someone who could do a lot for Genesis, however, it was still clear that there would be a bit of hesitation as Mela took her first real steps. There were plenty of other good potential leaders out there just waiting to be found too, it was the party's duty to give them the start they needed.

While everyone watched, small tendrils of mana threads connected and five small dolls made to look like mice moved out of the storage ability Mela had. They looked like they were more similar to rats than mice due to their size, but Walker and everyone else noticed familiar rune formations all over the wooden bodies.

These rune formations could sense mana and also copy minute bits and pieces of the terrain and mana outside of where they were. It would be a more concrete bit of information. Beyond this, they were made to fall in to pieces if they were attacked and be put back together easily. It was an interesting formation of parts and pieces that were often the same as some collapsible wooden toys children played with. The inspiration was clear.

While they moved, Mela offered Walker a small bunch of threads. It was clear she was controlling the mice that moved in to the dungeon but Walker would be the one sensing and understanding what was happening.

Yet, when he felt Mella's mana he was shocked. She was using a skill called sense sharing and giving what the small mice could see to him. She had this skill and could look through each doll as if she were the one moving. However, Walker also sensed an uncomfortable feeling like his limbs lacked feeling. The dolls weren't alive like him, they didn't feel the same things as he did.

Therefore, Mela would not like using this skill unless she developed more realistic dolls to puppeteer. Something that would also present new issues like feeling pain through her mana threads. It was a delicate balance to ensure the mind would be intact and safe.

"I understand." His soft words caused Mela to smile slightly, a genuine emotion of acceptance washing over her and proving again the realism in terms of her own heroes.

Seeing the dungeon was a whole new process too. Walker saw an almost strangely starlit area with drooping leaves and branches. Some of the trees were species of willow he had never seen while the ground appeared littered with various mushrooms and sprouts. Some glowed while others seemed to take in manas and spit the manas out mixed with other manas. The flow was all made to create more items for the fairy dragons to consume.

Being able to use his all around appraisal skill through this connection was an immense boon but clearly took a toll on Mela's mana so Walker stopped once he realized.

When small fireflies and other insect monsters appeared, he wondered if this was more than just a place to hide fairy dragons. Until a tendril of roots from a tree caught each of the wooden mouse dolls. They held them without crushing them.

"Children of a new age, come within to speak. I will not allow for toys like these to risk the safety of this haven."

The bark like face appeared from a tree as fallen leaves made up features. Walker took a single all around appraisal before Mella rapidly pulled her dolls back, the being allowing them to be returned with their warning.

"Guardian dryad."

Chapter 2808 Dryad's Duty

"What is a guardian dryad? And do we need to be ready to fight it?" Gil was already pulling out fire arrows that would be able to make the biggest and flashiest effects on any monster that they approached once they were within the dungeon.

It seemed that he was also preparing his dagger so he would fire the arrows and then dash in to battle more easily.

With his reaction, Su also equipped her stronger earth armor to be in a defensive stance. The shields she wielded were made using the shed scaled from Terron himself. He had gifted them to her so that she could remain a pillar of defense for Genesis and so that she would also assist him in training the dragonkin he was ordering.

The one who didn't seem to react at all was Remy who was normally ready to fight. "What? You are just going to look at me all weird instead of telling us what we need to do?" She had a bit of a point.

"He doesn't seem unsettled so we probably have to go in and chat first." Alice leaned on Walker and started to hum while Mela just looked at everyone like they were some strange mix of crazy. She had seen the guardian dryad appear and knew that it could have crushed her puppets without a second thought.

Strength like that was intimidating, especially to a lower leveled and less experienced person like Mela. She had been brought along and told that she would be protected. That was all well and good, but fear in facing the powerful was not something easily erased.

"We will be fine, brother is prepared, so rest here while we handle the hard parts." Onyx melted in to Walker's shadows while Midnight took a stance to protect Alice. Gil and Remy formed up behind and to the side while Su took the lead. The formation the same as they had used before, but radiating a confidence that burned itself in to Mela's mind.

The mana Walker had felt was no different from the manas he knew. It was familiar because it was the same if not exactly the same as the balanced manas around where he had found the echidna race on their island. Natural mana and the natural flow and form of other manas. Kept peaceful in the balance because they respected nature for what it was and what it was going to be.

A deep breath later, the party moved inside the dungeon to fully see the awe inspiring sight. The stars Walker had seen were brighter across a dimmed sky, yet, they could see light from different corners proving that the dungeon did not move through time like the cycle of a day. It was like a pie cut in to sections, each with different concentrations of light mana that lit them or dulled the darkness of the forest.

There were also significantly more fireflies moving around.

'Glow fly

This is a sub species of firefly. After being eradicated by the towering behemoth of volcanic might, they were rescued and allowed to live within this haven.

They possess the unique light of the moon allowing them to utilize a strange peaceful form of light healing magic. They work incredibly well with the natural flow of manas which leads to the balance and overall calming of nature. They prefer to live in places with peace and stability.

They are often hunted by other species of insect monsters but they are able to fly faster using their mana to escape most of the time. They consume the light mana of the moon and the dew on the grass in the morning. They are not threatening to any other species of monster or intelligent race making them a valuable tool for some intelligent races...'

Walker kept using the all around appraisal as he realized that the mushrooms and small sprouts he saw were more numerous than what he had been able to see through the doll's vision. He also grasped that all of them were valuable and nearly extinct to the world.

Everything here had been left behind but the mage who had the strength to manipulate a dungeon and create this haven. They had saved so much that it put the efforts of Genesis to shame.

Whether or not the elves who had struggled to return certain, thought to be extinct, plants to their forests would feel the same was up to them. But this, this was something amazing to even witness let alone know that it could be used to bring these species of plants, monsters, and potential back to the world properly and safely.

"You are not one of danger. You are one spoken about who may take the path to returning what once was and should be. You are of the origin yet born of the world. A true god..." The words flowed like whispers of leaves as small pieces of bark merged together from the ground with leaves and dried flower petals.

"I saw you for a moment as we scouted this haven, forgive us for worrying about the safety of one another and any other who came here first, but the people I protect are my priority." Su was standing steadfast in front of Walker despite the peaceful atmosphere. She did not trust this unknown being just yet.

"You are the first potential keeper that has arrived here in many years. You may be able to bring forth those who have slumbered." The dryad seemed to be struggling to hold its form. As Walker focused more, he managed to get an appraisal and saw through a large bit of what and who this was.

'Guardian dryad

One of the last remaining true dryads left from ancient times. Nowadays, dryads and species like them are considered monsters. However, a true dryad is one with aspects of nature and embodies those aspects. Some live to be guardians of certain species of plants, others live to change and become guardians of different aspects of water within nature.

This guardian dryad had lived and given up much of what they truly are to defend the remainder of species lost due to the endless fighting of ancient monsters known to erase entire species in singular attacks or tantrums.

With a blessing from an ancient mage long since deceased, they were able to assist multiple species of monster to slumber within this haven. They are the sole key to this haven remaining and not becoming part of the dungeon as a whole. Once they perish, this dungeon will rebalance to make this space a hidden haven for resting as it used to be before the interference of the mage in question.

This dryad is close to the end of its life, as all dryads do, when it perishes, seeds of the next generation are left behind. This guardian dryad has channeled all mana and life in to these seeds to allow the next generation of true dryads to blossom in to beings that may awaken the proper flow of mana and reconnect with the will of the world as their race had done in the ancient era.

While dryads prefer not to speak out or show themselves, they are extremely sensitive to certain beings capable of resonating with the will of the world or even the will of existence at times...'

"You have seen me, please, take upon the mantle of guardian and protector. Allow the future to flourish and return to the way of nature." Walker felt mana shifting and saved for everyone to back away. As

they watched in stunned awe, the body of the dryad and several trees began to wilt and dry. They fell to dusty pieces leaving several pearl like seeds resting where the dryad had once been.

There was also a growth in the starlight above as rune formations seemed activate around them. Remanence of the mage who manipulated all of this dungeon. The ground shifted, presenting small stone pedestals with small eggs on them, a few bodies were also resting there, slightly moving as if in a slumber.

'Sparking Fairy dragon

This fairy dragon is of the fire element. It can absorb and consume fire related materials especially stoness dense in sulfur. It has slumbers for many years after being given a protein and forced in to slumber. It is one of few remaining fair dragon species and will only awaken once in a suitable environment...

The fairy dragons are a race of semi-intelligent dragons. They are not monsters but they represent the more playful and calm aspects of nature in their affinity. Once upon a time they represented these things to balance the world...

As the elemental spirits they played with disappeared, the mana necessary to ensure they survived began to fade and larger monsters began to prey on them...

Several grand mages sacrificed their lives to create a haven for them and forced them in to slumber saving their species for a vision from the last remaining time mage, seer of the towers, to come true...'

Chapter 2809 Ancient Wonders

'Frost fairy dragon egg

This fairy dragon has the unique mix of water and wind mana that allows frost to form. While the wind affinity is very minimal, the water affinity is much greater. Therefore, it requires a substantial environment matching this to be able to properly hatch.

It will hunt and consume small ice type monsters and insects to increase its nutrients and mana within its body before developing nearly white scales with blue hues. Most of the time, it will spend time in the colder forests searching for elemental spirits to play with.

Once it manages to grow strong enough it will resonate with a place and take charge of it causing it to become a watcher that can assist in maintaining balance in a winter forest. It will rarely need to move to ensure balance, however, its instincts guide it to lead certain monsters and plants to grow or hunt in certain areas...'

'Moss fairy dragon egg

This is a fairy dragon egg with water and earth affinity, it also possesses a small light affinity which allows it to become what it must to encourage the mossy forests to grow. It will often be found hatching in deep mossy areas within damp forests after rain...'

"Walker." Alice snapped Walker out of the appraising he was doing. It was hard to get through the forty or so fairy dragon eggs, let alone the dormant slumbering fairy dragons. They were so numerous that it was difficult to wonder how they would move them to a new place and make sure they would awaken or hatch to grow as they needed to.

Looking at where Alice had been observing, Walker noticed a small assortment of what appeared to be rungs and bracelets.

'Ring of the fairy dragon master

This run and its associated jewelry were forged using arcane blacksmithing and arcane rune carving. It was made with spatial mana to be able to store the dormant, eggs, and even living fairy dragons so that they can be transported. It also allows for the transportation of other beings related to the fairy dragons as their food sources, necessary balancers, or other related aspects.

Once used, these items will decay within one hundred days due to the immense stress put on them by being used. Beyond this, the crafter made them in this way so that the fairy dragon and other species of monster or plant within would not be captured and used as pets...'

A lot of the information seemed to be distorted beyond the basic use and the limit of one hundred days. More like it had been intentionally hidden or blocked, and with the level of magical crafting and understanding of these ancient mages, it might be normal for them to have some sort of safeguard in whatever they crafted.

It presented a gap in knowledge lost to people of today since Walker was sure that he hadn't met an arcane blacksmith or arcane rune carver. To be honest, he thought that the arcane aspect was just being able to use mana in forging or carving of runes. Yet, that could mean that these craftsmen were first focused on magic rather than the materials. A different form of learning before they would take the next step to do more than to just craft.

It also presented the functionality of runes. Some would activate when they were carved and then mana was added. But what if they were created with purely magic, could that open new paths?

"We need to bring all of what is here out using all this?" It was fair that Onyx would be somewhat shocked. "Brother, can we manage this alone?"

"We will need to, no one else could come here after we leave. It won't exist in the same way after this. The dungeon won't have a reason to maintain it, the guardian dryad is gone, it will become part of this massive dungeon of connected forests."

Passing the items out, Walker also wondered who the fairy dragon master was. It made him believe that a fairy dragon tamer might have existed, or someone with similar skills or similar class. It might have even be a title of someone who protected and guided them to protect them in the most dangerous times of the fairy dragon's existence.

There were even more questions now compared to what he had considered before. Yet, he wasn't even able to think of them as he realized that when Gil tried to walk away to begin storing the fairy dragon eggs away within the unique rings and bracelets made for this purpose, the ring in his hand shot out of his hand and back toward Walker.

"Umm, what?" The pair just stood there, dumbfounded, while the others looked on curiously.

A moment passed as mana began to thrum through them and all the other pieces of equipment seemed to be attracted as well. Walker looked at them floating in the air near him as if they were being held in waiting.

'Soul binding rune formation is bound to your mana and soul signature. The items associated with this formation will be destroyed within one hundred days. Spatial affinity matches the requirements to properly store the fairy dragon haven within the combined runic space. Current time left before...'

"Apparently all of these items are bound to me until they break down. It's another rune formation making them all a connected set. These mages might have been the most powerful beings in ancient times, and they aren't even left behind."

It wasn't Walker being just impressed by what he and everyone else were realizing. It was also the fact that he was a little terrified.

If these mages could make connected pieces of equipment that hid information while also having effects that could not be replicated in today's age, then what did that say about the ancient monsters? The beings that would hunt them and defeat them to the point that only ruins remained.

That the ancient monsters after being cut off from the elemental planes had actually gone to lengths that forced these mages to perish and hide away species of monsters, plants, and whatever else they had to be found in later generations.

How dangerous were the ancient eras before now?

'This item can no longer be appraised.'

Walker blinked having no words for what was going on. He couldn't even appraise the rings and bracelets that had been brought on to his fingers, wrists, and ankles? What was this?!

"I can't appraise any of this any more, and this area in the dungeon is about to be stored away-"

The ground shook while parts of the dungeon seemed to shrink in on them. Instead of the trees being well away making this small clearing of wonder, they were stretching and space was changing. It was like the dungeon had a whole different bit of space stored away waiting to be slotted in to this place.

'Forced exile from the shifting forest- from the forest of slumber- from the sparking fores- dungeon is falling in to a state of dormancy, all beings are exiled for the next month.'

It seemed like the will of the world had reached a hand in to this occurrence since whatever the ancient mages had done caused some trouble to this massive dungeon with multiple entrances.

'Major quest: return of the fairy dragons

Requirement:

Return the fairy dragon species to the world so that they may take their role amongst the spirits and the creatures of the world.

Reward:

Location of the ancient magic tower of the time mage.'

Walker saw that the rest of the party also received this quest. As they blinked and found themselves back in front of the small camp they had made. The most shocked of them was Mela, who had no idea what had happened. Her body was also weaker and she looked pale compared to before.

"So, we basically just grabbed a treasure chest of nearly extinct plants and monsters just to have to bring them out and let them grow? And we were kicked out from the dungeon that's not going to let anyone inside for a month?" Remy huffed a bit while kicking the nearby tree stump. "That's rude."

"I believe that the ancient mage responsible hoped that people like us would come along one day. We need to uphold their hopes and dreams for the recovery of those species."

"Su's right, so, I will make sure the elves help in the same way they do with the forests and herbs. Remy, you will have to help too, the herbalists know you best."

Gil and Su were ignoring the fact that Walker would be working with everyone and Alice leaned on his shoulder a bit to make him feel better that he was being ignored as the others started to plan everything out.

Chapter 2810 Dungeon To Stones

"Every time I answer a question I feel like I am left with even more to wonder about." Walker sighed while Alice had started playing with Midnight. The two were trying to see who could roast a bit of meat on the fire better.

After the other forces had returned to the camp from scouting, Walker gave them the basic information about the dungeon and how it would not be accessible for a month. He also made it clear that it had various dangers and would not be a dungeon easily explored and mapped.

This alone was enough to make sure that no one would foolishly go investigating trying to get credit or merit of any sort. It also made it clear that the dungeon would be able to be mapped for people in the future. That put a lot of the guards at ease since they knew that dungeons so far had been very dangerous and were hard to manage in terms of time and resources to invest.

Knowing that one would be able to provide materials and everything else needed for building as long as it was respected sounded amazing. It put many at ease in their hopes to expand the strength of the exploration here and even building on the Sigil continent where materials were still in need.

"So, dungeons are larger than we realized, have multiple entrances, and could be manipulated by certain people in ancient times. Sounds like this will cause some waves." Gil had come back over to Walker and was casually stretching his shoulders while looking at some of the guards already chatting about what might be necessary for defenses here. Their work was important to keep focus on, but Gil was more concerned about someone else gaining the ability to manipulate dungeons.

"It will be a class that will make that person a criminal or a blessing. If they don't want to help others or work as an employee of a guild or Genesis, then they could go against the people using the dungeons to survive. It will be very hard to regulate. It will take a lot of deliberation to keep respect for them as a person without making them an enemy."

As much as Walker wished to be positive entirely, he realized the potential failings. "They can come to the cathedral too. We focus on healing and won't profit from their abilities." Alice overheard what Gil and Walker were starting to chat about and understood she could be an impartial place safe for those with unique skills and classes afraid of being taken advantage of.

"That would be wise. Alice already has some healers and dark mages who had been kicked from their village. Some people who don't understand how certain forms of whaling work or how certain magic skills like dark magic work fear them. Especially the smaller villages that don't communicate or work with the direct leadership in the kingdom they are part of." With Su seeing them and joining, it made a lot more sense why Alice was so firm.

She had the confidence in knowing how the cathedral had reached out since she had taken more leadership. She knew that offering help to everyone was not only why she had a saintess title, but also what made the cathedral what it was.

Cutting the cathedral away from the old traditions of godly worship and manipulated belief was a major move that had given way to a lot more faith in the cathedral itself. It had radically enhanced the trust people had in healers, especially since they did not charge outrageous fees. The cathedral's healers primarily healed for free and donations were plenty enough to ensure that everything was paid for in terms of education and training, let alone expansion.

"We will take it as it comes. For now, we can look in to areas we might be able to release the fairy dragons. I have a feeling that this will not be the safest place. There are plenty of dangerous monsters that will threaten the growth of a very small species."

Taking a deep breath, Walker waved over a guard captain and put them in charge of what was happening here. Since the dungeon would not open for a month and there was another location to check in on, he was planning to take everyone in that direction.

"Since I have better control over space mana, everyone should hold a little tighter to me and one another. I am going to try a bit of teleportation toward the marked location found by the other scouts." Everyone grabbed hands while Midnight nearly bear hugged Mela to force her in to it. The poor arcane puppeteer was being dragged around and had no idea what was going on anymore.

As the mana gathered around them, the world shifted around them and they were not where they had been before.

"I tried to get us much closer but judging from the mana and that lightning struck tree we are a bit of a walk away still. I need more control." Everyone seemed fine but Mela was struggling to remain walking forward. A normal reaction for someone who hadn't ever used any form of teleportation, let alone Walker's which was a little more chaotic compared to the tightly controlled elemental rune teleportation formations.

"This is just about different rocks you think are from a tower, right? Can't we just go back and deal with the fairy dragons?" Everyone looked at Remey as they noticed she was holding a small ball of alchemy flames. She was making a potion right now and obviously wasn't trying to hide that she would prefer to be experimenting with the herbs she had recently received than be exploring.

"If you want to just make potions then just make potions. When we find something you might use we will just give it to the herbalists or other alchemists directly. That old man would prefer to have something new to experiment with than share with you, right?" The fire covered fist that Gil dodged next was just enough to keep everyone else entertained.

"The stone remnants should start around here." Walker bent down seeing that some larger clumps of grass were growing higher than others. A telltale sign that something had changed under the ground and the grass had grown around and over it.

"Why are the rocks so important?" Glancing at Mela, Walker smiled slightly, he could see the paleness in her face had retreated and she was much more alert now. It seemed this was an easier topic to handle than the complications of dungeons and their future.

"If these are from the ancient magic towers made to balance and use mana in nature rather than rune formations and unique materials, we might understand how to follow those forms of mana and learn magic similarly. The paths of these ancient mages appear to have been much more connected to the flow of nature than the magic we use now that focuses just on elemental mana and the understanding of it."

He hummed slightly before pointing at the mana threads on Mela's arm, "Your mana threads have part of you in them so you can move your mana through them. I feel like the same was done by these ancient mages. They found places that naturally channeled the manas they used and since those manas were calmer and flowing differently, they learned more. Did more. Advanced enough to survive in lands where villages, cities, and kingdoms could not be built."

With a firm grip, Walker pulled a clump of grass up and found a stone covered in dirt. After a little water magic to clean it, he pointed out the dulled carvings on it. "Stones like this are evidence that their magic towers existed. Around here, I would say this stone was part of something that had to do with earth mana."

As if to support him, Midnight bounded out of the nearby woods and brush with Onyx, the two were dragging along a larger rock with even more carvings on it. "And there is even more proof."

'Ancient alloy stone

This stone was made using arcane earthen crafting. It is a mix of stones melded together in a similar style to forging but using earth magic alone. While it allows for the stone to last much longer under the general environmental damage, it is still easily damaged by outward force.

It is able to absorb and even hold some earth mana within it due to the fact that it is multiple forms of stone brought together. The mages that created it were once known as the bastion of the moving magic towers. Even known to utilize this stone to trap the ravager ants...'

"Let's go and look at where you two got this from. We have some detective work to do."