

Master 461

Chapter 461 - 461. What To Learn

While the party traveled back toward the more populated area of the tunnels they finally managed to get Walker to spill the details of his new skill. It took a lot of apologizing and a significant offer of help in training. He had decided to take a more hands on approach in learning some defensive techniques, archery, and even was beginning to accept Remy's proposal to learn a punch or two. This was all to make it toward the combo skill.

"If you use the calming touch on one of us before we went to train a new skill then we should have a faster and easier time of it?" Gil was clarifying this for the third time since he was having a hard time wrapping his head around something so great.

"Yes, again, yes. It would calm your mana in your body so that you could more easily use skills. That alone is huge, but with the bonus of increasing your understanding of the skill you were learning you will be able to master it much faster." Walker only wished he could somehow use the skill on himself. But as he walked he had tried and found it was not successful. However, he did notice that Onyx and Midnight were quieter and slower than usual.

"How do you two feel? I used the skill on both of you when I got it so you should have a calmer mana running through your bodies." Walker was worried that it might not have worked properly since he had just gained the skill.

"Brother, Sister and I have been talking about the elemental mana we absorb from crystals. She says she can feel it merge with her body where I can feel it turn in to energy then merge with my body. We are wondering about why and how this works. We feel like we can understand our mana flow much better now and want to keep discussing it."

The entire party was in awe of this. The two had been taking advantage of the situation to understand their very own mana flow within their bodies. Since they could not just stop and start training this was a great idea. If they understood the very flow of mana within their own bodies then they would be able to make improvements in everything they did. Not only would they improve in the skills they used but they would also improve in their actions.

Walker coughed slightly, "Sorry for disturbing you two. I'm glad you are both getting a better understanding." He just watched as the two would make slight movements toward each other as they walked. Onyx was still sitting on Midnight's back but could easily be seen flexing certain parts of his

body. Midnight, on the other hand, appeared to be flexing the muscles in her wings to try and gain an understanding of how mana flowed through them.

"Well, now I feel like we are missing out." Remy was fairly jealous of them for being able to improve while they walked back.

"We can not relax yet. If there are any monsters around these abandoned sections of the cave we will need to be fully focused." Su was the voice of reason but this didn't stop her glances at Midnight and Onyx. Her own jealousy was plain to see.

"Anyway, If you want to try and learn another archery based skill I am fine with showing you. But I think you should try and learn snipe. It's one of the skills Wade has. He can shoot from long range and hit more accurately with the skill than I would be able to. I have been meaning to ask him how I can get it as well."

Gil had already done his own longer ranged practice but not gained the snipe skill he knew that his system could award to him. For him this would mean he could deal with threats that Walker was using dangerous on. If he used the fire flower attack spell Gil needed to hunker down even at his farthest range. Yet, if he learned the snipe skill he would be able to remain ready and standing to attack without worry about being injured in the blast.

Walker nodded along with this. It was a good idea to try and get Wade's help with these things. They would only be able to see him for another day or so before the king and others got to the elf city. Once that happened they would be in a flurry of debates, trade conversations, and rushing off to the dwarven kingdom.

"Leader, I would like you to learn the wide guard skill. If I am injured it is the best skill to protect everyone on the party. It is only a mid level skill but worth the time I put in to practice it." Su had been worried that one day she may not be able to hold both of her shields and would need assistance to guard the others.

"I understand. I won't mind learning that skill. You said it only costs three mana too so it is extremely efficient. I can also wield your shields too so I can make sure that they remain our best defense." Walker saw that Su lost her poker face and smiled a little. She was very happy to be setting the party up for safety in the future.

"Why are you looking at me? You already know that you should work on the combo skill. If you practice some punches like me then they are the easiest to use in succession. The combo skill will come naturally using them." Remy was just stating a common sense fact. If Walker took the time to learn a jab or the hammer punch Remy used he might learn the combo skill faster. The only problem was his aversion to learning close combat punches. He liked weapons and the best. It was a hard decision for him.

Chapter 462 - 462. Crystal Delivery

The party spoke on skills as they crossed the third gate and were graced with the sight of the crystal crafting floor yet again. "That was a nice walk, but now we need to find Bree."

"Should we go to her brother's home?" Su made this suggestion but none of them even had to wait for the answer because a familiar darkness spirit showed up behind her shoulder. "Hello there little one, can you tell us where Bree went?"

"Home. She said to bring you home!"

"The spirit said that Bree is at home and that it waited for us here." Walker let Su know what the spirit was saying.

"Thank you for waiting for us. Want to play tag while we climb the stairs?" Su wanted to play with the little spirit since she had enjoyed doing so before. She also knew that the spirits like nothing more than to interact with others and entertain themselves. Walker could only imagine this trait came from their extremely long lives as elemental spirits. It made sense why some would go dormant and sleep for extended amounts of time.

"Yes. I will win!" Walker told Su the answer of the darkness spirit and yet again he waved goodbye to the crafting floor. Hew had wanted to spend more time there but since he was limited to the time they had available he decided to save it for another visit.

While they climbed the steps the party encountered the remaining spirits making Walker wonder if Bree really left them to wait or if they had boycotted working on crystals for play. Unfortunately for Bree, the party was not about to tell the spirits to rush home ahead of them so instead, the spirits were allowed to join the party and play games the entire walk back to the crystal shop.

The elves around the streets watched as the party played with the spirits and were amazed. They had seen fellow elves play with spirits and converse with them as long as they had the proper skills to do so.

Yet, the humans were a new addition to their city and had already adapted so well that they could play with spirits openly. It was even more of a surprise to see Midnight and Onyx joining in on the activities since they were monsters and not even considered the same as elves or humans. Even Midnight was not an ancient dragon so she was still close to a regular monster.

As the shop came in to their view the spirits left the party and crowded around the door with hyper energy. Bree felt them on the other side and opened the door to see the party waltzing up with smiles on their faces. "It looks like you all had a nice time. I take it the quest wasn't too hard?"

"It was less of a challenge than we had expected. But since we had so much information and took things slowly we were able to safely defeat the glowing mole and three sharp tongued bastards. We were lucky you avoid any other trouble. We also sealed the natural cave that is below your section of cave so there shouldn't be any other problems for now. Oh, and we have this for you that we found in the glowing moles' nest."

Walker started to pull the crystals from his inventory to Brees' surprise. They piled up on the floor equalling at least two months worth of crystals. She was so startled that she stumbled back and sat on the stool at the counter.

"You managed to get all of this? That mole just has been feasting for weeks." She couldn't believe her eyes. "Why didn't you bring these to Bart? He is the one that will be working on this?"

"Miss Bree, you said that he rarely comes up to the surface, correct?" Su saw Bree nod and continued, "Now he will need to come up to do his work. You can have him walk in the light for a little while and keep from being a hermit." Bree could only smile and shake her head at this.

"You all do much more than I expected. I may have twisted you all to do what I needed but now I see that you would have helped if I just asked. I will remember this next time. Let me go and get the crystals I promised to give you as a reward." Bree went toward the back of the shop and retired with the crystals.

'Heroic quest completed- liberate the high crystal mine

The high crystal mine unkempt by Bart is under siege by a large glowing mole.

Requirement:

Defeat the large glowing mole

Reward:

2 heroic quest points

8 high water elemental crystals'

"Thank you again for this. Now let me have this little earth spirit take a message to my brother for me." Bree wrote a quick note and rolled it up. She tossed it on top of the dirt portion of the floor and the earth elemental spirit rushed to it. Before any of them could ask what it was doing the spirit made the earth on the ground swallow the note. Then it sank in to the ground leaving no trace whatsoever.

"It really enjoys traveling that way. It becomes one with the natural earth mana so it is able to move very fast. I do envy it sometimes for that reason." Bree was falling in to her own dreamland.

"We will be off then. We could still use some rest and food. We will be fairly busy for the next few days and hope that we can see you before we rush off anywhere else." Walker and the party waved their goodbyes to Bree and the spirits. Walker had the feeling that the spirits just might try and avoid their work by finding them to play later, but he kept this thought silent.

Chapter 463 - 463. The Ores

The group made their way back to the tree house they were staying. They decided that they were too dusty to do anything else and headed their own ways to clean up. Midnight and Onyx happened to be the dirtiest of the group due to how they fought and traveled.

Onyx had been one of the keys to this last quest due to his ability to feel the vibrations. If Walker had tried to do this he would have constantly been letting off mana that could have alerted the glowing mole ahead of time. Having Onyx who was naturally more sensitive really helped.

Midnight was just dirty from being hit back by the mole, It had landed a decent attack on her but the damage had been avoided with her quick thinking. She had been getting used to her wings more and

more lately making Walker expect her to try and fly any day, it was amazing to him just how fast the two were growing.

As he was getting his thoughts in order Walker realized that there was a small package that had been delivered without any of their notice. He picked up a note attached and found that it Was from Bree;' ""
For a job well done. I hope to see you all again soon.""

Walker smiled and took a look at the high elemental crystals he had gotten from Bree for their quest. These would be a great snack for Onyx and Midnight but he was going to save them for a special occasion. He thought that the two were much too tired for them to want this anyways.

"So, what kind of ores did we get from the mole nest? You didn't say anything about them when you looked at them so I figured that they weren't that great." Gil strolled in to the main room and looked at Walker who had just stored away the crystals.

"I didn't really check them to be honest. They all looked like rocks and I knew it would take forever so I just stored them away. The only reason I checked the egg was that it looked strange and I didn't want to throw away something good." Walker was a little embarrassed to admit this. It was not like him to just take and store everything without checking what things were, it betrayed his own curiosity.

"Well, then pull it all out and show us." Su and Remey had been relaxing with some tea that Remey had made and they were equally curious. The only ones that seemed not to care were Midnight and Onyx who much rather preferred to lay around and watch from a distance, Walker had a feeling that they were still under the effects of the soothing touch

Walker did as he was asked and a small pile of different shaped rocks hit the floor. Some were jagged and others smooth or round. They were all different from normal rocks, however. They had their own features that set them apart as ores making anyone able to tell that they would be worth picking up.

Walker did not hesitate to pick one up and start the round of all around appraisals,

'Iron ore

Extremely common in the earth. Iron can easily rust and degrade in areas with high water elemental mana. Iron ore is tough and makes heavy but durable items.

Copper ore

Best when used for jewelry and small al trinkets. Copper has the ability to be melded with many other ores and can even be used to transmit elemental manas when crafted properly.'

The first two did not seem to be very special in general. Walker was reading the appraisals out loud and not a single one of them flinched in surprise or distaste. This was just an expected result so Walker continued on.

' Silver ore

Silver is a rare ore found in the ground near iron ore. It is most commonly used on the blades of weapons. This is due to the easily channeled light elemental mana the silver brings to a weapon. This mana can assist in fighting undead type monsters along with other monsters weak to the light elemental mana."

"That would have been good for when we were at the ancient ruins." Gil was lamenting the late find of this ore. They could have purchased it but silver was much too expensive at the time.

"Well, we have it now so we should have it ready for the future." Remey wasn't going to dwell on the late find. She would rather watch Walker appraise every piece, it was a great show.

"Leader, we should save it and have weapons made out of it for an appropriate time. Your inventory is the perfect thing for us to have when it comes to what we need. You could carry an entire armory or medicinal kit."

Su was right about this. Walker had already been gathering many things that helped them in their journey. He was soon going to have something for whatever the party needed as they traveled. He smiled at the possibilities but chose not to let his mind run wild. If he started to think on it now he would end up talking about things all night. It was better to get to the main event and check the rest of the ores.

"Blood Iron ore

The blood iron ore is one that has developed for a long period of time. The iron ore was under great pressure while a living creature perished and bled on to it. Depending on the creature that bled on the ore and for how long then the ore will gain unique properties.'

"I wonder what this is then." Remy wanted the answers but realized that Walker was done speaking. "There's nothing else?" Unfortunately for Remy, Walker just nodded his head to support what she had already guessed.

Chapter 464 - 464. Midnight's Snack

"So you don't have any way to figure out what kind of traits the blood iron ore has?" Gil was curious if Walker had any other skills or ideas to make the blood irons' traits clear to them.

"Nothing at all. If I could I would let you all know. It is definitely interesting." Walker could see the small red veins on the grey iron ore. If he could somehow understand what blood was dripped on it he might know the true value of the ore they had.

"We will be going to the dwarven kingdom. We should wait until we get there and ask around. I bet there is someone who specializes in appraising ores." Su was right on with the logic. The party was planning to head to the dwarven kingdom so all they needed to do was wait and ask someone there.

"Perfect. Then we will hold on to it until then." Walker stored the blood iron ore away and looked at the last few pieces of ore.

'Iron ore...

Copper ore...

Thousand year old amber

This was once tree sap. After one thousand years of pressure, it has become a smooth clear stone the color of dark honey. Normal ambers are used for high class jewelry. The older the amber the more

qualities it has for a al accessory. This thousand year old amber was formed in the strong earth elemental mana making it a perfect enhancer for earth elemental mana based skills. When accessories are made from it they will gain the effect of increasing earth related skills power.'

"This is a jackpot. We should try and gamble some time." Gil was convinced that the party had some crazy luck and thought they should go to one of the bars with gambling card games.

"We might be lucky, but we aren't gambling lucky. So get the idea of wasting all our gold out of your head." Remey and Su both Gave Gil some evil glares. Walker could only shrug and support them.

Gil looked down dejected. But Walker had other ideas for this great find. "Would anyone be upset if I wanted to keep this for my staff one day?" Walker was thinking that he might be able to find items that could increase the strength of every element to use on a staff that could channel every element. With the elemental mana crystals that he already had, it would be a perfect weapon.

"Sure, I can't use so I would rather you take it. Remey had no reason. Gil was also shaking his head since he was content with his wither spike arrows. He could imbue them with whatever element he needed anyways.

"Leader, I would only want it if I had an earth related defensive skill, but you are the one able to make earth walls so you should keep it." Su was very logical in her thinking. To her, Walker would make the best use of it so he should have it.

"Thank you. I hope that when I have everything I think I need I can make something that can really make us the best party in the world." Walker could only let his ego grow until he realized that everyone was looking at him while holding back laughter.

"Fine, fine, let's check these last two." Walker picked up the jagged looking ore and used his all around appraisal skill,

'Fossilized bone shard

This shard of bone has sat below the earth for hundreds of years. It is ideal for necromancy based systems and can be used to create powerful undead. The creature it was from has long been forgotten but the strength of the beast is still within.'

"It's not an ore at all! I never would have thought we would have found fossils down there." Walker was looking at the item and realized that it was giving off a unique darkness elemental mana.

"I wonder why it was in the moles' nest. Do you think it mistook it for ore and grabbed it anyways?' Gil had this as the main theory but before he could keep speaking Midnight had stood up.

"Brother, sister says that she would like to eat that. It smells tasty to her." Onyx was quick to translate Midnight's thoughts making Walker wonder if it was wise to let her have it. He was worried that she could be negatively affected but knew that she had eaten bones and every elemental mana crystal before.

With a quick look at the party, he saw that no one objected to this and handed it to Midnight anyways. He knew that she wouldn't try to eat something dangerous on purpose and expected her dragon instincts to stop her from eating it if it was not safe.

Midnight snapped up the fossilized bone and crunched it in to pieces. She seemed to be enjoying the flavor and had a soft growling almost like the purring of a cat. The fossilized bone was soon gone from sight and now rested within Midnight's stomach. She looked to have filled herself and was getting very tired.

Walker could feel the mana around them getting agitated as Midnight absorbed the unique darkness elemental mana from the bone. He also had the idea to use his soothing touch skill again on her to make the process smoother.

The moment he used his calming touch skill the mana in the air also calmed. He could tell that Midnight was also resting more easily while absorbing the bone. "Brother, sister is asleep but she said goodnight." Walker just patted Onyx's head as a thank you. He also pulled out a light elemental mana crystal for him to rest with. He knew Onyx had earned it and he made sure it was one of the high level light elemental mana crystals. With this, he looked at the last piece of ore on the ground.

Chapter 465 - 465. Last But Least

"What's the last one? You are taking so long to check it." Remey was the most excited looking to hear what the last ore was. But Gil and Sui both held expectant looks while trying to hide their curiosity. Originally they had all not expected much but had been greatly surprised by what they had found.

Walker grabbed the last piece of ore and used the all around appraisal skill,

'Grey stone

The most common form of stone in the world. It can be found everywhere and is great for stone pathways. Often used as a platform for artists to carve on or even create statues from. The grey stone is usually over looked and never appraised unless for roads.'

Walker dropped the stone and realized that the party had saved the worst for last. He was a little devastated by this anticlimatic end to the ores they had found. "We used all our luck and now it's the end for us." Gil started up an over dramatic rant.

While Gil was being Gil, Walker thought about the others they had gained. He was happy to have the basic iron and copper ores since they would be able to easily fill in when they had gear built. However, the two stars of the show were the blood iron which held secrets, and the thousand year old amber which could be used as an important material.

The fossilized bone had gone to Midnight so they were happy to help her improve. No one was unhappy with this but it felt like it was there and gone so quickly making everyone feel a slight loss. Walker knew that these items brought with them some nice future crafting endeavors. He even planned to see if the wandering blacksmith would be able to improve the gear they had when they finally returned home.

"I know we can't use much of what we got yet, but it makes me excited. These are all ores that we don't often have or even know of. Imagine what the dwarven kingdom will have since it is specialized in crafting and living in the ground." Remey was enjoying the many possibilities.

"I believe we will have a very fortuitous experience. We still need to go and speak to the golem builder as well. The golem cores have rested in leaders' inventory for a long time now." Su brought up a major fact. Walker had held on to the golem cores and not been able to use them for anything as of yet. Now that he had the chance to learn about them he needed to make the best of it. When they got to the dwarven kingdom and dealt with the yellow slimes they could focus on other goals.

"The real question I have is, will I be able to be a master of a golem? It's not the same as a tamer I know that. But it could be cool if I had a golem that could keep up with me and be my speedy shielder." Remy thought that having another person in the party that could use a shield and wouldn't matter if they were destroyed would be useful. A golem fit the bill perfectly.

"I have no idea. It could be something like the builder of the golem had to be the one to use it or we need a specific item?" Gil was equally lost but luckily Su and Walker appeared to have an idea of what the requirements were.

"I know that more than just the builder of the golem can use it. I read in a book once that it requires some sort of al rune circle and an item. Or the master of the golem would need some form of skill to link their mana to it. It is highly dependent on some mana cores made by the dwarves." Walker basically recited this from memory. His mental archive skill was showing its' benefits.

"The dwarves have an entire army of golems but never use them. They prefer to utilize their army to mine more and look for other rare items under the ground. They do strive to make the best golems possible so they are always looking for better materials. Their mana cores are only able to be made through the dwarves' hidden skills. No one has been able to copy it before." Su had read a book called the mysteries of the dwarves and read these passages.

"So if I can get an item to control the golem I can have my own little army of golems." Remy looked like she was trying to plan out her own herb and battle farming operation.

"If the dwarves could be less stubborn then I believe they could make massive advances in technology. The al applications are also prevalent." Su stated this commonly known trait of the dwarven people making everyone sigh a little. They were worried that they would have trouble getting in to their kingdom and out easily. They would need to really pique the dwarves' interest.

"We shouldn't have any problem since we are the ambassadors, right?" Gil had been following the same train of thought and came to the worry that they would have trouble even entering the city.

"We will have a lot of things with us to help us pass through their gates. Worst case I can show off some of the weapons or the ores we found." But that is something for us to worry about another day. I think we should all relax a little and enjoy a short day off." Walker no sooner said this and had the door of the tree house burst open.

"Hello! Hello! I am here to get a tour from the heroes." Scylla was smiling widely revealing her sharper teeth. She had been waiting for the party to return from their errand so that she could find a way to learn more about their battle prowess.

Chapter 466 - 466. The Best View

"What brings you here general Scylla?" Su was the first one to be able to respond after the surprise of Scylla showing up at the tree house.

"Oh no. None of that general honorary title stuff. I came to see how well you could fight and what you have learned about this city. I know that all of you have been here longer and the queen gave me permission to roam the city." Scylla didn't want to act as the general of the demi-humans today. She had already brought the letters she needed to the queen of the forest elves and now wanted to explore.

"Then I guess we can go out and explore for a little bit. Maybe we will find where Wade, Alma, and Calen have gotten to." Walker decided that his plans to relax were already out the window so he went with Scylla.

"If you are all tired please feel free to stay and relax. I am only looking to move around a little." Scylla realized that most of the party was already set up to rest and wanted to make sure that she wasn't too pushy. She did have the common decency to be polite.

"Then I am calling it quits for the day" Remy was already sitting back down. She wanted to prepare herself for a long night with Trish to learn the night vision potion. If she did not rest now she knew that she would not be able to perform well enough and fail.

Midnight only raised her head for a moment in a sleepy stupor. She was not going to be moving anywhere especially after she had just eaten the fossilized bone. She needed to rest and slowly absorb the mana within it to understand what it was and could do. On top of that, she was also going to let her body adapt to what the mana was capable of.

Onyx was the same way. Now that he had a light elemental mana crystal to consume there was no way he was going to leave. He wanted to get used to his body more but if he went to explore and did that he would miss his chance to keep getting stronger. The more light elemental mana he consumed the larger he could grow and the closer to adulthood he would reach.

"General Scylla, I am sorry but i need to rest as well. I feel like I have been running myself a little too hard." Su had been exploring the majority of the city while everyone else had been busy. She had even traversed the same areas multiple times with Calen and then Walker. Not to mention the quest with the glowing mole.

"Then it looked like it will be Walker and me. Want to go see a nice view?" Gill had already roped Walkers' arm in his own and was pulling him out the tree house door. Scylla was ecstatic to leave. She was very curious about Walkers' skills and what Gil had hidden since he had not participated in any sparring or fighting when he was in the demi-human kingdom.

"Where is this view you want to show me? Are we climbing this massive tree?" Scylla was wondering if it was even possible to climb to the top. The height might reach taller than any of them could have imagined before seeing it but the branches at the very top were sure to be smaller and weak.

"Almost, it is a branch that Wade showed us. If we are lucky then we might find him or his party up there." Walker filled Scylla in and watched as the two started to climb the branches. She easily kept up but was not as advanced in her technique as Walker. The only thing she did exceed at was her long jumps. She seemed to effortlessly glide through the air.

The three crawled and lept their way towards the thunderstruck branch. It was only a short while before they were nearing it when a familiar blur ran past them. "Was that Calen? If she was up there does that mean she is leaving the city?" Gil remembered that Wade told them that when they went to the branch it was their way of saying goodbye to the city for now.

"Not sure, let's ask him ourselves. He is right there." Walker easily spotted Wade and Alma sitting on the thunderstruck branch. They looked like they had just finished a lengthy conversation.

"Fancy meeting you two up here. We were just bringing Scylla to see the best view in the city." Gil made his and the other's arrival announcement so he would not scare the two elves.

"Oh yeah? Well, General Scylla, you won't be disappointed after seeing the view from our thunderstruck branch." Wade motioned for Scylla to look out from the end of the branch.

"This is indeed spectacular. My chosen home of Ordist does not have a view like this. Even from the top of the coliseum, I can only see fields and small towns in the distance. Scylla was smitten with the view and moved to the edge of the branch to take it all in.

"We saw Calen, is she leaving?" Walker asked this a little quieter so that Wade would feel he was having a more private setting. Walker was a little off put by prying like this.

"Yes, she had been given a quest from the queen to visit the other elf cities throughout the continent. She has the speed to get it done the fastest. If we are branching out to share our knowledge then it is only fair that we welcome the others to do it as well." Wade sounded extremely happy with this. He knew that more elves would lead to a better future.

Chapter 467 - 467. You Beat Me?

"That sounds like a lot of ground to cover. But since I have seen her speed then it might not be that big of a problem." Walker looked off in the direction Calen had run. He had the feeling that she would have the quest done before anyone realized it.

"It is her first major quest for the city. She wasn't prepared for the stress but she will rise to it. I know she will." Alma had always fought with Calen a little, this was their friendship dynamic. However, Alma still worried for Calen's safety away from the city. There was so much distance between them and the rest of their elven cities along with radically different rules and formalities.

"I am sure she will do great. She seems trustworthy and very positive." Gil had learned that Calen was not the kind of person to give up. She was always in full speed mode and would not let anything stop her. The only disappointing part about her leaving was that the party wouldn't be able to say their goodbyes after the negotiations were finished.

Alma nodded along with Gil and even gave him a smile. She was glad that Calen had at least been around for some time while they had guests. It was just a shame that she was given such an important task when things were just starting to change. However, it was her role to play and she would be helping that change.

"So what are you two doing now? Want to help us give Scylla a tour?" Walker felt a little odd using just her name and not a title but that was what Scylla had wanted.

"Sure thing. I know that she will be interested to see the span of our sparring and training areas. I gained that bit of insight when I spoke to her the first time." Wade had already seen the passion for battle study in Scylla, it was a trait he expected the others from the demi-human kingdom to have.

"I will join you as well. I have a place to stop as we travel. It is perfect timing." She looked at Gil, making Walker wonder if the stop she needed to make was somehow related to Gil.

"Then it sounds like we are following Wade. After you." Gil made a dramatic gesture to let Wade take the lead, however, when Wade took a step forward a devilish smile crept on to his face.

"We might not need to rush down since we aren't leaving. But I think it would be a shame to waste the chance to race a little. Right, Alma?" Alma mirrored the look Wade had and slightly bent her knees.

"Race? What are we racing to?" Scylla sounded very interested in this. It was the prospect of competing in any way that excited her.

"They usually race to the ground when they are up here. But I think we should just head down slowly. I am the only one without some skill that makes running through the trees easier. Even Scylla will have that skill that lets her nearly fly through the air." Gil was trying to protest but Scylla made him stop.

"Oh no, I can actually fly in the air if I want to use the mana. It is very useful at times but not worth the mana. It comes from one of my bloodline skills. But for some reason, it is incredibly taxing on my body so I use the air step skill. It can't fly but I can run on air if I want." Scylla sounded like she was stating the obvious to them.

"I still found that pretty amazing. You were nearly flying when we saw you take down that demon that was cursing the items in the market." Walker instantly recalled the event even though Gil was still trying to get them not to race.

"You were able to fight a demon? I have not done so before. If you can tell us after our short exercise I would very much appreciate the lesson." Wade was hung up on this fact. Scylla however did not look like this was a topic she would desire to speak about in length.

"How about this. If you beat me to the ground I will answer any question within reason about my battles with demons for five minutes. If I win and beat you to the ground you will need to take me somewhere where people can spar and challenge each other." Scylla didn't want to just go to training areas. She wanted to go to the best sparring area the elves had available.

"You have a deal then. I will beat you down and then you will spend five minutes telling me the best ways to beat a demon in battle. When I go to the border I will keep the forest safe." Wade had some of his own goals in mind while proposing the challenge.

Scylla smiled and readied herself. Gil was past his desire to avoid the run down to the ground and instead looked at Walker for support. "Don't look at me. I am going to try and beat all of them too. I want to ask questions about demons so we can make sure Marie is properly acclimated to the mansion. I am sure there were some good things in the demon lands." Walker was more invested than Gil had expected.

"You mean you don't want to race me down? Is it because you are going to get beaten by a girl?" Alma directly challenged Gil which made him more apt to show off.

"You beat me? No way that is happening. I was just being nice and not wanting to make you all feel bad that I won so easily." Gil started to stretch his leg while Alma giggled at him. Walker could barely contain his own amusement.

Chapter 468 - 468. Falling In Place

"Run!" Wade shouted out once everyone had gotten ready. Since he had placed a bet on the results he made sure to start even and fair with everyone. He wasn't going to play any tricks and win with his own skills.

Walker was able to stay on par with Alma to some degree but found that Wade was moving much faster than he expected.

Unfortunately for Gil, he was watching everyone rush away. He needed to be more careful due to the risk of him falling. There was also the fact that he didn't have any skill that allowed him to run through the trees. The elves had their natural born skill which Walker had learned and Scylla was literally running on the air in some places to make it top the next branch faster.

Alma wanted to try and stay behind but she also knew that the demi-humans had valuable knowledge on the demons that they themselves did not have. They both had a history with demons but the demi-humans had seen some of their cruel tricks. This alone was enough to entice her as the future queen of the forest elves.

With Gil trailing the group Walker pushed as hard as he could to catch up to Wade. He knew that Wade had much more experience running through the tree than he did and that this was the main advantage he had. The other problem was that Walker had not trained much with the skill and he had to make his body adjust.

While he was moving and trying to get past some of the smaller and weaker branches he realized that he was using some of the dance of the wild rabbit skill. The two skills seemed to work hand and hand with each other.

Feeling that this was a possibility Walker focused himself and saw the rhythm to his actions. He took note of Alma who would slide sometimes before kicking off again to reach the next branch better. Wade was also doing this, his feet would be poised to jump forward or backwards and his knees would be bent in to an archery stance.

Witnessing these fluid motions Walker had the inkling that he was only using the most basic of skills to traverse the trees. He was also only using the most basic version of the dance of the wild rabbit at first as well, he had later learned the dance of the rabid rabbit through training in the rabbit demi-human village.

With his thoughts becoming more and more focused Walker was soon forgetting the fact that he was supposed to be racing to the ground against the others. Almas' noticed that she had easily surpassed Walker. Her curiosity was getting the better of her and she slowed as well.

"Hey, what is going on? I thought you were faster than mew?" Gil asked this of Alma who was still focused on Walker.

"Walker is acting strange. I thought he was racing too but now he is trying to copy some of our motions, I think?" Alma saw Walker use the slide that they had which kept their momentum when they tried to move to the next branch. It had been an instinct most elves had and developed over time.

"He is doing exactly that. I bet he can't even hear us. He gets really focused and ends up learning something amazing. I thought you watched him practice ? You should have realized this a little unless you were too focused too." Gil teased a little since he knew that Alma was most likely caught up in the new skill Walker had made.

"He had the mages assisting him the entire time. It was a different situation. Now there is only him and us running." The pace was much slower than before but Wade and Scylla were still in view. Alma and Gil knew that they wouldn't be able to catch up and decided to witness Walker's advancement.

Walker himself was too focused to notice anything and had started to feel the rhythm in the way he was running through the trees. He let the instinctual feeling from the dance of the wild rabbit merge with his feelings for running branch to branch.

'The skill jungle step has been taken from the high forest elf system. The skill jungle step has been automatically learned due to instinctual training and the use of multiple movement skills based on specific species' bloodline.

Jungle step- passive

The skill jungle step is the instinctual traversing of any forest environment. There are many ways to land and jump through the trees or over roots. Having the ability to do so is natural to those with a pure elf bloodline; high elves. The user is able to easily move through the forest using the natural instincts. The ability will far surpass that of an average elf.'

Walker opened his eyes wider as he felt the puzzle pieces click in to place. His body immediately started to adjust the way he was running. He could now move more efficiently than he could before along with adjusting himself for even the slightest angle of the tree branch he was landing or jumping on.

Alma and Gil watched as Walker suddenly changed the way he was running. The two were amazed at the advanced movements that not even Wade or Alma were capable of. Before either could say a word Walker was using his agility in the most efficient manner and was catching up to Wade and Scylla.

Wade saw that Walker was suddenly behind him and was about to surpass him. "How did you get here!" Wade pushed to move faster but realized he had already reached his limit.

"So you figured something out. Then I will need to work harder as well." Scylla felt the fire within Walker grow. She wanted to push the challenge as well and began to use her skills to their fullest. The steps she took in the air became more and more and she was soon passing Walker. The race may have been nearing the end but it was not boring in the least.

Chapter 469 - 469. On The Ground

Scylla stepped on the air effortlessly keeping up with Walker who was dipping under branches and sliding in to great leaps. It looked like Walker had done this his entire life, more so than any normal elf. Scylla could only look on in amazement as she saw that he was still improving.

However, the ground was too close and the race was about to come to an end. Scylla was not one to let others win unless it was due to their stronger ability and talent. It would have been insulting to someone to hold back when facing them. "You may watch my strongest wind based skill."

Scylla said this just loud enough for Walker to make out. The next thing he knew Scylla had called up a small whirlwind of concentrated air and had stopped stepping on the branches completely. She sped down to the ground stopping just about the dirt and softly settled on to it. The only thing she showed was a small smile that taunted Walker to move faster.

Walker did not even hesitate seeing this, instead, he pushed off the next branch harder than before and leapt toward the branch that leaned downward. He managed to slide down it and push off in to a roll. Once he lost his momentum he kicked back up and stood in front of Scylla panting. "Made it. Second place, but still not bad."

He was proud of his speed and was happy to know that the different movement skills he had could push each other to become better. It was a great trick he would be meditating on later. The possibility that there were many battle and non battle related movement techniques like the dance of the wild rabbit and the jungle step was extremely high. If more and more of those could work together to make an even better one Walker was sure to set it as his goal.

"I was sure you would end up coming down closer to the back of the pack. But you suddenly overtook Wade and I and I would have been a fool to wait back." Scylla could only admit her opinion of how impressed she was. It was always a joy to see someone younger understanding someone, it was just the fact that it had happened so fast in this case.

"Walker, what did you do? That was way faster than any of the elves I have seen around here run through the trees. Didn't you just learn how to do it too?" Wade had just slid down from a branch nearby while Alma and Gil trailed behind him by some distance.

"Yes, but I just understood a different skill by trying to dodge some of the branches I ran past with the dance of the wild rabbit. The skills kind of worked as two parts fitting together and I learned the high elf system skill jungle step." Walker said this in a matter of fact way making Wade think he had just been read to from a book.

"You said HIGH ELF!" Alma heard Walker as she and Gil took a step on the ground as well. "We have not had someone who was considered a high elf in forty three years. It is incredibly rare for the blood to be so pure. The last high elf wasn't even an elf from here. They visited from the mother lake in the far south."

Wade turned to Gil and looked at him then to Walker and back. "You all deal with this all the time...? I can't even imagine what your hearts must be able to handle." Wade had just recovered his shock and was instead looking at Gil for the reaction, but Gil just shrugged.

"I wonder if you could learn some of the same skills that I have. My demi-human traits are from a monster and an ancient one at that. It would be interesting if you were able to learn them. Although some of them come with some very strict requirements."

Scylla was musing through which skills Walker could potentially learn from being around her.

"Honestly, if you ask Remy and Gil, they would tell you to teach me that air walking skill. I can't say I wouldn't be interested. There are elves around that can do the same. Wade called them air strider system users?" Walker looked at Wade who was whispering with Alma over the mention of the high elf skill still.

"Yes. We have wind strider system users. They have a skill called wind walk, air step, and wind dash. Not many of them gain the system but they are excellent for scouting and delivering messages." Wade was still a little caught on the jungle step skill but he was forced to change subjects.

"I would definitely like to see that then. I assume they do not use it for combat at all but it would still be nice to compare my skills and ability with them. They wouldn't be able to try some combat would they?" Scylla was already getting combat hungry. She wanted to head out at that second.

"It sounds like it is time to head to the main training area for the enforcers. Not many are allowed to go there unless they are like myself or Alma have the permission. It is hard for normal elves to even witness the training due to our secrecy, or former secrecy. Now, having guests, there will be a little bit of a commotion but it should bring about some nice advancement." Wade was already prepared to lead them to the main training area.

He motioned for all of them to follow him and the group headed down the familiar market path. Walker wasn't sure where the training area was since Alma had only told him about the al and the archer training area. He had no idea how another one would fit within the city, especially one that was larger.

Chapter 470 - 470. Generals

Wade was leading them down a separate road off of the market area. "Are you sure we aren't going to walk down that street? It looked like a nice market to explore." Scylla had a slight interest in the items made with elemental mana crystals that she had not seen before. Sadly it was not the direction that Wade needed them to go.

"Oh, you would love the water spikes they have. They are made from water elemental mana crystals and when placed in the ground cause the water in the air to rest in the soil. It would help very well with gardening, especially in the hot months." Walker said this mostly to pique Scylla's interest. He also wanted to have something that would make him want to negotiate more. It was the start of his base for the politics talks later on.

"Really? They even have important things like that here? I am sure it must cost a hefty amount of gold to create." Scylla could only see such a useful item as something that would be expensive. She had many of the same thoughts that Walker had had when he first heard of the water spikes.

"They are surprisingly low priced. Here they are a common item since they do not trade. I believe there are some other items that would really impress you as well." Walker gave her the small hint making Scylla want to abandon the thought of the training area entirely.

Yet, as they started to come in to view of a round open space with stairs that led downward Scylla became interested in battle once again. "This is the entrance to the underground area for training. We need to keep it underground so that we can regrow the necessary obstacles and safety vines." Wade made a lot of sense explaining this.

"I can only imagine how often you need to rep[air things. The elemental archers I use can destroy decent chunks of any sparring area." Scylla listened intently since she had not seen these elemental arrows in

person. She had read up on them and knew that they held a lot of power but other than that she was completely lost to how they worked and even how they were made.

"Will I be able to see the elemental arrows in use here? They sound like a formidable attack to deal with." Scylla was pushing for more but Gil was just smiling like a fool. He had not had many people interested in his own skills because of Walker. But now he was going to revel in the attention.

"Yes. The enforcers have many that have different systems. They mostly have archery based systems but lately, there have been many spell swords that have been participating in the joint training. That was all due to Walker and the crystal swords he helped to make." Wade casually brought up the crystal swords which again attracted Scylla's attention.

"The more I listen the more I am surprised by what you are capable of. You can also craft weapons that can be used in real battles at such a young age. You know that a blacksmith at your age would still be making the most basic weapons with the most basic materials. I believe even the ones that advance past the basics only do so because they have higher tier systems."

"I feel like you could stay here all day and still be trying to get more information on battle. Are you sure you are not some form of librarian or archivist system user?" Walker made the joke and laughed a little. Scylla just smiled while shaking her head.

"I wish I had such abilities. They would make my job as one of the generals much easier I happen to have a knack for remembering things and go out of my way to learn these things. I am normally the general in charge of the front line battles." Walker and Gil were now the curious ones. They had not inquired about the exact reason for the four generals in the demi-human kingdom and saw that this might be the best chance to learn.

"Can I ask what the other general would do? I don't know much and I don't mean to pry." Gil was the one to beat Walker to the question. Alma was also listening intently since she had been fairly silent. Wade was less caring about this since he just wanted to get everyone where they wanted to go. He had a feeling that the training with the enforcers was going to be incredibly interesting today.

"Oh, it is not prying at all. I thought you already knew. I am the general of the front. I will lead war efforts and be the one to make orders on the ground. I have a counter part named..well you might meet him one day. But he is the general of the back and he does all of the large planning. He will direct the army as a whole. I do not just take his orders but I make his strategy possible."

This sounded like a good balance for an army to have. Without a general at the front then there would not be a proper communication to the leaders. It also took the stress of the planning general with one person at the front. This was because the general at the front could give orders while the general at the back formed plans. Ideally, the general at the back would be able to send a plan when the general in the front needed help. It was a balance.

"I see how the general of the front and the general of the back can work equally. But what are the jobs of the other two if not war?" Walker was now more invested in this conversation than before. This was his first real learning experience with how a kingdom would properly divide its general and higher ranking officials.