

Master 721

Chapter 721 - 721. Weird Feeling

Walker was being carried on Su's back and felt that he was being forced awake somehow. The feeling of mana leaving his body was constant and he was confused about what was going on. However, the only thing he could see was the forced notification from Clara acting as the master of the guild.

"Wh-y why did Clara send us.." He mumbled softly as he properly read the notification and realized what was going on. He then read the notification about the demon's army and the pride demon general.

"Calm down. The fires are out and we are moving toward the kingdom as fast as possible. It looks like we went right through the same path the demons did. Su, stop and let Walker down." Gil was the first to notice that Walker was awake and struggling with confusion since he wasn't sure what was going on as he read all the system notifications.

"Are you feeling alright? We can all feel the mana leaving you but it doesn't seem to be making you ill. We used some mana potions to get the color back in your face." Remy was the most concerned. She has a better sense of the mana and could tell that Walker may have replenished it but he was leaking it as he absorbed it back in to his body.

"I...gained a skill. It lets me have fifty more mana but comes with some drawbacks. It feels like the mana that I replenish naturally leaks away so I will take longer to replenish. I need to be a lot more careful in the future. It may have been a poor decision to try and put that fire out all at once." Walker was regretting it a little. The flooding rain skill was a lot of mana at once but could be very valuable in droughts. But the drawbacks of the leaking mana was risky while out adventuring.

"I am sure that we can find a solution at some point. But I do remember you mentioning a bracelet that may do that?" Su was clearer minded than Walker at the moment. He had totally forgotten the Gift for Alice and the ability it had. However, he didn't have another and refused to use it himself. He bought it for her so she could have the opportunity to speak whenever she wanted. She wanted to be able to with her own power but a bracelet as a gift might be acceptable to her.

Before he could speak on it he was gripped with the worry for Alice. For his family. There were demons coming to wage war along with a single demon title holder. "Where are we? Have we discovered what the demons look like and where they are?" He became serious as the adrenalin was clearing his mind.

"Not yet, I have plenty of traces and we are following in their footsteps. I wish we could see them but they were ahead of us. I do know that it looks like the kingdom called all the farmers inside the walls." Gil looked a lot more relaxed having seen the evidence of hastily left farmers. They had evacuated in time leaving no one injured or hurt that Gil could scout out.

Midnight and Onyx were still very on edge but had relaxed more now that Walker was back. He may have been unsteady on his feet at first but now he was getting used to the strange feeling of leaking mana. "Don't worry about me. Let's keep moving. We have some corrupted demons to take care of." The elemental spirits that had been holding back from him heard his words and moved back to their positions clinging to him.

The party was reinvigorated with Walker back up on his feet. Every single one of them was worried that the hour he had been passed out was too much and that the drawback of his new skill would be too much for him to deal with. However, as they watched him move they noticed a strange occurrence around him.

"Leader, you know that every movement you make has mana within it now. Your steps and your body. It is very different." Su had felt it around Walker since she was still closer to him out of worry.

"I sort of noticed that too. I'm just not sure what to do about it. I think I might be able to use it to develop new skills and maybe even manipulate more of the elementals around me since my mana is around in the air too. It's mixed with the elemental mana and it feels odd. But we have way more to worry about now." Walker pulled the moldable crystal ball and began to change its shape in to a spear. He had just sighted the nearest demon.

"Why does it look so...perfect?" Remy was shivering. The demon was just too perfectly balanced and even. It was unsettling just how exact it was while holding two swords in hand. The two wings on its back were moving in unison and Walker swore that it moved its legs faster to even itself up every step.

"They are demons under the pride title holder, right? What if they take pride in their appearance and actions? It could be some strange way to look perfect?" Su felt the discomfort and deemed it unnatural. However, she also knew that this couldn't be something done of the demons' own volition.

"Don't tell me you are saying that the two hundred demons will all be exact replicas of this sin demon..." Gil wasn't ready to face two hundred of the same powerful demon.

"I would say they have to be modeled after it at least." Walker could see that the demons were only in a small group. Some distance ahead closer to the walls in the distance were the others of the demon of prides' army.

Chapter 722 - 722. Disgusting Balance

"I would tell everyone we should watch and prepare. But they have already seen us. Gil, you're up." Walker was sure they could have hidden for some time if the farm lands had not been burned. There was nowhere to hide in the soaking wet ash grey landscape.

The demons that had noticed them did not seem to be very intelligent. Instead of alerting the other demons they each ran at the party alone. Even the three in the lead were almost competing to get to them first. It was a good thing for the party but also disappointing for anyone to watch since teamwork was a major factor in any kingdom.

Gil didn't hesitate to draw an arrow. The demons coming were wielding the swords in perfectly balanced motions which made him want to keep them farther from the party. The earth elemental arrow Gil had pulled back and was about to release was targeting the nearest demon. The slow breathing stopped as Gil released an arrow and quickly grabbed another.

To any untrained eye, the arrow would appear to miss. However, to the party, the arrow was going to land right in front of the running demon. When the arrow landed there was only a moment before the earth elemental mana surged and a spike of earth pierced the demon.

What followed was not an instant death. The demon proved to have higher defenses than the party expected. But that still was not the point. What had happened was horrifying. The demon pulled itself off of the earth spike that had shot from the ground to pierce him. When realizing it was no longer perfectly balanced and in pristine condition, the demon stabbed itself with its swords.

"It just...killed itself with its own sword-" The massive explosion of mana and dark elemental mana caused all of them to stumble even at their far distance. The demon had not just stabbed itself. When it had lost its perfect appearance and balance it had self destructed its own mana to cause an explosion.

The horrified looks of everyone in the party were only calmed by the other demons approaching. Walker knew that the moldable crystal ball would not be the ideal weapon. Instead, he needed something that could withstand a brutal explosion and attack from range. What better than to use earth to create another wall and structure. He had the perfect example in the distance; walls and battle towers for defense.

"I am going to make a wall with towers. It will take me a moment but we should be able to resist and the other demons that were alerted by the sound." Walker dug his hands in to the mud and felt the earth elemental spirit assisting in the gathering of the earth elemental mana. The ice spirit was exhausted but still pulled at the water elemental mana to assist.

This made things easier and Walker felt that he could influence the manas better. He decided to use both the water and earth elemental mana to create his defensive wall and towers. Meanwhile, Gil was letting fly arrows at the now charging demons. He could count ten in total trying to get to them while the others were too far off and focused on the kingdom.

Two more explosions rocked the ground as Gil found his targets. He learned that only major differences would cause the demons to lose their minds and forcefully explode themselves. It was sickening and he wished for a way to stop them completely. However, when he used the earth arrow differently and a demon fell in a hole only to get stuck it imploded itself as well.

The earth elemental mana and the water elemental mana were combined in the ground due to Walker's flooding rain skill. Since he had the image of walls and towers in his mind he went with it and forced the mud to start moving up.

'The skill ice border wall has been taken from the ice fortress builder system. The skill ice border wall has been automatically learned.

Ice border wall- 35 mana cost

Using the assistance of an ice and an earth elemental spirit the user is able to manifest a special border wall. The wall consists of two towers and a wall between them. This border wall can be constructed multiple times together. The user calls the combination of earth and water elemental mana to change shape and rise to the defensive forms. The wall and towers can resist most attacks unless repetitive and focused. The wall will naturally decay over time without consistent maintenance. The user is able to dispel this and return the wall to the ground when they desire.'

The mud rose up and began to freeze. There were two round structures that rose on the sides. Gil managed to hop on top of one and was still firing arrows from his new vantage point as a layer of ice formed over the muddy interior. When Walker opened his eyes he was standing in the middle of a wall. One with an inside of frozen mud and outside of frosty ice.

"Leader, that was great. Now we can attack without worry." Su was already in front of Walker to keep any blasts away from him.

'Walker, I think I can drop some of the yellow slime body from the wall or tower. That should make them very unhappy." Remey looked evil saying this. But to her, this was the same as making a battle potion. The only difference was that she hadn't made this one. She would be using the creation of a demon to beat a demon. It was a pure irony.

With the plan in place, Walker did not hesitate. He began to open up holes using his trench skill. He didn't want to use any fire or lava related skills since it could damage the wall. The strategy would work as a third layer of defense in front of them.

Chapter 723 - 723. Charge Ahead

Su moved to cover Remey. The demons may have been wielding swords but that did not stop them from throwing both of them at the same time towards the ice border wall Walker had created. The swords were not exceptionally sharp and when Su blocked them some even shattered. One of the intact swords was carved and looked very ornate. Even decorative.

"Thank you Su, now it's my turn." Remey had one of the bottles of yellow slime body. She knew that this could be very dangerous to use as a weapon since it could harm all of them and not just the demons.

Using the alchemic fire and the assistance of the alchemy fire spirit she made sure the bottle was well sealed. She started to heat it up and waited as the pressure built. The slime body inside was getting forced to expand but couldn't due to the resistance of the glass that didn't even melt away with the acidic nature of the slime body.

When Remey had felt it was enough she looked toward the three demons that had gotten close enough and tossed the jar over the wall. She had the height to aim properly and watched as it fell. Just before it hit, she was covered by Su and the two heard the shattering of glass along with a chorus of hissing sounds.

When the two looked next they saw that the pressurized slime body had splattered all over the three demons causing them to struggle in pain. However, the real attack was not to cause them to be defeated but to ruin their perfectly symmetrical appearances. The one that had been hit directly had lost most of its clean and pristine appearance. The clothing it had worn burning and melting away.

The reaction to losing the perfection was instant. The demon stopped and pulled two daggers from its waist. The demon ended itself the same way as the other had and an explosion of darkness elemental mana rang out. The other two near it were the same. They felt that the damage they received ruined them. The followed the first and two more explosions rang out.

"These demons can't be doing this seriously. It's just too..." Su gave Remy a pat on the shoulder. They both agreed. Remy just couldn't help but see the terror of this too much. There was always the chance that there would be an explosion when making new potions or very dangerous potions. She would never want to be hurt or perish in such a way. However, these demons were doing it on purpose.

"Walker! They are coming towards us less. There's someone that just came through the gate. Or, maybe they jumped from the top of the gate." Gil had picked out the person and watched them walk toward the mass of demons.

When the burst of light took form above that person they all knew who they were. It was Barry and Ibis. The white summon of Ibis was flying through the air with wings like blades. They sliced through seven demons as if they were air. The explosions that rang out showed the party that even without the demons activating it themselves, they would explode when seriously injured.

"What does Barry have in his hands?" Walker could make out a glint in the distance. But he saw that the mana that left the demons was being pulled towards him. "It's absorbing the darkness mana from the explosions!"

Gil had the better eyesight and looked carefully. He could see the crystal appearance of a large ax. The darkness elemental mana was dancing around inside of it as if it was forced to be inside the ax or else. "It's an ax made of crystals! It looks like it's from the elves." Gil had no sooner spoken than Barry had released an attack.

Barry was not in a berserk state but the swing of the ax was still powerful enough to take down fifteen demons. The shocking part was that the ax also let out a blade of darkness elemental mana that took out ten more demons behind the ones that Barry defeated.

The following explosion fueled the ax again and the darkness elemental mana inside was even more powerful. The party understood why the demons were no longer charging at them. Walker willed the ice border wall to melt away and the party was on the ground in minutes. "We are moving forward to help

them. Midnight, see if the golem can join in. It should have the strength to resist the explosions by itself."

Midnight huffed in response and the fire spirit came out to speak with her. Walker could feel the fire elemental mana surge and the spirit took control of the golem. When Midnight and the golem roared together the echo was enough to affect the far of demons slightly. Midnight and the golem started off on a straight shot toward the demons.

"Walker, I will remain back firing arrows. These demons are almost robotic. They don't even speak or roar. I don't think they are really different demons anymore." Gil had been taking note of the actions of each demon and found that they were definitely lacking consciousness and their own will. They were more or less monsters now.

"I thought that would be the case. We need to take down the pride demon general. It has to be the cause of this." Walker moved as fast as he could to keep up with Midnight and the golem. He was planning on creating another ice border wall for Remey and Su when they were closer. It would allow protection to Remey who had plenty of the acidic yellow slime body to use as a weapon. Walker could even pull more out from his storage for her.

They charged ahead with this in mind for strategy.

Chapter 724 - 724. Perfect Demon

"Barry, the heroes are here. I have told Ibis that he needs to start splitting off and taking down the demons. You will take the one in the middle ordering them. That is their leader. The scouts have already tracked him." Barry saw the notification from Clara. The system and standing as the acting guild master gave her the ability to send any adventurer messages.

"I'll see what I can do." Barry swung the ax with force and sent another group of demons to the afterlife. He could feel the power as soon as he touched the Ax.

Markus had been waiting for him to arrive at the wall. He had the ax wrapped in a strange cloth. When unwrapped the crystal ax had begun to pull in all mana around it. Barry remembered clearly what Markus had told him...

"This is an ax gifted by the elves. They rarely like to make close combat weapons but made one just as a gift for our king before he left. This is a symbol of the strength we have in our bond. It has the unique

ability to absorb any elemental mana constantly. When it gathers enough of it, the ax will release a thrown blade and start to gather mana again. Use it wisely and show off the strength of our kingdom." Markus had handed over the blade then, letting Barry take full control...

"That Markus was right. This ax is full of power. Now, where is your leader? Huh? Or will you just keep sending puppets my way?" Barry shouted full force and directed every single demon at him. The force of his shout had the same taunting effect as any guardian's skills but had the added skill of adding anger to the opponent.

"You worm. How dare you disrespect me! I am the perfect demon. The perfect balance. The pristine ideal for all life!" The larger demon stepped forward. "Can you not see that I molded these specimens in to the perfect beings? Only I can shape the demons on to the perfect army for my lord. We are the most powerful"

Barry looked at the demon who seemed to be an exact image of what a demon should be. Curling horns of equal side and shape. Wings spread perfectly on his back. And even the nails were exactly the same length and sharpness on each hand.

"You look pretty weak to me. Without your puppets, I should be able to cut through you." Barry lifted the ax and charged.

"This is why I hate other races. No elegance. No perfection. Just a disgusting mix of uneven ugliness. I am Pride, remember that after I defeat you and mold you in to a true being worthy to walk the earth." Pride pulled the two swords he had on his hips and held them in a perfect cross blocking the swing of Barry's ax.

Barry grunted as he pulled back to swing again. Unlike the other demons in Pride's image, Pride himself was powerful. "You might have a little strength, but I am just warming up." The mana around Barry was being pulled in to the ax. Ibis was slaying the demons around them constantly using small white elemental summons in the shapes of birds.

The ax Barry swung a second time released the thrown blade of darkness elemental mana. The mud and water kicked up by the attack made Barry jump back and wonder if he had done damage.

The image of Pride stepping through the debris without even a drop of mud on him was shocking. "You believe a weak thing like you could beat me with my own mana? I ravaged their mana systems and molded them. Their mana is the same as my own mana. Pathetic!" Pride slashed with both swords at the same time, cutting Barry equally in his arms. The shallow cuts bloomed with red.

"Barry!" Walker held out a hand casting his healing skills at Barry and also using the multi buff skill on everyone. Midnight and the golem jumped in to the fray with Inis. Walker had told them to support Ibis since he was taking the majority of the demons down by himself. Walker knew that Midnight was tough enough to handle the explosions.

Onyx slithered through the mud and wrapped around Barry, becoming his tattoo form. "Brother will speak through me. We will attack the demon together. The others are helping Ibis and will support us when needed. This demon is troublesome." Onyx was the ideal communicator to get their thoughts to Barry without Pride knowing. Without any hesitation, Walker and Barry conversed about the things they knew about pride.

"A hero? Oh, all the heroes. I did have minor hope that you might be a little more perfect. But you are not a real hero. A real hero would be like me, balanced and elegant. Strong and domineering. You are just...weak. I can fix you though. Just let me mold you." The venom and prestige that dripped from Prides' voice made Walker shiver slightly.

"I would never be like you. You're just too, ugly. How could you think you are perfect? You just force others in to your own image to feel good about yourself." Walker was mocking Pride. It was clear that this would be the ideal way to damage the demon.

"Now now, calm down. This demon is just too stupid to know that it will never be perfect. Imperfection is the only way to be perfect. Let me show you." Barry charged in with his wounds healed by Walker. The ax had been absorbing more elemental mana around them. This time it came from an ice border wall that had sprung up behind Barry and Walker with Su and Remy on top of it.

Now that Walker had joined Barry the ax would not be absorbing the darkness elemental mana only. He could do more damage.

Chapter 725 - 725. Title Holder, Pride

The swing at Pride resulted in a chilling blast of water elemental mana creating an ice thrown blade. This managed to grind on the swords that Pride used to block. He still maintained the perfect crossed X shape.

With a slash, Barry was forced back and narrowly dodged the damage. Onyx was still relaying the information to him through his skill from Walker. "This demon said he molds others. He attacks the mana system." Barry knew that this meant that if he were to fall to this demon that he would most likely end up fighting as a puppet and not as a dead man.

"He is a title holder. The odds are that it is his skill to take over the bodies at some point or some way. It's terrible. That means at least, every single demon here could have had their own lives and dreams. They were taken by him." Walker felt that he couldn't just idly heal Barry. He needed to fight too. "If we take this one down we may be able to rescue some of the soldiers. I don't know though."

Walker and Barry nodded as Barry attacked again. However, Walker also attacked. He spun the spear he had made and activated the blade of night and day skill. The light and darkness elemental mana flared to life and he pushed off the ground propelling himself toward the distracted demon of pride.

Pride saw this coming and easily blocked the attacks of Barry and Walker at the same time. Walker tried to use the spear to attack with the skills he had but every single attack was blocked with the soft ting of metal. Barry was the same. However, the movements that blocked Walker's attacks also attacked him.

Barry was not a defender. He was an attacking tank of a berserker. This meant that every attack left its mark on him. Luckily he was not receiving deep wounds. But this gave him the feeling that he was just being toyed with.

"Neither of you can stand up to me. My lord sent me here to damage your weak pathetic city. Although, that would be imperfect. I will perfectly destroy and erase this place. I will take it for my own and build it better. It will be perfect." Pride smiled and the perfecting of his face stayed chillingly focused on Walker and Barry.

The two swords he held shrieked with his mana and Pride rammed forward trying to stab Barry and Walker at the same time. Walker's instincts pushed his body to move at the same time as the attack came. The dance of the wild rabbit skill was already activated causing him to duck under the sword. Barry managed to use the ax to swing and deflect the attack.

The inequality of their methods infuriated Pride. He struck again and again attempting to wound them but only managed shallow cuts and missing slashes. "You imperfect weaklings! My attacks are perfect.

You must fall to them!" Pride was beginning to unravel. The more explosions from defeated demons seemed to affect his mind. He couldn't help but want to attack more when he felt a presence.

"Ahh Pride. I thought you said you were the most powerful. How sad you are. How imperfect. You thought that your form was perfection. But you never melded perfection with power. I sent you to weaken the humans and that is what you have done. Their farmlands are burned. Now I am done with you." The voice of the demon lord rang in Prides' mind.

The bloodshot eyes of the demon known as Pride turned completely red. He had been cast aside. Only imperfect tools were cast aside. He was not imperfect. He couldn't be. He refused to be. He was perfect. He was ideal. He was powerful. He would shape the world. He would mold everything.

"I will show you all perfection!" The rumble of mana within Pride caused Barry and Walker to retreat. "I shake the world with my purity. I balance the light with the dark. I hold all in my hands and show it the shape it should take. I am the perfect being that stands above any and all who come to existence. I am Pride, god of the world."

The mana caused Pride's body to change. He started to twist in on himself and become larger. His madness from being cast aside by the demon lord he had taken pride in and the insults that came with it were too much. All Pride had was his mastery skill and title to lean on. He would start his own domination.

"This thing is losing it," Barry shouted out loud not waiting for Onyx to relay the communication.

"That was a mastery skill. I don't know what we should do but we need a big attack." Walker was worried that Barry would lose himself to the berserk traits he had to gain the power needed to defeat Pride.

The hulking form Pride had taken had six arms holding gruesome curved swords. He had gained six horns evenly spaced on his head. The slicked back hair had become black spikes like needles. His perfect clothing fell away to patterns of runes carved in to his body in perfect symmetry. All the demons he had molded fell to the ground with their mana seeping out of them toward Pride. "Feel the strength of a perfect being!" The roar that came through the brutal sharp teeth shook the ground.

"Perfect being? A perfect being doesn't rob their army of mana and let an old man like me fly on the back of my summoned partner to face you, does it?" Ibis had floated down and stood in front of Pride. "You two can back away a little. I think it's time for me to retire as the guild master. Barry, my daughter will be in your care. I expect you to support her as the vice guild master for some time. Now, let's see who has the stronger mastery skill. The title holder Pride, or the white Ibis that crushed puny demons like you with a casual glance."

Chapter 726 - 726. Pure Light...

Walker couldn't fully understand what Ibis's words meant. He heard him trust Claras' protection to Barry and that he was retiring from the position. All of this made Walker assume that Ibis was going to die from his mastery skill usage. "Stop spacing out there and let's get the hell out of there." Barry grabbed Walker and carried him farther away from the battle that was about to happen.

"But Ibis...he's going to die!" Walker yelled over the sounds of running.

"Die? What do you mean? He is going to use his mastery skill. He will crush that monster." Barry wasn't sure what to do but saw that the other party members had seen him take away Walker towards the ice border wall and had come running as well.

"Are we leaving? What's wrong? All of them seem to be passed out. Did we win somehow?" Gil was the least in the lop since he had been the farthest away. Midnight and the dragon golem were trying to figure out what to do and thought it best to return to Walker since he was the party leader.

"Can you get rid of this damaged ice wall thin and make another two or three? The guild master is about to use his mastery skill. He may be a summoner and can control the light elemental summons but what he is about to summon will be a little too much." Barry had seen this skill only once before and he had never forgotten it.

Walker wanted to ask many questions but when he felt the light elemental mana react he began preparing the ice border walls as asked after he caused the one that Su and Remy were on top of to melt and fall back to the earth.

"Here, another mana potion. You need to focus on your mana loss more." Remy sounded like a nagging parent but she could tell that Walker was pushing himself to force the three ice border walls in to existence.

"Vice guild master, what is happening? We could not hear all the details from the wall." Su was the one to ask Since Gil was still waiting as well.

"The guild master is about to use his mastery skill. He summons light elemental creatures, yes, but when he summons this one it is a little intense. He uses all his mana and promises the creature his mana for a year. He will live for a year with only one mana and the monster he summons will protect the city for that year. It is an equal exchange but a dangerous one since it will only act against powerful foes like that thing over there." Barry pointed at Pride who truly looked like a demonic monster instead of a demon.

"Then why did he say that he was entrusting Clara to you and that she was taking over as guild master!?" Walker had started the raising on the ice border walls. They rose and left the group on the back on with Walker still looking at Barry in exasperation.

"He has wanted to retire for some time. He only wanted her to be ready. We can talk about that later. We need to be ready for this." Barry held the ax as if it were a shield.

"If this will be as bad as Barry says then we need to be ready." Walker pulled Su's shields out from his storage and Su held her dual shields in each hand while the earth dwelling shield was put on her back. The dragon style golem opened its wings and covered itself making a dome to protect itself. Walkers' multi buff skill still protected everyone to some degree but the party and Barry moved behind Su.

The light elemental mana surged away from where Walker was and the light elemental spirit looked panicked. It could feel the strength and control from whatever Ibis was doing and what was going to come. It would need to hide away itself to avoid what was going to happen. "Here we go," Barry spoke and they all heard Ibis's voice as if he were right next to them.

"Hear my call. I use the light of the world to create your body. The will of my mana to form your will. The strength of this sun to bathe your body. I ask for your protection and offer you myself. Come from your dimension of light and protect the light of ours. I call upon you, lord of light, Gryphon!" Ibis raised his hands in the air as a massive light rune circle formed beneath him and a blinding portal of light opened.

The cry of an unknown bird was met with a flapping of wings. The light elemental portal vanished leaving a massive white creature that shimmered in white. Barry couldn't help but speak of what he was seeing and had seen before. "It's just like last time. The talons that could cut through the darkest day. The body of a powerful lion blessed by the sun. The beak is strong enough to pierce the void. Feathers

that shine like gems in the caves. That, is a pure light, griffin. The most powerful summon Ibis has access to."

The griffin that Ibis summoned flapped its wings and came to stand in front of Ibis. "Ha! You feel the need to summon me against this weakling? I know you are old but I expected you to still have the strength to deal with this." The griffin spoke without moving making everyone confused but in awe. It was too powerful to ignore.

"I had no choice great griffin. I was not able to shine bright enough in this old age and needed to call upon pure light such as yourself. Please assist this kingdom and bring the light to it." Ibis had learned how to respect such creatures and properly asked for assistance. Unlike his other summons, he could not force this one to do his will.

Chapter 727 - 727. Annoying Me!

Walker felt that he and the light elemental spirit could use all the mana they could muster and never pull even a little of the light elemental mana from the pure light griffin. The mana was more than just under its' control. It was as if the mana was bowing to it.

Barry was looking at the griffin knowing that it looked beautiful and calm but could unleash a devastating rage in the blink of an eye "Just stay close and be ready to fall behind the wall and the shield. Hold it up too. When the attacks happen we may be hit in the crossfire." Barry never showed his worry or stress, but at this moment his voice waivered enough to show the party just how serious this matter was.

"Pathetic creature. You are not lion nor bird. You can never be perfect. I won't even waste time attempting to mold you in to the proper perfection that I am." Pride had lost his mind completely. He could not be called a demon anymore but instead a monster.

The pure light griffin seemed to be infuriated hearing the insult. As much as pride was the embodiment of pride and even held the title, the pure light griffin was one of the strongest creatures that embodied light. They were proud and strong within their own right. To be insulted in this way by any being was enough to destroy a country.

"Pathetic thing. You are full of darkness and can not even touch the light. I will erase you from this world so you may try again in another life." The words didn't sound angry, however, they held an undeniable weight. These words crushed everyone that heard them and visibly make Pride shutter.

Pride didn't hesitate long, he drew the darkness elemental mana from his body and made the metal swords vibrate and hiss with the mana. The power of the attacks from the sword was sure to do major damage to anyone. Walker knew that if he was to face them he would not be able to block and would need to dodge just to survive for another second.

The griffin just turned its head to the side and flicked a single talon. The darkness elemental mana on the swords completely disappeared and the swords fell in to dust. "Weak. You are too weak. You know nothing of perfection. You haven't even melded with an element properly." The griffin flicked again and a small beam of light appeared for a moment.

When one of the arms on Prides' body disintegrated he was frozen. He was no longer balanced and perfect. The gut wrenching screech that came from Prides' maw was enough to deafen anyone that was not prepared for an attack.

In a brutal effort to return to balance, Pride tore off the opposite arm to match the other side. Once that was done he began to force the mana in his body to form swords again. These were made from pure darkness elemental mana. They looked to be much stronger than before and were only matched in color to Prides' eyes which were bleeding darkness elemental mana.

"Really? That thing has a berserker skill? It's worse than mine it's destroying his mana just to make him stronger." Barry had done a massive amount of research on berserker skills and had seen this one. "It's the dark madness skill. Most demonic bears have it as a berserk skill that activates when it is down to the last of its health points. I needed to defeat one of them to purify myself and get the true berserker skill." This tidbit of information was interesting but none of them could spare it a thought.

Pride rushed at the griffon swinging the swords of darkness down while screeching unknown phrases in his madness. "You annoy me!" The pure light griffin had finally had enough. It opened its mouth and light elemental mana was there to form an orb in the blink of an eye. None of them had ever seen such a fast gathering of mana in their lives.

When they opened their eyes again the world was white. There was nothing but light. Pure light and some attached heat as the light ground against the other elemental manas of the world. The entire group was blinded by the light but they could feel it pushing them back. The border walls cracked and fell to pieces causing all of them to push against Su and the twin shields. Barry was behind all of them pulling them all close behind the shield and using his great strength to hold Su and the shield in place.

The light stopped and everyone only saw darkness. "Don't worry. The effect will fade soon. Just don't move and stay where you are. If you have healing spells use them, Walker." Barry gave orders and was able to sound calm even in the situation.

Walker proceeded to remain in position and use his healing skills over and over on himself and everyone he touched.

'The skill area heal has been taken from the supporter system. The skill area heal has been automatically learned through multiple healing actions over a wide area.

Area heal- 10 mana cost

The user will expand a ring around himself of ten feet in diameter. Those within the ring will slowly gain healing as long as they are within the ring. The skill will only last for five minutes and is best used on minor wounds. Large wounds will take a great deal of time to heal. The user can expand this ring by spending double the mana for every additional foot.'

Walker felt his eyesight begin to return. He no longer felt darkness and he saw the system notification instantly. He did not hesitate to cast the area heal skill. The group needed to see what was going on.

Chapter 728 - 728. Aftermath

The scene that greeted them was not one they had thought they would ever see in their lives. The pure light griffin was flapping its large wings to stay afloat within the air and survey the farm lands. The bodies of the demon army [pride had molded were undergoing a terrifying change.

Some simply rotted away visibly to bones while others lost skin and even limbs to return to what they used to be. The normal demons they had once been before Pride had hijacked their mana system and forced them to change. They were not conscious but Walker could feel the need to go and check on them. Without even a flinch Su was in motion.

The massive line of gouged up earth was all that could be seen for almost a mile. The pure light griffins' attack has shredded through the ground destroying every single piece of Pride. He was completely defeated. It was such an easy thing for the griffin that Walker could only feel weak. He needed to get stronger faster so he could rival these corrupted demons.

Walker was trying his best to think logically as he walked up to Ibis who was standing with the use of a cane he had never seen Ibis use before. The sweat and paleness only proved that Ibis was stuck with a single mana point no matter what. Walker had heard Barry and knew that the griffin would just take his mana so a mana potion would most likely not do anything.

"Hell of skill, right? I have only been able to use it one other time in my life. It's really wonderful." Ibis spoke as if he was showing off a cool toy instead of a massive pure light griffin that could eat all of them with ease.

Losing his logic, Walker asked the first thing that came to mind in response, "Since you are making Clara guild master does that mean that we need to get a new party manager?" Even Walker was stunned that this was what came out of his mouth.

Ibis looked at him bewildered before laughing, Ha! Kids these days. They see a mastery skill and can only think about is who their guild manager is. To answer your question, she will stay. I'm sure she won't let you all get away. Now, help me get back to the city. I will need to take a year of rest before I get my mana back." The sigh came with a glance up at the pure light griffin. Ibis knew that getting the city a protector would cost so much mana. But it was necessary at the moment.

Walker lent Ibis his shoulder and began to walk toward the walls where many adventures and guards swarmed. The moment the largest threat was gone, they had rushed out. Barry started to shout orders to gather the living demons to be healed and interrogated. He didn't have much hope that they would remember much but even a shred of information was better than nothing.

Su was treating those demons currently and the healers that began to join her were too business like to properly greet her. However, Walker took note that many of them were casting excited and happy glances at her. They were excited to work with the hero that had made a name for herself helping those in need even though she was not a healer type system holder.

A group of adventurers came up with a stretcher that Ibis gladly rested upon before they rushed him away towards the city. Then they said something about the cathedral to rest but Walker was still caught in everything happening around him.

"You boy, I feel you are different." Walker was jolted from his thoughts by the same voice of the griffin.

Unsure of what to do or say, Walker went with what seemed appropriate, "thank you for your assistance in protecting the city." He did a small bow toward the griffin that was able to hear and speak from so far up in the sky.

"I was called. I could not allow anything to go awry in my presence. Especially against something so dark. It was not like you. It was dark and void of purity. You are different. A balance of dark and light, and other things. Normally it would be beneath me to even look at another that is not pure but I believe you are close." The griffin flew further away and circled the city. It seemed to Walker that this was all it had wanted to say.

Realizing he hadn't taken stock of the golem and the others, Walker found that Midnight and the golem were checking the golem body for damage. Other than some dirt and debris it was perfectly fine. The claws would need some sharpening after cutting through some of the pride puppets.

"Brother, Midnight wants you to shine the golems scales later." Onyx had made sure Barry was alright without him and started to slither through the adventurers and guards to help where he could. He was doing the same job as Su to tell the healers that might need guidance what the still living demons needed.

"We will, and your scales too. Let me get ahold of things here first." Walker felt a hand on his shoulder and Gil revealed himself next to Remy who was waiting for Walker to pull health potions out from his storage.

"Thanks, I will be with Su." Remy took more health potions and reached Su in an instant.

"Now that Onyx is here, let's see what he gathered from his stroll." Gil knew Walker was about to ask the same thing so he focused on Onyx.

"The demons mostly do not have systems. From what some have spoken to me they were captured and forced to change using some skill. They lost control of their bodies and were forced to do Prides' bidding. Strangely, the conscious ones say that they all have a quest now. It's titled, free the demon race."

Chapter 729 - 729. Speculation

"You mean they have quests but don't have a system? How is that possible? I have never heard it happen before. I know people without systems usually end up doing smaller jobs and basically filling the gaps between professions. But, getting quests?" Gil was stunned to hear what Onyx was saying.

"I know that when people don't find their systems it is rare. But they still find lives. There are always some people that give up and fall down to poverty. But they can rise up on their own lower. They may not level up and have skills but they are needed. The city wouldn't run without them. But if systemless people are getting quests, well, maybe they can get systems still. Maybe the age requirement just tells us that it won't be easy to get a system anymore." Walker was openly guessing at this but it was enough to keep the silence of thought in the air.

"Walker! Head to the city! The cathedral is gathering the remaining demons." Barry yelled out his order and Walker jumped to action. He released the remnants of the ice border walls and aimed himself at the city. The burned grounds behind him were worrisome and he wanted to try and fix the farms as much as possible. However, he needed to take every single problem one at a time.

"So much for relacing huh?" Gil walked beside him and soon found himself on one end of a stretcher carrying an injured demon with Walker. The two didn't see the point of not helping while heading back. It would be a waste to just head back without someone in need with them.

The golem threw off the guards so before the wall the fire spirit left it and the golem went in to resting mode so Walker could store it away. The guards were shocked for a moment before mumbling things like, "That's our hero." "The little guard grew up." "Remember when he was this high" It was kind of embarrassing but Walker was still sure to say hello and give a slight wave before continuing with the other healers and guards bringing in the injured demons. The guards were still required to stand at attention but because there were so many some were able to be more relaxed.

The city streets were a mess of guards and military rushing about communication. Many adventurers were near the outer walls since they had been slightly damaged by the griffin and the demons. The explosions had corroded some of the protective earth runes making the wall weaker at one point.

As they moved their path was expedited and every whaler or guard or adventurer carrying wounded was priorities. Walker began to notice some injured guards as well and realized that there had been those sent out to patrol and protect the farms during the evacuation.

The cathedral loomed in front of them with a much more serious atmosphere than it had usually. The healing aura was still present and Walker used the skills he had to send a calming wave through the

entire room and even started to use the area heal skill. Those around began to look much more relaxed and those that had small wounds were healing much faster. Walker could easily pick out those who rushed away from farms and received scrapes and cuts from falling.

The pair placed the demon on the stretcher down and Gil looked around, "I am going to make some rounds and check on those who lived around my and my parents. I want to make sure they are all safe and sound." Walker gave him a nod and Gil was off. Midnight was still on Walker's heels but noticed the children nearby.

"Brother, Midnight and I will go and play with them. They need something fun." Onyx had a big soft spot and so did Midnight for children. Walker couldn't help but feel even more proud that they were so caring and showed a wide smile as they headed towards the group of rambunctious kids.

"Sure chose the right time to get back huh? You need healing yourself." The high priest came out of nowhere surprising Walker with a healing spell. Walker had been too distracted and high energy to remember he had many cuts and scrapes from Prides' swords. He was also still moving side to side as if he expected an attack any second. After being healed he finally relaxed himself a little.

"I'm sorry I can't exchange stories and pleasantries. But for now, get all the demons to their own area. They all have a quest that I need to speak to them about. I have no idea what will happen but I might be making a very big announcement." Walker was worried that he would be announcing things to the entire kingdom soon. A quest to free the demon people was a big deal. But systemless people getting quests was even bigger.

Shaking these feelings off. Walker saw Su carrying a demon in on a stretcher with the help of a guard. "Su, we are gathering the demons in their own space so I can speak with them as they wake up. If you see any nobles or such point them to me. We are going to be at the front corner." Su gave a nod and began pointing the other healers to do just what Walker needed. The high priest was also directing everyone and things progressed very fast.

After some time passed Walker heard someone calling his name and raised his head to find none other than Markus Raven. "Ah! I didn't expect you to be the one the king has here directing things." Walker was surprised but when he thought about the weapons he saw the adventurers and guards carrying he had already deduced that they came from the royal armory.

"I heard that there would be some important information for the king to know. I came with the weapons earlier and have been relaying information since the fires were first spotted." Markus looked worn and tired but he had strength in his voice. "What do you need?"

Chapter 730 - 730. Interviewing Demons

"For now I am going to gather information and speak to the demons that wake up. I know some will have systems but apparently, Pride targeted demons that did not have systems and forced them in to his image. I don't know what skills came with the pride title but they were bad. Very bad. Once I know where things stand I can give you more but as of now, there are demons without systems that received a quest to free the demons from corruption and such." Walker didn't mince words and gave it to Markus flat.

"You're right. The king will want to know. I will run there personally." Markus was not going to send a messenger with such important information. This could shake the kingdom, let alone the world.

"And Markus, please drink a mana potion and health potion. You look like you need them." Markus smirked a little and rushed off. Walker was sure that he would be back soon.

As if the demon was waiting for the right time, Walker heard one of them start to moan and come back to consciousness. They were all placed evenly apart on their own soft mats after being healed or currently being healed. Some had not been lucky enough to remain without injury from the battle and it had not been healed after Prides' skill had worn off.

Others were normal demons without injury and just a very large amount of exhaustion. Walker made sure to remain calm and kneeled next to the demon that was waking up. "Hello? Can you hear me? You are safe and somewhere you can heal. Just take your time waking up. If you have questions ask away."

The man reacted to Walker and started to open his eyes and blink. Before Walker could hear what the man could say he had started to wildly look around and grasp at his skin. "You are safe. Pride is gone and so is his skill. You are in another kingdom and have been healed. You. Are. Safe." Walker put emphasis on the words to make the demon hear and focus on him.

When the demon man looked at Walker's eyes and saw they did not waiver he knew that there was really truth to Walker's words. "Really? He's dead? That general is dead?" The demon seemed to still question it but continued to mumble to himself. "Of course he's dead. I'm free. I could only be free if he died. He would never let me go." The demon still patted his skin just in case. He still feared he would lose control and morph back in to Prides' image again.

Walker watched the complex emotions through the eyes of the demon. The man was more or less the same as any human walker had seen. The only difference was that the man has small horns and his eyes were red. Whatever kind of demon he was couldn't be determined and it was just a lesser demon species.

"This might seem an odd question, but do you have a system?" This was where Walker was going with every demon that he would speak to. He needed to make sure that this was real.

"Actually...no. That's why I was brought to general Pride. He said he would make me useful. It was horrible." Walker saw the demon man start to tremble before forcing himself to focus up. Knowing that Pride was dead now must be a major blessing to those under Pride's influence. "But now, I'm just usele- what's this thing?" The man tried to poke something in the air that Walker couldn't see.

"It's like that countdown clock before I turned thirty. It says that I need to free the demon race from corruption? It says this is a chain quest! I have a quest! How? Wait, who cares? I have a quest!" The man was questioning and lost but excited and confused all at the same time.

"Thank you, that helps a lot. My name is Walker. I hold the true hero title and a few others. What do you need to do for the first quest?" Walker was sure that this was a very big deal and his thirst for information was taking control.

"Huh? Do? It says..." The demon started to read and try to comprehend. "Umm, it says to follow my dream and learn the basics I have always wanted to know." This was very confusing and made sense to Walker why the demon would be confused as well.

Before Walker could pry and little more the man who has gazed in to the distance spoke again, "When I was a kid I wanted to be like the other mages that used to make the earth shake. One passed through my village and built houses with a clap of their hands. It was amazing." The face of the demon showed wide eyes surprise, "It changed. The quest changed and now it says to learn the basics of an earth mage. Does that mean I can be an earth mage?"

"You will need to pursue the quest to find out. Take some time to think and relax. I have others to speak to but I have a feeling they will join you in the amazement soon." Walker saw other demons start to awaken as they were healed. He began interviewing one after another and in the end found that out of the two hundred in the army, all had been without systems. They all had the same quests.

The thirty eight that had survive Prides' control were being given another chance by the world. It was something none of them expected. Walker also noticed that they all had system countdowns end at different years of their lives because demons had varying age ranges based on the species of demon blood they had within them.

There was so much information that Walker began to wonder what the world was pushing them towards. The only thing that was clear was that they were all being pointed at the demon lord and the corruption that it caused to its own people.