

19: Watch the Water

I woke up with my mind still groggy from the Ninja's poison that had dropped me hours earlier. According to the sounds of the party we weren't in any danger.

When I crawled out of the cart I saw a rocky vale with a small lake in the middle. The sun was burning brightly, the rays cutting like blades into my head. Clearly I had missed a complete night and what appears to be most of the morning. In the meantime I saw Felina walking towards the water and sticking her head under water. At the moment her hair touched the water I could see something moving towards her.

Again something was attacking us! Again I was too far away to be of assistance. It looks like I am to be an spectator in all the battles to be fought by my companions. My anger seemed to have opened a gate to somewhere. I could feel my anger almost materializing inside me. I vaguely remember cursing the creature in the language of my ancestors. I could feel the energy building up inside just like I can summon darkness. This energy was something different though, it felt real and powerful!

The energy or curse was blasted outwards, cursing everybody who stood against me in all directions. I hit the watery tentacle that was trying to grab Felina, then one of Reed's globes of Fire hit it and the tentacle retreated back into the water.

Then it hit me what had happened. I had unlocked powers from deep within me. I'm sure these powers come from my abyssal ancestors. Even more, I could find something else inside me, waiting to be unleashed! The others had clearly noticed my behaviour as well because most of them were eying me conspicuously, jaws hanging open while Grimwald was even reaching for his axe.

Reed spoke to me and asked what had happened. I explained the new powers inside me. I even unleashed the other power. It felt like a dark shroud that protected me especially from Reed, Zhea and Felina. Reed felt it too, in truth she looked shocked. She explained that the effect was similar to a divine spell called "Protection from Good".

She warned me about these powers. These powers emerge from my evil ancestry and using them would draw me to my abyssal side. I still feel that power itself is neither evil nor good and I control my own destiny. Somehow I unlocked these powers and I'm not shy to use for whatever means I see fit.

My groggy feeling had left after the events and I walked around the little vale. The Lake was surrounded by twelve stones. I walked around, playing with Blades rapier when I felt something pulling at my rapier. When walking around I could feel tiny tugs at the scabbard. When carrying the rapier in my hands I could feel it wanted to point towards one particular stone.

I walked to the stone and every time I waved my rapier without consciously thinking about it, the blade was undoubtedly drawn to the stone. When I sat down on the stone it felt like this rock was tailor made for me. The rapier did fit perfectly into an impression on the stone. Somehow I suddenly knew that Blade had been here. When Zhae heard this he was also able to find a stone he knew had belonged to his master.

How did Blade and Zhae's master meet? Why here? What about twelve stones in total?

This place was special...

We all were pondering these questions when we found ourselves almost in the water. A water elemental had drawn the stones toward the lake and tried to attack us! Fortunately Cuura was there with her hammer and protected us from the thing. Strange monsters were hiding in the lake! Felina spotted a chest on the bottom of the lake when the water elementals movements had lowered the water level.

I knew this was going to be my hour of glory. I had to do outshine myself on this special place. I suggested to draw the attention of the creatures inside the lake. Somehow I could withstand the elemental attacks Reed said it would throw at me. Also being the most agile one in the party it would prove difficult to even hit me.

The others would try and pull the chest from out of the lake with a rope.

The plan worked, we retrieved the chest and I was able to dodge most of the attacks the creature could throw at me. Finally the chest was pulled ashore when I had to retreat. The attacks that hit me, were hurting me a lot. It felt like a cart had run me over, but we had the chest and I proved my courage to this strange place! Did I pass, or at least survive a test fit for a weapon master?

The lesson I learned was a painful one. Somehow I must be able to sustain more hits!