

Black Plain 1401

Chapter 1401 Plan

Upon hearing Richard's words, Minos immediately realized possibilities that he had not yet considered.

At no point had he considered the existence of Luke since this fellow truly was not relevant to him, and he had not heard the name of such a person in a long time. So Minos thought he had no contact with anyone outside the northern region and the five high-level states he was currently connected to.

Minos judged that to gain access to a peak state, he would have to visit one of these places and spend years traveling to such locations. That was why he had never used some alternative plans to counter Abe's actions.

But upon hearing from Richard that Luke had identified the posters of missions launched by Abe's people, this emperor immediately identified the opportunity in front of him!

"Your Majesty?" Richard asked, noticing the silence on the other end of the line after his previous words.

Minos' guards, Gavin and the young Spiritual General were also watching Emperor Stuart with curiosity, even without knowing the content of his conversation with Elen's father.

Minos then said. "Richard, do you have any method of communicating with Luke?"

"Yes, I do..." That fellow said in an uncertain tone, not knowing what Minos wanted. "Abe used a high-level bird, an amazing creature, Your Majesty. Such an eagle is at level 70. It is so fast..."

"Cough! Cough!"

Hearing Minos' coughing on the other end of the line, that man refocused on the subject and said. "Right. Because of that eagle he used to deliver the message, we can communicate with him quickly, Your Majesty."

"Perfect." Minos laughed in that mausoleum, feeling it was his chance to deal with Abe.

"Very well, I want you to send a letter to Luke and some resources I will pass on to your family. I want him to hire ten high-level Spiritual Saints in one of those guilds and send them to Dry City to be under my command." He said, surprising both the man on the other side of the communicator and the people in that dark area.

"Ten high-level Spiritual Saints?" One of those imperial guards thought to himself, interested in what Minos intended to do.

Gavin looked at Minos, sensing that such a fellow had thought of something to accelerate the local plans. 'That will probably make my revenge happen faster!' He clenched his fists in anticipation.

"That..." Richard said on the other end of the line, thinking that that would be both too much and too little.

It was a lot from a financial point of view. It certainly would not be cheap to bring ten such specialists from the Western Empire to the Black Plain. But on the other hand, although such individuals could indeed help the local situation, they could not act against Abe with just these people.

After all, the Spiritual Sage protecting Abe was difficult to deal with!

Minos then said. "I want to use these individuals to protect Dry City when I leave for the Flaming Empire to deal with the Saints Killing Sect. At that time, I will take some time to settle my affairs there, which could be quite detrimental to the Black Plain if we don't have help."

"These individuals will give me the time I need to settle my affairs and complete the previous plan."

"I see..." Richard, Gavin, and others heard that, understanding what Minos was planning.

"Very well, Your Majesty. I will send the message and the resources necessary for him to do this service." Richard commented after a few seconds in silence.

"Hmm, thank you. I'll settle with the Nash family in the next few days..." Minos commented, grateful for this further contribution from Elen's family to his interests.

Richard smiled across the line, feeling his family had gained a lot by promising to do something easy.

But then he said. "But, Your Majesty, it will take a while for these experts to come here from the Western Empire. The distance is not small."

"I will wait," Minos said on the other end of the line. "Ask Luke to confirm when he gets the mercenaries. I will delay my plans for the Flaming Empire until these individuals reach the Black Plain and understand the kind of service I want from them."

"In the meantime, I will stay around Dry City to ensure that new incidents like the previous one are not repeated."

"Sigh..."

"I understand." Richard said, after sighing as he remembered that terrible time in which even his family had lost some relevant members.

Patriarch Nash, Luke's father, had suffered greatly in that event and was still recovering in the Dry City General Hospital, the place in the region that had the treatment for his case.

Also, because of this, this man was talking to Minos at the moment while he was at the Nash family headquarters on Stone Island.

Anyway, with that settled, the two finished their conversation since it was costly to keep the arrays of their communication devices running.

After resolving this, Minos rose from his seat and handed that item to the young Spiritual General in front of him. "You are liberated." He said to the young man before seeing such a person running from there, returning from where he had come from.

Minos then started his way toward the exit of this mausoleum, followed sideways by Gavin as the imperial guards escorted them.

"We will postpone our visit to your family headquarters a bit, but that will be for the greater good." Minos said as he looked forward, anxious to finally start acting firmly against his recent opponents.

"Hmm, I know..." Gavin said, not thinking that was a bad thing.

With more time, Gavin could better prepare himself to review his family members who wanted to kill him. But, at the same time, he had lived in this place for years, so he knew the risk of destruction that these people would suffer if neither he nor Minos was around.

That way, this man thought it was worth waiting for these ten specialists that Luke would hire for them in the Western Empire.

"Good that we will have time to finalize our preparations," Gavin commented with determination in his eyes.

"What do you intend to do after that?" Minos looked into the eyes of this red-haired fellow.

Gavin was the closest thing to a friend that Minos had managed to get in all his years as leader of the Black Plain. And since this fellow was exceptionally talented, he naturally had an interest in this person continuing in his state.

"I don't know. I don't even know if I'll survive." Gavin was sincere since he really did not think much about what he would do if he survived and managed to finalize his affairs with that sect and the Rowse family.

"Hmm, when you make up your mind, let me know about it." Minos commented as he patted this fellow on the back just after they departed from inside the mausoleum and encountered the busy streets of the Dry City core.

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While Gavin worried about his revenge, the news of his location had finally reached his family and former sect!

At this instant, Mortimer was finishing listening to Abe's message to thank him for the earlier tip and to encourage this man to send people to the Black Plain.

'So that wretched bastard really is with the bloody Minos...'

Chapter 1402 The Actions Of The Saints Killing Sect

'Not for nothing! The bastard Minos is already totally against me, so he took the opportunity also to stab me in the back and protect that brat!' Mortimer felt a mixture of anger but also the satisfaction that he had finally obtained Gavin's location.

He hated Minos all the more for it since Emperor Stuart had successfully hidden Gavin from this organization for years, making room for the Eyes of Destruction to awaken. But it was undeniably better to find that out now than ever.

Gavin was not yet so strong as to stand against him, so after hearing Abe's message, Mortimer naturally regained some of his hopes of stealing that young man's visual powers.

Since he was already fighting Minos, Mortimer felt he would soon be up against Gavin on a battlefield. And that would put him close to achieving a feat that could take him to the 9th stage!

Therefore, even considering how hateful Minos was, this man was pleased and could not help but thank Abe for the information.

"Send my thanks to Abe Vogel. If one day we are victorious in our respective interests, I hope to be able to meet him in person." He said as he looked at the subordinate who had brought him such information.

Mortimer's wife, who was also in that place of business of this sect, where many skeletons were in the surroundings, even being part of some armor, said. "Our attempt to affect Minos resulted in something positive that we did not expect... In any case, it is amazing how that person is against us."

"I wonder if everyone in the Coleman family carries that resentment against us?"

"The lineage of those bastards is really abominable!"

"An apple doesn't fall far from the tree, after all..."

Several elders there agreed with that woman's comment while the smile on Mortimer's face dimmed, and he clenched his fists. "Minos is actively acting against our sect, not only because of our organization's war with the Gray Clouds Sect. He clearly shows hostility to us."

"Yes, his grudge against our organization is not simple." A level 78 individual commented on this with a terrible expression on his face.

One enemy acting against another in a war was a common thing. In some cases, organizations like this would even 'forget' some losses at such times when peace came. But Minos seemed to be the kind of opponent acting against them, not to protect himself or ensure his victory. On the contrary, he looked like someone who wanted to destroy them, even if he had no good reason to do so.

Hence, these individuals could not help but be on guard against this fellow, feeling they had to act more vigorously against him and eliminate him if they had the chance.

Minos had done significant damage to the interests of this organization on the battlefield between them and the Gray Clouds Sect. Since he had joined the war, Emperor Stuart had killed over a thousand Spiritual Emperors and dozens of Spiritual Saints.

The forces of the Gray Clouds Sect had also become more efficient in their actions, which had shifted the advantage of the war in favor of Oswald's sect.

But now, he seemed to have been plotting against them for much longer, for reasons they did not understand!

"Send people to work with Abe Vogel." One of the strongest individuals there said. "We're not going to act directly against people in the northern region, but it would be nice if we could at least share the intelligence of this person's group."

"Hmm, that's a good idea." The local leader's wife nodded in agreement. "We will certainly face Minos again, but Gavin may continue to hide in the bloody northern region. Then we will need information for possible action in that area."

"Hmmm." The sect master nodded to his staff. "Do that. On the other hand, I want some elders here to start watching the battlefield."

"If Minos shows up again, even if we have to disregard the emperor's orders, do what is necessary to end his life!"

Gulp!

"What about the emperor?" One of those elders asked, sensing that this would be risky.

The emperor had ordered high-level Spiritual Saints not to get involved in this war unless their organizations faced high-level risks. But even if Minos were powerful, his mere presence on the battlefield would not justify it...

Mortimer then smiled. "I heard that the emperor left the capital recently... So maybe, people from the Flower Kingdom will soon emerge to take him to that person."

The whole place went silent after the sect master's words, with everyone there considering what that entailed.

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Weeks later, in the Western Empire...

After communicating with his family in the northern region, Luke Nash finally received a return from Stone Island.

But instead of finding a letter with the eagle that Oriel Holt managed to lend him, he found a spatial ring sent by Elen's father, not his own.

"That is the mark of the supreme elder..." Luke looked at the item in his hands right after letting that eagle fly back to where it came from.

Then, without thinking much about why his father had not answered him, Luke did what was necessary to access the items in that storage item. Then, he found stacks of high-grade crystals, along with some letters.

"What?" He exclaimed in surprise, not expecting to find a fortune like that in a spatial ring sent by his Nash family.

But although he was sometimes impulsive, Luke did not think House Nash had finally understood his efforts and sacrificed for him. Thus, he soon read those letters.

The first one talked about his father's situation, who had been injured in a battle in Dry City, defending that place against the terrorist forces of Abe, who was recruiting in this empire.

The second letter was about Minos' plan, telling him to hire ten high-level Spiritual Saints with the resources in that ring.

Reading all that, Luke was silent for a moment, impressed by the financial power of the Black Plain but also by the accomplishments of the forces of that state.

He was in the dark about most of the recent problems. Still, Richard had sent some reports with news from the northern region to him, along, of course, with some cultivation resources to help him.

Elen's father had commented on how well the Nash family was doing and how favorable it would be if the Black Plain Empire had peace to develop itself.

Hence, even though this young man had his history with Minos and also ambitions, he did not think to steal the resources sent for hiring those ten individuals and decided to do what he should.

Someone was harming his family and had even put his father's life at risk. Consequently, even if he hated Minos, he had to act to help this individual succeed in ending Abe's life!

With that, he soon set out to ask Oriel for help placing the mission to hire ten high-level Spiritual Saints in a local guild!

Chapter 1403 The Waiting Of Minos

Days later...

After placing Minos' mission in a mercenary guild in Elemental City, Luke would go there when he had time and see if the group had been assembled.

That was what he was going to do now while walking through that city alongside Oriel, the fellow who had brought him from the northern region and always came to see how he was.

Luke had last visited the guild in question 2 days ago, but at that moment, only 4 of the 10 needed high-level Spiritual Saints had signed up to do this mission.

These experts were busy people, regardless of where they were in this great cultivation world. So even in a high-level empire like this, it was not easy to assemble a team with ten such high-level mercenaries in such a short time.

Such was the reality, even considering that Minos did not require that these individuals already knew each other.

But as Oriel had already told Luke what it was like to hire people like this, this fellow was not anxious. He was just going another day to check on the situation so as not to delay Minos' plans because of his problems.

As the two were walking, Oriel, level 68, asked Luke. "Are you serious? That Minos is already at level 67?"

"Hmm, he's a monster." Luke, level 62, said to that fellow. "Soon, he will surpass you in terms of level..."

"Tsk!"

"Shut up!"

"You're the one who caught up to him when you had almost ten levels of advantage!" Oriel slapped Luke's left shoulder, causing that young man to frown at him.

But then he became more serious. "But it's awe-inspiring what that person did. He was just someone ordinary the first time I heard of him. But just look at where he's gotten to..."

"Maybe he will become someone as legendary as Vico Travisani!"

"Absurd!" Luke refused such a comparison. "Senior Vico Travisani is a level 99 Spiritual Demigod. The strongest on the continent and closest to becoming a God. Minos can't compare to him!"

Vico Travisani was the Western Empire's greatest enemy and the Eastern Empire's current leader. He had made his state overcome a historical disadvantage and reach a similar level to its neighbor who wanted to dominate it.

Consequently, he was one of the most respected men on the continent, with stories of all kinds circulating among populations of all levels.

For a young man from the northern region like Luke, these stories were enough to fascinate and turn him into a fan who would defend his idol against ridiculous comparisons like the one above.

Oriel knew this and laughed. "Even senior Vico Travisani was once someone at our level, Luke. Minos can catch up to him if his natural talent doesn't limit him, of course."

"Tsk!"

"Never mind. In any case, he is indeed absurdly strong and, I would say, fucking rich." Luke commented, feeling envious of Emperor Stuart's financial power.

Oriel, who had heard from Luke of the number of high-grade crystals Minos sent, became serious upon hearing that.

The number of crystals Minos was willing to spend on this action was high, involving amounts that neither of them imagined they would one day have access to.

They were smart enough to know that Minos was only willing to make this investment because he protected much more. Hence, they could not help but think differently about the Black Plain.

'Maybe I should talk to the family about starting a business in that place...' Oriel thought of this as he entered the main hall of the guild they were going to. 'The powers that make their moves in that place first will get the best results in the future!'

As for Luke, he could only consider what his life would have been like if, instead of returning to the Western Empire, he had stayed in the northern region.

'No matter. I'm happy with the place I've reached!' He thought before he heard a Spiritual Saint picking up one of the posters with Minos' mission on it.

"Hmm? Black Plain Empire? Where is that?" This level 78 man asked aloud while people in the surrounding area were quiet because they did not know about that place.

News of the Black Plain reached the remotest places in this world. But only a few powers interested in the development of that territory or in 'watching' the rise of a new power were aware of the latest news from that area.

Ordinary people and mercenaries from places like the Western Empire still had to get used to it to readily know how to locate such a place.

Luke then said. "Senior, the Black Plain Empire is between the northern region and the central part of the continent. Its capital is Dry City, where the creator of this mission, His Majesty Minos Stuart, is summoning the ten high-level Spiritual Saints."

"You can travel to Vogel, and from there, anyone will know how to tell you the location of Dry City."

"Oh?" That expert looked with interest at Luke, seeing that such a fellow knew quite a few things, which might indicate that this young man had some relation to the mission. "Do you know anything about this mission? How can someone from the northern region fulfill the promise of crystals on that poster?"

"Hmm, yes. Emperor Stuart is the leader of a state with hundreds of millions of inhabitants, with Vogel as part of it. He is also the son of a high-ranking family from the Flaming Empire. So he has plenty of resources to hire Spiritual Saints." Luke answered that fellow while other Spiritual Saints paid attention to him.

"What about the Spiritual Church? Won't it act against me if I help this fellow?" The same man asked the most important question of all about this mission which, by the way, paid very well.

"No. Emperor Stuart is the leader of the northern region. Then, he can ask for outside assistance without a problem." Luke replied. "As for possible retaliation because of your origin, His Majesty is doing this to solve an empire-related problem. Thus, the Church should not get involved."

Usually, the Church would not look favorably on organizations in its territory hiring mercenaries or powers coming from enemy territories, as in the case of the Western Empire. Because of this, states like Blackrock, Rosser, and Albano did not hire mercenaries together with the former Vogel kingdom to act against the Flaming Empire.

Also, because of this, Minos was not hiring stronger people, like some Spiritual Sage, to help him stop Abe's helper.

But people below level 80, to deal with the problem called Abe, the Church was not seeing any problems at the moment, so Minos could act this way without irritating such an organization.

"So that's it..." That and other Spiritual Saints understood the basics of the situation, and a few more began to get interested in joining this group that would soon be leaving for the Black Plain Empire.

And so, soon Luke discovered that of the 10 individuals, 8 had already left their names behind.

In a short time, Minos could receive help from this place!

'Considering how much slower big 8th stage beasts are than that eagle, these people should reach the northern region in about three months...' Luke considered as he smiled in anticipation of the prize Richard had promised.

Chapter 1404 Flowers Kingdom

Two weeks later...

After the days that had passed since Luke's previous visit to the mercenary guild in Elemental City, the group of ten Spiritual Saints Minos wanted finally set off toward the Black Plain.

When this happened five days ago, Luke had once again sent

the previous eagle to the northern region so that Minos could prepare his plans considering the likely date of the arrival of such a group.

Thus, he had finished his work as an intermediary in the Western Empire and would now wait for his prizes, which he was interested in.

But that would only happen when such people arrived in the Black Plain Empire, which should take around three months to happen. Then, Luke would still have to wait before he had the chance to learn his first Silver-grade offensive technique!

He had only one other technique of that quality, but it was a cultivation one.

That was not bad. On the contrary, it was the best for someone whose all the other techniques he had were Black-grade ones. But cultivation techniques did not give combat skills to their users. Hence, it was only natural that anyone in his condition would want something useful in combat.

And so, this fellow had gone into seclusion in his Elemental Sect, waiting for those individuals between levels 77 and 79 to arrive safely in Dry City for him to receive his due!

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While the Spiritual Saints hired by Minos were traveling to the northern region, news relevant to one of Emperor Stuart's allies had just arrived in the Flowers Kingdom!

In this state, the second smallest in the Central Continent, the only neighbor of the Evergreen Empire within the southern region, there was one of the most impressive natural formations in this world. Dozens of portions of land close to each other floated at different heights and positions, connected by large roots with forests growing on top of them.

In this magnificent place, the most significant portion of land, more than a kilometer above sea level, was the headquarters of a kingdom with more than 80% of its population being females.

The cities of this kingdom were extremely flowery. Still, the name of this place was not due to this fact but to the reality of the absolute dominance of the female over the male in these areas.

Precisely in this beautiful flowery city, in classical style but also mountainous, was the headquarters of a local organization, where a letter from the Flaming Empire had just arrived.

"Elder Melinda, someone from the Flaming Empire has notified us regarding an unusual movement of Harold Edwardstone, the man who managed to escape from you a few centuries ago." A level 79 Spiritual Saint said this while holding a letter in her hand, which had the symbol of a human skeleton and the letter 'M' on it.

"Oh?" A more than 3 meters tall, 200 kilogram, extremely muscular woman opened her eyes, still in a meditative position in the center of a training yard.

She looked at the 'ordinary' sized woman, 2 meters tall, and smiled. "Is that true? Let me see this letter."

This level 89 expert took the letter from the Flaming Empire from one of Harold's subjects, who was blatantly betraying him.

However, this woman did not care about that. She only cared about her reproductive interests, which this man could help her achieve.

The Flowers Kingdom was somewhat special. In this place, women of the royal lineage had powerful innate abilities related to procreation, which guaranteed the reproductive success of even experts. Because of how this happened, most of the children generated were women, and most of the men of this kingdom ended up being castrated or even dying after coitus.

Because of this reality, few men ventured into these areas that were 'hostile' to them, something also related to how talented the children of these women were.

Higher-level cultivators could produce more talented offspring.

So since the ability of these family women negated the rule that more talented cultivators were less fertile, these women had created a kingdom full of very talented women!

That was the worst of all worlds for talented men, whom they normally sought out when they wanted to reproduce and generate more fighters for their forces.

But even being talented, these women could not have reached this point with such an immoral ability if they had acted without restraint. No, certainly, a coalition of men from all parts of this continent would ally themselves to end this lineage if those women were crazy enough to act indiscriminately.

Because of this, the women of this state only acted against those who set foot inside the Flowers Kingdom.

And to attract them to this place, they had created a land of opportunity, with tournaments and gambling possibilities for visitors, who could basically win a lot or lose their manhood.

Many ambitious men took risks to improve their positions, as risks were only natural in the life of a cultivator.

That was how this kingdom was maintained and how Harold had committed himself centuries ago when he had narrowly managed to win the bet against this level 89 woman.

Since he had almost lost, although their wager guaranteed the protection of the Flaming Empire against higher-level powers, it also limited Harold's movement.

He could not leave that territory, or his victory would be reversed to a defeat, and forces from this organization would come for him to fulfill his destiny!

Remembering this individual with whom she had bet long ago, that woman smiled, imagining she could return to conceiving in no time.

"Hehe, so Harold left his 'prison' to help a young man in the northern region, eh? He got really bold." She commented in a low voice, seeing that reaching the 9th stage should have made that man confident.

She then looked at the 'little' level 79 woman in front of her and ordered. "Lane, send two eunuchs to the Flaming Empire. Bring back Harold Edwardstone alive and with his reproductive organ intact."

That woman dressed as a warrior accepted this mission and soon set off toward the Eunuchs Hall, the destination of every progenitor belonging to this great royal family.

Those who did not die after coitus became subjects of the queen, the soldiers who would fight for this state and be at the disposal of the royalty.

But despite losing their manhood and joy, these men had none of their talents affected and were even very well nurtured in this place.

In this way, several of them were renowned experts on the continent, strong and ruthless against those who deserved the same fate as them.

"I have a mission for the two of you." That woman said after entering a hall in another part of that headquarters.

Immediately after her words, the dozen or so individuals dressed entirely in white in the surrounding area looked at her with interest.

As men, the only joy left in their lives was fighting. So everyone there loved the idea of having something of the sort to do!

"I'll apply. Where will I have to go?" After getting up from a wooden stool, a tall, balding man asked.

"Flaming Empire."

"Oh? It's time for that seed..." The people there commented in low voices, considering one of the many that the queen had her eye on.

Chapter 1405 Shocking Event

While the eunuchs were deciding who would capture Harold, Melinda rushed to prepare for the coitus ceremony.

This woman's innate ability was phenomenal, but going against the 'wishes' of heaven was not easy!

Not only was there a sacrificial necessity, the final termination of the man's testicles, but the procedure for the coitus to work was not simple. The woman would have to be in a special state of spiritual clarity, something that could only be achieved after much meditation.

Suppose the woman was not entirely in control of her thoughts, emotions, and ability during this ceremony. In that case, she could fail to become pregnant and be seriously injured.

As each of the women in the royal family was a pillar of this state, they all had to prepare in advance. They had to follow the protocol to raise the chances of successful reproduction as high as possible.

Thus, this woman could not wait for Harold while following her routine. This way, she soon went to a special place to start her pre-coital seclusion.

'When I wake up, it will be time to get pregnant again!' She smiled as she entered an icy chamber, feeling that she could go through the joys of conception once again.

This family's ability was strange, and women were genuinely addicted to the sensation of conceiving.

Given this situation, despite the alarming future, Harold would still have some time before he lost his 'jewels'!

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As Melinda entered seclusion, the Flowers Queen was also informed of Harold's situation.

She was not the one who would have the grace to become pregnant once again. Still, as the leader of this state, she was interested in any conception of her family members.

As such, information of the sort reached her whenever a new seed reached the point where it had to be collected.

"So Emperor Edwardstone will join my state?" She muttered to herself as she thought about the information she had received from the people of the Saints Killing Sect.

"He seems to have fooled us well..." A eunuch dressed in a golden robe commented as he stood beside this woman in a courtyard on the highest point of that floating island. "But to his misfortune, one of his vassals turned him in." A bow formed on his lips.

"That's right..." The queen remarked to her chief eunuch, this level 91 man standing next to her.

On the other hand, she was at level 93 and was the strongest in this state, the leader of a legion of warriors and mother of over 100 local experts.

"But what made him make such a decision? Did he think it was worth risking his manhood for the sake of this young emperor, Minos Stuart?" She asked the one who had been her first sexual partner.

"It's really strange... Perhaps this young man is quite talented?" He muttered, trying to find an answer to this situation. "Maybe we should make Melinda stay longer than she plans in her seclusion to force this Minos to try to save Harold?"

"Hmm, that might be a good idea..."

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Six weeks later...

As Minos and Abe continued to act against each other on the Black Plain, with the former Vogel heir testing his opponent for another opportunity to attack, something shocking happened!

After months of not going to the Flaming Empire, Minos received the shocking news that Harold was attacked by two Spiritual Sages inside his own palace three days ago!

On that occasion, Emperor Edwardstone could not save himself from his opponents and was forcibly taken away by two men whom he supposedly accused of being from the Flowers Kingdom.

After that occasion, for the first time in a long time, the Flaming Empire was without someone at the 9th stage in its command, and Isabella quickly had to take control of the state!

That obviously weakened the empire greatly, and now the forces of this state were disorganized and in chaos because they did not know how to react to all this nor how to pursue their interests.

The sects were surprised by what had happened. However, since the imperial family was still the strongest, nobody would rebel just because of that man's absence. But it was undeniable that many uncertainties lay ahead for the local leaders, and now they would have to waste a lot of time to understand how to get on with life in the empire.

Because of this, the enemies of this state were already celebrating on the other side of the borders to the north of the empire. The three kingdoms under threat of war against the state of Isabella were now more confident than ever, sure that the threats against them had diminished considerably.

Because of this, the states that were becoming increasingly dependent on Minos due to the previous war threats now no longer felt so pressured.

The Flaming Empire still commanded respect, even without Harold. The leaders of such states knew this and would not lose their heads thinking about counterattacks or the like. But with an inexperienced leader and without the state's main weapon, the Flaming Empire was now not a threat that could overpower or destroy them in a short time!

And with that, while lamenting the news coming from Payton, Minos was frustrated by yet another action contrary to his interests.

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'Damn it!'

'Why did this happen just now?' He wondered in anger, feeling that someone was playing against him.

Minos wanted Harold to continue pressuring the three enemy states of the Flaming Empire and Vogel so that he would absorb portions of the forces of those kingdoms into his empire.

Everything was going according to schedule concerning his plans, with those areas constantly looking to him for help and his position as leader of the alliance becoming more and more solid.

Unfortunately, the external pressures would not be great enough in this situation, and he saw the risk that those forces would slowly move away from him!

That was particularly so for Vogel's forces, which were currently part of the Black Plain Empire, a much more intimate position than that of Minos' ally.

With that in mind, even considering that he still had time until the Assembly of Vogel voted on his continuance, Minos could not help but think about the risks that would arise now.

And, of course, he was angry with himself, for this had only happened because he had asked for Harold's help in trying to intervene with the enemy Spiritual Sage.

'What should I do now?' He wondered as his face was dark as night due to his frustration.

Sarah saw that her father was worried and stood silently beside her second mother, waiting to see how a leader responded to difficult times like these.

Abby continued to hold little Sarah and heard Minos say after a while to the army core in that office of his. "Prepare for the mission to take the Assembly of Vogel. I want everything to be ready so that we can reverse the votes of the representatives of that place in our favor in no more than two years."

"Yes, Your Majesty!"

'I cannot act forcefully against them... But what will they do if I 'convince' their representatives to increase my powers?'

Chapter 1406 Isabella's Situation

Minos had signed agreements with the nobility of Vogel. Because of this, he could not threaten the powers of that state gratuitously nor use the black hole or Black Hole Bomb against the powers of the Assembly.

But nothing prevented him from lobbying for the Black Plain's interests with the Assembly of Vogel's representatives.

He was the ruler of a state with many resources at his disposal and possibilities that could already be interesting for even low-level Spiritual Saints. So financially convincing certain agents of those Vogel organizations should not be impossible for Minos.

On the other hand, he had never promised that he would not use his 'ordinary' powers against the Assembly members. As such, Minos already wanted his army to prepare to accompany him toward that state within a period of up to 2 years.

If fighting were necessary, they would fight. But if they could settle the matter by simple voting, that would be better.

In any case, the local forces needed to start acting now, while the position of both the powers of Vogel and those of the three kingdoms had not yet changed.

Meanwhile, there was the situation of the Flaming Empire, which he would definitely need to get involved in, given his promises and honor as a man.

"Send a message to Isabella that I will try my best to help Emperor Edwardstone once I reach the 8th stage. Until then, unfortunately, I won't be able to do anything since even though I want to, I don't have enough powers." Minos said to some of the remaining soldiers in his office.

Such individuals kept Minos' words and left to settle this, leaving only the members of the imperial family in that area.

Abby then approached her husband as she carried Sarah in her arms. "It seems that everything that had to go wrong is going to go wrong in this period..." She sighed as she commented on that.

"Hmm, looks like luck is not in our favor." Minos agreed with her as he took his daughter in his arms, wondering if, at some point in Sarah's childhood, he would have peace to watch her grow up.

But even though he had many responsibilities, Minos was quite present to young Sarah. He constantly has her accompany him to meetings like this and plays with her in his spare time between one responsibility and another.

Since Sarah had three mothers to love and raise her and several uncles, aunts, and relatives who occasionally visited Dry City, Minos' presence was enough for her.

...

While Minos was fulfilling some of his paternal responsibilities in between engagements, Isabella faced the most challenging time of her life.

Right now, she was in her family's imperial palace, already beginning to assume leadership roles. In contrast, the supreme elder of the Edwardstone family had begun his temporary regency.

He was loyal to Harold, and the core of the imperial family strongly supported Isabella becoming the local heiress in the eventual absence of the emperor. But on that account alone, they would not give immediate powers to that woman when such a man had only been gone for a few days.

They knew that Harold had been taken by powers from the Flowers Kingdom. Not only had this man shouted for everyone in the capital to hear him on that occasion, but some of the family's elders had seen the distinguished eunuchs of that kingdom.

But even though their hopes for a return of Harold were not high, they could not give up on that man immediately!

At the very least, they should try diplomacy and have Isabella take over her father's duties little by little, leaving to crown her some years later.

So, although she was sitting on her father's throne right now, the one who was ruling at the moment was the supreme elder, the white-haired, red-haired man standing to her right.

"The men of the Flower Kingdom have kidnaped the emperor, so we must send a diplomatic group to that kingdom." This man, level 79, said to the various leaders of organizations in this state who had attended this urgent occasion.

Among them was Mortimer, an enemy of Minos and Oswald, along with the six other leaders of the empire's high-level sects and some from lesser powers.

The people there knew that Oswald was no longer officially the leader of the Gray Clouds Sect. But everyone was thankful that he was the one who had come to this place at this time instead of a young Spiritual Emperor.

"Will that make any difference?" One of those men who were closest to the Saints Killing Sect asked in a skeptical tone. "The people in that kingdom have never been the type to take things in conversation. So we'll only run the risk of a few more of our own having to surrender to those women's games."

That peaked man did not like those words and gave that fellow an ugly look. "This is not a debate, sect master Pierce. I am saying what should be done."

That fellow closed his mouth after hearing the supreme elder Edwardstone's unkind words, feeling ashamed.

Then Oswald said. "The supreme elder is right. We cannot simply accept this without at least trying something. If possible, I would like to go to that kingdom myself, but unfortunately, I have to finish the change in power in the Gray Clouds Sect."

"But I am willing to do that in a little over two years."

"Oh? Sect Master Oswald is really magnanimous." Mortimer said in a tone of provocation. "Do you intend to leave your grandson without support in such a short time? Are you that confident of winning the war?"

"I am." Oswald looked into the eyes of his enemy and said without hesitation, even considering that such an individual man was stronger than him.

Hearing these two, the supreme elder of this family remembered Minos and felt a bit of anger, considering that such a young man was the real culprit for all of this.

Few there knew, but he was aware that Harold had only risked leaving the empire because of the Stuart Emperor. Thus, the supreme elder could not help but feel that Minos was somehow guilty.

"Oswald, where is Minos Stuart? Why is he not here? As the master of the Gray Clouds Sect, he should attend when the empire needs him." This fellow at the peak of the 8th stage asked, letting his tone show everyone there that he was not happy.

Then Isabella said. "Uncle Basil, don't talk that way. Minos is not to blame for anything. I'm the one who convinced my father to do that. So don't try to blame him or demand commitment from him. I am the one to blame."

The people there who knew nothing looked confused at Isabella, but no one explained the situation to them.

The supreme elder then said. "That doesn't take away from his responsibilities as the leader of an organization of the empire, Your Highness."

"But everyone here knows what Minos is dealing with in the northern region and our state. So let's not demand his presence at the moment." She protected her interests with Emperor Stuart. "Oswald is not here? Then everything is fine."

"Anyway, I am sure that Minos will help us rescue my father in the future. So don't lose hope." She said, making everyone there look at her with open mouths.

Chapter 1407 Harold's Fate

"He's going to do what?" Several people there asked simultaneously, feeling that it was absurd to think Minos could intervene with the Flowers Kingdom.

Even they, peak cultivators of the 8th stage, could not say they could help Harold escape the trouble he had gotten himself into. Then it would not be a mere Spiritual Emperor who would achieve that.

Then everyone there looked at Isabella strangely, feeling that this woman was giving Emperor Stuart too much credit.

She then said. "Minos is not an ingrate. I know that as soon as he can, he will try to visit the Flowers Kingdom to save my father from the clutches of those women."

"And how will he do that, Your Highness?" Supreme Elder Edwardstone asked, curious. "Can you tell us what method he will use?"

"I'm sure Minos will be able to do something. Don't those women offer opportunities for talented men from all parts of the continent? Knowing him, I don't doubt he will accept the risks to save my father." She said, not liking that possibility but knowing that her lover would probably do something like that since there was no other possibility.

Minos was very talented, but there were Spiritual Demigods in the Flowers Kingdom. Thus, no matter how talented he was, his strength would not be enough for at least a few decades. And even if he eventually reached level 90, by that time, Harold would be permanently castrated!

The innate reproductive-type ability of the Flowers Kingdom royal family members was the kind that permanently sacrificed the testicles and damaged a small part of its victim's soul.

After the intercourse, if such a person survived, even a Spiritual Saint, people able to rebuild their body would no longer be able to have the same past 'reactions.'

Even possessing a healthy person's body, with testicles, the victim of such an innate ability would no longer be able to have the reactions commonly related to testicles. As a consequence, the damage was indeed permanent!

In this case, Harold did not have much time, and Isabella knew she could not count on Minos getting stronger. It did not matter how fast he grew. He could not reach level 90 in a matter of months.

So even though she did not like the possibility of Minos going to that kingdom and accepting its challenges, this woman had no choice but to accept whatever he decided.

The Spiritual Saints in the surroundings of that imperial throne hall understood where her confidence came from since Minos really had the requirements to enter that state.

Suppose he accepted the risk of marrying one of those terrible women. In that case, he could access the possibility of significant gains, perhaps even the chance to save Harold.

"Tsk!"

"He would have to be a fool," Mortimer said, not liking the possibility of Harold being saved.

'If the emperor is saved, I will take great risks!' He thought as he remembered that he had notified the Flowers Kingdom about Harold's exit to the Black Plain.

This man had plans for the empire, things he wanted to do once he dealt with Gavin and Minos.

On the other hand, Oswald did not like the idea of Minos risking himself for the emperor either. "That's crazy, Your Highness. Minos is only at level 67. Thinking about it is like considering his sacrifice!"

"I will go to the Flowers Kingdom as soon as possible, so I ask that the imperial family not press Minos about this." He humbly said while making a respectful gesture.

The imperial family elders liked this since they would rather depend on Oswald than on Minos, a talented young man whom they knew little about.

"Then it's settled like this." Supreme elder Edwardstone nodded to Oswald while the other leaders of important organizations in the empire nodded in understanding of what needed to be done.

He sighed and then gave his final recommendation to these people. "But keep an eye on movements on our northern borders. It would be an exaggeration to think that our enemies will attack us. Still, we must be alert while deciding this area's future."

He knew about Minos' agreement with Harold and Isabella, so he wanted to keep some of the pressure on that area, at least for the moment.

The people there understood that it made sense to watch out for possible enemy actions and did not question it.

...

As Payton was trying to organize in the absence of their supreme leader, Harold was with the two men who captured him.

"Anxious?" A level 84 individual asked as he smiled and looked at the individual tied to the ground in front of him.

They had stopped to hunt and eating something different than they usually had in the Flowers Kingdom, something they enjoyed doing besides fighting.

Since they did not know when they would have another opportunity to leave their activities in that state, they could only take the chance and extend their trip back a little.

Harold could see this in the behavior of those two men dressed in white, bald, and fat.

"Fearful suits my current state more." He said this in a mournful tone.

"Haha, don't be like that, Harold. Although our suffering is difficult to deal with and the risk of death is not small, you will have the best sex of your life before the sacrifice." The other man commented, trying to make that emperor feel a little less bad.

"Don't you people regret it?" He asked as he looked at these people.

"What is there to regret? We lost a lot, true, but we put ourselves in that situation. No one forced us to go to the Flowers Kingdom, and our incompetence caused us to lose our challenges." The first individual to speak said this.

The other agreed. "You did what you did, and now you will live the weight of your choices. There is nothing to regret, Harold. If you're not ready to face defeat, you shouldn't have even started playing."

"They never hid the possibilities contrary to our causes..."

Harold heard this and sighed, knowing it was true. He knew what he was doing all along, and yet he had made the decisions that brought him to this moment, even after thinking hard about every step he took.

Hence, he had nothing to regret. He knew that if he had to take up the challenges he had in his life again, he would make the same choices. When those decisions were made, they seemed to be the most interesting ones to follow.

If he repeated the same choices, there was nothing left to consider about the past, only about dealing as best as possible with the consequences.

"How much time do I have? Do you guys know?" He asked the individual standing next to him, who was eating 8th-stage boar meat.

"A few months. A few years at most. Depends on the seclusion of the one who will receive you." The other man, sitting across from Harold, said this.

"But don't get your hopes up too high. No one has ever been able to escape this fate once they've been to this point in their journey." He pointed in the direction of where the first floating islands of the Flowers Kingdom were at the end of the horizon.

"Don't overthink about it, my friend. After all, we have promising futures here!" The other said as he grabbed Harold's body and threw it on his back. "At worst, you will die and not have to suffer at all. At best, you will live and become a little 'calmer.'"

"In any case, it's not such a cruel fate!"

Chapter 1408 The Arrival Of The Reinforcements

Two months later...

While the Flaming Empire was trying to deal with Harold's situation, ten individuals were arriving at this very moment in Dry City.

The ten high-level Spiritual Saints that had been gathered in the Western Empire by Luke were finally arriving at their destination after weeks of travel.

That group had faced some problems on the way to this empire, but still, they arrived almost within the time frame that Luke had given to Minos.

In any case, the ten individuals, four level 77, four level 78, and two level 79, were on a grand level 73 beast as it slowly descended through the local skies.

This group had already been stopped by one of the flying turtles that the Black Plain Army had on the outskirts of Dry City to guard the aerial part of the capital. So even though they were unknown individuals in this state, of similar levels to their enemies, they were not facing any local resistance.

The opposite of this, several soldiers in smaller birds were escorting this group, heading towards a large beast landing and take-off area inside an army post.

While being led by local soldiers to their destination, these Spiritual Saints observed the surroundings, sensing that the northern Central Continent differed from what they had heard.

"This place doesn't look as bad as the rumors told." One of them said after sensing the concentration of spiritual energy in the surroundings of this capital city. "The spiritual energy here is not as dense as in the empire, but it is definitely enough to nurture low-level Spiritual Saints."

"Hmm, and seeing the buildings in the area and the clothing of the local citizens, you can tell that the people here are not poor..." Another of them, a black-haired woman, said as she observed that the standard of this place was very similar to their home of origin.

'Could it be that the local leader is copying our building styles?' One of them wondered.

But that was obviously not the case. Instead, Minos had replicated several buildings with models typically found in the Ancient Empire, a state of the past formed by the Eastern and Western Empires.

That had been one of the most powerful states in the Spiritual World, the only one in the Central Continent in all of history to reach a level similar to one of the Divine Continent's empires.

Unfortunately, such a place had ended right at its peak. It ended up subdividing into two great domains, which until the present times, had problems with each other.

In any case, Minos had brought some of where Henricus Longus had lived one of the best parts of his life to his state, making those individuals make such a mistake.

The strongest of the group then said. "This place looks pretty active and has a large population... This Minos Stuart guy has built something amazing here."

Some of them had invested their time in learning about the current news from the Black Plain and northern region. So they were aware of what these areas were like before Minos. Thus, some already had a certain respect for this young local expert.

As they talked and viewed Dry City with interest, they entered the core of the capital of this empire, where they soon encountered the strongest of the local forces.

In the blink of an eye, they were in the imperial throne hall, where Minos, Gavin, Gloria, Ruth, and Abby were already waiting for them.

"His Majesty the Emperor of the Black Plain, protector of the north, Minos Stuart!" Someone exclaimed, identifying the local sovereign to those ten individuals with abundant auras.

Most there had already been on the same battlefield as enemies as strong as these people. So hardly anyone would be impressed after feeling all those people there together.

But some, like weaker individuals not involved in the battles, had been left out of this hall, as they could not withstand the natural pressure of people at that level.

Individuals of all cultivation levels released parts of their auras, and even if they could suppress it, they usually would not do so on their first time in a place or with new people.

That was like a way for people in the Spiritual World to introduce themselves.

So only the strongest were there to welcome these people, which they easily realized considering the small number of individuals there.

"This one is called Jeremy Pauley. It is a pleasure to meet you, Your Majesty." One of the level 79 individuals, a 2 meters tall, muscular, tanned-skinned man, introduced himself.

Then each of those individuals from the Western Empire introduced themselves to Minos and the people there before one of them asked.

"Your Majesty, what exactly is our mission here?" A level 78 woman asked such a thing, which was very relevant to them.

Some of them had studied the recent problems on the Black Plain, particularly the terrorist attacks by Abe Vogel and his mercenaries. Hence, they had an idea of what they should do in this state.

Fight Abe.

But there were many ways to do something like that, and they did not know some details that might make them understand things they should not. So they were curious to hear it from the local leader.

Minos then got straight to the point. "I will soon leave my state to settle a conflict in the Flaming Empire. Because of this, I will be gone for a while, and the enemy will likely attack my city. So your job is to defend Dry City and the surrounding area in my absence."

"Oh?" Jeremy found this curious and asked. "So we're not here to kill Abe Vogel?"

"No. You wouldn't be able to." Minos said. "A Spiritual Sage is preventing my forces from killing him... Anyway, I already have plans for Abe Vogel, and as long as you protect Dry City, I will eventually deal with him on my own."

The people there were surprised to hear that there was a Spiritual Sage involved in all this, which was not known beyond the close social circle of the local leadership.

But they did not get nervous about it. Upon hearing they would not have to fight that expert and would only have to protect this place, they were reassured, feeling it was worthwhile to continue this mission.

The compensation was excellent, but it would not be worth it if it meant that they would have to take significant risks of death.

So Jeremy soon said. "Very well, I am willing to help Your Majesty if the terms of the mission are met."

The others nodded in agreement, feeling that fighting the Spiritual Saints from Abe's terrorist group would not be so dangerous for them.

Minos smiled in satisfaction upon hearing such words, soon afterward beginning to present some of the recent problems of his confrontation with Abe to these people.

It was not enough that these individuals were in Dry City for him to go to the Flaming Empire without significant concerns. These people needed to be updated on the local confrontations and experience some fighting.

Only after this would Minos feel confident to leave for the Flaming Empire and be able to focus on solving his sect's war!

Chapter 1409 All Set For The Decisive Battle

One month later...

After the arrival in Dry City of the group of mercenaries from Elemental City in the Western Empire, the ten individuals spent several days being updated on the local situation.

They followed several confrontations without fighting or showing themselves since they were the surprises that Minos wanted to leave for Abe to find in Dry City.

But even without fighting, these individuals could learn about the local challenges of the Black Plain Empire, the enemy force level, local characteristics, and what they should do.

Since the job was not complex, to protect Dry City and the local forces while Minos was in the Flaming Empire, those people learned quickly about their role locally.

But even though this happened quickly, a whole month had passed since the arrival of this foreign group, enough for them to understand better who Minos was.

Because of this, even though they had to be commanded by a 67-level youth, those high-level Spiritual Saints had not found it so bad, as Minos really was a prodigy and a great fighter.

Another reason for this was that they had started receiving payments for their services, which greatly pleased them.

And so, these individuals were already used to Dry City and its challenges and were ready to start acting for the local good with Minos' imminent departure!

...

At the imperial palace on the Black Plain, Minos was at this very moment with his group about to leave for the Flaming Empire, bidding farewell to those who would stay.

In this group about to travel to the headquarters of the Grey Clouds Sect were Minos, Gavin, Abby, Ruth, Gloria, and Sarah. This one was already in the Spatial Kingdom, waiting to see her grandmother again.

Since the ten high-level mercenaries were in Dry City to protect it, Minos would not leave his wives behind, as he had done last time.

He also did not intend to take them to the battlefield with the Saints Killing Sect. He was already going to confront the enemy leaders, something quite dangerous for them to get involved in.

His plans for the three were to leave them in the Gray Clouds Sect with Maisie and Sarah, where they would be safe for the next few days.

Anyway, Minos finished talking to those ten high-level Spiritual Saints and addressed his last words before leaving for his subordinates and allies in the area.

"Alright, fellas, I won't be around the next few days, but unlike that day, nothing should come up and dearly affect our empire like that. So stand firm, continue our plans against the enemies and your training."

"In a month at the most, I should be back. We'll start to resolve the situation of that terrorist group of that damned Abe in no time!" He looked to the sides of that imperial throne hall, where many eyes with a desire for revenge could be seen.

"Your Majesty, don't worry, we'll be fine." Dillian, level 65, said while standing next to his wife, Eda, level 64.

Abby's parents were also around, along with some high-level army members, not least Regina, who had lost her former bodyguard, Angela, to the previous attack.

"I hope you return successfully quickly, Your Majesty." That poison master said, feeling the urge to take revenge once again in her life.

She had not yet succeeded in killing the elf who had caused the death of her first love centuries ago. But now she had gained a new motive for revenge, and she was furious.

Minos knew what was on Regina's mind and just nodded to her, confident that he could fulfill the expectations of this and other people in this hall.

"Very well, gentlemen and ladies. I hope you will take good care of my city during this period." He said to the ten individuals, just before he saw them nodding and depart the area alongside his wives and Gavin.

With that, they quickly made their way to the teleportation port of the Black Plain Army headquarters, from where they would depart for the Flaming Empire.

As that group was leaving, old Grant approached one of those mercenaries from the Western Empire, his homeland, and asked. "Can you tell me how things are going in the imperial family?"

"Hmmm? Old man, do you think people like us have any news regarding the imperial family?" One of the men in that group asked Grant, this fellow they all already knew from history because of the rumors about him among local soldiers.

Grant had never gotten very close to them in the past few days, only asking questions and probing about their positions.

But after realizing that these people were just ordinary mercenaries, not enemy spies of the imperial family, he finally decided to get closer to them and ask questions.

"I don't want important news regarding the imperial family. I'm just curious to know if something has changed. For example, is the princess okay?" He asked about that woman who had been the reason for his trip to Elves Island when he experienced the catastrophe that crippled his cultivation.

"The princess? Ah, yes, she married and started a family..." Then, that individual said a bit about that woman's current position, which was known to everyone in the Western Empire and was not worth hiding.

After listening to such a person for a while and finding out that only his group had perished in the incident in the North Sea, Grant was relieved and asked several more questions regarding the empire.

He wanted to know how his former state was, whether the imperial family was continuing with plans against the Eastern Empire and a few more details.

In the end, he asked that mercenary. "I have a letter that I need to deliver to the imperial palace. Can you do that for me? Of course, I will pay you for it."

That level 77 man saw the letter in Grant's hands and thought for a moment.

But since it was a job of just passing on a message, he saw no problem and said. "All right. When this mission is over, and I return to the empire, I will deliver this where you want it..."

The two continued talking for some more time, agreeing on what would happen and the costs of this service.

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Two days later...

After they departed from the Black Plain, Minos and his group finally reached Clouds City, where they were promptly spotted by Abe's men nearby.

But this time, Minos was not worried about these people and simply flew alongside his women and Gavin to the headquarters of the Gray Clouds Sect.

Such a place was not far away. After a few minutes, they had already arrived at the Oswald estate, where Sarah could see her grandmother again after months away from her.

Minos and Gavin had to stay in the area for a while since Oswald was not around. But after a few hours, that fellow returned home, finding his grandson ready to battle alongside him, waiting for him in that estate.

"Minos, are you here for that?" Oswald asked as he saw his grandson and felt excited to be able to fight alongside that fellow for the first time.

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Chapter 1410 Plans For The Future

Seeing Oswald, Minos stood up from where he sat next to Gavin, eager to get to the battlefield. "Yes, I am ready to attack the enemy headquarters."

"Good! When do we leave?" That bearded old fellow questioned.

"We are already ready to leave." Minos gestured, showing him and Gavin, making his grandfather recognize this individual who had escaped from the Saints Killing Sect.

As enemies, these sects were naturally keeping an eye on each other. So the leaders of the Gray Clouds Sect knew that a young member of the Rowse family had escaped Mortimer's clutches years ago.

Seeing this fellow with Minos, Oswald understood that Gavin had somehow allied himself with his grandson, and he was pleased about that.

He did not like the members of that sect. Still, it was good to see that Minos' enmity against such an organization was more profound than he had imagined. That meant that when he left for the Divine Continent, he would not have to worry about his grandson making peace with a power historically rival to his sect.

With that, Oswald nodded to Gavin and said to Minos. "Very well. We will meet with some elders and leave immediately after that."

The three of them departed from Oswald's house, leaving the women behind, including Patience, who was part of the group of elders who would look after the headquarters during the attack about to take place.

As they moved into conversations with the sect's most influential elders, Oswald took the opportunity to discuss important matters with his grandson.

"Minos, how will the Black Plain look in the coming days? I'm afraid it will take some time to move because of your weapons."

Minos continued to look forward as he flew alongside Gavin and Oswald. "I have gotten some people strong enough to guard Dry City in my absence. So the risk I will take will be minimal."

There would always be risks in whatever things anyone did. Minos knew this and did not think it would be impossible for his forces to suffer, even with those ten experts he hired.

But the possibility of something happening and threatening his territory in this period was remote, small enough for him not to worry.

"Is that so?" Oswald was surprised to hear that.

Minos and the Black Plain had suffered significantly only a few months ago, and this young man did not even know how to continue his plans safely. But in such a short time, Emperor Stuart totally changed his confidence regarding his actions in the Flaming Empire.

That surprised this individual who knew nothing about the ten mercenaries from the Western Empire!

"Yes, everything will be fine," Minos said.

Oswald knew that his grandson had his own secrets and did not press Minos for it. "Hmm, very well, then. In any case, let's act as quickly as possible. When we're done with this war against the Saints Killing Sect, I intend to prepare to go to the Flowers Kingdom to try to settle His Majesty's matter."

"What?" Minos was surprised at this since it was rather dangerous to do that. "Why are you going to do that? I thought you would retire and leave for the Divine Continent."

Minos and Oswald had already talked about quite a few things since this man's first visit to the Gray Clouds Sect. Because of this, Emperor Stuart already knew about several important matters for this organization and was also aware of his grandfather's retirement plan.

So hearing from him about such a plan was somewhat surprising to this young man!

"I have to do that. The emperor is important to the empire and is also an old acquaintance of mine." Oswald said, not wanting to tell his grandson that he would also do this to avoid possible complications for him.

"Are the other masters of the great sects also going to do this?" Minos asked.

"No, after all, only I will be stepping away from my duties."

"You shouldn't do that," Minos said, annoyed that someone else wanted to take a responsibility that was his. "I promised him I would return the gesture of helping me on the Black Plain. Then I will go to that kingdom when I am stronger."

Minos then said in a confident tone after a brief pause. "You don't have to worry about helping me with that."

"How will you do that? Do you even know how things in that kingdom work?" Oswald questioned his grandson.

"I have a good idea."

Minos knew about the Flowers Kingdom as his women and staff had gathered information from that place and passed it on to him.

Such a state did not exist during the era of Henricus Longus, so there was nothing that the heritage of that ancient God could do to help him against that kingdom.

But it did not have to. Minos trusted his talents and combat capabilities. Thus, he was confident in accepting any of the challenges those women made to men who dared to enter that kingdom.

The story said that foreign men who entered the Flowers Kingdom would have a future worse than death or a glorious fate.

They would fail and end up living pathetically or die after being castrated, or they would be victorious, keep their manhoods, and win significant prizes.

The Flowers Kingdom was a high-level state with resources of the most varied kinds.

Not only that, but due to its peculiarities, the kingdom did not have a large population and produced far more than it consumed. The result of this? That was a wealthy state with the capability to generate opportunities even for people from the Divine Continent.

Obviously, the kingdom itself was not that prosperous. But its royal family was so rich that it could bring resources and possibilities from elsewhere in the Spiritual World!

They used this to offer prizes and incentives for talented men to pass through the kingdom's borders.

Knowing this and being confident in himself, Emperor Stuart wished to travel to the Flowers Kingdom and get the right to a prize of his choice.

Harold Edwardstone's freedom!

Oswald then asked his grandson. "And yet you still want to risk yourself? Are you out of your mind? And what will happen to the sect?"

"If I win the bet, the sect won't be without me for more than a few months. Then it won't be a big deal." Minos said, while already thinking about what he would do in the future.

He was upset about the situation Harold had gotten himself into for helping him. But the truth was that even with the problems it would bring him, Minos knew that there were some advantages to having this man away.

He wanted to bring the Gray Clouds Sect to the Black Plain Empire. So the timing would be pretty propitious for that!

The local imperial family probably would not like it. Still, it would definitely be easier to negotiate and get approval for such a thing in Harold's absence than if he were around.

'Even if I stay away for a few years, the sect will probably be fine if it's inside the Black Plain.' He thought as he considered what would happen with his forces if such an organization merged with them and migrated to the Black Plain.

'By joining the Black Plain, perhaps some Spiritual Sage will emerge from this group of elders...' Minos considered immediately after seeing the twelve strongest individuals in that organization.

...