

Black Plain 1461

Chapter 1461 The Voting

When that woman addressed her words to Minos, the conversations in the area, shouting from both sides in this argument, subsided as the level 78 Spiritual Saint made his presence known.

Minos smiled and said. "Well then, let's start the voting with the representatives from each family present here."

Elders could vote as representatives, as each local noble organization with Spiritual Saints in its ranks was entitled to a similar number of representatives as their experts. In this case, it was enough for that woman to use the credential of one of her family's representatives to vote on her own without hindering the procedure initiated by Minos.

So, at the sovereign's words, the people in the area fell silent, knowing that from now on, the matter would be decided by vote.

That woman would be the first to vote. Still, after her, the Assembly would follow the voting by the seat of each representative, starting from the first row, the first seat on Minos' right, until reaching the opposite side of the area.

And with that, soon, the people there began to stand up to vote. They had to say yes or no to Minos' questions.

Were they in favor of taking away the Assembly's privileges and passing them on to the Stuart family? Was it fair what the Assembly leaders had done? Did they approve the amendment to the Assembly bylaws proposed by Minos?

The vote began without many there having a clear idea of what the outcome would be since the Assembly was very divided on this situation.

While this was going on, all those who had come with Minos from the battlefield between Vogel and Cromwell were already on the outskirts, watching their leader's plans unfold.

At first, with the fall of the Vogel family, the most likely fate of that then kingdom would be civil war.

After all, there was not much difference between the strongest powers in this state. At that time, factions quickly had been made before Minos became their best option.

This state was in serious danger of going into civil war, and eventually, the winner would end up being dominated by the Flaming Empire easily.

Fortunately for the locals, Minos had shown himself and lessened the tensions between the local families, who wanted the position of ruler for themselves while not accepting the idea of subordinating themselves to others.

As said before, they were not so different. Hence, pride, but also greed, prevented them from accepting a ruler similar to them.

Just because of this, the idea of Minos becoming the ruler calmed the situation in Vogel and made this state continue as one.

He was someone from the outside who could not easily control them and was less likely to use his position to dominate them at the time. At the same time, since no one else could fulfill his role, he had become the local savior, with no one standing against him at the time.

Time had passed, but Vogel's situation had not changed.

That was still a state full of powers with similar strengths which would not easily accept losing their position.

And even with the experience of dividing the local power among themselves, this did not change the greed of the local leaders, who wanted to make their families the new ruler.

Minos knew that the peace in Vogel was fragile and could easily be destroyed if the right words were said to the necessary people for the worst to happen.

As someone who wanted to keep what he had won, he was taking the reins of the matter and playing the various sides in this conflict against each other before war broke out.

What would be the consequence of this? Well, Minos judged that these people would either accept civil war and its risks or choose to 'sail' quietly in his 'boat.'

The second option was clearly the best since either way, he could overpower them later, after a local weakening caused by the war!

And with that, as people voted, he was the happiest of all, smiling at those people.

'In any case, if you rebel, I can intervene without my contracts limiting me. If you try to force each other, I can interfere. If you vote with me, I will increase my powers...' He pondered, while the score in his favor was already 70 to 46.

But there was only one possibility for these powers to keep Minos at bay at the moment!

That was the possibility that they would unite in a government following the parameters of the Assembly itself without having a single leader over that territory.

The problem with that? One side did not trust the other!

When the major families took advantage of local opportunities to strengthen themselves, someone would eventually try to return to the previous autocratic model.

That would not happen in the short term since it would take time for these powers to strengthen to that extent. But someone would eventually take the space left by the Vogel family.

In this case, the fate of that area was either to be dominated by a greater force, Minos or to experience civil war and still face this threat to the north.

With this knowledge, many still uncertain people voted for Minos, choosing the less chaotic path ahead of them.

They had once stood by his side, so why risk standing against him and watching the local situation degrade?

Chaos brought opportunity, but many would disappear before it ended!

So, in the blink of an eye, more than 300 individuals had already voted in favor of Minos, giving him enough to change the rules of the Assembly and increase his own powers a little.

Seeing this situation, the Guzman family elders were silent, their faces so dark that the representatives of this family could not say anything for fear of angering them further.

'Damned Minos!'

'He the whole time was against us!'

'He always wished to take Vogel and knew that one day he would get the strength to do so!' That woman next to the former Assembly President thought as she looked toward where Minos, Abby, and Ruth were standing, with that level 78 expert behind them.

'What can we do now? When he leaves for Dry City, those damned families will keep making it harder for us!' She looked over to the side of the Assembly where there were many of those she considered traitors to the motherland.

They had fought for millennia not to be absorbed by the Flaming Empire, only for now many of their leaders to decide to be dominated by another empire...

For these people with interest in taking local power, this was unacceptable!

'We have to think of something urgently, or before we do, we will have no choice but to kneel in front of Minos!'

The vote would last until dawn in that city when Minos would finally end this session to release the local representatives temporarily.

From this day forward, much of Vogel's management would change in favor of Dry City, with Minos emerging victorious for a second time in less than 24 hours.

But the people of Vogel would prove to be the biggest beneficiaries of all from such events!

Chapter 1462 Positioning

While Minos continued to deal with Vogel's affairs in that territory's capital during the 48 hours he had to act freely, the nobles of this place had already sent messages to other territories.

In particular, those harmed by Minos' actions had informed their allies, Albano, Rosser, and Blackrock, about Minos' deeds, asking for help against his autocracy.

With that, different concerns were on the minds of the leaders of the three states!

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In the capital of Albano, Queen West was with her heiress, dealing with the latest information coming from the Black Plain Empire, this place that was increasingly worrying them.

They were benefiting from the agreements they had with Minos. Still, it was undeniable that the rapid development of the Stuart family scared anyone not deeply connected to it.

Iris did not know if her kingdom would continue to have good business conditions or if she would end up in a terrible situation if Minos continued to prosper.

In that case, her state could be surrounded by two states stronger than hers!

With that, she and her heiress was trying to find a solution to their current uncertainties.

"What can we do? If we support the powers of Vogel, our old allies, Minos may turn away from us, and the Black Plain Empire become less receptive." The Crown Princess said, for the first time in a long time, not knowing how to proceed with a situation.

Iris agreed with her daughter's words. "Not to mention that the current Black Plain is already more relevant than Vogel. But one side keeps developing, while the other is practically stagnant, like us."

In this situation, it would seem obvious to stay on the progressing side, but there were risks in doing that as well. That is, that was a path with fewer problems at first. But it could become the fate they did not want, lose their autonomy, and be dominated by a greater force.

Or not. Maybe Minos would be a good leader. They would have the minimum autonomy not to feel suffocated and benefit from losing part of their freedoms.

On the other hand, the opposite option put them against the empire. If they made a mistake, they would end up being dominated, but this time by an enemy power, not an ally, which was much worse.

No matter how attractive a path was, depending on the goals of the one thinking of taking it, they both had problems. So, those women needed to think carefully before choosing one.

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On the other hand, in Rosser, the queen was much more decided than Albano's leader about which way to go.

"Let's side with Minos on that one." She said to her subordinates, not wanting to stand against Emperor Stuart and still have the Flaming Empire as her enemy.

For this woman, it would not be worth being surrounded by enemies, one much stronger than her and the other still not so superior but constantly growing, far beyond what her people could.

Hence, even if Vogel was an old partner, she could not help them in this situation.

"But Your Majesty..." Someone tried to make this woman think about it a little more, but she did not listen.

She said. "Vogel is already part of the Black Plain Empire. Those families themselves chose that. That way, I won't be the one to meddle in Minos' affairs when he is just dealing with his territory."

"Besides, from what I hear, Minos is following the rules agreed upon by the nobles of Vogel themselves!"

This woman's subordinates could not disagree with her after those words, feeling that as much as Minos' action was not so simple, he was acting within the game's rules.

If Vogel's powers were unwilling to abide by their own rules, then could they be trusted?

That was a point that these people could not ignore!

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On the other hand, in Blackrock, the situation in the royal family was not as favorable to Minos as in Rosser.

Blackrock did not border the Black Plain Empire and was not surrounded by enemy powers. Instead, this state bordered the Snow Kingdom, Albano, the Flaming Empire, the Evergreen Empire, and the East Sea.

So even if the local powers found themselves in serious trouble, they would still have the opportunity to escape either through the East Sea or into the Evergreen Empire.

The sovereigns of that state were under less pressure from Minos to 'forget' their many years of history with Vogel.

But the current situation was severe, and the king was worried!

"We will send one group of envoys to Dry City and another to the capital of Vogel." He said this from his royal throne room, ordering his men to move. "I want to talk to both sides and understand if there are options for dialogue before we make a final decision on the matter."

Besides not being surrounded by enemies, Blackrock was the largest and most powerful alliance state among those enemies of the Flaming Empire. Therefore, the local sovereign, although favorable to Vogel, was not in such a hurry and wanted to settle the matter without taking a vigorous stand already at first.

"But Your Majesty, we cannot underestimate the Black Plain." A level 77 elder said this. "Currently, Minos Stuart is the master of the Gray Clouds Sect, an organization that is very close to us..."

The territory of Oswald's sect was on the southeasternmost side of the Flaming Empire, which bordered the southwesternmost area of Blackrock.

The state's capital was not in that area, but on the coast, near the border with the Evergreen Empire. But still, that was not a great distance, and that sect was one of the main opponents that this state had to worry about in times of war with the Flaming Empire.

The king said. "I know. But the forces of that sect are subdivided between the Flaming Empire and the territory of Minos. So they are not a danger to us."

"Sigh..."

"But let's prepare ourselves in case our current ally decides to turn against us and begin a journey of conquest through the central region."

With those orders, the men in the surrounding area rushed from there to settle this matter, a little tense since ever since Minos had appeared in their lives, trouble kept catching up with them.

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Meanwhile, in the capital of the Flaming Empire...

Isabella was meeting with the staff of her family's supreme elder, having finished hearing about her man's recent accomplishments.

Considering his victory against Abe and the action against Vogel, she and everyone there was satisfied, as Minos seemed willing to fulfill the agreement he had made with Harold earlier.

This state was still interested in defeating the enemies to the north, so seeing one of them being 'subdued' by the master of one of their sects was good news.

The only downside of it all was that Minos was not as loyal to them as they would have liked...

But better an ally than an enemy!

"Now, let's talk about the situation in the Gray Clouds Sect. Soon the house arrestment of the elders and the sect master will end, and they will be able to act more freely. But, on the other hand, the leader of this organization has sent us the proposal..."

They continued there dealing with local matters.

Chapter 1463 Months Of Peace

After the previous affairs in the Assembly of Vogel, Minos and his family stayed for two days in that territory's capital before leaving for the Dry City.

During this time, they made several proposals for agreements with the noble families that had taken a favorable position towards them in the previous votes.

The Stuart family had not missed the opportunity to 'win over' the last undecided in this local situation. Minos promised things they could and even those they could not promise in the short term...

But that did not matter to them. As long as they eventually gained a better position than the current one, they could keep every promise they made.

So they had left the capital of Vogel to return to their affairs in the empire's core, which they had much to develop now that Abe was no longer a problem.

In the midst of all this, they received notifications from the royal houses of Albano and Rosser, both of these states deciding to be on their side.

Both royal houses sent congratulations regarding the end of the conflict with Abe and appreciation for the way he had dealt with Vogel.

A sovereign had to take care of his territory and ensure its integrity!

But Blackrock was not so pleased with the situation. Although it congratulated Minos on his victory against Abe, it made a point of expressing its concerns about Vogel.

Representatives from each of these territories were heading to the Black Plain Empire at the moment. Still, for now, nothing more would happen, and the situation was somewhat complicated.

But this was more worrying for the powers opposed to Minos in Vogel than for this emperor. That was because, after he and his family had left that city, the Assembly had returned to its normal functioning but retained all the results of previous votes.

In this situation and with part of their historical allies siding with House Stuart, the local powers were scrambling for alternatives while feeling the changing times.

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Meanwhile, in the Eastern Empire...

The Spiritual Sage who had protected Abe had finally returned to his post, where he was facing one of his superiors.

He was reporting the final results of his failed mission, frustrated to the max, even considering that he would not be punished just for what had happened.

A few years thrown away because of one mistake or failure was no big deal for experts capable of living for thousands of years. So even in this situation, the organization behind this person had only made a mistake regarding the location of the investigation for a fraction of the time and would now focus on other alternatives.

"... And that's what happened, senior." He finished his report to the level 90 Spiritual Demigod in front of him, extremely crestfallen at having lost to a level 69 young man.

That peak expert finished recording the reports of this subordinate and said. "His Majesty already knows that your situation was not easy, Mick. The Church was on our tail the whole time, and the young Emperor Stuart managed to make his bet work out... It's not your fault."

"I appreciate the senior's words." Mick made a gesture of thanks, even though he did not feel that way.

"Anyway, now that you have spent some time in that region, His Majesty has passed on to you a new mission related to Minos Stuart."

"What?" Mick looked wide-eyed at that Spiritual Demigod in front of him, not expecting to receive a new mission right after he returned.

"You are the one who knows Emperor Stuart the most, and now His Majesty wishes to receive updates on this young prodigy." That level 90 man was straight to the point. "From now on, your job will be to stay in control of the group observing the Black Plain Empire."

"For now, avoid contacts. Just observe. But if that fellow leaves the Church territory, immediately try to contact him and invite him to visit the empire."

Gulp!

'You've got to be kidding!' Mick looked into that elder's eyes but could not say anything, extremely shocked by it.

"If he is contacted by the people of the Quinn family and begins a journey towards that state, notifies us. We will send a group to deal with him!"

With those words, the Spiritual Demigod disappeared from Mick's front, leaving this man with several questions on his mind, frozen in that place for several minutes.

'Sigh...'

'I didn't even get a break, and now I'll have to watch that slippery fellow.'

'What a life!'

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In the blink of an eye, 20 months had passed since Abe Vogel's death!

In that period, nothing much of note happened other than the progress of the territories of the northern region of the Central Continent, in particular the area of the Black Plain Empire.

After Minos' actions at Vogel and victory against the terrorists, the emperor had done what he had promised his wives. He had quieted his actions and focused on solving problems in the central part of his state while focusing on his advancement to the 8th stage.

He had not yet reached level 70 but was very close to it, while Abby and Ruth had reached level 69, and Gloria had advanced to level 73 in the intervening months.

Meanwhile, the situation in Vogel remained problematic. But after so many months since Minos' passage there, the local nobles and the powers allied with the emperor and the noble families of Vogel realized that he would not act so vigorously after Abe's defeat.

Many feared he would start a conflict in the region, which might spur the Flaming Empire to attack and create the perfect situation for a bloody war.

But Minos had barely left Dry City in this period, and the progress of his state's key members had become a secret to those without access to the Spatial Kingdom and the empire's core. As such, everyone thought that Minos just wanted to keep Vogel in his territory without using aggressive attitudes, and although there were still tensions, the situation was better in each of these states involved.

As for the northern states, they had again benefited from the growth of the Black Plain, with the return of migrations and progress of business conditions.

At the same time, the local royal families had returned their plans to join the Black Plain Empire.

In these intervening months, the Cromwell and Brown areas had developed considerably with the migrations to that state and investments made by Minos.

As the Minos government had become 'accustomed' to administering those areas, those states were already considering time for the Black Plain to absorb them. With that, everyone wanted to volunteer to be next in line.

Through it all, Minos' territory had prospered along with its high-level members, and now, on the eve of his first attempt to advance to the 8th stage, the local moods could not be better.

There were still problems to be solved, but never before had this territory been in such a favorable position!

Chapter 1464 Time To Advance

In the core of Dry City...

Today was a special day for this place, as Minos would attempt for the first time to advance to the 8th stage and allow his soldiers to watch, as he had done upon reaching the 6th stage.

Since he would use this advancement to promote his innate ability with the use of Saint-grade medicine, there would be immense benefits for those who assisted him.

Not only for those weaker than him but even for some individuals a few levels above Minos' could benefit from the Natural Laws he would absorb to achieve a qualitative evolution.

At the same time, the Saint-grade medicine would release large amounts of spiritual energy that he could not absorb due to his 'low' level. Then the special room that the army had prepared for him to advance would become extremely rich after the consumption of such medicine to nurture those below level 70.

And with that, the hundreds of individuals who would have the opportunity to absorb this energy were as happy as Minos himself!

But even those who would be watching this whole event were happy, which in itself made the mood in this central part of the Black Plain somewhat memorable and joyful.

The streets of the area protected by the local dome were filled with soldier families enjoying the day as if it were a weekend.

Meanwhile, many soldiers from the Black Plain Army and local police were working.

But not only these less prestigious members of the local forces were preparing. As Minos would advance outside the Spatial Kingdom, the Spiritual Saints of the Gray Clouds Sect were already positioned to maintain a security perimeter on this day.

As such, more than ten individuals between level 74 and level 76 were on the outskirts of the Dry City core, while three high-level Spiritual Saints were inside the dome, around Minos.

Among them, Oswald was there.

After the period that had passed, Oswald finally handed over all the functions of the leader of the Gray Clouds Sect to his grandson and disaffiliated himself from such an organization.

As such, Minos currently had full powers over that sect, while Maisie had become the matriarch of the Coleman family.

Precisely because of this, he was there beside his grandson without being part of that organization, being there only as someone who was saying goodbye to his grandson before leaving on his new journey.

Oswald had planned to try to help Harold. So now that his sect was in Minos' hands and this young man was going to advance, he intended to go to the Flowers Kingdom.

Anyway, as Minos walked toward the place where he would try his advance inside the headquarters of the Black Plain Army, Oswald was at his side, talking to him.

"After today, when you are finished recovering, I will set out toward those women's kingdom." He said to Minos as he looked out over the beautiful central streets of Dry City.

Hearing that, Patience, who was also there, and was currently at level 76, did not like that. Still, considering how stubborn her husband was, she just turned her face sideways and said nothing.

On the other hand, the grandson of these two asked. "Are you sure about this? With the things happening to me, I will stay in the northern region for at most another year before I leave for that kingdom to try to rescue Isabella's father."

"Then you don't need to worry about that. You'd better stay in the Black Plain or move on with your retirement, as you had planned."

Staying on the Black Plain would be best for both of them. Oswald knew this since he already knew how his grandson had become so impressive.

Minos had revealed the Spatial Kingdom to the rest of the core of the Gray Clouds Sect, including, of course, his closest relatives.

Because of this, Oswald and Maisie already knew about the Spatial Kingdom and had trained there a few times.

They had also understood why it would be worthwhile for the sect to move to the Black Plain, where they could be closer to Minos and this shrine of cultivation.

But even considering that possibility, Oswald had promised the imperial family elders that he would try to do something about Harold. So he could not change his promise now.

"No. If you can make it in time to stop me from committing myself, I will pass that responsibility on to you. But until then, I will begin the attempt to rescue His Majesty." That old fellow with white hair and a beard said in a determined tone.

With those words, he made Maisie clench her fists in frustration that she could do nothing to help her father or son.

She was now at level 75, a level she had never expected to reach so quickly before she learned about her son's possibilities.

But even though she had become quite strong in the last few years and even learned some Golden-grade techniques from him, she was still quite weak to help them.

As she walked beside Sarah, who had grown quite a bit after her seventh birthday, this brown-haired woman was quite serious.

On the other hand, Minos' wives were all smiles, pleased with the day their husband had reached the absolute peak of the 7th stage and raised the mastery of his techniques to the highest he could.

They had great confidence that he would advance on his first attempt, as his talent guaranteed him no bottlenecks in his stage. Then after today, he would reach a level that would give him the strength to deal with the empire's current problems, something they had long wanted to resolve to have a little more peace.

While different moods could be felt around Minos, he and his group arrived at the place from where he would start his advance.

There, Abby's parents, Eliot Miller, level 66, and Nicole Miller, level 64, were on the outskirts together with several soldiers and allies of Minos. They would be part of the team of those who would take advantage of the situation of his advance.

But not only were these individuals around, but some of the Gray Clouds Sect elders who had benefited from the Spatial Kingdom in recent years and advanced levels were also around.

Virtually all of the Spiritual Saints who had come to the Black Plain before Abe's death and were still around had advanced one cultivation level in that time.

Because of this, Minos had already done the first exchange with the imperial family of the Flaming Empire, having exchanged a few of his experts for several Spiritual Saints from his sect.

With this move, from the little over 40 8th-stage cultivators of that sect in the Black Plain Empire, Minos now had 70 individuals of that stage around his territory.

"Minos, good luck in your advancement." A large fox with seven tails on its rear, level 69, said this to Minos as he saw it stopping beside him.

Minos also saw Kyla standing next to Emlyn, that young fox who had already reached level 65. "Big brother, soon I will reach the 8th stage too!" That being said, already ready to watch Emperor Stuart's advancement and, who knows, maybe get an advancement for itself later.

"Hmm, thank you all. Then, I'll ask you to get ready, and we'll start everything immediately."

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Chapter 1465 Beginning Of The Evolution

When Minos said those words, everyone around that level of the headquarters cultivation tower fell silent, looking forward to the beginning of his breakthrough.

He turned to his wives and nodded to them, indicating that he would begin in a moment. "Well, that's my time. I hope I don't disappoint everyone."

Oswald, Maisie, and the other individuals there who were closest to Minos knew that this was him being modest, so they said nothing, while those who knew the sovereign least spoke words of support.

Minos ignored the many comments and entered the cultivation room, quickly removing most of his clothes and staying only with his underwear.

He then sat down on a cultivation cushion. He made a meditative position before removing the Saint-grade medicine from his spatial ring.

As he did so, Emperor Stuart looked around that place. He saw each of those people in that place with him with their eyes closed, circulating their cultivation techniques to take advantage of the opportunity as soon as possible.

'Time to get started...' Minos thought to himself as he looked at the medicine in his hands. 'After that, everything will change!'

He inhaled the air in the surroundings deeply and closed his eyes. Then he began to eat that medicine, doing so with an expression of disgust.

Spiritual medicines had terribly bad tastes, so even someone already used to eating these items would feel disgusted.

Since Minos had not eaten many such resources, his resistance to it was not high, and soon his face was pale, with him forcing himself not to vomit.

He had sealed off his senses before he began to 'taste' that medicine that looked like a pear, but that only diminished the terrible taste to an 'acceptable' level.

'The taste is still terrible...' He thought as he swallowed the first few pieces, feeling chills run through his body.

But after struggling for some time, Minos swallowed the last piece of that pear, shivering and sweating.

With that done, he began to focus on the medicine inside his body.

After he ate that, he could not wait for long, or his body would try to absorb the energy from this resource. But Minos could not allow this since such a thing had more than 20 times the amount of energy that his body could support!

Because of this, Minos had to hurry to use this energy to his advantage. Instead of absorbing it to strengthen his soul, he had to direct it to help the evolution of his cells.

That was a tedious job because of the millimeter precision that Minos had to have, at the same time as what he had to endure pain. But that was not difficult. He just had to suppress his body and make the medicine energy slowly 'wash away' all his cells!

Solar God Breath!

Minos activated his cultivation technique and began circulating his soul's spiritual power through his body, slowly beginning the process of directing the medicine energy into the 'washing' that his cells would need.

As he did this, his body became increasingly reddish to the people watching him.

Simultaneously, a stream of colorful spiritual energy was slowly forming in his surroundings, almost as if he were an extremely beautiful and brilliant quasar.

Then the evolution began!

Minos meticulously followed the process of using the energy released by the medicine to evolve his Physical.

As every part of his body was immersed in a 'cloud' of spiritual energy, almost all concentrated in a 2-meter radius space of his, his soul was increasing in size!

Because of the special conditions for raising a Physique's rank, Minos could only accomplish such a thing after reaching level 70.

His mutated Physique would only 'open the doors' for such an evolution during stage advancement.

However, Emperor Stuart could not wait for that to happen to begin the process, as he would risk missing the opportunity.

But he was already only one step away from reaching the limit of spiritual power to reach level 70. So, when the process was happening in his body, he broke through his limit and reached the 8th stage!

With this event, every cell under pressure from the Saint-grade Medicine spiritual energy began to transform as extreme pain spread throughout Minos' body.

With that, Minos' appearance began to change, with him expressing pain as every muscle in his body contracted.

Emperor Stuart's soul was expanding and contracting like a heart. But unlike what would happen with that organ, his soul became a little more voluminous each time this happened!

That was not at all comfortable for Minos, but it was through this that he would grow stronger. Thus, he held on tight while the people in the area watched his evolution happen.

'Impressive!' Oswald noticed the amount of energy being sucked into Minos' body. 'His soul will be about 30% stronger than that of an ordinary level 70 Spiritual Saint...'

Minos' mother did not have as good senses as his father. Still, she could also sense that Minos' level 70 was different from that of 'ordinary' people.

Then she put aside her weakness to smile in satisfaction at seeing her son becoming so powerful.

While Minos endured all this suffering under the observation of those many people, his soul began to stabilize, reaching a volume equivalent to 100% of his body.

Crack!

Red beams of light began to enter Minos' body, with the typical sound of level advancement resounding through that area, making those people realize what had just happened.

'Your Majesty is already at level 70!' Several people within that room thought as they struggled not to lose control over their cultivation techniques.

While people like Abby's father and mother were trying not to pay more attention than they should to Minos' advancement, changes in his body began to happen!

Black goo began oozing out of his skin in large quantities, almost as if he had a tar source under his own skin...

As the impurities poured out of Minos' body, he was shaking and using his arms to keep from collapsing to the ground.

"Ahhh!" Emperor Stuart's first cry of pain resounded through that place.

He then vomited blood, almost entirely black, as if it were another substance.

But as he felt the spiritual cleansing generated by the stage advancement happening in his body, he quickly felt that his Physique was about to advance in rank!

During this initial moment, he was enduring the pressure of the spiritual energy of that medicine. As soon as he had touched level 70, the evolution of his Physique was activated.

The two processes were happening simultaneously. Because of this, the spiritual cleansing of his fleshy body and soul was much more efficient than it would be in other people who tried it differently!

As a result, the number of toxins released was not small, spreading a strong odor throughout that place...

Chapter 1466 The Evolution Of Physique

While the hundreds of Spiritual Emperors in that cultivation room were trying to endure the disgusting smell of those toxins in Minos' body, his body stopped releasing such impurities.

At that moment, every black drop in his body was repelled overnight from his skin as if it were oil in water. Meanwhile, Minos' white skin again showed itself to those watching him.

This time, every inch of his body seemed to tremble as he experienced cellular control for the first time.

Upon reaching the 8th stage, a cultivator could modify their body by will, so their appearance could be changed. For example, an elder near their death could look as young as a newborn baby if they so wished.

But Minos had no interest in doing absurd things with his appearance. Thus, upon sensing this ability for a few moments, they quickly stabilized his body to its best version for his age.

In any case, even though his appearance did not change that much, he now had a more powerful regeneration factor. At the same time, his endurance, flexibility, and other characteristics became more powerful.

But while these changes were significant, the biggest one had occurred in the depths of his being, in his soul!

With the advance to the 8th stage, Minos' soul had finally 'blossomed' and was now the same size as his body.

What was the importance of this? From that point on, his soul and body were no longer one but two different things living in one body.

This characteristic had several consequences, but one of the most notable was the fact that from this day forward, Minos would not be totally dependent on his body to continue living.

If something happened to him, he could continue to exist in his soul form temporarily. Also, if he lost his body, he could possess a new body to enable him to have all the experiences of someone with a fleshy body.

With such an impressive feature, this showed how fantastic the transformation from a Spiritual Emperor to a Spiritual Saint was!

And with this new quality of part of himself, plus the evolution of his Physique that was still going on, he could already feel a tremendous power in his body.

That was rapidly increasing, with Minos feeling as if the bonds of his Physique were loosening as if a 'new him' was about to be released.

"Ohhh!" With his eyes closed, he let out a sound of satisfaction. At the same time, he felt his Physique gradually reaching the Saint grade and the increase in energy due to his innate ability!

Previously he had a 20% energy increase due to his innate ability. But now that his Physique was almost finished rising to the next rank, Minos felt that his energy increase had passed 30% and was continuing to rise!

And while feeling all these sensations, Emperor Stuart quickly began to feel his compatibility with the Natural Laws increase, with a flow of invisible power penetrating his soul.

"Feel that! His Majesty is increasing his compatibility with the Laws!" One of the high-level Spiritual Saints outside that cultivation room said, making everyone there listen to him.

"Incredible! Minos' understanding seems so dense that I feel as if my consciousness is floating on a boat in the middle of a grand ocean!" Maisie commented as she closed her eyes, feeling what was happening to her son with her soul probing.

Gloria, Ruth, and Abby also felt the changes in Minos as they had smiles on their faces.

Ruth then thought to herself. 'Now that his Physique has reached the Saint grade, the chances of him getting me pregnant will increase considerably...'

Abby was also thinking of something similar since her biggest dream was to have children with Minos.

While Minos' first two wives had similar thoughts regarding his advancement, Gloria was thinking about how he had reached the requirement to finalize the bet with her mother.

'With this, perhaps we will achieve some benefits with my family to increase our influence within the Church...'

While Minos' grandparents smiled in satisfaction and accepted the Gray Clouds Sect elders' congratulations, the emperor of this state was finalizing his evolution.

He felt the increased compatibility of his soul with some of the Natural Laws, the space for a new technique arising in his being, and the evolution of his old techniques.

Such a thing was very comfortable, and it seemed as if he had finally gotten the answers to part of his questions regarding how to use his techniques. But for now, he only had the theory and would need to put these findings to the test to learn of his new capabilities.

'I'm almost done...' He thought.

At the same time, he felt that most of the spiritual medicine energy had already left his body. Now, it was circulating in the surroundings while the people there were absorbing it.

After another 15 minutes, all the energy of that Saint grade medicine left Minos' body, and he felt the rating of his Physique stabilizing at Saint grade!

The evolution of his Physique greatly changed the quality of the cells in Minos' body. To have an idea, this was so intense that if one were to compare his before and after, it would be as if he had changed species!

But besides the greatly strengthened physical characteristics, what had benefited most, there was Minos' innate ability.

When the evolution finally ended, the increase in energy from spiritual cultivation had stopped increasing when it reached the 40% mark. At the same time that Minos' energy reserves had increased significantly, he felt a sensation that reminded him of the last time he had evolved his Physique.

'That...' Minos looked down at his hands as he expressed surprise, sensing the auras of people throughout the headquarters' cultivation tower and even people outside those headquarters facilities.

He felt as if each of those fluctuations had gained great compatibility with his own from one hour to the next. Or maybe it was better to say that his compatibility had synchronized with those people's.

'Uh? That... That feeling is as if...' He finally understood what he had first felt when he reached level 50, and his mouth dropped open. "I can now manipulate the cultivation of those in my surroundings? How is that possible?" He wondered, while most people inside and outside that room were feeling strange because of his ability.

"That... What's happening to Minos?" His grandmother asked Oswald.

"It seems he has awakened a new characteristic from his bloodline..." This old fellow commented, but without feeling the same as the other people there, because of his high cultivation and his own bloodline, which was not weak.

But then, someone there shouted as he felt Minos' manipulation.

"Hey, my level is decreasing!" A person from the Gray Clouds Sect said in a tone of fear while turning pale.

On the other hand, Eduard, currently at level 67, felt his level increase to level 69 in the blink of an eye.

Because of this, he was just as or more shocked than the other individual, barely believing the sensation in his body.

"My level... Gulp! My level has increased?" He asked aloud.

The level 79 elder of the Gray Clouds Sect standing next to Oswald said. "Actually, his level has not increased. Minos seems to have transferred the power from that sect disciple to this army soldier."

"That must be the case..." Other high-level Spiritual Saints agreed about this, while Minos himself felt the limits of his new characteristic.

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Chapter 1467 End Of The Advance

'So I can transfer the forces of one person to others within the limit of about 400 meters away from me...' He realized with whom he could make this 'exchange' and perceived the distance limit for such a thing to work.

At the same time, Minos noted that he could simultaneously replicate what had happened with dozens of people at the level of those two. Still, he could do it with individuals stronger than himself as well. But then, for that, he could simultaneously do a much smaller number of power transfers.

Realizing the basics of his new feature, he smiled in satisfaction.

With that, he immediately began to pay attention to his increase in total power. Previously he had been totally focused on using that massive energy released by the spiritual medicine from before to evolve his

Physique while increasing his cultivation stage. So he had not paid attention to how his characteristics had increased.

But now that he had finished doing that, Emperor Stuart began to analyze his gains after that anomaly.

'My vitality has doubled once again, and now I can cultivate for longer per day. I don't need to sleep or eat anymore...' He thought as he counted his gains. 'With my current strength, even without my spiritual techniques, I am already as strong as a level 60 being.'

"Hmm, now I'm probably faster and tougher than beasts below the 7th stage of cultivation." He muttered as he smiled.

In fact, at the present moment, if he wanted to travel on foot, Minos could run for longer and at a higher speed than beasts below the 6th stage.

This even without using his movement technique!

Although he did not need this, such an ability was important to him since everyday things would become even easier if he could do this. For example, he would get less tired at work, be able to spend more time with his family, recover faster from injuries, train more, etc.

The advantages of having a strong body were many since most of the cultivator's life did not involve life-and-death fights but those everyday situations.

After feeling the basics about his body, Minos stood up from where he was standing and used his spiritual energy to destroy all the toxins. At the same time, he was looking from one side to the other, seeing that those people were holding on tightly while taking advantage of this opportunity.

But even though the smell of that place had become terrible, it did not take long for those soldiers to forget about it. With their advances, something similar to what had happened to Minos was happening to some of them...

"They won't be long..." Minos muttered as he watched Alina, who had now reached level 62!

With this breakthrough, this woman crucial to the Black Plain Army's weapons and artifact development could already disintegrate low-level grade-3 artifacts. And through this, she could give Minos' forces essential resources to produce medium-level grade-3 items.

On the other hand, Minos looked in Regina's direction and saw this poison master managing to overcome her current bottleneck and reach level 67, achieving medium-level grade-3 classification!

'Hmm, very good. Everyone is managing to make the best of the opportunity.'

Minos then waited in that cultivation room until those hundreds of people finally absorbed all the Saint-grade medicine energy.

The amount of energy was tremendous, and even with the number of people there, it lasted almost an hour after his advancements ended.

Since Minos had already finished his advance, most of the people there earlier to watch him had already left. After all, although there was a possibility that they would gain something by watching Minos' advancement, the same was not valid for the advancements of those individuals.

On the other hand, some people had made gains from watching Minos' advancement, so they were eager to cultivate or train their techniques!

Thus, when the last of those individuals finished their advance, there were hardly any people outside that cultivation room.

With that, some rushed towards the army library, where part of them could learn one more spiritual technique that could significantly increase their powers.

Anyway, everyone thanked Emperor Stuart before they left that place.

Then Minos left and went to where his family and some elders of the Gray Clouds Sect were waiting for him outside that room, intending to go train on his property.

In such a place, Minos intended to start learning his new technique and experience how his old techniques had improved after the recent improvements.

He had not done this in the last few minutes so as not to disturb his people in that cultivation room from before. But, on the other hand, that room had been specially made for that circumstance. If he had opened the doors there, the medicine energy could have spread to the entire Dry City...

That would not be interesting for the army and the emperor, so he had patiently waited for his men to finish their advances!

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"How are you feeling?" Ruth asked beside Gloria and Abby as they walked toward the imperial palace.

Oswald, Patience, Maisie, two elders from the Gray Clouds Sect, and a dozen imperial guards were accompanying them. At the same time, people in the streets of that central area of Dry City were waving at them.

Everyone there could sense Minos' advancement to the 8th stage, so they were very excited, and several expressed this in their cries of support.

Minos ignored this and said. "I feel complete. I can now manipulate the forces of those in my surroundings, and my own ability to increase energy has increased greatly."

"I estimate that my total strength is already similar to that of an ordinary person near the latter part of the 8th stage."

His innate ability was one of the main culprits for this increase in power. And as such, this man was confident in saying those words.

However, he would save it for later to make more precise statements when he tested his skills in fights and training, something that could give him evidence that he was right.

Anyway, after saying that, making the elders there look at him with admiration and respect, with his family smiling in satisfaction, he entered the imperial palace and went to the training area.

'First, I will test my techniques...' He thought as he walked towards the fighting stage of his residence.

At the same time, his spectators sat at one of the farthest points from Minos to watch him without hindering him.

'Now Minos should be able to fully suppress high-level Spiritual Saints...'

'Hmmm, I don't need to worry about my family or sect anymore. He can replace me just fine!' Oswald thought expectantly to see Minos' improvements.

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Chapter 1468 Technique Improvements

First, Minos tested the Spatial Sword, then his supporting technique, the Devouring Art, using a spiritual array to test the new limits of that technique.

After that, he tested each of his other techniques in the following order until he was done with those tests: Explosive Steps, Indestructible Body, Infinite Dream, Chaotic Gravity, and Solar God Breath.

As he finished all of these, he had a satisfied expression on his face, thinking about the limits of each technique to his new level of power and the phases of each of them.

'Now the range of the Spatial Sword is 320 meters, and any being or object in that space will be under its spatial restriction. On the other hand, the destructive force of my attacks increased by 40%!' He thought as he remembered the experience he had just had while training such a technique.

'But my advances in this technique don't end there. I can now make my blades go through space through gaps in the space fabric, making it practically impossible for people below level 80 to predict the direction of my attack!' Minos clenched his fists.

Speed was a crucial characteristic for the survival of spiritual beings in battle. So a technique that restricted its targets while concealing its own movements was of extreme value, and achieving breakthroughs in it was shockingly important.

Now Emperor Stuart had a wider space to act, and his opponents would find it more difficult to evade him, even using escape devices such as teleportation arrays!

'If I faced Abe now, that Spiritual Sage wouldn't be able to stop me from killing that fellow without using all his strength.' Minos thought as he sensed his current abilities.

He then continued his analysis. 'Regarding the Devouring Art, the space of action has increased to 400 meters radius.'

'Also, the conversion factor of this technique has increased from 40% to 50%!'

'Now I can use 50% of the energy the technique absorbs!' He realized the feeling he felt when he fought against the arrays in that training area as he ran his left forearm across his forehead and wiped some of his sweat away.

His passive energy absorption ability, generated by this technique previously, had also improved with this current advance. Not only could it now unconsciously absorb spiritual powers thrown at his body that were 100% stronger than him, but it would also do that with mental attacks.

Before, his mental technique had to protect his mind alone. Still, this passive ability would now absorb the opponent's mental attack and turn it into mental power for him to use himself!

'On the other hand, regarding my movement technique, I can now move at 200 meters per second, and all my senses are 60% faster than before when I have it used to dodge or act stealthily.' He thought.

'The Indestructible Body has also improved significantly...' He thought with a smile as he tightly clenched his right fist. 'Now, when I activate this technique, during the 10 seconds of each activation, my body is so strong and resilient that I could punch a level 76 Spiritual Saint and knock them down with one strike!'

The Infinite Dream had also significantly improved, increasing the ability to affect a more significant number of people at once and giving Minos a new mental ability.

He now had something called Bright Eyes, which, when activated, would allow him to see the fluctuations of his opponents rather than just sense.

His soul sense, which had been born when he reached level 70, had strangely merged with part of his soul responsible for the Infinite Dream. Because of this, this new ability was born, giving Minos a visual advantage.

With this ability, he could notice the characteristics of his opponents' souls and thus utilize the enemy's weaknesses for the best results!

'I think I can use that in combination with the Dark Sea...' He thought as he noticed that this skill was compatible with this other one.

On the other hand, the technique that Minos had recently used the most, Chaotic Gravity, had also evolved with this advancement, bringing some extra benefits to him.

He could feel that his ability to control black holes had more than doubled, and now he could control even one of those regions of space capable of swallowing level 80 Spiritual Sages.

At the same time, his control over this technique had reached such a level that he could now make rocks in his surroundings gather around small masses of energy to form large meteors.

When he used such an ability, everyone watching him thought Minos was trying to destroy his palace. But fortunately, he was able to notice the changes in himself and act to only damage half of that place.

Luckily, none of the low-level cultivators in the palace were hurt at that moment...

As for this man's cultivation technique, it also improved its characteristics. Now Minos had more than doubled his cultivation speed!

However, even with that, the energy he would need to advance in level at the moment was almost three times the previous one. As such, he had concluded that it would take 2 to 2.5 years to achieve a new advancement.

But for the moment, this was already very good for him because this was an excellent cultivation speed for a person at the 8th stage, but it was also not an excessive time considering his situation.

That is, there was no conflict in the current Black Plain Empire, only Minos' expansionist interests against states that did not even have high-level Spiritual Saints...

At the same time, the Saints Killing Sect had yet to show hostility since the peace agreements had been signed with the Gray Clouds Sect.

Hence, although there were problems to be solved, Minos judged that his speed of advancement was not in the least bit worrying.

"Now it's time for me to learn my 8th technique..." He muttered in a low voice while his watchers continued to watch him intently, talking among themselves.

"Your Majesty has become very powerful." The level 79 Spiritual Saint next to Oswald commented on this, barely able to believe the things he had seen. "And that's because he hasn't learned his 8th technique yet... When that happens, I'm afraid that even I would have a hard time facing him."

At first, this man knew he would die if he faced Minos. After all, Emperor Stuart had the black hole, other fusions, and mass destruction weapons, which were beyond his power. But these were alternative methods that a cultivator could not always depend on.

Now, Minos' natural abilities had reached the level where that elder had no confidence in beating this brown-haired fellow in a more 'fair' situation.

Such was Minos' combat proficiency!

"Yes, the boy is a monster, and his Golden-grade techniques learned early on without him replacing them, are finally showing their strength," Oswald commented.

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Chapter 1469 Space And Time Avatar

As those people watched Minos, he began to read a fully golden scroll in his hands.

First, Emperor Stuart began to understand some of the Natural Laws involved in that soul technique, one of the most important for a cultivator.

When a cultivator began their journey in cultivation, unknowingly, they started a race to form their soul into something independent of the fleshy body. Because of this, the soul would grow and develop throughout cultivation in a process that even the greatest experts in this world did not fully understand how far it could go.

But whether or not they understood everything about this process, it was a fact that the soul's development was crucial. And to separate such a thing from the fleshy body, one would first have to reach level 70 and then learn a soul technique.

Through this, a cultivator could utilize their abilities to the fullest, perform the possible fusions and express 100% of the power of their techniques!

Therefore an 8th-stage cultivator would be considered an expert even in the strongest places in this world!

Thus, the work Minos would have in understanding the laws behind that technique was on a level totally different from anything he had ever come into contact with in this world.

Consequently, it would take him someone time to decipher those laws, even considering his talent was superior even to those individuals with Golden talent.

He would not only need to read the contents of that scroll as it happened with others. Even if reading the scroll was enough for a technique to be engraved into his soul, that was not enough to use the Soul Avatar.

To achieve this, Minos would have to synchronize his soul with that technique after he exhibited minimal control over the required Natural Laws.

So it was not long after having that technique inscribed in his mind that Minos had his mind 'taken' to a realistic illusion where he could master the basics of such a thing.

In this illusion, he found himself face to face with the shadow of Henricus Longus, the creator of several of his techniques, whom he always saw at times like this.

As Minos was already used to this and even knew what he had to do because of the memories left by that man, he soon began to act within this mental illusion.

Instead of trying to fight or anything of the sort against that man, he sat meditatively in a place that seemed to be the heavens, where only clouds were below his feet.

There, he infused all his strength into what he had just inscribed into his soul, causing that part of his being to tremble slightly.

After a while, this began to make Minos' soul try to leave his body like a balloon being filled with gases.

This process would continue for several minutes while his spectators were impressed by the speed of his comprehension.

Even though he was learning a Golden-grade technique, Minos was already showing signs of primary mastery with less than half an hour of meditation.

With this, his soul was already slowly taking on the form of a Soul Avatar, showing itself outside his body.

Emperor Stuart had chosen to learn at this stage a soul technique, Space and Time Avatar, Golden grade, composed of 4 stages.

Such a technique had as its main ability the activation of the Soul Avatar, whereby the user could dispose of all their abilities through this without using their fleshy body. They could use this projection of their soul to fight directly against other avatars or even activate other techniques.

At the same time, such a technique increased the chance of successful fusions by 100% and used more energy from the surroundings during the fusion than from the user's soul.

What was the significance of this? Using his avatar, Minos could become less fatigued when using his fusions, which could significantly help him improve his combat skills.

But not only did the avatar decrease its user's energy expenditure during fusions. It also did this for the activation of all the user's techniques!

In addition, all the user's techniques were 10% stronger when activated in the Soul Avatar's form than when activated directly by the cultivator's fleshy body.

Finally, the Space and Time Avatar had one final ability: to create a 'domain' under 500 meters away from the user. Such a domain could slow down the passage of time within it, with a 2:1 ratio to the outer side. That is, while 2 minutes would pass inside this space, people outside it would feel as if it had been 1 minute.

These were the characteristics of Minos' new technique for the first stage of mastery. As he developed it, Emperor Stuart could even reach the level of 16:1 in that ratio and 4,000-meter radius in the space of action of this technique.

As for the limits of the technique concerning Minos' targets, that was the best point of this soul technique.

It had no limits!

No matter Minos' opponents' strength, they would face this young man's domain and feel time passing differently. The only distinction regarding his opponent's strength would be that if such a person were much stronger than this emperor, his techniques would not work on this opponent.

These were the characteristics of this new technique of Minos, which gave him all the confidence to pursue his short-term goals.

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While Minos was learning the basics of the soul technique, Space and Time Avatar, his women watched him, seeing that it would not be long before he finished.

At the moment, a large spiritual figure, with the silhouette of Minos, with a golden glow about it, semi-transparent, was almost 100% formed above him.

This silhouette was also sitting cross-legged, as was the case with his fleshy body. But due to its size, people from various parts of the Dry City core also saw him.

"Look at that. Doesn't that one look like His Majesty?"

"That's right! That Soul Avatar is in the imperial palace, so that can only be His Majesty!" Alison's mother yelled at her husband as she realized that her daughter's master was learning his 8th technique.

'So he's already doing that!' One of the Assembly of Vogel representatives in this city, who was part of the Minos faction within that institution, thought this over with satisfaction.

The Assembly was practically all subdivided between pro and against Minos. So since he and his family were already on Dry City's side, he obviously could not help but be pleased.

On the other hand, more people around the inner area of the local defensive dome were seeing this and celebrating.

That was the case for some elders of the Miller family and House Nash, who were in this place to take advantage of local opportunities.

'Minos has already reached that level...' Richard, Elen's father, level 66, thought as he looked at the silhouette of the Emperor's Soul Avatar, which was similar in height to a 4-story building.

"It looks like he's finishing..." A level 77 elder of the Gray Clouds Sect outside that palace saw that and muttered just before Minos opened his eyes.

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Chapter 1470 The 8th Technique Of Minos

Finally, Emperor Stuart finished learning the basics of that technique and opened his eyes, feeling the sensation that would come whenever a cultivator learned a new technique.

Such a thing was like an itch that needed to be scratched or, instead, to be activated. So he looked in the direction of his grandfather and shook his head significantly so that man could not mistake his intentions.

Now that he had learned the basics, he would only need to practice the technique a few times to get a minimal mastery so that he would have no problem activating it in the future.

As such, Minos wanted to fight a little. After realizing that his grandfather had not refused his proposal, he began to execute the commands of that technique so that he would activate it for the first time.

'I must circulate my spiritual energy towards the core of my being, the lower part of my head...' He thought as he executed his first attempt.

'... After the fifth step, I must use some of those laws for the technique to take shape in order to express my ability...' He remembered that earlier in the illusion, he still could not use his remaining techniques through the Soul Avatar.

But in his first activation, it would already work, so he had to follow the steps perfectly so as not to make a mistake and remain unable to express such powers.

While thinking about the Space and Time Avatar activation, Minos was constantly making gestures with his hands, using his fingers to make the spiritual energy in his body follow some patterns.

That was the means cultivators would use to more efficiently direct their energy and understanding the first few times activating a spiritual technique.

When learning a new technique, the connection of the technique to the user would be small, and it would not be easy to execute all the commands easily. The opposite of this, the difficulty would be incredible, similar to what a person who has never walked would have when trying to do it for the first time.

But like everything in life, the usability of the technique would increase as time passed and its user experience increased. Thus, this was not a problem for Minos or any other cultivators; he would not need to repeat the finger gesture signals for the same techniques in the future.

"Ouch!" He made a low sound of pain, bringing one of his hands to the back of his neck, feeling pain in that area.

He missed the first attempt but soon identified where he would have to correct his commands.

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After trying to activate that soul technique eight times, Minos finally succeeded!

After almost 20 minutes, he executed the commands of that technique perfectly, causing a unique energy to circulate through the back of his neck, something that was a mixture of some Natural Laws and spiritual energy.

Then, quickly this energy condensed into the 'home' of the soul, causing the back of his neck to glow a little before a powerful force departed from that place.

Space and Time Avatar!

When Minos activated this technique correctly for the first time, the Soul Avatar quickly grew from the depths of his being until it became a semi-transparent giant with his appearance.

Upon reaching this form, Minos looked at the surroundings nervously, seeing not through his body but through his avatar.

'Incredible!'

'Although this is just a projection of my soul, I feel as if my body has only increased in size... Everything else is very similar to my normal state!'

But he did not stay in this state of contemplation, looking at his spiritual body for a long time. Soon, Minos looked toward Oswald, who was already floating in front of him.

"Let's test these skills of yours..." This white-haired and bearded fellow said in a humorous tone, pleased to be able to do this with his grandson.

Thus, Oswald also activated his soul technique, making an avatar similar to him appear from his body!

With that, all the observers in the area took a deep breath, about to witness a battle between extremely powerful cultivators by the standards of even the Flaming Empire.

In fact, considering Minos' current capabilities, he could fight on equal terms with masters from other sects in that state!

But this was not entirely true for Oswald since this man had no Black-grade techniques in his technique set. Instead, he only had those Silver and Golden grade ones, a far above-average configuration.

So he was stronger than his grandson, although the difference currently was no longer as great as it had been in the past.

That's why Oswald took this training with Minos seriously since this young man could hurt him if he were not careful!

With his Soul Avatar activated, Oswald did not attack. Instead, he made a gesture indicating for Minos to begin this challenge.

Minos did not miss his chance and promptly activated all his combat techniques simultaneously, causing the space around him to become chaotic.

The observers saw this and realized that if anyone below level 77 entered that area of Minos' control, that person would end up dead in a matter of seconds!

That was true, even considering people with Silver-grade techniques!

"Uh?" The level 79 Spiritual Saint realized something and took a step forward, seeing the movements of both Minos and Oswald happening at a very high speed.

He had seen Oswald fight many times in the past, so seeing this man activating his abilities with such speed, this man could not help but frown.

'Is their battle accelerated? The passage of time isn't the same within his avatar's space of influence?' He wondered as he looked at Minos and swallowed his saliva as he theorized about what he saw.

Meanwhile, black rings appeared around Oswald's wrists, waist, and ankles, together with a high gravity that was trying to force him against the ground.

'That's really impressive!' Minos' grandfather thought in surprise, noting that this was somewhat limiting his movements.

At the same time, he had an expression of annoyance around his eyes, feeling the weight of being attacked by Minos' mental technique and feeling one of his weaknesses being exploited.

Minos was seeing Oswald's fluctuations and the weak points of this man's strengths. So he could not help but attack with the Infinite Dream, one of his grandfather's weak points.

'Time to try that...' He smiled as he manipulated his innate ability into himself.

When Minos did such a thing, immediately, Oswald felt something, and then 2% of his power suddenly vanished and headed toward his grandson.

"Huh?"

At the same time, that 2% added to Minos' power, and he felt himself getting stronger as if he had had a small breakthrough.

But this was not him gaining his grandfather's energies after absorbing Oswald's spiritual energy with the Devouring Art. The opposite of that, this was the soul power that Minos was stealing from his opponent through his innate ability!

For some time from that moment on, Minos would have a subtly higher level and Oswald lower than he naturally had!

Sensing this, Minos laughed and picked up his sword with his beefy body, causing a spiritual weapon to appear in his avatar's hands.

Spatial Sword!

He activated his main offensive technique, dancing as he launched blades at his opponent.

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