

Black Plain 1471

Chapter 1471 Minos' Current Combat Proficiency

By attacking his grandfather with his primary offensive technique, Minos made that attack disappear for everyone watching them fight.

But not only could those spectators see nothing, but Oswald also had no idea where the blows that Minos was throwing while dancing were going.

He could only feel that the attack power of these blades was not small but enough to cause him pain.

'It is more troublesome than I had thought!' He realized the difficulty of fighting against something that could disappear from his senses.

And when he least expected it, this man suffered a powerful attack on his back.

The Spatial Sword had not only evolved to give Minos the ability to make the blades travel through space under invisible subspace. It also gave him the ability to change the direction of his attacks.

That is, he was in front of Oswald, and his first blade should have hit this old fellow in the abdomen. But due to the characteristic of this technique in the current phase Minos was in, he had made such an attack appear behind his grandfather, taking him by surprise.

Swoosh!

As Oswald was not fast enough, he promptly felt the attack hit his back and unbalanced him forward.

But the situation did not end there. Soon after, several other blades hit different parts of this elder's body, making him express sounds of pain in front of his wife and daughter.

"Ouch!" He shouted as he realized that Minos was not just attacking him with the normal one of that technique he had shown everyone during his training moments ago.

No, Minos had found a way to combine the Spatial Sword with Chaotic Gravity without having to do the fusion. In this combination, each blade he launched carried a strong gravitational power, which exploded when the energy blade hit something.

As this something was precisely his body, Oswald felt those shock points going through something rather strange to him.

When a blade hit him on the left side of his waist, Oswald felt as if, at the last instant, that energy blade had suddenly been accelerated and forced with much more force against his body.

That increased the attack power of that blade tremendously, making him feel more than he thought his grandson was capable of imposing.

'That's not bad! With a skill like that, he will be able to fight against high-level Spiritual Saints armed with good equipment and techniques!' He was pleased to realize that his grandson still had cards up his sleeve that could help him on his journey through the Flaming Empire.

"Very good, Minos, but a battle doesn't just involve attacking!" He smiled after those words as he showed one of his hands while stretching his right arm forward.

When he did this, Oswald made countless glowing dots appear in the skies around Minos, with ice daggers forming at his command.

Minos saw this and tried to counterattack, using his avatar's space of influence to increase the gravity on these ice daggers.

Crack!

Some of those weapons did indeed break, but since they were creations of a level 79 Spiritual Saint based on a Golden-grade technique, they did not break completely.

Thus, in a few moments, many flew like rain toward the Soul Avatar of Minos.

Indestructible Body!

Minos circled his defensive technique, and the surroundings of his Soul Avatar became brighter in that golden color as if a protective layer had emerged from within.

Meanwhile, dark inscriptions appeared around the avatar's body, making it appear as if it was contaminated.

But this was not contamination, but rather the passive ability created by the Devouring Art, which showed itself fully just as the first attacks were about to hit Minos.

Thus, Minos began to feel large chunks of energy becoming available to him, as he felt as if he was getting a massage from the many weakened daggers hitting him.

He did not stand still while receiving this powerful attack from Oswald and brought his hands in front of his eyes.

Infinite Dream: Shaking Reality!

Chaotic Gravity: Shaking Reality!

At an impressive speed, Minos managed to fuse the two techniques as if this were nothing more than one of his usual techniques.

Thus, as the region between Minos' hands, which looked like a semi-transparent bubble surrounded by colored dots trying to explode, reached its peak, people in the surrounding area were startled by such speed.

"That fast?" Patience shouted as she saw her grandson fuse two techniques and attack Oswald in a matter of seconds.

Maisie stood up from her seat and saw the colored ray departing from that strange blob of air and then hitting her father.

At that moment, Oswald formed an expression of pain, losing much of his focus as he was thrown backward.

'Damn it!' He thought to himself, seeing the universe around him accelerating itself up while his soul seemed to have come out even from inside his Soul Avatar, something impossible to happen.

Minos realized the momentary advantage he gained by surprising his grandfather and activated another of his fusions.

Infinite Dream: Mind Destroyer!

Spatial Sword: Mind Destroyer!

Minos could now use fusions in sequence without exhausting himself so much. But besides this ability related to his 8th technique, due to the amount of power, he had already absorbed from Oswald, either from the previous attack or Devouring Art and his innate ability, he was full of energy at the moment.

Hence, he made a move with his weapon, horizontally striking while having his knees bent, spinning like a top.

Swoosh!

Then a big blade, the size of a 10-story building, totally red like human blood, shot out of Minos' spiritual sword, heading towards Oswald.

Even if Oswald realized this, he would not be able to dodge this attack capable of flying at a speed he could not keep up with.

Crash!

Due to his inability to at least realize it at the right time, Minos' grandfather felt his chest armor being hit by that attack, crumpling against his chest and making him feel more pain.

"Ouch!" He uttered that sound again as he fell toward the ground outside the emperor's estate.

Seeing that, Minos lowered his spirits, ending this fight as the victor!

"Impressive!" The level 79 Spiritual Saint said this out loud next to Patience and Maisie. "Your Majesty has already reached a level of power that only the leaders of the Flaming Empire have achieved!"

Gloria heard that and nodded silently, feeling that her husband really could already sit at the table of the powerful in that state, even without his Black Hole Bomb.

'Oswald didn't take it easy on Minos. He may not have used all his strength simultaneously. Still, the previous attack was strong enough to kill level 77 Spiritual Saints, and his defenses were at maximum!'

'He really felt pain, even though he was defending himself with all his strength!' She thought of something similar to what Ruth, Abby, and Maisie were thinking.

Meanwhile, Patience could not help but find it funny about her husband being thrown away by their grandson and smiled. 'I think we're too old now, Oswald... Time to retire and let the younger generation do as they see fit.'

With that decided, Minos wiped the sweat on his body and quickly changed clothes before approaching those people to talk about the current status of their powers.

'Time to start solving our old problems...'

Chapter 1472 Problems To Be Solved

As he approached his observers, Minos received congratulations from his guards and the elders of the Gray Clouds Sect.

The women of his family and his wives also congratulated him on his improvements, all of them smiling in joy at the point he had reached.

Minos was currently around his 39th birthday, but even at such a young age, he had already reached level 70, which his mother had only reached after she had passed the age of 100. So besides his unusual abilities, the fact that he was so young and strong was an added point that made people like Patience extremely happy.

Because of the combination of high level plus low age, she thought that, unlike her and Oswald, Minos would be able to pass level 70 with relative ease in the future.

And that was no small thing for them, who had grown up in a state where only the emperor had such a possibility!

"Very well, Minos. With your current strength, Oswald and I no longer need to worry about you. You can lead the sect and your empire with relative peace of mind." That woman next to Maisie said that to him.

"Hmm." Maisie nodded, standing quietly beside her mother.

"Your Majesty, what should we do now? With your strength, I believe we will resolve Vogel's situation once and for all, no?" That level 79 Spiritual Saint asked, eager for some action.

He had recently reached that level, so he wanted to go out and battle opponents to test his new characteristics.

He had not advanced a step, but after so long at level 78, such advancement was enough for him to feel very different.

Minos continued with his arms around Abby and Ruth's waists and said. "Yes, I intend to do that, to visit Rosser, Albano, and Blackrock, but also to observe the situation of the Saints Killing Sect."

"Mortimer is pursuing the 9th stage, so we must observe him. The first thing he will try to do if he succeeds will be to seek revenge."

After those words, everyone there became more serious, feeling that this was indeed a problem they could not ignore, so they lost their momentary good humor.

At that instant, Oswald finally returned from where he had fallen and said. "What do you intend to do against him in case he succeeds? It is difficult to fight a Spiritual Sage while you are only a Spiritual Saint."

Minos nodded positively and said. "We only have the numbers in our favor. But it won't be so easy for him to act against us. I have some ways to make his actions more difficult."

"In any case, we have nothing to do but keep training hard."

"Hmmm." Everyone there agreed, thinking about the improvements the Black Plain Empire had gone through in the past few months.

The Spiritual Saints who had come here before these 20 months had improved one level of cultivation each, but the Spiritual Emperors from the Flaming Empire had also improved greatly.

A few, already close to breakthroughs at the time, even achieved two consecutive breakthroughs.

That was the case with Kara Carline, who was currently at level 65.

But many of the level 69 Spiritual Emperors at that time had become level 70 Spiritual Saints. Because of these individuals who had advanced, the number of 8th-stage cultivation experts in the Black Plain had jumped in this period.

There were just over 70 Gray Clouds Sect Spiritual Saints who had already come from the Flaming Empire to this state at this cultivation stage. But of the thousands of Spiritual Emperors who had reached the northern region more than two years ago, more than 150 of them had reached level 70.

Because of this, currently, the Black Plain Empire has almost 240 8th-stage cultivators distributed across this state!

As for the Spiritual Emperors of this state, apart from those who came from the Gray Clouds Sect, there were currently more than 10,000 in the entire Black Plain. Of these individuals, 730 were old soldiers of the Black Plain Army and 1,200 new soldiers who had joined the force in these months.

The total number of soldiers in the army had also jumped in this period, doubling in numbers to over 15 million men.

Many more spiritual professionals had joined this force than the number of such professionals that had existed there before this period, with all of them significantly advanced in this period. Because of these improvements, everyone there knew that they had the potential to keep improving, and that was the only alternative to facing any threat in their path.

"In any case, let's focus on what's closest to us and leave it to resolve these threats when they show themselves." Minos said as he looked at the damaged surroundings of his palace, feeling that he had caused more chaos than he had planned.

"But Your Majesty, in 2 months, there will be a meeting between sect masters in Payton. What do you intend to do? The imperial family will wish to see you there for sure." That elder next to Oswald and Patience said that.

"Hmm, that is true," Gloria commented. "You should also take the opportunity to finalize that matter with my family."

Minos heard this and said. "Hmm, I will go to the Flaming Empire to solve those problems after paying a visit to Vogel."

With those words, Minos dismissed those people, leaving his family in the imperial palace while following Oswald and the level 79 Spiritual Saint out of that city.

Oswald had already said what he should say to his family, and now it was time for him to leave for the Flowers Kingdom to try to fulfill his promise to the Edwardstone family's elders.

With that, soon, the three individuals were outside the security perimeter of Dry City, flying over the local airspace near one of the several local surveillance turtles.

"So you're really going to do this?" Minos questioned his grandfather one last time.

"Yes, I should at least try." He said as he clapped one of his hands on Minos' right shoulder. "Anyway, don't worry about your old man. I'll be fine. For someone my age, it's not as risky to go to that state as someone like you, hehe."

"Those women want young men with potential, like you, not like me. So I have my chances of getting a conversation going before they try to lure me into their games."

That level 79 Spiritual Saint next to grandfather and grandson knew that some of what Oswald was saying was not a lie, but that was obviously a way for this fellow to try to lessen Minos' worries. So he remained silent, feeling that this would be the last time he saw his former sect leader.

"Hmm, the tests aren't quick either. So maybe I will arrive in time to save you two..." Minos commented with a smile, even though he knew his grandfather was hiding part of the truth.

That man was stronger than him and had his own freedom. Besides, he had too many problems in mind to keep trying to stop Oswald from going ahead with this idea.

Hence, Minos no longer questioned him and let Oswald leave the Black Plain after a few more words.

Chapter 1473 Decisive Time

After seeing his grandfather departing, Minos returned to his government headquarters, intending to get on with some administrative matters before leaving for Vogel.

In the meantime, since he would be in Dry City for a few hours, perhaps a few days, he sent that high-level Spiritual Saint to the Spatial Kingdom.

Several other high-level elders from the Gray Clouds Sect were training there, while soldiers from the Elite Squad were around as usual.

Minos did not stay at that cultivation shrine and soon was at his imperial palace, with only Sarah there to accompany him since his wives were busy with other things.

Abby and Ruth were focused on cultivating to reach level 70 as soon as possible. As for Gloria, she went to settle matters of the Spiritual Church for her domain, the northern region.

The Spiritual Church arm for the northern region had grown recently because of the Black Plain Empire's support for these members, who were all part of Gloria's faction.

Due to this support, over 200 Spiritual Emperors emerged from these ranks. At the same time, the total number of Church members in the region had reached the 100,000 mark!

That was a higher number than the number of Church experts in the pre-ascension of the Black Plain, something that had never happened in recent years due to the death of experts from that organization.

Some outposts of that institution had suffered from the attacks of Abe's group and the cleansing by Gloria after the establishment of the Black Plain as an independent state.

As all the forces in the region had begun to receive people into their forces, the main one being the forces of Minos, the Church had faced difficulties in attracting people regionally in recent years.

Because of this, only now, with the post-defeat peace of the terrorists and the continued evolution of the Black Plain, had these posts gotten more recruits to increase their numbers to such an extent.

Because of this also, Gloria had more work and had to deal with even more subordinates in Dry City than before.

The Spiritual Church did not have a post in that city yet, because of the agreement Minos had signed with Gloria. But soon, the 20-year period that he had asked her to give would end, and she was already planning to establish a local post.

Because of this, she had little time to be at her husband's side in running the Empire, and only Sarah was at her father's side, watching how to run this state.

Sarah was already over 7, so she was well-behaved beside her father, sitting on the throne of one of her mothers, dressed in a long, white dress with blue details.

She had a smile on her face, happy because she had heard that her father had reached the 8th stage on this day.

She already understood this world's cultivation ranks and basics as she had been studying at the Dry City Preparatory Academy for over a year. As such, she understood her father's power more than ever and was immensely proud of him.

'In a few years, I will start cultivating as well... I wonder what my talent level will be. What about my Physique? Do I have a good innate ability?' She wondered, longing for her 10th birthday to come soon.

Meanwhile, Minos had no idea what was on his daughter's mind. He was just paying attention to the words of the soldier presenting a recent point regarding the local forces.

"... In addition to these army numbers, Your Majesty, the empire's core currently has about 5 million Spiritual Kings and 6,000 professionals available to vie for army slots."

"Every month, more Spiritual Kings come from the other states in the region, but also Albano and Rosser. So, soon, we will have to increase our numbers to keep the borders secure."

These two high-level states were the ones sending the most migrants to the Black Plain after those from the northern region. As for Blackrock and Vogel, the former did not border the empire, so fewer people from that place went to the state of Minos. As for the latter, this empire's territory lost a few of its inhabitants to the core of the Black Plain because it was already part of this state.

Some believed that with the strengthening of the Stuart family, Vogel would continue to be part of the empire, so they would not need to migrate to take advantage of opportunities.

And since the men of Minos did not count Vogel's numbers as part of the empire's numbers, in relation to these expert numbers, those Vogel inhabitants did not appear in the data cited.

In any case, the present Black Plain already had about 1.5 billion inhabitants, counting Vogel, excluding that state, over 700 million. On the other hand, the empire already had an average strength of level 50, still a bit below the average power of the Spiritual World.

In any case, the state of Minos was making strides towards becoming a high-level empire, similar to the Flaming Empire.

There was still a long way to go, of course, but considering that not long ago, this place did not even have Spiritual Emperors, and now it had thousands, the members of the local government were already predicting a step change in this state before long.

They already envisioned the day when the Black Plain Empire would surpass the Flaming Empire!

Minos also had this in mind, something he had even been using to compete with Isabella, his girlfriend in that state.

She was currently at level 73, having improved slightly in the last few years due to Minos' constant improvements.

She loved him and did not want to be left behind by him or his other women. Thus, she had been training hard to be able to at least maintain her advantage until the end of this stage.

As for her state's competition with Minos, Isabella did not have much to do about it. The Flaming Empire was already very close to its peak strength and did not have much to do to improve.

The Black Plain Empire, on the other hand, had a lot of room to improve, so even the heiress of that place felt that she had no chance against Minos' territory.

Luckily, they had a good relationship and would not have to worry about becoming enemies of Emperor Stuart.

Anyway, Minos continued in that place, being updated on some local matters, giving orders about where the Bank of the Black Plain crystals should go and sorting things out before his trip to Vogel.

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While Minos was working in Dry City, Mortimer had just opened his eyes to where he had spent the whole last year in seclusion.

After Gavin's eye transplant surgery, this man had regained his powers and had begun to get used to those powerful eyes.

In this instant, after a long time of trying to control them, he finally felt such an affinity that it allowed him, for the first time to have control over Gavin's visual abilities!

He looked at his fists and clenched them, smiling immensely, as he felt that his cultivation was at the limit of the 8th stage.

With that feeling, he muttered. "Time to try my breakthrough to the 9th stage!"

Chapter 1474 Situation In The Flaming Empire

While Mortimer was dealing with his affairs relevant to his advancement to the next stage, the imperial family in Payton was concerned about the situation in the Flaming Empire.

After years since the end of the war between the Gray Clouds Sect and the Saints Killing Sect, the Edwardstone family had never been more on alert about the situation of its state than it was now.

The absence of the Emperor weakened the state. And two of the eight most important local organizations were weakened.

At the same time, the enemies to the north were still at about the same strength as before these problems arose, looking in the direction of the empire with an arrogance rarely seen.

The once common fear of the empire was no longer seen as much by those three kingdoms. But, at the same time, this imperial family also had to worry about Minos.

Sometimes he acted as an ally, standing by Isabella's side and not reneging on his agreements with Harold. But other times, his attitudes seemed dangerous to the long-term integrity of the empire, something that made the elders in the imperial family think the worst.

As such, this family that had changed little in the last 20 months had worries about worries and were operating to the best of their ability not to lose the reins of the situation.

They remembered Minos' warning regarding Mortimer's plans all too well, so they were concerned about what this man would do next and whether he would succeed in his advance.

...

At the imperial palace in Payton, the supreme elder of the Edwardstone family was at this very moment with some subordinates, dealing with matters concerning the upcoming meeting of local leaders.

Like many powers of this world, this family held meetings between the leaders of vassal organizations every few decades to learn more about their state's situation.

Not only the number of experts, the flow of crystals, and resources, mattered to an imperial family. The emperor or state leader having the chance to talk to their vassals and allies to understand their motivations and current condition was also important.

Considering the times they lived in, these people from Isabella's family were more than ever interested in this meeting scheduled to take place in a few weeks.

"How is the situation of the leaders of the eight sects? Will they come to the meeting?" The supreme elder and current ruler of the empire asked a high-level Spiritual Saint standing in front of him.

That person looked thoughtfully at the old man sitting in front of him and said. "Supreme elder, Minos Stuart will most likely come. Now that he has taken over all of Oswald's duties, we don't expect him to miss such an important meeting."

"Hmm..." The old supreme elder nodded and muttered to himself. "But it's a shame that Oswald did that... Luckily he is still serving us and will try to intervene with those women on behalf of His Majesty."

'I hope he succeeds!'

That standing individual continued. "As for Mortimer, we do not know his whereabouts, nor do we have any relevant information about his presence at this meeting."

Mortimer was in a protected location, where only his sect knew and had access. Because of this, even the spies of the imperial family could not find this man.

In fact, if they had, they probably would have already eliminated this individual who was undeniably a danger to this family's sovereignty over the empire!

If Mortimer reached level 80, he would become the strongest in the state and would be strong enough to eliminate the main supporters of the Edwardstone family. If that happened, it would be a matter of time before that sect dominated the entire empire.

The imperial family wanted to avoid this at all costs. Still, unfortunately, they had no information regarding the location of this man.

As for the other members of the Saints Killing Sect, they could do nothing against these individuals. Besides having their own rules that would hinder them in the future if they used everything at their disposal, they knew that this sect did not negotiate and would rather let one of their own dies than lose something to an opponent.

As it was the sect master himself that they wanted, even if they devastated that organization, they would not get anything of relevance.

The only thing that mattered was Mortimer's location. Since they did not have that, nothing else mattered.

On the other hand, if they acted against the remaining elders of that organization, the empire would lose even more of its experts. The result of this would not be good either since the enemies to the north could dare to act at any moment!

As such, upon hearing that information, the supreme elder could not help but form an ugly expression on his face. 'That wretch! I hope he fails in his attempts and ends up dying!'

'That would be the best outcome for everyone.'

'But if he succeeds...'

Gulp!

"Very well, inform our men and main vassals of this situation. I want them to be prepared to act against Mortimer if he turns against the family." This elder said, making the other expert anxious, imagining the problematic situation they would have to face if the worst happened.

...

While these two were talking in the supreme elder's office, Isabella was dealing with minor matters in her father's work area.

Just as had happened with Minos, this woman would gradually have her responsibilities increased within the imperial family until she could assume her father's position. Until then, the supreme elder would be in charge of the main decisions while still being the local regent.

But amid her responsibilities, she was thinking about the things she talked about with Minos from time to time.

'It won't be long before he reaches the 8th stage. When that happens, it will only be a matter of a few months before he leaves for the Flowers Kingdom to resolve my father's situation.' She thought about this as she looked out the side window of her office.

Isabella did not like the idea of Minos taking risks with those women. But she feared much more for her father's life since she greatly trusted her man's abilities.

If even her father, who was not as talented as Minos, had managed to 'pass' the challenge of those women, then Isabella trusted that Emperor Stuart had a good chance of doing the same.

In this case, she judged that his attitude in getting involved in this problem would be the best for everyone and was looking forward to her father's return.

On the other hand, she had only seen him twice, the last time over six months ago, due to her and Minos' circumstances over the past two years. As such, this woman was eager to be with him again and fulfill her womanly wishes.

Unfortunately for her, she had not yet been able to get pregnant. But since she knew that he would undergo a Physique evolution soon, she was already imagining getting pregnant after their reunion.

'If luck is in my favor, in a few years, everything will be fine!'

'My father will be back, I will have a child with Minos, and the situation around my state will be resolved...' She closed her eyes and sighed before turning her attention back to organizing the meeting that would take place in a few weeks.

Chapter 1475 Arrival At Vogel

A week has passed since Minos' advance!

With his advance, the emperor quickly dealt with the bureaucratic affairs of his state that he had not been dealing with for some weeks due to his previous seclusion.

After finding out everything he needed to know, giving a few orders, and visiting the different areas of his state in the northern part of the Central Continent, Minos left for Vogel.

This time he had left his three wives in the Spatial Kingdom together with some elders from the Grey Clouds Sect and soldiers from the Elite Squad. And, of course, Emlyn and Kyla were also in that place, their home, where they had the responsibility of watching over the surroundings.

Sarah was also around since Minos would not leave his only daughter in Dry City when he would be so far away.

In any case, he quickly made his way to the Vogel capital via the teleportation ports between the core of his state and that southernmost territory of the empire.

And in this instant, the emperor, unaccompanied, had just arrived at the public teleportation port of the Vogel capital!

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After appearing alone in that place, the local guards in the surrounding area were promptly surprised when Minos appeared in the middle of the teleportation array area in a local square.

But as soon as they sensed his level, they all swallowed their saliva, knowing this was not a good sign.

Minos was already a monster at level 69 that almost no one in this territory could stand against. So now that he had gone through the quantitative and qualitative change of stage advancement, these low-level Spiritual Saints did not doubt how great his power would be now.

Gulp!

On that account, several of them took steps backward as they saw Emperor Stuart arriving at the central city of this territory.

"Your... Your Majesty!" A level 71 Spiritual Saint said this in astonishment after swallowing his saliva in awe. "To what do we owe your visit?"

"Uh?" Minos' eyes narrowed as he looked at the people in the surrounding area, most of them local guards but also some visitors who had just arrived on teleportation arrays.

He asked in a serious tone. "Is that the local way of receiving your sovereign? Is that the way you people behave?"

Those individuals realized their mistake and promptly bowed their heads and said simultaneously. "Welcome back, Your Majesty!"

When those words were spoken amid the noble gestures of those guards, the newcomers in that place, who did not know Minos personally, turned to him in surprise and bowed their heads as well.

'Minos is already at level 70? How is that possible? I heard he hasn't left Dry City for the past six months!'

'And at that time, he was still at level 69!' One of the newcomers thought about it silently as she hid her face with a veil, being hidden there since this was enemy territory.

But Minos' visual ability delivered the spiritual fluctuation of this person from the Flaming Empire, and he said to the guards there, "That's better... Anyway, arrest that woman over there. She's from the Holy Sect and shouldn't be here."

"What?" She exclaimed in surprise as she turned to Minos and felt as if this individual had betrayed her.

That was Naomi Banks, level 70, the daughter of a rival of Maisie's from the Holy Sect, whom Minos had met on his first stint in the Flaming Empire.

"An enemy?" The guards on the outskirts questioned as they looked in the direction of a woman in black clothing.

"Damn it, Minos!"

"Aren't we friends? Why are you getting in my way?" This woman asked as she started to run from there.

Minos then said. "You are mistaken, I am the sovereign of Vogel, and as far as I know, the Holy Sect is an enemy of this place. So I am only preventing an opponent from getting information from my territory."

"Tsk!"

"But you are a sect master of the Flaming Empire!"

"Not here." Minos laughed before ordering those guards. "Don't use vicious or deadly dangerous blows. Instead, arrest her and negotiate with the Holy Sect for her departure."

"Yes, Your Majesty!"

As those guards began a chase, Minos flew toward the local government headquarters, drawing the attention of everyone around this city since flying around was not allowed there.

"Look at that!"

"Isn't His Majesty Minos Stuart?" Citizens from various parts of the city looked at the emperor's trajectory, surprised to see this person flying through the local skies.

At the same time, Assembly guards and members of several local noble families noticed Minos' arrival and the significance of it all.

Everyone could sense his cultivation level, but they also knew he had not been to this place for many months. Thus, everyone immediately became worried and started either notifying their leaders or setting off in the direction of where Minos was going.

The headquarters of the Assembly!

'Damn it!'

'I thought he would take this situation in the dialogue after that... But was I wrong?' The leader of one of the strongest noble families in Vogel thought to himself as he flew towards the Assembly, intending to stop Minos.

"Your Majesty, no one is allowed to fly over the local skies. Please come down immediately, or we will have to act as if this is a test of our strength!" The first level 76 individual appeared beside Minos, along with half a dozen mid-level Spiritual Saints.

They knew that they could not simply attack Minos. But if they acted as if they understood this as a test on the sovereign's part, then they could not be vigorously punished for a simple mistake...

Minos noted that this was the method of these people acting against him without looking like traitors trying to act against the emperor. He then said. "Haha, this is really a test. I want to see if you guys can stop a threat of my level."

With those words spoken, Minos immediately activated Chaotic Gravity, making the people in his surroundings feel the difference between his level 69 and his current level 70.

When he activated this technique, smiling, the seven Spiritual Saints, people at levels 74, 75, and 76, were immediately pushed away as if they were cannonballs being repelled by something.

"Ahhhhhhhhhhhh!"

They shouted practically simultaneously, not expecting that Minos would be able to push them away from himself so easily.

'What? How is that possible?' The strongest of them wondered, feeling his bones aching from the sudden pressure he felt on his body.

Gulp!

'He took it easy!' His eyes opened wide. 'If he hadn't done that, he could have crushed and killed me with just a flick of his fingers!' This person exclaimed in his mind, feeling the worst was about to happen.

Now that Minos was so strong and was there, he felt that the families opposing the emperor would have no future other than subordination or annihilation!

When Minos left those individuals behind and saw that there were already local experts in front of the Assembly building waiting for him, he immediately activated his Soul Avatar before landing there.

Space and Time Avatar!

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Chapter 1476 The Test Of Minos

By the time Minos landed in front of the Assembly building, he had his Soul Avatar activated, with the projection of his soul onto the average height of the buildings on the sides of that area.

While he had his 8th technique already activated, the mid and low-level Spiritual Saints in the surrounding area, more than 40 individuals at this instant, had their eyes narrowed.

Everyone could already sense that Minos' 8th technique was not simple and that his powers had increased as he advanced to the 8th stage. Even more, he did not seem to have such peaceful intentions toward this place!

"Your Majesty, what is the meaning of this? Why do you show such aggressiveness against the Assembly?" One of the men opposed to Minos there, who had not been accepting his 'blessings' in recent years, asked this while circulating his energies to act any moment now.

The others there, all opponents of Minos within that house, were also on alert, preparing to fight.

They knew Minos' powers had improved, but none would give up trying or even testing their ruler.

He had grown stronger, but did that mean tens or hundreds of them could do nothing?

Absurd!

Minos could have done this with powers from the northern region. Still, unlike the people in that area, those individuals had good Silver-grade techniques and much more combat experience.

Minos realized that he would have to demonstrate his strength to take the reins of this place and answered that first individual's question. "Aggressiveness? No aggressiveness, I'm just willing to start training with my vassals..."

"Consider it a test!" He laughed, remembering what those seven individuals from moments ago had tried to use to act against him without appearing rebellious.

"A test?" Some of the more naive ones trembled in doubt if this was a test, while the smarter ones frowned, seeing the emperor's shameless attitude.

"Stop joking around, Your Majesty. We've never done anything of the sort, and we weren't even warned..."

"Never did?" Minos asked. "I do it from time to time in the core of my territory with soldiers from my army, but also with allies. As my vassals, you should expect that I would do this to you sooner or later!"

"In any case, this is a surprise test, so it is obvious that you would not be warned."

"Tsk!"

That person clenched his fists in anger at not being able to reason with Minos. But he thought that this way would not be so bad either. They would already have to face the emperor one way or another, so it was better to do it under the guise of a simulation since then they could get rid of some guilt more easily.

If they proved to be stronger than Minos, they could finish this guy off once and for all. If they were weaker, they would give up their positions so as not to be attacked in the future.

Hell, thinking about it, this was the best situation for them!

'He was already bribing the less prominent families in the state, so eventually, he would act against us anyway. Better now than in the future!'

But while some were thinking this way, one of the elders there looked at Minos and understood this fellow's move. 'Does he want to give us a chance? Maybe he's doing this to justify not having to kill anyone and weaken his territory?'

'Sigh...'

'Great move... That is, as long as he can win.' This level 76 fellow thought as he cautiously looked at Minos' avatar and felt his beard shaking with the winds in the area.

At that moment, more Spiritual Saints arrived in the area, including those Minos had thrown away earlier.

"Fellows, His Majesty is too powerful. You better not underestimate him." One of those individuals said to the elders of his family already in that place.

Not all of the Spiritual Saints of Vogel or the noble families of that area were in that city. After all, those powers had ranks all over that territory.

Hence, although there were more than 600 Spiritual Saints in the local noble families, a fraction of them, just over 150, were in the capital of Vogel at the present moment. So only those individuals were standing there in front of Minos when the last of them arrived.

At the same time, the representatives of the Assembly, young Spiritual Emperors, were retreating from that area in fear of what might happen there.

'What is this bastard doing?' The former president of that house wondered, remembering that he had not only lost his position during those two days of Minos' stay in this city previously but permanently lost his post.

After the revelations of what he had done together with the directors of the Assembly, they all lost their seats and were then replaced by new representatives.

Since this man felt that he would go bad whenever Minos was around, he could not help but make an ugly expression as he saw the local sovereign pointing one of his fingers to the sky.

"Let's fight up there." Minos said aloud before flying in that direction, preparing to fight all the Spiritual Saints there, including his allies.

To make this look like a test, he had to do this. At the same time, Minos' allies in this Assembly were not as loyal to him as the allies on Stone Island, for example. They needed history with him and reasons to respect and be as loyal to him as those powers in the state of Elen.

With that in mind, Minos also wanted to use this opportunity to reinforce these people's interests in staying in the same boat as him and not thinking about dangerous things.

These people were surprised to notice that he seemed interested in fighting them all and soon understood that he wanted to show them how right they were to be on his side.

Then, everyone who was there to represent noble families flew to an altitude of 5 kilometers above the Assembly building, where they could fight without much trouble.

The Spiritual Emperors of that institution also flew to higher positions to watch this event from favorable positions, fearful but also looking forward to this battle.

In fact, this battle had such great potential that all the Spiritual Saints in that city had their attention turned to that area above the Assembly building.

That was true from the experts in the Church temple to the members of local bourgeois families, from where the experts in this city soon left to see the battle up close.

With that, before the fight that would decide Vogel's fate even began, more than a thousand people, all above level 68, were floating in the surrounding area to watch Minos and the local leaders.

Minos saw this and opened his arms to show those 150 opponents to take the opportunity to start this 'test.'

Since this was the traditional attitude of the strongest being, the local leaders there immediately frowned, feeling humiliated by Minos.

'Not only does he challenge us, but he acts as if he is stronger than all of us?' The leader of the Guzman family thought about this while her beautiful face contorted.

...

Chapter 1477 The Battle Of 150 Vs 1

Immediately after Minos' words, 150 Soul Avatars appeared in that area, causing the spiritual energy in the surrounding area to become chaotic.

Much of the 'mass' of energy in the vicinity began to move towards them, as their soul projections attracted it to use in their techniques.

They then moved to surround Emperor Stuart, intending to impede his escape routes and improve their chances of victory.

Minos' enemies were doing this to try to achieve the possibility of killing him, as his allies did it because they wanted to avoid suffering without at least defending themselves.

And so, soon, several Soul Avatars were moving in to launch techniques against Minos while he stood with his arms open, watching them.

Suddenly, Minos smiled and simultaneously activated the Devouring Art and his innate ability, sucking the powers of his opponents.

These people could not compare to Oswald, who had a massive level 79 cultivation and was not that far from the peak of this stage. Moreover, due to the Gray Clouds Sect and Minos, that fellow had 4 Golden-grade and 4 Silver-grade techniques.

As for the people around Minos, those stronger ones had, at most, Silver-grade techniques.

The weakest, low-level Spiritual Saints, subordinates of noble families, did not even have that. They were people with Black-grade techniques and, at most, Silver-grade.

With that, even the difference between the strongest of them and Minos' grandfather was more than almost 200%, and they did not have as many protections against Emperor Stuart as that old fellow from the Gray Clouds Sect.

Thus, as if in a nightmare, several enemies of Minos among those people, and even some of his allies, felt their cultivation levels decreasing. At the same time, everyone lost their energies to his Devouring Art.

"What? my cultivation has decreased to level 73!" Someone lost focus on Minos and cried out in concern as he noticed that not only were his energies being sucked away by the black ring that appeared around his body.

Everyone on the battlefield opened their eyes wide and paled when they noticed the same thing happening to several of them.

Minos could not do that to many people. Still, he managed to use this ability on more than 10 Spiritual Saints, making several of them worry terribly about it.

But the most shocked in the area were not those who had felt their levels decreasing, but those seeing Minos reaching level 72 after only a few breaths!

Gulp!

"No way!" One of the local leaders shouted upon sensing this.

At that moment, the feeling of being within range of Minos' avatar increased, and everyone in the surrounding area, even those just watching, shivered.

"How can that be? What kind of ability is that?" The Spiritual Church leader for this territory wondered, feeling that under these circumstances, Minos would not lose even if there was someone at level 79 to stop him.

'Hmm, it's nice to have so many people weaker than me and susceptible to me in the area...' Minos smiled, knowing that he had only accomplished such a thing because most of those people had no resistance to his ability whatsoever.

But he could not help but lament the limits of his own ability. 'Although good, this is the most I can do with my current cultivation. I can't steal more people's cultivation, and even if I could, I wouldn't be able to increase my own.'

'I could at most distribute those forces to my allies, but now I don't have anyone with me...'

And with that, amid the terror of those people, Minos activated his other abilities to show them why they should fear him.

Chaotic Gravity!

In one part of his domain, Minos made the gravity in the surroundings suddenly increase, breaking the bones and crushing the most fragile organs of those people.

Spiritual Saints could recover from physical damage easily as long as the attack did not seriously injure the part of the soul responsible for it.

Since Minos had no killing intent at this point, he only destroyed parts of those individuals' bodies without destroying parts of their souls.

But even that hurt quite a bit and diminished the fighting abilities of whatever the cultivators were.

Even if a Spiritual Saint could recover, for example, an arm lost in battle, that did not mean they would be able to fight as proficiently as they would in normal situations after losing an arm. That is, they would feel pain, be unfocused, and be unable to regenerate such a body part in time to continue fighting. Then their strength would decrease, and they would become weaker until they recovered.

So when Minos acted against some of those people, they immediately began to scream in pain, with some even plummeting from the sky.

Minos then looked at another group in the area, and his eyes flashed in rainbow colors.

Infinite Dream!

Immediately after shooting in the direction of that group, the avatars about to attack Minos missed their blows, as these people fell into the realistic illusion that would trap them for the next few days.

"Damn it!"

"How can this be happening?" The Matriarch of the Guzman family wondered as she sweated coldly, already feeling quite tired due to the Devouring Art sucking her strength away.

With Minos temporarily at level 72, his ability to absorb the energies of his opponents had improved, and even level 76 individuals were losing their energy quickly.

That was the case with that woman who had just launched an attack in Minos' direction.

Minos saw a huge spear approaching his chest and sensed the woman's murderous intent. But he did not do much to counteract it. Instead, he just activated his defensive technique, causing a protective layer to appear around his avatar.

Indestructible body!

After a millisecond, that person's spiritual weapon struck the left chest of Minos' avatar, causing all observers in the area to look on in amazement.

When such a weapon struck the chest of the golden Soul Avatar of Minos, many thought he would suffer a little. But the truth shocked everyone when such a weapon touched that projection and simply reflected in the opposite direction, flying away without scratching its target's 'skin.'

"Very weak." Minos said for everyone to hear him, showing those people that not even attacking with large parts of the strength of one of the strongest in this territory could harm him.

But with this attack, he decided to get a little more aggressive to show these people what they might have to deal with if they exceeded his limits.

"Let me show you what a strong attack is..."

Chaotic Gravity: Meteors of Destruction!

Minos linked his two hands together and pressed them against each other, causing the energy in his surroundings to track through the body of his soul projection and then condensing several black spots of energy in his surroundings.

When he did this, the ground kilometers below him began to crack, frightening tens of thousands of inhabitants of that city.

Then, in the blink of an eye, several pieces of houses and buildings flew towards the dark balls of energy, starting to form several giant meteors.

Then Minos opened his hands and made these things fly in different directions!

"Oh, shit..."

Chapter 1478 End Of Exercise

The meteors created by Minos shot out from his surroundings in different directions, heading toward where most of those Spiritual Saints facing him were.

However, such an attack was so powerful that the moment it was launched, the Spiritual Saints who were watching the fight and some of the boldest Spiritual Emperors had to circulate their forces and protect themselves.

The meteors had been focused on the experts of the local noble families. But due to their speed and size, they would hardly not create several fragments that would scatter beyond the interest of Minos.

Since a fragment of it could already kill low-level Spiritual Saints, the spectators were frightened almost as much as the individuals there to face Minos.

But those last ones were the most desperate individuals!

'Shit!' The leader of the Guzman family saw one of those clusters of rocks coming in the direction where she and other experts were so fast that they could only wail and try to protect their bodies.

Each meteor launched by Minos was as giant as a 10-meter radius sphere. And they all flew at the speed of sound, a speed that none of those people could keep up with!

Because of this, in the blink of an eye, Minos' new 7th technique ability devastated the opponents in his surroundings, seriously injuring the bodies of more than 70 of them in this single movement of his.

Some had their bodies practically crushed because they were too weak to withstand the shock of it. But others, especially the local leaders hit, suffered trauma all over their fleshy bodies as their avatars disappeared.

"Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!"

"Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!"

Shouts spread through the area as only a little over 30 people remained to face Minos.

These people, who were already quite tired from having lost parts of their energy to him, were motionless without knowing what to do in this situation.

Of the 150 of them, more than 70% had fallen in less than 2 minutes of combat, but even so, all this loss was for nothing since Minos was in his best fighting condition!

So when he said what a powerful attack that was, those remaining people felt like giving up and not suffering unnecessarily.

Minos was much stronger than them, and there was no hope for this day. If he wanted to kill them, then they would all die.

Hell, the most powerful people there felt that even if all their Spiritual Saints were there, Minos would still not be defeated!

With that thought, those still conscious individuals could not help but sigh as they realized they would have no choice but to accept Minos as their supreme ruler.

That had only been a 'test' to show them they had much more to lose by standing against Minos than they thought. So quickly, the cleverest among the emperor's rivals gave up their pretensions against the empire.

Meanwhile, Minos' allies realized how right they were to take advantage of the opportunities given by the local sovereign.

'This is good. With His Majesty being so powerful, the safety of Vogel will be guaranteed, and our families will not be threatened by the risk of a civil war or being abused by the greater powers.' One ally thought as he looked toward the enemy leaders suffering on the outskirts.

Meanwhile, Minos looked at the remaining group of people and acted again to finish this 'training.'

Indestructible Body!

He used his defensive technique to strengthen his Soul Avatar while using the spiritual body of his soul projection to attack in the direction of his opponents.

Because Minos was so fast and those people were frozen in terror, he was soon beside them, kicking and punching at his opponents.

Minos' punches at this instant were so strong that they could knock out even level 79 Spiritual Saints with techniques similar to those people. So with just one blow to each of those people, he knocked them unconscious!

At this rate, in just 4 minutes of combat, all the Spiritual Saints who had stood against Minos in this 'test' fell unconscious on top of the Assembly building.

At this moment, when Minos came down from the altitude at which he was fighting, accompanied by the battle spectators, they came upon a devastated Vogel capital center.

Tens of thousands of inhabitants were in the streets, seeing the tops of several buildings and houses destroyed due to the technique, Chaotic Gravity.

At the same time, the bloodied bodies of local leaders were scattered around the outskirts, many of them on top of the Assembly, forming a war scene there.

Plumbing was visible in some destroyed streets, with water and sewage gushing into the surroundings.

Meanwhile, most of the people in the area were looking in the direction of Minos, noticing the one responsible for all the chaos in the central part of this city.

Minos saw this and said to the citizens in the area. "Citizens of Vogel, do not worry about local destruction. The empire government will repair all damage to the local infrastructure. As for the injured, report to the local Black Plain Army post. You will all be treated and rewarded for your suffering."

No one died since Minos' technique was not so strong as to attract pieces of buildings 5 kilometers away at high speed. So when the first buildings began to be damaged, the local inhabitants escaped almost unhurt.

Some had suffered a little more due to their own weakness but had not suffered severe damage to be at risk of death.

Minos could sense this with his soul sense and promptly made that promise that would be easy for his forces to fulfill.

He then looked at the local Spiritual Saints, unrelated to the noble families, and said. "My friends from Vogel, that was just an exercise to test the local defenses. Now that I have realized the vulnerabilities of this city, I will work with the Assembly to strengthen the defenses of the territory!"

Those people knew that Minos was not speaking so sincerely. However, they believed he would indeed care about strengthening the local defenses. But his purpose there was undeniable to correct the attitudes of the local leaders toward the imperial family and ensure his sovereignty over Vogel.

But no one would say anything about this out loud, and everyone soon began to show gestures of gratitude and appreciation for Minos' commitment to Vogel.

With that, as the Assembly representatives rescued the Spiritual Saints injured by Minos, some of the few individuals among them who were not doing so approached him in silence, seeing that he wanted to say something.

"Your Majesty?" The current president of this house said in a low voice.

Minos then spoke. "That was all I had to deal with you today. So I will leave now."

"Uh?" Those people were surprised at that.

"I hope to receive the situation of your elders regarding their positions after this exercise..." He suggestively said. "If they can't get into a good formation soon, they will have to suffer a lot in case some opponent of my level shows up to threaten them."

Gulp!

With those words, Minos set off in the direction of his army post, where he would continue his journey to Rosser!

Chapter 1479 Visit To Rosser

Two hours after Minos' departure...

The Spiritual Saints who had suffered from the previous 'test' had already awakened from their unconscious states and started the treatment of their bodies.

The weakest of them would need a few weeks to fully recover and have to rest for at least a few days. But the leaders of local organizations, people at levels 75 and 76, could do this more quickly. Their injuries had not been as severe, and they recovered faster anyway.

So the strongest in this state were already gathered in the Assembly, along with reinforcements that had arrived in the last few minutes, ready to discuss their positions.

Not all were together in one group. On the contrary, these people were divided among several interest groups. Still, they were all in that building, discussing the same subject.

Surrender to Minos!

Among these groups, one of the three largest local noble families was in a luxurious room in one corner of that building, with those involved in the battle lying down with bandages on their bodies.

At the same time, the newly arrived reinforcements were standing or sitting on the outskirts with worried expressions on their faces.

They had never seen their leaders so severely wounded before!

But luckily, no one was in danger of death, and they would just have to hold their wounded states for a few days until they regained their full strength.

"Minos did all this by himself?" One of the newcomers asked, shocked at all he had heard so far.

"Yes, the wretch is a monster! He can temporarily steal the energies of his opponents but also part of his rivals' cultivation base!" Someone who had seen one of his subordinates goes from level 74 to 73 and then back to the previous level after Minos left said this to everyone while enduring the pain in his body.

The leader of the Guzman family clenched her fists and ignored the pain in her many bones that had broken from the meteor that hit her. "He's a demon. If he wanted to, he could have destroyed everyone in this city in the blink of an eye..."

"He didn't even use any of his fusions."

"But he couldn't even, after all our agreements with him, prevent him from doing that from these devices against us..." One of them was saying but was interrupted.

"That doesn't matter!" That woman spoke in a louder tone. "The fact is that he wasn't using everything he had, and he still destroyed us!"

"So what do we do now? If that's true, there's no hope against him! He's already as bad as that damned Harold!" One of the newcomers shouted angrily, not liking the situation at all.

"What alternative do we have, other than surrender? That's all we can do now..." An old fellow wailed as he felt his leg slowly growing back.

...

Meanwhile, in another Assembly meeting room...

In this place, the injured people had fewer injuries than those in the other room, and some even stood while talking.

"We made the right choice."

"Minos not only gives us an opportunity for resources, but he is also much stronger than the entire Vogel royal family in their prime. So he can ensure the state's security while we give him more powers without losing much in return."

"Not a bad deal..."

"Yes, and since we served one, we can't question serving another!" One of the newcomers commented to his injured elders soon after finding out about the sovereign's deeds.

One of the injured men then said. "Yes, we were already on his side, so this just showed us how right we were. From now on, we can enjoy the fact that we sided with the Stuart family before all this happened."

"I just wonder what will be left for those high-level families..." One of them laughed as he felt the blood rise up his throat from his unnecessary movement.

...

Before the news of what happened in Vogel even spread, Minos was already in the capital of the neighboring kingdom, Rosser!

The Black Plain Army had a post on the border between Cromwell's territory and that kingdom, from where someone at Minos' level could quickly reach Rosser's capital with a few hours of flight.

So, upon leaving the capital of Vogel, Minos had used his army's posts in that city and on that border with Cromwell to teleport himself to the vicinity of Rosser's capital, where he was at the moment.

With only three and a half hours since his victory against the elders of the Vogel noble organizations, the news had not even spread to the entire Vogel territory. So the friendly kingdoms of the noble families in that area were still in the dark about Minos' actions.

Hence, when he showed himself in this city, no one understood what Minos was doing there, and many even ignored him.

Not everyone in this city knew him, and as much as he was the leader of an enemy organization, the Gray Clouds Sect, he was also a partner of this state. So even those capable of recognizing him, local guards, did not despair at seeing his arrival through the local skies.

Since Minos had no reason to show hostility to the people of this kingdom, as the local royal family itself was already on his side in the matter of Vogel, he followed the local rules and did not fly through the skies of that city.

Minos just followed some of the guards he met on his way and asked for directions to the royal palace, where he wanted to meet the queen.

With that, in the blink of an eye, he arrived at that place where the prominent local experts were already together with the queen, with serious expressions due to the information of Minos' advance.

While some guards had directed Emperor Stuart there, others had notified the local command core about his new level.

As they faced him, these people were already aware that Minos was now one of them, a Spiritual Saint!

'Hmm, he seems very confident...' One of the queen's closest, level 76, thought about this while standing next to this woman, level 77.

On the other hand, this woman smiled at Minos and greeted him. "Your Majesty, to what do we owe the visit? I must say I am a little surprised by your arrival... If I had known, I would have prepared my house better to receive you."

Minos nodded, smiling at that woman, and commented. "Your Majesty is very courteous. There is no need for further preparation. I am here only for a brief conversation."

"Oh? And what is this about?" She asked.

"I have just visited Vogel and defeated 150 of the Assembly elders. Starting today, things in that territory will change, so as my allies, I am here to talk about it with you." He got straight to the point. "Does that bother you in any way?"

"What?"

"You defeated 150 elders?"

"How can that be? Why?"

The elders in the surrounding area muttered their doubts, not quite understanding how all this had happened but sure that some tragedy had occurred to their neighbors.

The queen lost her smile, turning a little pale at the thought that Minos had defeated elders almost as strong as she was. "Is that true? Did you fight them?"

...

Chapter 1480 Visitors

"Yes, I fought." Minos walked around the surroundings as he observed the decorations of this royal palace. "I realized that I had reached a good level to test the defenses of my state with a surprise military exercise. So I fought with the elders in that city and saw how troublesome it will be to solve the local problems..."

"The way they are, they have no capabilities to stop a high-level Spiritual Saint capable of fighting large numbers of opponents." He said as the people there interpreted this as him exposing his current level of power, in a sense, threatening them without saying the proper words.

'Are you saying that if we stand against you, we won't have anything to do either?' One of the elders there considered, feeling a little bad about the situation.

Luckily, the royal family was determined to side with Minos and leave those Vogel powers to their own luck.

With that, at least they would not have to worry about suffering the same as those Vogel powers!

"So that's it?" The queen asked. "Vassals are a problem. We have to train them hard, or they get soft and become like that... Sigh, you are right in your intentions, Your Majesty."

The other people in the surrounding area nodded while Minos continued with his neutral expression, pleased that these allies would continue on his side. "Hmm, it's good that you people understand me. Anyway, with the changes that will happen in Vogel soon, I hope to improve the Empire and Rosser's negotiations with the cooperation of the Assembly."

"I think the same way." The queen said, figuring that she could benefit from negotiating Vogel resources directly with Dry City.

Then, they talked more in another area of the royal palace, negotiating some issues relevant to their states and even specific resources.

But at no time did the people in the queen's group attempt to probe Minos' power. Besides the fact that they were already aware that news of what happened in Vogel would spread and they could find out such a thing through this, they did not want to test this guy.

It was a little hard to believe that he had faced so many from Vogel and won, but it was not unbelievable. After all, it was Minos they were talking about!

And so, everything would go smoothly for him in his stay in Rosser's capital city, where he would stay for more than a day before leaving for Albano.

...

Meanwhile, in the central area of the Black Plain Empire...

Regina, level 67, was at this very moment flying towards Dry City after returning from an encounter with a local mercenary she had hired.

This woman had joined the forces of Minos and asked this fellow to take revenge on the elf who had killed her past passion. But the emperor had refused to help at the time, promising her that she would be able to get her revenge on her own.

After several years in Dry City, she had finally reached the level and financial power necessary to go on a quest for her revenge!

Thus, she had hired a mercenary from one of the Empire guilds, those institutions where people not associated with powerful families could post or do missions.

There were already high-level Spiritual Emperors working as mercenaries in some guilds around the Black Plain Empire, and Regina had hired just one of them.

She was already at level 67, so as a poison master, paying someone like that was not expensive for her!

Anyway, after having her first encounter with that mercenary who was going to get the head of that elf for her, she had a serious expression as she returned to her duties in Dry City.

"Sigh..."

"I'm finally getting my revenge, Angela." She thought of her friend killed during Abe's main attack on Dry City, who had been her bodyguard for a long time before she met Minos.

'If you were here, we'd have a drink today...!' She closed her eyes momentarily and felt her eyes grow moist.

Unfortunately, she could do nothing but go and visit her friend's grave in the Dry City Mausoleum.

With this in mind, she decided to go to such a place after buying a drink she usually had with Angela.

But as she was starting to decrease the altitude of her flight to land in one of the satellite cities of Dry City, she was suddenly surprised by some Spiritual Saint.

"Girl, can you tell us where Dry City is?" A voice of a woman who seemed younger than Regina but who actually had a few millennia more years of experience than she reached that poison master's ears.

She immediately left her contemplative state and looked at that level 79 Spiritual Saint, who two other individuals, also from this level, accompanied her.

Regina realized that they were not from the Gray Clouds Sect and asked. "Your Excellency, may I ask your purpose in going to Dry City?"

This poison master was dressed in one of the local army uniforms, so those people readily identified her as one of Minos' soldiers. Then as the other two looked at her, the woman said. "We are searching for an item that one of our members lost in this region."

"An item?" Regina frowned her eyebrows.

"Yes, we have been searching for it for some time, but we have not been successful. However, now that the Black Plain Empire is at peace and expanding towards the rest of the northern region, we believe that your state can help us."

"Of course, we will pay for it."

The local government had already begun talks with the Spiritual Church for it to absorb more northern region states into the empire.

The governments of those kingdoms wanted this, and Minos had already left orders for the bureaucratic processes to be sorted out with the Church since the Black Plain could now absorb them.

These people knew this, which is why they were there.

'Do they know that we have started absorbing the northern states?' Regina wondered. 'How? It's less than a week since Matriarch Frost started the talks with the Church!'

But then this woman smiled and asked. "Where do you people come from? From the Church?"

The three laughed before one of the two men commented. "We don't come from the Church, although we have heard about the Black Plain from them..."

"Hmm, I thought that was a lie... But who knew? The Black Plain recovered its spiritual root, and now this place has as much energy as the best places in the Flaming Empire." The other said, causing that woman to nod.

"Perhaps the local energy levels will continue to grow and become equal to those of the Evergreen Empire..." She murmured as she felt the spiritual density in the surroundings.

The recovery of Dry City's spirit root was coming to an end. Therefore, even Spiritual Saints could already live in this area without it becoming a problem for their cultivation.

Regina knew that since the army expected the local spiritual energy to keep increasing for another 5 or 6 years, so she simply ignored these people's comments.

However, she could not ignore it when one of them showed her the symbol of an organization marked as an enemy of the Black Plain!

'Blood Triangle Pirates...'