

Black Plain 1491

Chapter 1491 Visits

After the battle with the high-level Spiritual Saints of the Gray Clouds Sect, Minos made his way to the sect's headquarters. At the same time, the subordinates of the 15 individuals who had 'fought' went to help them.

The many observers who had followed this battle stood watching in his direction, feeling reverence for this level 70 person who had achieved such combat prowess.

One of them was the large level 76 beast that was already flying behind Minos, heading for that large area of the sect, with many spaces for a creature of its size.

"Master, what are we going to do now?" He asked Minos.

"I will stay here for the next few days to settle some matters I have in this place, and then I will travel to the capital of this state." He said, flying beside that dark green leather creature.

Meanwhile, the patriarch of the Terry family and two other level 78 elders looked at Minos with impressed looks, remembering how this young man had introduced himself to them years ago.

"He did what he said he could do after reaching the 8th stage." One of them said, sighing for not taking that young man's words seriously at the time but satisfied with where he was.

With Minos there, soon, some of their weaker ones could go to the Black Plain with the shift change that Emperor Stuart would soon make.

Several of the Spiritual Saints in the Spatial Kingdom could be used for the exchange that Minos had negotiated with the imperial family. Then another batch of experts in that post could be sent to the Black Plain in the coming days.

At the same time, while Minos was in the Flaming Empire, the strongest, who had not yet gone to the Black Plain Empire and could not leave now, could at least get to know such a region of space.

As such, even Patriarch Terry, who would have to wait for someone level 78 Spiritual Saint to return from the Black Plain before he could leave, was eager to recover from his injuries and go to the Spatial Kingdom.

"Let's soon return to headquarters. The sooner we recover from our injuries, the sooner we can enjoy some of the Cultivation Sanctuary!"

Thus, the Spiritual Saints of this organization, those who knew about the Spatial Kingdom in this post, left a few minutes after Minos went to that central area of the sect.

Meanwhile, the few remaining observers in the area, slowly leaving the area, were going to report what they had seen to their respective leaders!

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Two days later...

Upon settling into the headquarters of the Gray Clouds Sect, Minos had attended a few festive occasions in the noble families of that organization, having met the elders he had yet to meet.

After the start of that sect's operations in the Black Plain Empire, Minos had made that organization cut back as much as possible on activities unrelated to his focus, his state.

Because of this, people from this organization, previously in service around the empire and even other states, had returned to the sect's territory or were in the Black Plain.

With that, those elders that were left for Minos to meet were over there, and all of them did not miss the opportunity to greet him and wish Emperor Stuart good and long-ago rule.

As he finished getting to know the core of this organization, Minos continued his work as its leader directly from this place, continuing with the sale of properties and rights that the sect had in the empire.

As in any state, every power with sovereignty over populations and territories had exploitation rights assigned by the sovereign.

In ordinary times, these rights were competed for by every kind of power with the capacity to absorb them and bear the brunt of necessary investments.

But since Minos did not want a Grey Clouds Sect that was too 'heavy' but rather free of commitments not connected to the Black Plain Empire, he was selling those rights and responsibilities of that organization.

That was not a quick and easy job, so even considering the months since he had started, there was much left to be disengaged from the sect, and he was continuing his work relative to that.

While doing this work, he found time to bring from the Spatial Kingdom three elders who had advanced after months by his side. With these individuals, he picked up several lower-level experts and brought them to that region of space, who would stay with him until he returned to the Black Plain.

On the other hand, those high-level elders who could not yet leave for the state of Minos, but had already recovered from the injuries of the previous battle, had the chance to get to know this place.

They were already there, cultivating and training their techniques more out of curiosity since Minos would be leaving soon, and the benefits they could have in this period would be almost nil.

Anyway, in the midst of this, important people from different parts of the Flaming Empire began to arrive at the 'core' of the Grey Clouds Sect.

News was flying fast in this state, so in the blink of an eye, all the leaders of the most important organizations were already aware of Minos' presence in the empire and his previous training!

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In the main building of the Grey Clouds Sect, Minos was in a large hall typically used by elders to receive high-profile visitors, where they could have a less formal environment to have conversations.

There, Minos was standing next to the level 79 elder who was representing him earlier and several sect guards while the visitors were in the surrounding area.

Among the visitors, the patriarchs of more than 30 noble families of this state and the masters of 11 sects were there, including three masters of three of the eight great sects of the Flaming Empire.

Everyone had heard how strong Minos had become, and upon hearing that he was in Clouds City, they rushed to try to talk to this fellow but also to do business.

Even if he was not powerful, Minos had many things that these people wanted. But he was a cultivation monster, and so it was even more imperative for these people to establish relations with him.

So they were standing around, talking to each other around the various tables in that area. At the same time, little by little, Minos and the elder of the Coleman family approached them.

Minos came to the side of the table where some members of the Holy Sect were with their sect master, and Maisie's former rival, Sibley, was standing next to her daughter.

Naomi had been arrested weeks ago in Vogel, but her sect had already negotiated her release. After that, when she found out that Minos was in this place, this level 70 woman made it a point to come to this place at her mother's side.

"Minos, I can't believe what you put me through!" She said before her sect master even said anything. "Do you know how many days I was in the hands of those people? Gee, I thought we were friends."

The people around her table looked at her strangely while the sect master coughed.

"Cough! Cough!"

Minos laughed and said. "Don't take this the wrong way, but that day, we were opponents."

"Not today."

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Chapter 1492 Relevant Points

After Minos' words, Naomi tried to say something. Still, she was soon stopped by her mother, who was already watching their sect master watching her daughter strangely.

"Be quiet, Naomi." Sibley said in a low voice as the old subject leader of the Holy Sect diverted his gaze from her to look at Minos.

"Sect Master Stuart, congratulations on your advancement to the 8th stage. From now on, the possibilities in front of you will be endless." He said with a smile on his face, greeting Minos once again.

"Hmm, thanks for the words." He smiled back before saying. "On my return to the northern region, I will make it a point to visit your sect. When I return, I want to stop by Vogel to find out what the Assembly people are up to..."

"That's certainly a good idea... With what's happened, I'm sure many changes will occur." The level 79 Holy Sect master commented before moving on to the matter he wanted to address there. "In any case, I know that you have been negotiating rights and properties of the Gray Clouds Sect... Could I know the reason for that? Or is it a secret?"

Minos then said. "Not at all. It's not a secret. I'm just changing the power structure in the sect to make it fit your new priorities."

"Oh? Is that true?" That man asked, as the people in the vicinity of his table silently watched these people talking, interested in this question.

That was so important that the people at that table and everyone in that hall listened intently to what Minos and the Holy Sect master were talking about.

Spiritual Saints had a great hearing, and given that many there did not know about Minos' plans, his moves with this sect were strange and were getting everyone's attention.

So when Minos continued speaking, the silence was present at most of the tables in that area.

"Yes, the current focus of the sect is the Black Plain Empire. So any activities not related to that are being left aside."

"The Black Plain?" That man and some level 79 cultivators there were wondering the same thing.

"So you intend to take the Gray Clouds Sect out of the Flaming Empire? I feel like it won't be easy..." That man in front of Minos said, feeling that it was actually impossible to do this peacefully.

However, he and the other leaders there did not doubt Minos at all. Not for his recent deeds in Vogel and then with the elders of this sect. But for what had been happening recently with the strength of this organization.

All the major powers of the Flaming Empire were monitoring the movements of the most powerful organizations in the state. So, in addition to these powers already noticing that the number of members of the Gray Clouds Sect in the Black Plain kept increasing, they had noticed that the strength in this city had increased rather than decreased.

For thousands of years, this organization usually had only one Spiritual Saint at level 79 in its command, with rarely more than one appearing in the same generation. In fact, the most common thing to happen for a long time in this organization had been that there were no individuals at this level.

As in the recent past, for several centuries, Oswald had led this organization from levels 77 to 78.

But recently, after the ascension of Minos as sect master, suddenly, an elder who no one had expected to reach that level so soon had achieved his advancement to level 79.

That had surprised many in the Flaming Empire!

But besides the case of this elder from House Coleman next to Minos, several cultivators who had spent time on the Black Plain had returned stronger from that place. It was as if such a part of the northern region was actually superior to one of the best places in the Flaming Empire, that region where the sect was located.

Considering this, it was not impossible for Minos to go out of his way to take this organization out of the empire!

Minos then answered that sect master's question. "Not entirely. I will only extend my territories to that remote point while keeping the main forces at the core of the Black Plain Empire."

He looked at the surroundings, gradually glancing toward the other important people there. "In any case, I already have an agreement with the imperial family, so you can all be assured about the legality of my movements and the negotiations I am making."

'Why would the imperial family accept that? He's stealing power from the empire!'

Several people there wondered the same thing, ignorant of Minos' promises to the Edwardstone family.

Minos had promised stronger experts in exchange for the weaker ones from the Grey Clouds Sect. In practice, this would slowly unbalance the number of sect members between this territory and the Black Plain Empire.

At first, the ratio was 1:1, but the point would come when it would be 99:1, or even something even more favorable for the Black Plain.

However, in order to get all the 8th-stage experts from that sect out of the Flaming Empire, for example, Minos would have to put some Spiritual Sages in that place.

In return, these 9th-stage people, who would eventually allow all the other sect members to live in the northern region or wherever, would have to obey the imperial family.

That is, in the absence of Minos or his family, these men would have to obey the orders of the imperial family if such orders were not against the rules of House Stuart.

That was quite a trade-off!

The Edwardstone family had at most one Spiritual Sage per generation throughout their history. Still, Minos had made a deal that could guarantee that such an organization would command some individuals at that level.

Because of this, Isabella's family accepted his proposal, even if the supreme elder and the other high-level individuals in that family did not believe that Minos would succeed.

Those people in that hall of the Gray Cloud Sect did not know this, so they wondered why the imperial family would accept this or if Minos was not acting according to the rules.

Meanwhile, Minos continued greeting the people in that place, answering more questions, and also taking care of business.

Some there were members of rising powers, so they were not so concerned about whether Minos' moves were illegal or not. Instead, they wanted to know how much they would need to get some sect rights and properties from this emperor.

"Sect Master Stuart, I am interested in the core territories of your..." Minos listened to yet another offer, promptly making his subordinates in the vicinity take notes of those interested and listing those with the most potential to negotiate later.

But he would not sign any deals at this meeting. He would only talk to those interested in business but also to the leaders of local powers that might be affected by the imbalance of forces in the empire.

But then, someone asked. "Sect master Stuart, now that you are so strong, what are your interests? I mean, these displays of strength are not gratuitous, right? You must have ambitious goals, considering your power and history."

Everyone heard such a question and once again fell silent to hear that answer.

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Chapter 1493 More Relevant Than The Imperial Occasion

The silence lasted for a few moments, with some weaker individuals swallowing their saliva in fear of the tension forming in the surroundings.

At the same time as this, Minos was looking in the direction of the one who had asked this, the master of the Mountain Sect, with whom Oswald had had a disagreement years ago.

"What are my interests? First, peace for my territory. Then the development of it and then the strengthening of my family. That is what I desire and what my actions are for." Minos said after a few moments of thought.

"On rare occasions, I had fought when there was no need. I have always desired peace but have always been prepared to fight."

"But just because my hands are stained with blood, does not mean that I am not a peaceful person... That depends only on those who may or may not stand in the way of my empire." He gestured with his hands as he spoke.

Some there liked to hear Minos' words since there was really nothing wrong in this society for someone to destroy another who came to try to interfere in their life or home.

If one did not want to be bothered, then one should not bother or purposely impede the movements of others. If they did, then they should prepare themselves for the worst!

That was that society's mentality and many there liked to hear that Minos wanted peace and would only act for those who directly stood against him and purposely hindered him.

Everyone there had studied Minos' track record in the northern region and knew that there was always someone crossing the line against him in his conflicts.

In the beginning, he just wanted to develop his territory. But the Brown family had tried to take some of what Minos produced without giving him anything other than unproductive land.

He then fought a war for independence.

After that, he faced attacks from outside his state, with thousands of criminals gathering to try to take that territory from his possession.

He then destroyed those forces and ruined the Vogel family, who were mainly responsible for those troubles.

In sequence, he faced problems with the Saints Killing Sect and Abe Vogel, the first who had already caused the deaths of members of the Black Plain Army and the latter who initiated terrorist attacks against the Black Plain.

He annihilated Abe's group and defeated the Saints Killing Sect in the War of the Two Sects.

Now no one knew what might happen next. Still, those who had studied Minos' history felt that he would not simply attack other powers without first being provoked.

So hearing his words was enough for many there to be reassured.

But some did not like it since for one to grow in this world, others would undeniably have to be sacrificed!

"That's very convenient, sect master Stuart." The leader of that other high-level sect, the Mountain Sect master, said. "You say you're going to do this for the sake of your family and territory. But to develop those entities, you will have to absorb the power of others. So how can these be good justifications? Just be honest and tell us what you want..."

"Do you wish to become the leader of the Flaming Empire?"

Some people looked at that level 79 man and felt he was going too far with his lines.

Meanwhile, that man himself was breaking into a cold sweat. But since someone had threatened him to ask these questions, he had no option but to go through with it all.

He was not as brave as he looked and was quite afraid of Minos even before this young man became so strong. After all, one of his most capable seers had died trying to predict the future of Emperor Stuart, and he had treated Oswald's grandson as a cursed person ever since.

But since someone who could kill him had threatened to force him to do certain things, he could only try his luck in this place.

Minos frowned his eyebrows and said. "Be the leader of the Flaming Empire? I don't need that. The one who should desire such a thing is Mortimer Burgess, who is probably trying to advance to the 9th stage."

"I have already told you, I will not act against those who never stand against me in an underhanded manner." He gestured, looking at the other people there. "Look at the case of the northern region. Stone Island has always been my ally, and I have never tried to dominate them."

"Only more recently have we begun the process of absorbing that kingdom into my empire after several years of the Stone family negotiating their way into my forces."

"On the other hand, I took places like Brown and Cromwell, where their leaders brutally attacked me for years, and even when we achieved peace, they remained in disarray."

"So I overpowered them and brought peace to their populations. But note that all these instances of domination are between my former enemies and me. I never did that with allies."

"The Flaming Empire, for the most part, is a friendly state to the Black Plain." He smiled at the people in the surrounding area before becoming more serious. "Minus the Saints Killing Sect."

"Anyway, I don't covet the Edwardstone family function." He shook his shoulders. "If one day that family decides to join me in a different way than they do now, I will be with open arms. But I will not act rebelliously or disloyally toward my friends and allies!"

Most liked Minos' lines, but the Mountain Sect master felt that Minos' negative words about the Saints Killing Sect were not valid only for that organization.

'Damn it!'

'I bet old Oswald is playing his grandson against me because of our history!' That man thought as he saw the two other sect masters in that hall looking at him strangely as if they were telling him to shut up.

'What's his problem? Doesn't he know that Minos has the Black Hole Bomb and can kill us all?' A woman thought to herself as she looked at that idiot fellow.

On the other hand, the man next to Sibley and Naomi had a suspicious expression on his face. 'This fellow... What is he planning? I don't believe those are questions to ask, even if they are relevant.'

'He's definitely trying to provoke Minos!'

Minos also realized this and cautiously observed that person.

But since he had no major reason to act, he did nothing and went ahead with this fraternization with local leaders.

Such things would go beyond this small initial meeting, and for the next four days, Minos would meet most of this empire's leaders and do a lot of business.

That would become an occasion with so many local leaders that by the end, rumors would spread throughout the empire, talking about the meeting being even more important than the meeting of local leaders about to take place in Payton.

Minos would pay no attention to this. He would just continue with his meetings and occasional displays of power while waiting for the moment to leave for Payton.

Since time passed very quickly when one was busy, it did not take long, and soon he left alongside some elders of the Grey Clouds Sect for the empire's capital!

Chapter 1494 He Sees Trouble In Everything

Five days later...

After departing from the headquarters of the Gray Clouds Sect, Minos made his way alongside some high-level elders of that organization to the empire's capital, riding the level 76 great beast.

Little Green was quite fast, but Minos had ordered it not to hurry anything since there were still more than two weeks left for his responsibility when his group departed Clouds City.

With that, they had somewhat prolonged this trip that could be made almost instantaneously using teleportation ports.

But still, after days of traveling through the southeastern and central areas of the Flaming Empire, they finally arrived in the vicinity of Payton.

Upon arriving there, Little Green was still lowering its altitude to land nearby when a group of the imperial guard approached them in mid-flight.

"Sect Master Stuart, elders, welcome to the capital." A level 75 man said this as he floated ahead of the other group members. "Are you coming to the capital to attend the local leaders' meeting?"

"Hmm, that's why we're here." Patriarch Terry said this as Minos quietly observed the surroundings.

"Please come with us. The supreme elder wishes to receive you." The leader of that guard said before showing them the way.

Minos ordered the Little Green to settle somewhere on the capital's outskirts and soon after began to follow those men of the Edwardstone family.

"What's the situation? Are all the local leaders being received by the regent?" Minos asked as he approached that man.

That fellow laughed bitterly and said. "No, just you."

"Oh? Why is that?" Patriarch Terry asked.

"I don't know. That you will have to find out from the supreme elder..." That guard said, but seeing Minos looking in his direction, he made sure to add. "But I believe it is because of what happened in Clouds City in the last few days."

"You mean the confrontation between us?"

"No, the reception of several local leaders..."

With that said, the people in Minos' group soon understood that the situation in Clouds City had somehow stirred the imperial family.

Minos had received many leaders of the Flaming Empire into the Gray Clouds Sect in the previous days. In fact, he had received more organization leaders in these previous days than the event led by the Edwardstone family had as guests.

Because of this, some members of the more radical wing of the imperial family viewed this event with a bad eye, as if this was a step by Minos to demonstrate his influence in this territory.

The elders of that sect and Minos readily understood the problem after those words. Still, they just followed the lead of those people.

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A few moments later, Minos and the elders of his sect were already in the beautiful office of the supreme elder Edwardstone while this man was waiting with his back to them.

This level 79 old man was drinking a cup of spiritual tea while looking at the beautiful view of his workplace to the capital.

Meanwhile, the Gray Clouds Sect elders stood silently one step behind Minos, looking at that fellow with his back to them.

Minos then asked as he sat down in one of the chairs on the opposite side of the table behind that old man. "Why am I here?"

That old man noticed that Minos was still bold as before, not even expecting to be 'invited' to sit down to do such a thing.

He then said. "What are you planning? Why did you lead an event for local leaders days before my family's occasion?"

Minos said promptly. "I am not planning anything that you do not already know. The current focus of the Gray Clouds Sect is the Black Plain, and I am getting rid of what is not essential. But to do that, I had to open the doors of my organization to those interested..."

"What can I do if almost all the local powers have decided to send people to my territory? Should I refuse to do business with them because of their numbers?" He said sarcastically.

"You could at least have sent a statement to the family or left it to do it here." The supreme elder said while looking at Minos with an ugly expression on his face. "The occasion that will take place in the next few days is designed precisely to connect local powers and make this kind of circumstance possible."

"But that is not as simple as you say, supreme elder." Minos then said. "Not every family with the potential to trade with us has the chance to receive an invitation from the imperial family. At the same time, the focus of this event has always been more on overseeing the powerful local organizations."

"Still..."

Minos shook his head and smiled. "Supreme elder, you don't like me and will try to see problems in everything I do. So what's the point of us having another one of these conversations? Just get to the point or let Bella deal with me."

"It will avoid problems for both sides."

The supreme elder clenched his fists, and his eyes narrowed.

He really disliked Minos and saw trouble in every move Emperor Stuart made. But he could not give up dealing with this fellow or leave everything in that woman's hands.

If he did so, she could give Minos benefits that would be impossible for the family to recover later on.

After all, considering how slippery Minos was and how talented he could be, it only took the slightest advantage for him to get enough to overcome the local powers.

So he wanted as much as possible to make this fellow's journey in gaining advancement easily at the expense of the imperial family difficult.

"Isabella will take over the empire once she assumes Her Majesty's position. Until then, I will deal with you, sect master Stuart."

"Then what do you want?" Minos questioned.

That elder then went straight to the point. "What do you intend to do against my family in the future? For example, suppose you reach level 75. What do you intend to do about the empire at this time?"

Minos said. "Elder, you only think the worst of me. Why would I do something different about the empire than I do now just because I would be at level 75? If I wanted to do something against your family, I could do it now, and no one could stop me. What difference does level make?"

"What did you say?" The supreme elder stood up from his chair and questioned indignantly.

"I could wipe out the Edwardstone family if I so chose to do," Minos said, startling the elders of his sect. "Of course, I'd have some problems with lightning punishments, but I could easily do that... Anyway, why would I do it in the future if I'm not interested in doing it now?"

"Elder, you should care a little more about the Saints Killing Sect than about me. I only want the good of my allies."

With those words, he did not wait for more and got up to search for Isabella, who treated him best in this family.

As for the supreme elder Edwardstone, he did not have much to do other than worry about the many threats to his family. Hence, he did not stop Minos from pursuing his own interests.

'Times are indeed terrible...' He sighed. 'What a pity that His Majesty is absent just now.'

Thinking about it, he remembered something and ran after Minos.

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Chapter 1495 Proposition

Remembering Minos' promise regarding Harold, the supreme elder soon started running towards that fellow to question him when he would do that.

'I hope you don't go back on your words now, brat!' He thought as he considered that he could keep Minos away from the Flaming Empire for a while.

"Hey, wait a minute. I have something to ask you." He called out to Minos as he saw him near Isabella's residence.

Minos turned around and saw the old face of that man. "What do you want?"

"Didn't you say that when the 8th stage arrived, you would go to the Flowers Kingdom to rescue His Majesty? When do you intend to leave?" He asked with a small smile at the corner of his mouth.

Minos remembered that and answered. "I intend to leave for the Flowers Kingdom in no more than two years. Of course, that depends on the situation related to Mortimer Burgess and my state..."

"When I am sure I will be able to leave, I will keep my promise."

When he finished saying that, Isabella appeared in front of her house and heard Minos' promise. "Is that true?" She asked, pleased that he was reaffirming his earlier promises.

Minos nodded to that woman as he smiled. "Yes, I'm not the type to go back on his own words."

"That... But wouldn't that be after you reach level 70? Why do you need two more years?" The old supreme elder asked.

Two years was a short time for a Spiritual Saint to improve their strength. So for this man, Minos would not get stronger in this period, and anything this fellow wished for, he could do immediately.

Waiting two years would not change anything, so it would be better to hurry the resolution of whatever the problems were so he could leave for the Flowers Kingdom as soon as possible.

Emperor Edwardstone's survival was at stake!

Minos then said. "It's not that simple. I need to have the confidence that my sect and state will be safe when I leave... Not only that, even the Flaming Empire is at serious risk if I leave without securing regional peace before I leave."

"That is true..." Isabella commented while already standing in front of Minos, almost hugging him.

The supreme elder could not say anything against Minos, so he was silent after those words, holding in his heart the day when this two-year period would end.

'I hope you don't make another excuse later!' He thought before turning and leaving from there.

"Sigh!"

"He's finally gone..." Minos commented to Isabella as he hugged her waist.

"Don't talk like that. The supreme elder is overwhelmed by my father's duties and recent threats." That red-haired woman commented as she felt the warmth of Minos' muscular body. "In any case, you know that there won't be any major problems, that you just have to put up with talking to him. So there's no reason to get so stressed about it."

"Hmmm." He muttered before hearing those people from his sect greeting Isabella and then setting off toward the place where other local leaders should already be waiting.

There was still a little over a week left until the start of the meeting of local leaders. Still, many were arriving early to deal with business between sects and noble families.

That was precisely why several elders had accompanied Minos on this occasion to continue dealing with the affairs of their respective houses and also of the sect.

As for Minos, he stayed by the side of the Crown Princess, going to take care of this woman who had not had the chance to sleep with him for months.

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The next day...

The news of Minos' presence in the capital of the Flaming Empire had already spread through Payton, and many in that city were anxious for the start of the meeting led by the imperial family.

Various local powers were trying to predict the results of this meeting, which now had a guest organization with almost as much power as the host itself.

Considering Minos' recent demonstrations of power, many did not doubt that he could do something of the sort in this city.

So the atmosphere was somewhat tense in the streets of Payton while some local leaders were still arriving for next week's event.

But amidst the many inhabitants and visitors in doubt about the future, the experts of the Spiritual Church in this city had different reactions to the current situation.

Those already part of the Gloria faction were quite calm about everything, sure that Minos was not planning anything dangerous.

But those who were not part of this faction had expectations for the coming days, and even bets were being placed among the ranks of this organization.

But among the local Church leaders, the situation was somewhat strange, not for what Minos might soon do in this city, but for what he had promised and delivered in the past.

Gloria's mother had finally lost her bet with Minos, and now she could no longer question the union of these two or even have him join the Church.

She and Minos had bet on him reaching level 70 in 20 years. But he had achieved such a thing in less than 12 years!

As such, the core of this post was somewhat impressed with his performance but in doubt about what to do.

Would they give up on someone so promising? With such a cultivation speed, Minos would certainly surpass them all in no time.

So taking him into their factions or even trying to negotiate his entry into the Church could bring many benefits to these people.

As such, Gloria's father was currently leading a group of Patriarchs and Matriarchs from the local post to visit Minos at the imperial palace.

Unlike 'ordinary' guests of the meeting that Isabella would lead in the coming days, Minos stayed at Isabella's home.

Thus, soon several elders were in one of the halls of the imperial palace, waiting for Minos to talk with him.

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"Patriarchs, Matriarchs, to what do we owe this visit?" The supreme elder of the imperial family faced those colleagues and asked.

Gloria's father, the leader of the local Church post, looked at that old fellow and smiled bitterly. "We are waiting for Minos..."

The old supreme elder's face contorted upon hearing that. But to avoid being inelegant, he exchanged a few words with those people before he left there angrily, feeling offended that he had people in his family home to visit the damned Minos.

After that man left, Minos arrived at that place accompanied by Princess Isabella.

"Princess..." Everyone there greeted her, while Gloria's parents looked at Minos with impressed and relieved looks.

With such an accomplishment, Minos was not so bad for their daughter!

"Minos, congratulations on becoming a Spiritual Saint." Joseph Frost said as he squeezed one of Emperor Stuart's shoulders. "Now you are truly powerful and can protect my daughter and granddaughter."

"Hmm." Minos nodded, saying nothing more.

"I admit my defeat. You no longer owe me anything, Minos." Margot commented as she pinched the tip of one of her fingers from having to admit defeat to this rascal.

"However," Gloria's father continued. "Even though you don't owe us anything more for that previous incident, we want to make you a proposition..."

Chapter 1496 Family Matters

"Minos, why don't you join the Spiritual Church? We may not be able to make you the leader of the Black Plain, but one of your wives and little Sarah will be able to inherit that state..." Joseph said as he demonstrated he was willing to negotiate the terms of Emperor Stuart's entry into that organization.

Normally, the Church requires that all family members of its members be disassociated from other organizations to avoid conflicts of interest. So in normal situations, members of this great institution could not have family members active in other powers.

But this rule could have its exceptions when some parameters were met.

When someone was talented and worth the 'effort', Church headquarters closed its eyes to certain information not so good in its opinion.

So a new member could have his family still in their old organizations before joining the Church, as long as, from then on, all his new family members did not join powers other than the Church.

By this, Joseph was trying to draw Minos into that organization without taking away that subject's control over that territory.

Minos could still rule the Black Plain from behind the curtains using Abby and Sarah as the face of local leadership. At the same time, he could be appointed as the general Patriarch of the northern region and continue to live for a while in that empire.

"... So, in practice, your life would not change much in the next few years, and you would still be a member of the Church with a lot of potentials in the future." Minos' father-in-law explained all the exceptions they were willing to make to have this fellow in the Church.

Isabella was impressed by all that and looked at Minos, thinking about telling him to accept such an offer.

'With that, he would still have the Black Plain Empire working for him, but he could use the resources of the Church and still travel to the Evergreen Empire in the future to utilize the high-level possibilities of that state.' She thought about it.

In Minos' place, anyone would decide to join the Spiritual Church and become a leader of the shadows of the Black Plain Empire.

However, Minos had no interest in doing that. "I appreciate the offer, but I have no ambition to join the Spiritual Church. Gloria is already part of that organization, so it makes no sense for us to be in it."

"What does that have to do with it?" Margot asked.

"I enjoy being the leader of the Black Plain, and I have no interest in becoming the leader of the Spiritual Church..." Minos said, indicating that he could achieve that if he so desired. "I don't want to lead an organization that was not created by myself."

Upon hearing those words, some of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs thought that Minos was just being proud, not taking his words about leading the Church seriously...

But Margot frowned, looking at Minos strangely, wondering if this was possible.

Joseph sighed and insisted. "Are you sure? Your future would be much broader if you became one of us. Besides, it would be nice if Gloria would join her faction with one from Church headquarters."

"You could even get great benefits because of the size of the faction you have created..."

But Minos was sure of his positions. "Hmm, I'm sure. I'd rather stay in my empire and live as I wish than become subordinate to an organization I barely know... Besides, our faction is doing well. So I see no reason for us to join other groups."

"Tsk!" Margot turned around and expressed her displeasure. 'This fool doesn't see how much Gloria and Sarah could gain from this! All on account of his immense pride!'

On the other hand, the other elders there felt somewhat offended by Minos' repeated refusals.

One of them then said. "Sect master Stuart, I won't insist too much. But you know that there is competition between the factions of the Church? For the moment, you haven't attracted much attention yet, so you haven't had any problems. But the size of the group led by Gloria is getting big quickly. So it won't be long before trouble knocks at your doors."

"When we can't handle such trouble, we will consider joining another faction." Minos said, stopping the insistence of these people.

He knew all that, but he was still determined to develop his faction with Gloria, aiming for the day when this woman could become the leader of the Spiritual Church.

He would still be an external member of the Church, so he was part of her faction and could act in concert with her forces to help his wife. That way, Minos felt that the burden would not be so great, and even when it became worse, he would have alternatives up his sleeve.

In any case, it would not be now that everything was going well for his forces that he would give up his ambitions because the danger was standing in his way.

That was the life of a cultivator, after all.

So he talked a little more with those Patriarchs and Matriarchs before seeing most of them leaving in frustration from the imperial palace.

They wanted to do something more, but Minos was stronger than most of them and was also on Isabella's side. So only Joseph and Margot stayed behind to talk to him some more.

"Where is my granddaughter? And Gloria?" Joseph asked as he sat down and took a cup of a spiritual drink.

Minos was sitting next to Isabella, opposite these two elders, the parents of his third wife. "They are not here. Sarah is striving to learn the basics necessary to begin her journey of cultivation. As for her mother, she is training on the Black Plain."

"Is that so? When little Sarah becomes a cultivator, I will give her some gifts." Margot commented with a silly smile on her face.

"What about Zoe? Have you guys been taking good care of her?" Joseph asked about his niece, who had gone to the northern region to join the Church post led by Gloria.

"Zoe is fine. She recently reached level 65." Minos said, remembering this silver-haired woman, who had been living in his empire for almost four years now.

"Level 65?" Husband and wife looked at each other, thinking Zoe's growth had been magnificent for the few years since she left for the Black Plain.

'It seems that Minos does have unique methods of stimulating the cultivation of his people.' That silver-haired man thought to himself, while the white-haired woman next to him thought about the cultivation rooms with the Black Hole Bombs.

'It must be on account of that...' She considered. 'It's not for nothing! Things as powerful as those really do have a lot of Lawsource and spiritual energy.'

'I'm just impressed that he found a way to use that to his advantage!'

"Anyway, this time, none of them came with me. But you can visit them in the Black Plain Empire if you like in a few months..."

They continued talking about Sarah, Gloria, and the Stuart family since these two had interests that went beyond just business with Minos.

Isabella took the opportunity to learn a bit about the current situation of the Stuart family, accompanying those three people until early evening in this city.

Chapter 1497 Trouble!

Six days later...

In one area, between the borders of the Flaming Empire, Flowers Kingdom, and Evergreen Empire, a small floating island was suffering from strong energy fluctuations in the surrounding area.

The spiritual energy in that area was condensing and 'rushing' towards the interior of such an island, forcing its structures, while the spiritual pressure of the area was immense.

At the same time, a vortex in the sky was bringing clouds from far away in that area into the vicinity, while the winds and storms would make anyone below level 70 tremble with fear.

No, in fact, anyone at level 69 who was out there would even be in danger of being killed by the current atmospheric phenomena!

But in the midst of this, a man was sitting inside this floating island, in a lotus position, receiving all this spiritual energy penetrating this place.

At the same time, the Natural Laws were condensing in the surroundings so powerfully that spatial cracks were opening near that person.

Amid this, he was absorbing more of these Laws, increasing his understanding while evolving the quality of his soul for the breakthrough that was nearing completion.

Seeing that from a distance, the supreme elder of the Saints Killing Sect smiled devilishly, seeing that the sect master was about to reach level 80!

'Finally, we'll be able to stop hiding!' He thought about it, remembering the humiliations the people in his sect had gone through in recent years. 'With the sect master's breakthrough, we will take revenge on the cursed Grey Clouds Sect, kill the disgraced Minos, and get back to the plans to dominate the empire!'

'It will only be a matter of time before the sect becomes the biggest organization in this region!'

Amidst the supreme elder's thoughts, Mortimer finally reached the apex!

Crack!

A shrill sound spread through the surroundings, leaving his body and reaching places kilometers away from where he was standing.

After a few moments, the chaos in the surroundings quieted a bit, and that man sitting on the ground, dressed in bone armor, opened his eyes, smiling.

"Level 80!" He shouted as he felt his soul stabilizing at this new level and realizing his spatial control.

"Finally, at level 80!" He said again, looking down at his hands and feeling a power he had never thought would be so majestic.

"Hahahaha, just you wait, you bastard! I will, in an instant, rip your head off and wipe out your sect!"

Upon hearing those beautiful words, the supreme elder flew to his leader and bent one of his knees in front of Mortimer. "Sect Master, congratulations on becoming a Spiritual Sage. I hope your leadership will be long."

Mortimer looked at the supreme elder of his sect, who had made all this possible by saving Gavin in place of his wife.

He nodded and said. "From now on, we will avenge all the dead and take whatever we wish."

"Yes, I hope to continue serving you and witness all of this, sect master!"

"Right, let's do that. But first, how long until the meeting of local leaders? Is there still time for us to join that event?" Mortimer questioned.

"Yes, sect master." The supreme elder replied. "There are still 42 hours until the start of the local leaders' meeting."

"Oh? Then let's get going. I want to see the surprised expression of those bastards when they see me, hahaha."

...

One day later...

The day before the meeting of local leaders, practically all those invited by the Edwardstone family were already in Payton.

Conversations had been going on for the past few days, and a lot of business had already taken place between local powers participating in this event.

During this period, the Gray Clouds Sect had formalized some business deals started by Minos weeks ago in Clouds City.

Meanwhile, Minos was at Isabella's side, quietly living in wait for this event so that he could return to the Black Plain Empire.

He had already been notified by his men in that region of the arrival of three visitors from the Evergreen Empire, members of the Blood Triangle Pirates, who were in his state looking for him.

Minos already knew what these people's visit was about and wanted to return to his state to settle this. So he could not wait for this formal occasion to begin.

The Black Plain was not in danger at the moment, but it was not good for him to have those people staying in his territory for too long.

In the last few days, due to the information about the visit of those three and his current level, Minos had managed to get Joseph and Margot to pass him some information about that pirate group.

Due to this, he finally found out the origin of it, as well as the fact that such a group works for the imperial family of the Evergreen Empire, the main faction of the Spiritual Church.

The current Supreme Pontiff was Emperor Evergreen's son, so several future complications could arise for him and Gloria.

As for what they were looking for with that map, Joseph and Margot could not help Minos much with that since even they did not have access to such high-level information. But they knew it was somehow related to the Seraphim Ancient Sarcophagus.

The Seraphim Ancient Sarcophagus was a place where several ancient experts of the Spiritual Church had been buried in the remote past. However, for some reason, this institution stopped using this place a few million years ago.

When they stopped using such a place, they abandoned it for good, having, after a few hundred thousand years, lost its location.

Therefore, the current generation of Church members had no idea where this place was and the importance of locating something that had been abandoned by themselves.

But no matter what, Minos knew it was no simple matter since people as powerful as the force behind the Spiritual Sage who protected Abe were searching for the map in the Spatial Kingdom.

As such, he had his worries!

But while waiting for the start of the event to be led by the Edwardstone family, Minos and all the experts in this city were surprised by something unexpected.

As they were preparing for the start of the big meeting that would take place the next day, the 8th-stage specialists in Payton felt a spatial crack opening in the local skies in the middle of this city.

When this happened, they all realized that a 9th-stage specialist was about to appear there, coming from a distant place through a wormhole.

Hence, most of them left the streets or the buildings they were in and looked in the direction of that opening in space.

When they did so, in a matter of seconds, they were shocked, open-mouthed, and wide-eyed when Mortimer Burgess, level 80, appeared next to 10 elders of the Saints Killing Sect.

"My dear colleagues, princess, I am here for tomorrow's meeting, haha." That man said before identifying Minos' aura and looking toward this level 70 fellow.

"Minos Stuart, I see you took advantage of the time you had to get stronger..."

"Not bad."

...

Chapter 1498 Mortimer's Plan

When he heard Mortimer's voice and saw this man looking at him, Minos immediately prepared to fight in this place, circulating his energies.

But before he made any kind of move, he said. "I see you managed to absorb some of Gavin's powers... But it's a shame that such a powerful ability was wasted on your decaying body.

If those eyes had continued on Gavin, he would have eventually become a God. But in you, this bloodline will not be able to show its true powers since your limit is only level 89.

Sigh...

But I guess that was to be expected, no? Instead of controlling him, as an intelligent person would do, you chose to waste those powers on yourself." Minos said, speaking as if he were standing in front of the world's biggest idiot.

Everyone around realized that this was Minos' purpose and swallowed their saliva, afraid of what might happen after such a provocation.

"You really have a sharp tongue, brat!" That fellow in bone armor said, making an ugly expression, wanting to immediately end this opponent's life. "Tell me what gives you the courage to talk to me like that! I want to know who can protect you if I decide to act!"

Everyone in that city felt Mortimer's cultivation pressure spreading to the surroundings, showing how terrible he currently was.

The members of the imperial family were already in the surroundings witnessing the situation but not knowing what the best approach would be.

They should intervene and make both sides behave better. However, who could stop Mortimer if he decided to act?

In this complicated situation, Minos laughed and said. "Who gives me the courage? Myself!

Remember, you are only not dead because I allowed it on account of my regard for the Edwardstone family.

Otherwise, your fate was to join one of my black holes and become a source of power for my army!"

The supreme elder of the Saints Killing Sect felt extremely humiliated upon hearing that and shouted. "Bastard Minos, watch how you talk! You are standing before a majestic Spiritual Sage, not an ordinary person!"

"Tsk!

Dogs should keep quiet while their masters argue!" Minos glared in that man's direction, making him tremble with anger.

"Minos!" That old man turned red with anger but was stopped by Mortimer from doing anything else.

Then the supreme elder of the imperial family finally showed himself, intending to stop this situation before it got out of control. "Sect Master Burgess, sect master Stuart, don't take this any further. That is the empire's capital, and you both owe your respect to the citizens of Payton!"

He turned to Mortimer and said. "Congratulations on reaching level 80. In this new stage, sect master Burgess can do much more for the empire."

That level 80 man took his focus off Minos to look at the supreme elder of the Edwardstone family, the main problem he would face in trying to dominate this state.

He had purposely gotten rid of Harold to facilitate his job of dominating this state. Still, just the absence of the emperor did not make it easy for this man.

He could act using his space manipulation skills and manage to kill many of the local leaders. But this would consume him, and he would be vulnerable before he had even eliminated all his opponents.

So Mortimer did not see the situation as already mastered and was much more concerned about that level 79 individual than about Minos.

Even if Minos was powerful and growing fast, what could he do against space manipulation abilities?

Moreover, Mortimer thought he would only need a few weeks to deal with the imperial family. So even if he was a cultivation genius, Minos would not have become stronger in that period and would still be within his reach.

Then he focused on that old man and said. "Supreme elder Edwardstone, thank you for your words. As for the rest, it's only that brat Minos who provokes me...

In any case, I will not fight against someone at such a low level.

I am only here to participate in the negotiations about the empire's future... Now that I am at the same level as His Majesty, I am interested in returning our focus lost with his kidnapping."

Minos frowned, thinking that this individual wanted to start by showing the local powers that he could replace Harold, giving them a reason not to move against him.

Some would obviously not fall for Mortimer's manipulation and side with the imperial family. But as long as he could get some sects to turn their backs on House Edwardstone, he would already be successful!

The members of the imperial family were not stupid, so they realized Mortimer's move immediately.

Unfortunately, none of them were strong enough to stop Mortimer.

Hell, even if everyone in this city rallied against that guy right now, they would not be able to kill him due to his ability to manipulate space.

Starting something there would be the beginning of a losing war for most of them, so nobody did what was necessary for a battle to happen.

Even Minos was passive in this situation since it was in his interest to prolong it until he reached level 71.

'For the time being, he will not go to the Black Plain... Instead, he will probably talk to the sect leaders to try to get them to take his side. He should start acting against my sect and the imperial family after that.' He thought this while standing next to Isabella just before they headed to a local arena where the meeting was scheduled to take place.

All the other high-level cultivators in this city headed towards that place as well, while Mortimer was already at that place after using his spatial manipulation skills.

He wanted to show these people as much as possible that he was not someone for one to play with, so he was sparing no effort!

'Hehe, just you wait... In a few months at most, this whole city will be under my rule!' He thought as he sat on Harold's throne before the first high-level Spiritual Saints came to that place.

...

In the blink of an eye, a few hours passed.

In this period, since the beginning of the meeting of local leaders, everything had gone according to plan, with each sect reporting its results and intentions to the imperial family.

The members of the imperial family also talked about the current challenges and what they planned for the future full of uncertainties ahead of them.

When they finished presenting their situations, it was time for the local leaders to give their opinions and suggestions on how the state should move forward.

With this underway, some sect masters commented on their preferences regarding minor things, nothing grand to make Mortimer or Minos try to get involved.

But when word reached Mortimer, this man immediately used this chance to attack Minos' accomplishments.

"My friends, I would like to air my displeasure regarding the accomplishments of the Gray Clouds Sect." He commented. "I don't need to hide my negative feelings towards that organization, and I won't pretend that I wouldn't benefit if they were doing badly. But it bothers me that an organization of the empire is serving the purposes of another state!

Minos Stuart is trying to steal this organization from the Flaming Empire, and I strongly object to that!

Therefore, I wish we review this situation to prevent the state from losing even more of its experts!"

...

Chapter 1499 Heated Debate

The local leaders began to murmur among themselves after Mortimer's words, some agreeing that this was indeed a problem, even considering that this Spiritual Sage clearly wanted to harm Minos with this.

The supreme elder of the Edwardstone family heard that, but he could not agree, even if he did not like Minos. "Sect Master Burgess, you don't know the whole situation, so you think the empire is losing from this.

But the truth is that we have a very detailed agreement with sect master Stuart that favors the empire immensely...

Anyway, the Gray Clouds Sect is in no way weakened because of the actions of its master."

Other people nodded in agreement, knowing that the number of experts in this organization had indeed increased after the changes initiated by Minos.

"Still, I find it strange that he does this in the northern region and not in the territory of the Gray Clouds Sect, supreme elder." That man in bone armor said, pressing the issue. "If it is for his sect to become stronger, it must be done in the empire and for the sake of the empire.

How can his sect becoming stronger for the good of the Black Plain be of any use to the forces of our state?"

Then Minos said. "Mortimer doesn't care about the empire. He just wants to dominate this state and is trying to weaken the only force that can genuinely prevent him from achieving his goal.

He knows he can't act against me in the northern region, or the Spiritual Church will exterminate him. So he desperately wants to decrease the number of experts under my command in my empire."

Everyone realized this would happen, but Mortimer did not accept Emperor Stuart's words. "Bullshit!

Are you going to trust the damn bastard who has always acted for his benefit, harming others in his way or a colleague who has walked 'side by side' with you for hundreds of years?" He gestured. "Not only that, that bastard is in collusion with the forces of our enemies!

Has anyone here forgotten that he has close relations with the leaders of Rosser and Albano? He has even recently dominated Vogel!

Do you believe that he is not a threat to the empire being so close to our enemies?"

Minos rose from his seat with an ugly expression on his face. "I keep the peace in the Flaming Empire because of these relations...

But you are right about something. I am really close to those states... And I have people capable of activating the sacrificial weapon of that alliance.

So be careful about turning your claws towards my allies, you bastard. I won't hesitate to kill you if you leave the Flaming Empire's territory."

Gulp!

Silence spread after those words, with many looking in surprise at Minos and Mortimer frowning.

One of the reasons Harold did not act personally against those four states was precisely the sacrificial weapon that the kings and queens of their enemy territories could use together.

It could even seriously wound a Spiritual Sage!

But everyone in this place thought such a weapon was lost because of the downfall of the Vogel family and the current situation of the alliance of the three kingdoms with the Black Plain.

Blackrock had not been in agreement with Minos in recent years, and with only two of the four leaders needed to activate that weapon, they should not be able to muster the strength for such an action.

However, Minos was not a naive fool who would act without having alternative plans!

When he found out about that weapon, the first thing he did was to put into his mind a plan to develop a cultivator capable of jointly activating such a weapon with the leaders of those three states.

Thus, when he took over the leadership of the alliance of those territories against the Flaming Empire, he had gained access to the techniques needed for such a thing and had one of his subordinates master such thing.

After more than a decade, such a person had enough power to successfully trigger such a weapon, even if its power was less than it would have been if King Vogel was still around.

With that, he had this weapon prepared to use against Mortimer if he set foot outside the Flaming Empire and went to one of those states.

'Bastard! Did you really get that?' The supreme elder of the Saints Killing Sect wondered as he looked terribly at Minos.

Even Isabella was surprised by Minos' actions, which showed that he was also prepared for her family.

"Minos..."

Minos then said to everyone. "Don't misunderstand. This weapon was never in my plans to use against experts from the Flaming Empire but to protect myself from outside opponents.

It's just a coincidence that someone in this state has become strong enough to be the target of it."

"Minos, you truly are vile!

Even when you become a local organization leader, you act for the sake of the empire's enemies!" Mortimer said angrily, shouting. "Supreme elder Edwardstone, this is a clear indication of treason!

I ask that the position of the sect master Stuart be reviewed!"

"Yes, we should unite against the traitors of the Gray Clouds Sect and invade the four northern territories to stop the threats to the empire!"

"With our sect master, no one else will be able to threaten the empire's security!"

The high-level elders of the Saints Killing Sect advocated these ideas.

The people in the surrounding area began to become uncertain which side to be on, knowing that Mortimer was a clear threat, but seeing how Minos' actions could also harm them.

They already expected the worst from Mortimer if this man reached the 9th stage. But of Minos, some doubted whether he would cause chaos or bring peace to the state.

But from the actions his own words seemed to indicate he was taking, they could already see a Minos far worse than Mortimer!

Minos realized the situation and said to everyone in the surrounding area. "This person is trying to disunite us to facilitate his domination. War will be inevitable if you believe his words and take his side.

I assure you, Mortimer Burgess does not have a promising future. He will not even reach level 81 before he dies.

At that time, peace will return to the Flaming Empire, and those who side with him now will have the future of becoming nutrients for my black holes!

Do not desire war. You will not win!" He said soberly, trying to show these people that the future would be worse if they feared the short-term threat.

Everyone knew that Minos could kill them there now if he activated one of his techniques fusions and created a black hole. So no one tried to counteract him, creating a sepulchral silence in that arena.

In the midst of this, the members of the imperial family felt left out of the conversations, for the first time in a long time, depending on other people to decide their fate.

But they had no choice but to accept this momentarily, siding with Minos, while the opposition sided with Mortimer.

On this day, the division of the Flaming Empire into two great factions would be born, which would mark the beginning of a not-so-long but very complicated period for this state!

Chapter 1500 Crisis

After Minos' threatening words, two days passed, and the meeting of local leaders continued until it finally ended this morning.

The meeting led by the Edwardstone family was marked by the division of the local powers into the Minos and Mortimer groups, with no declaration of war but a clear willingness that it could happen.

Those on Minos' side would certainly fight, while those on Mortimer's side would stay at their headquarters if anything happened.

That, of course, had not been said literally. But the sects and families on the Saints Killing Sect side would not turn their weapons on the powers of the imperial family.

They did not want to become traitors. They only planned to become omisive to their duties.

In any case, instead of this event having worked for its purpose, to create relations between the strongest sects in the empire and ensure the peace and security of the state, it had served for each party to firm up its positions.

Some powers were still uncertain as to what position to take, so even these had joined together and formed a group that did not want to get involved in anything that was about to happen.

Mortimer could kill them at any time with his manipulation skills. Still, Minos could hide in the Black Plain until he was as strong or stronger than Spiritual Sages. At that time, he would kill his opponent and eliminate those who stood in his way from this encounter.

Whatever the decision, those who made it would be at serious risk!

Thus, the event ended with the many local leaders leaving Payton without raising their weapons to each other but leaving behind a hard-to-bear tension.

Now the imperial family was officially in the greatest crisis of its existence!

...

At the imperial palace...

Minos was at this moment standing in front of Isabella and some elders, people favorable to him within that family.

Not everyone in House Edwardstone saw Minos in the same way as the supreme elder.

Some did not blame him for anything bad that happened to this family since bad things would really accompany people with a lot of talent or resources.

On the other hand, even if others disliked Minos, their rational sides outweighed their emotions, causing them to be in the favorable wing for him in the local imperial house.

Minos was only at level 70 and was already as strong as local leaders. On the other hand, the Gray Clouds Sect was rapidly getting stronger, which indicated that the Black Plain's strength would also improve at the same rate or perhaps even faster.

Considering this, it was to be expected that he would become much more powerful in a short time, individually and collectively.

At that time, they could reap the rewards of standing with him and supporting him while he was 'weak'!

That was the interest of some of the high-level elders, even disregarding the situation of the Flaming Empire with Mortimer's advance.

However, with that individual having reached level 80, now even those opposed to Minos were willing to cooperate with him minimally.

So while he was saying goodbye to Isabella, some were hanging around, worried about how long Emperor Stuart would spend away.

They were at great risk and could not help but fear for their own future!

Minos heard a question concerning this from one of the elders and answered them all. "Well, I have urgent business to attend to in Dry City, but in 2 weeks at most, I believe I can return here."

"All that?" Someone muttered, knowing that for a Spiritual Sage, it would only take a few days to eliminate all of them using his spatial manipulation skills.

That is, of course, considering that Mortimer would certainly cover his tracks during his actions and not attack his opponents head-on.

Being too open in his attacks could cause widespread fear throughout the empire, which would not help him at all. So even if he had the power to cause chaos, he would probably act cautiously, prolonging the time needed to master this state.

That was what the imperial family experts predicted, which was why these people feared Minos would not be around with his mass destruction weapons.

But Minos did not see things that way. "That's not much time. Mortimer needs more time to secure his position with the sects and families willing to side with him.

He won't act before then. If he did that, he would risk creating fear and distrust in his allies before he even has a solid alliance.

So he won't attack immediately to have a better time as the new emperor." He said, making those people swallow their saliva at the thought of Mortimer becoming the leader of this state.

Isabella was the one who hated that thought the most and clenched her fists, lamenting her father's absence. "Minos, can't you rescue my father soon? Mortimer would not be a match for him if he were here."

Minos looked at the red-haired woman hugging him and smiled bitterly. "Unfortunately, I can't.

It's not that I don't want to. I just can't go to the Flowers Kingdom and rescue him in time to stop Mortimer.

If I were to simply leave now, before I even reach that state, the Flaming Empire would already be under Mortimer's control."

Everyone in the surrounding area agreed with this, lamenting the timing in which everything was happening.

"We can only wait for Mortimer's threat to end for the sect master Stuart to save His Majesty..." A level 78 elder commented, feeling that his family would have to endure great trials before they could have their leader again.

Isabella understood Minos' motivations and sighed, hoping everything would be resolved as soon as possible.

So, after a few moments, Minos left for the Black Plain Empire via the teleportation ports between that state and his home.

As for Little Green, he had already sent that great beast to wait for him in that city since he would return in a short time.

Teleportation arrays carried volumes. So beasts of that individual's size could hardly be sent by those means of transport, which would either not hold them or would consume too many crystals to function properly.

Thus, that level 76 beast would take longer to get to know its new home!

...

While Minos was returning to the Black Plain Empire, Mortimer was already traveling through the Flaming Empire, searching for the alliances he needed.

It was not enough for him to talk for two days with some sect leaders for him to have the minimum necessary to act. He had to visit smaller sects and relevant families, who could make his life difficult if he acted by ignoring them.

So before he acted, he followed what Minos had already anticipated, ensuring a minimum of support before killing the sore spots of this state.

But he was not starting this journey without worries in his mind!

Because of Minos' warning about the sacrificial weapon in those four territories north of the Flaming Empire, this man now had to ensure that this state was strong when he was in power!

Suppose too many of the local experts fell for him to ascend the local throne. In that case, he could end up facilitating a victory for the enemies in an eventual war between states!