

Black Plain 1581

Chapter 1581 Church Factions

"That's a very generous offer..." Minos commented, smiling falsely. "From the looks of it, Prince Calvert thinks very highly of my state and the future of Gloria's faction."

"Yes, we hope that the support of Matriarch Frost's faction will be the differentiator of the faction to which we belong." That woman commented, sensing that these two were enjoying what they were hearing. "Then, if you agree to join His Highness now, we can begin preparations so that the Black Plain will already begin to receive the opportunities we have promised."

"Hmm, that only depends on your word. Even before the Soul Contracts are signed, we can already help you in many ways." The level 85 man said, showing these two how determined they were to do business locally.

"That's good to hear..." Gloria commented in a low voice as if she was thinking cautiously about the matter.

Minos asked. "But before we go through with it, answer me one thing. Do you have any relation to the Blood Triangle Pirates group? In the last few years, I have received some visits from people from that organization, but we still have unfinished business..."

Those two were aware of Minos' issues with that group and were not surprised by this.

The woman said. "Yes, we do have relations with that group, as it is one of the maritime arms of the Evergreen family, His Highness's family."

Calvert's faction was not the only one with connections to that group. Within the imperial family of that state, three factions were involved in the affairs of the Church. One was his, another was Emperor Evergreen's, and last was the group of the Emperor's grandson, son of the first and only princess of that state.

All of these factions were involved in the affairs of the Blood Triangle Pirates. However, the Emperor's faction was the one that dominated that institution.

"Oh? And what is Prince Calvert's relationship to the people who have come to my state in recent years?" Minos asked.

"None." The level 85 man replied. "His Highness knows about what happened and this organization's interest in relating to Your Majesty. But he is not behind the orders for these people to come to the Black Plain."

"And who would that be?" Gloria questioned.

'His Majesty, the emperor.' The two thought at the same time, but without answering them.

The entire imperial family and its factions would benefit from the success of the Blood Triangle Pirates. Obviously, the emperor could take better advantage, but that was not necessarily bad for his grandson or his son.

The emperor could not vie for the position to become the new Supreme Pontiff of the Church. Emperors had no such right.

Since Emperor Evergreen had no one as talented as Calvert to become his candidate, he was not supporting anyone in the contest for the leadership position in the Church.

He would prefer that this person is from his family, but whether it would be his grandson or one of his sons didn't matter to him.

As for the emperor's grandson, he was a bit stronger than Calvert, but he didn't have the same interests.

Not everyone was born with the ambition to lead!

As such, as much as there were different factions within the imperial family of that state, in this respect, they did not clash.

So the two did not answer Gloria's question.

Minos frowned and asked about something else. "What are the factions that rival Prince Calvert's?"

"Besides the groups of Your Majesty and His Highness Drogo with whom His Highness Calvert has healthy competition, there are also our real rivals within the Church. They are from the Supreme Pontiff's faction, Cardinal Quinn's group, and finally that of Cardinal Ray, who is behind the Church posts in the Flaming Empire, Rosser, Albano, Vogel, and Blackrock." That woman answered.

All these Cardinals were Spiritual Demigods, not just Spiritual Sages.

Within the Church, the Cardinals group was divided into two groups—the low-level ones, Spiritual Sages, and the high-level ones, Spiritual Demigods.

'Three groups, huh?' Minos' eyes narrowed. 'If this Calvert is being so quick to approach us, either he's the underdog in this power race, or he's the smartest and has already realized his potential if he can absorb us into his faction...

If that's the case, we're in trouble!'

"It looks like your group is racing into the leadership contest, huh?" Minos commented on this matter already known to all cultivators above level 70 within the Church.

The Supreme Pontiff was going to leave his position in a few decades, so the strongest factions of this organization were already moving to have maximum support when the time came for a new leader to ascend to the leadership position of the Church.

"That must be Prince Calvert's interest, right?" Minos questioned.

"Yes..."

"Well, if that is the case, I would like to discuss this with my wife alone for a while," Minos said. "We have just resolved some complicated issues and would like to evaluate our position better before we take a definitive stand."

"Yes, we don't even know if we will be strong enough to withstand the challenges of contending for the leadership of the Church in a few decades..." Gloria commented. "We are just Spiritual Saints now... And even if we look into the future, there is no guarantee that we will become more than low-level Spiritual Sages."

In the Spiritual Church, countless members were not part of any faction. The reason for this? Simple, these groups required powerful people, and even some level 70 people preferred not to join any of the factions.

People of that level would no longer be considered weak. But they were among the weakest within the strongest factions of the Church. Because of this, many people of this stage and even some low-level 9th-stage cultivators preferred to avoid joining these factions.

Eventually, if they became stronger, they would take a side. But until then, some preferred to remain neutral, not to gain anything of significance, but also not to lose or gain the enmity of many.

So the positioning of Gloria and Minos was not at all strange. In fact, being cautious was the norm within this institution. Hence, those two individuals were not so surprised by their words.

"It's only natural that you talk about it... After all, it may change the fate of your plans." The level 84 woman said as she got up to leave. "In any case, how much time do you need to decide? We can wait a year before we try to negotiate again."

"A year?" Minos remembered Hannah but judged that he would have no problem dealing with her and these people. "That sounds like enough to me."

Those two left Dry City without further ado, leaving to get to know this place better in the future when they returned.

Minos stood beside his wife, weighing the trouble they would have next. "Once we refuse them, we will face problems in our territory with our allies, and troublesome people will arise to test us."

"Yes, and within the Church, my superiors will be more strict with every decision of mine or news that comes to their attention." Gloria agreed with him, preparing herself psychologically for future challenges ahead of them.

"Those who are in the rain will obviously get wet!" Minos' eyes narrowed.

Chapter 1582 Invitation

After the departure of the Spiritual Sages from the Evergreen Empire, a month passed.

The Minos watcher sent by Emperor Travisani was feeling increasingly nervous lately, considering when he should approach Emperor Stuart.

More and more important people were looking at Minos, and after the departure of the Calvert envoys, even representatives from high-level kingdoms in the western region had shown up in Dry City.

With more and more people interested in approaching Minos, that man had been pondering for the past few weeks whether he should wait any longer or whether it would be better to invite the local leader soon to avoid future problems.

If Minos chose the side of the enemies, the Eastern Empire would order his death. Still, Emperor Travisani preferred to have young talent on his side, not in the morgue.

So, after much consideration, that level 85 man finally decided to approach Minos, 'knocking' on this local leader's doors as the two Calvert envoys had done weeks ago.

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"So you're finally showing yourself?" Minos smiled as he met with this man who had been watching him for months.

He could sense spatial fluctuations much more easily than ordinary people, not only because his energy level was higher than people of his level but also because of his Soul Avatar.

Even if this person was trying to hide from Minos, Emperor Stuart was fully aware of the presence of this man in his surroundings.

He just didn't know what that person looked like before, but he was used to his aura enough to identify him immediately.

That man bitterly smiled and said. "It's about time I introduced myself to Your Majesty...

Anyway, I am here on behalf of the Travisani family to invite you to visit the Eastern Empire. Surely Your Majesty can find everything you need for your territory in our state without subjecting yourself to the domination of others..."

Vico Travisani was said to be the strongest man on the continent, and what's more, he was not friendly with enemy forces. But he was not a conqueror. On the contrary, he advocated the idea that each territory deserved to have its sovereignty without outside interference.

But this was not so surprising. After all, as someone born in the Eastern Empire, a place oppressed by the Western Empire over hundreds of thousands of years, he could only have a view of things that way.

So even though he was a peak expert in this Spiritual World, he wasn't the type to make everyone kneel before him or to forcefully dominate external territories.

He would even centralize power within the Eastern Empire, but that was his state, which he had chosen to be one long before his emergence.

As such, the promises of this envoy were by no means false. If Minos agreed to join the Travisani family as an allied force, he would receive benefits and would not lose his sovereignty and freedom!

Minos knew a little about the recent history of each state in the Central Continent and had advisors who had already told him about the almost utopian Eastern Empire. But even though he knew that the words

of the level 85 man in front of him were not meant to deceive him, he could not simply agree to make a deal with these people.

After all, whether it was advantageous or not, he already had connections with the Spiritual Church, and what's more, his territory was within the Church's domain.

What could he do about it? Was Vico Travisani going to take the northern region out of the Church's domain just because of Minos?

That was absurd!

As such, Minos couldn't help but use this as a defense against the offers of this empire. "I would love to have good relations with most of the powers of the Central Continent. But how can I join the Eastern Empire if my state is in Church territory?

Suppose we can have a relationship without a demand for fidelity or estrangement from the Church. In that case, I think a relationship between us is pretty feasible. But I can't sacrifice everything I build just for the selfish interest of a state I don't even know yet..."

That man had common sense and would not think that Minos had an obligation to sacrifice himself and choose a path full of problems ahead of him just because it was better for the Eastern Empire side. It would be absurd to disregard all the setbacks that someone in Emperor Stuart's situation would have in making such a choice.

Hence, he was not at all irritated with Emperor Stuart.

"I understand Your Majesty's situation... But to have the best future, sometimes one needs to make difficult decisions in the short term." He said. "We can't do anything about the Black Plain Empire, but there are lands all over the Spiritual World. In any case, if you ever go to the empire, you may be more motivated to join us.

So now, I ask you to consider visiting the Travisani family in the future, the Eastern Empire, and compare your options. I am sure Your Majesty will see why the strongest on the continent is in our state and not in the Church headquarters."

Minos heard that and was silent, considering that the Church really should have more resources, better techniques, and even karma in its favor.

But the supposed strongest on the continent belonged to another state, one that experienced a much more challenging situation and should be better at absolutely nothing than them.

That could be explained by individual talent. But even in this, the Church should be more gifted than the Travisani family.

Knowing this, Minos could not deny his curiosity to know that family and state better.

He then said. "I will certainly travel to your state in the future... For now, I intend not to visit new domains until my son grows a bit more.

He is recently learning to walk."

That man saw the smile on Minos' face and congratulated this fellow, wishing Kendrick would grow up healthy and have a good talent.

After that, he talked a little more with Emperor Stuart, warning that person not to visit the Western Empire before the Eastern Empire, or it would be viewed negatively by the Travisani family.

Other than that, that level 85 man did not press Minos on other issues, such as the one related to visits by people from the Blood Triangle Pirates group.

Minos watched that fellow leave to return to his observant position from before and sighed, noting that as much as there were no immediate threats against him, he was now relating to much more dangerous forces than before.

'I have to act more cautiously from now on...' He considered, noting that such a man had already left the area protected by the arrays of Dry City. 'Practically the entire continent is watching me now, so I have to act more slowly, making fewer trips and focusing on the Black Plain.'

He then teleported to the Spatial Kingdom after entering his royal palace.

"I must ensure that my forces advance as quickly as possible!" He muttered, already activating his innate ability to help the people in the Spatial Kingdom, among them his grandparents.

Chapter 1583 Interspersed Seclusion

Seven months after the proposal of the Travisani family's Spiritual Sage...

Sarah Stuart was flying around the outskirts of Dry City above the mount of her father, Little Green, who was currently at level 78, one of the most powerful beasts in the empire.

Over the past few months, she and her family members had been cultivating extensively within the Spatial Kingdom.

Minos had been making short, month-long seclusion in the Spatial Kingdom and then returning to Dry City to deal with matters in the Black Plain Empire. Then, after seven days of dealing with local matters, he would return for another four-week cycle of seclusion in that cultivation sanctuary, sometimes taking new soldiers or sect members there.

In this period, no exchange had happened between the experts of the Gray Clouds Sect in this state and the Flaming Empire since the people in Clouds City were already very strong. Only with the appearance of a Spiritual Sage could Minos help to be able to bring more people from that state into his territory!

Anyway, Minos thought that soon Queen McBride would arrive in his territory for their one-year agreement, so he had already returned from the Spatial Kingdom with his wives and family.

Because of this, Sarah took the opportunity to play a little on the days she would have rest from her seclusion.

She loved to fly, and there was no better beast than Little Green to give her a good experience through the local skies.

As such, on this sunny day, one could see a large green beast flying through the skies of Dry City, with a red-furred young man riding on it and smiling.

These were the only ones allowed to fly through the local skies, so some of the population couldn't help but stare at them, seeing this unusual event unfolding in that city.

Meanwhile, Kendrick had grown up a little in the last few months, but he was still a baby and was in his mother's arms, watching his sister fly under that great beast.

He had his two little hands pointing up, opening and closing as if he wanted his big sister to take him for a ride.

But Abby was very attached and protective and would not allow something as dangerous as a flight with her son.

Minos and Gloria were working now, taking advantage of the days ahead to care for church and empire affairs before they could return to the Spatial Kingdom to cultivate.

Minos had already gone to the Endless Snow Mountain Range and taken most of the bones from that place to the Spatial Kingdom, leaving only one behind to deceive the Queen of the Flowers Kingdom.

So besides taking care of local affairs, he didn't have much else to deal with in the days ahead in waiting for Hannah.

Coincidentally, Isabella had finally come from the Flaming Empire to stay by Minos' side just after the end of his last seclusion in the Spatial Kingdom.

She didn't intend to stay long, as she had some business to take care of in the Flaming Empire so she could be free of some of the responsibilities she had gained over the last few years. But that was for a good reason, so she could finally live with Minos in the Black Plain Empire!

She was currently at Ruth's side, doing business between her family and the local imperial house, which was becoming increasingly frequent among their powers.

As the Black Plain grew stronger, more and more local resources interested the Flaming Empire. At the same time, with more local wealth, locals had more funds to order things from the state of Isabella.

The result was strengthening relations between the two imperial families!

Anyway, while Gloria was dealing with more invitations from Church factions for her to join them and Minos was dealing with more states trying to start relations with his, little Kendrick narrowed his eyes as he saw something glowing appear near his sister.

Simultaneously with this baby retracting his hands close to his eyes to protect himself from the brightness, a hole appeared near Sarah, causing this woman and the beast below her to shiver.

But not only did they feel that sense of near danger, all the cultivators above level 70 in Dry City felt something strange at that instant, promptly looking in the same direction.

When all eyes were not far from Sarah and Little Green, a woman emerged from that hole, looking at this city and especially these two creatures near her with interest.

When she saw that beautiful woman there, Sarah opened her mouth as she realized that she could not sense the cultivation level of such a person due to the immense difference between them.

But Little Green had a vague sense of that person's strength, the first Spiritual Demigod he had seen in his entire life!

"Demigod..." This large creature transformed into its humanoid version quickly, holding Sarah in its arms but lowering its head to that woman.

Before Minos and Gloria arrived, Hannah looked into Sarah's eyes and noticed the lineage of Emperor Stuart in her body.

"You must be Minos' daughter, uh?" Hannah approached Sarah, smiling.

She then placed one of her hands on Sarah's head and murmured. "Golden talent, Saint-grade Physique... As expected. His genes are excellent!"

"Who are you?" Sarah asked shyly.

"Child, this here is Hannah McBride." She replied as she ran her fingers through Sarah's red hair. "I'm here to do business with your father. Where is he?"

Hannah didn't need to ask that. She knew the location of every single person and beast in Dry City right now!

This city had millions of inhabitants, but that was nothing to her!

Amid her short dialogue with Sarah, hundreds of local experts watched that woman with eyes and mouths open, seeing a 10th-stage expert for the first time.

The most impressed of all were not the weaker ones seeing her floating near Sarah and Little Green, but the stronger ones, who knew how difficult it was to cultivate at a high level.

This woman was at level 93, something extremely above what the strongest one there, level 79, had already managed to reach.

Not only that but for most people in this city, the 10th stage was an impossibility, so seeing a Spiritual Demigod so close was shocking and capable of silencing an entire city.

Anyway, amidst the millions looking in Hannah's direction, Minos, Gloria, and other important people in this city arrived next to where this woman and Sarah were standing.

"Your Majesty McBride, you arrived a little earlier than I expected," Minos said as he gestured a greeting next to his wives and high-ranking elders of the Gray Clouds Sect.

Kendrick was there too, in Abby's arms, under the intense gaze of that woman who had given birth dozens of times.

"Ah, I didn't know you had gotten another child..." She said sweetly, quickly moving closer to Abby and running her hands over Kendrick's little head.

"This boy will be just like you in the future. I can tell just by the look in his eyes!" She commented, feeling that her instincts were not wrong. "You are to be congratulated, Your Majesty Minos Stuart... It's just a shame you didn't do one of those with one of my daughters."

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Chapter 1584 Someone Must Have Stolen Them

Upon hearing Hannah's comment, Minos bitterly smiled, but he did not fear this woman being so close to his children.

There was no honor in an expert at that level acting against a junior and a newborn. It would be a shame for her and a warning sign for the entire continent if she decided to act against Kendrick and Sarah.

If she took them both hostage so that Minos could be forced to return to the Flowers Kingdom, she could achieve nothing but destruction, not because of the Empire of the Black Plain but the states on this continent. Each would see her as a breaker of her promises and have to strike to prevent their men from being under the same risk as Emperor Stuart.

Minos knew that such a woman would do nothing on account of all this and also was not surprised that she arrived in such a spectacular manner.

The local defenses were not designed to protect this city from Spiritual Demigods, so she had easily managed to bypass the city's barriers and get there through a wormhole.

Since she was much stronger than those arrays in the surrounding area could handle, Hannah had even manipulated the space in a way that her intrusion did not damage the local defenses.

The experts on the side of the local imperial family were also aware of the weaknesses of the local barriers and stood by Minos' side without worrying too much about how that woman had gotten there. The only thing that mattered to them was whether she would follow through as expected and proceed to the Endless Snow Mountain Range at the emperor's side.

After seeing the bitter smile on Minos' face, Queen McBride looked at each of his wives, noting the value of each, their talents, and abilities.

They were all talented and capable of going far in cultivation, considering their bone ages and the level of their souls.

Two of them had even given the emperor children, something impressive for someone as strong and young as he was.

"I see your family is doing very well. Each of them has formidable souls and a promising path ahead." She praised. "And they are naturally beautiful, haha. You really are lucky."

"Hmm, I don't deny that." He said before asking. "So, is Your Majesty prepared to go and meet one of those skeletons? I can take you to where one of them is now."

"One of them? You have more than one around here?" She asked, dropping the subject of Minos' family.

He replied. "It's not that. It's that there are many of those throughout the Spiritual World... One is within my empire, in the Endless Snow Mountain Range."

"Endless Snow Mountain Range?" She frowned, remembering that name. "So this place is an artificial construction like the legends say?"

Legends said that the Endless Snow Mountain Range was actually a place built by humans to seal off something terrible.

Hannah knew of the legends regarding this mountain range in the northern region but had never explored it to find out for sure. So upon hearing that from Minos, she immediately connected the dots and understood what that terrible something was.

"More or less that," Minos replied. "The place existed before these giant skeletons appeared, but it was not as we know it. The differences were created by cultivators who wanted to keep the rest of the world away from those bones."

"Is that so?" She asked, interested.

But before she spoke further, she decided it was better to head straight to that place and stop wasting time.

She knew how to get to the Endless Snow Mountain Range, so as soon as she took Minos by one of this sovereign's wrists, she opened a wormhole and went from there.

It all happened so fast that the people in the surrounding area were taken by surprise. In the blink of an eye, Minos and Hannah disappear from the area.

"Where did they go?" Someone asked.

"I think to the Endless Snow Mountain Range..." Sarah replied, feeling that this was the most likely.

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At the same time, a few dozen meters above one of the highest peaks of the Endless Snow Mountain Range...

A wormhole appeared in that spot, and then Minos and Hannah stepped out of it, with Emperor Stuart barely having time to notice the shift in space between his previous and current position.

Hannah had moved so fast that he hadn't noticed the action until they were already halfway there!

He frowned as he realized this, noticing for the first time someone able to totally overcome his instincts to the point that he didn't even have time to think about escaping to the Spatial Kingdom.

'If someone at that level wanted to kill me, I'd be dead before I realized it!' He pondered this, feeling a chill in his stomach.

Hannah then got in the way of Minos' train of thought. "So, we're already here. Now what? Where exactly do we go?"

Minos sighed and looked at his surroundings, trying to identify where they were.

Noticing the way to the entrance of the Immemorial Graves Sect, he said to his traveling companion. "In that direction..."

With that, the two flew for about 10 minutes until the two landed on the peak where the entrance to that sect was, from where this expert immediately saw what was inside that hidden space.

"So that's one of the skeletons of the primordials?" She manipulated the space and appeared together with Minos in front of the only giant skeleton in that area, the smallest of the ones there before.

Minos was not surprised to appear inside that sect with Hannah. He just remained momentarily silent to get used to the constant jumping of space.

That was not simple for someone at his level to endure like it was nothing!

Meanwhile, Laura Cox, the leader of this sect, currently at level 68, saw those two appearing in the sanctuary of her organization and ran over there.

"Your Majesty!" She shouted upon seeing Minos but soon stopped as she realized that the person next to him could be considered a monster.

The difference in Minos and Hannah's auras was so great that if compared, his energy level would be like a drop of water and hers a whole bucket, overflowing.

'Is that the person he said he would bring here?' Laura wondered, swallowing her saliva in shock. 'What absurd power!'

But like most people in the northern region, she didn't even have the potential to reach that level, so seeing someone like that was like seeing a God since she wasn't that different said from the point of view of normal beings.

Minos finally overcame his constant jumping about space and told Queen McBride. "Yes, this giant skeleton was sealed here along with others by cultivators millions of years ago when there were not even Silver-grade techniques in our world."

"Along with others? And where are they? I heard that these skeletons are enormous and heavy... How could anyone move one of them?" She asked, interested to know about it to move one of these to her state on her own.

"Well, someone must have stolen them..."

Chapter 1585 Accomplishment

After Minos' words, Queen McBride didn't realize he was lying. Instead, she believed this guy's words while focusing on the large skeleton frozen in that place.

This one was gigantic. To get an idea, one of the smallest bones, which looked like part of this being's feet, was twice as long as Queen McBride.

But not only was its size fabulous, but the energy fluctuations of this creature were also so high that even this Spiritual Demigod had to open her mouth and eyes in shock.

'This power... It is far greater than the power of a level 99 Spiritual Demigod!' She remembered the sensations she felt when being around people at that level.

She knew a few peak cultivators from the Spiritual World. Among them were three in the Central Continent: Vico Travisani, the current Supreme Pontiff of the Spiritual Church, and the Queen of Sista, this state between the Western Empire and the Eastern Empire.

Besides these domains, all the other high-level states of the Central Continent were ruled by Spiritual Demigods between levels 93 and 98.

But even though she was one of the weakest state leaders of the continent's high-level territories, Hannah knew how to differentiate the level of cultivators of the highest level.

She could tell that Vico was stronger than the Supreme Pontiff and Queen Sista just by that man's presence. But the difference between that set of bones and Emperor Travisani was bigger than this woman would expect if she came across a God!

"Incredible! The power and density of the laws in it are so great that if I were to receive that much power all at once, even my super-strong body would explode in the blink of an eye."

Queen McBride was not only powerful because of her level but also because of her innate ability to reproduce, which strengthened her physically.

Because of her lineage, her body was almost as tough as those of level 97 Spiritual Demigods!

So although her level was not high compared to that of the continental leaders, this woman being impressed by that energy source was relevant.

Minos heard that woman's comment and agreed. "That's only natural. Even Gods would find it difficult to receive all this energy, so it's to be expected that a Demigod would suffer in a situation like that."

"Gods?" She looked at Minos, frowning her eyebrows. "Do you know anything about them?"

"Only what is in my mind through the information left by the ancients..." He said vaguely.

She considered that he was talking about books and other methods of imparting knowledge and thought there was nothing wrong with his comment.

However, Hannah did not believe at all that these creatures would be as superior to the Gods as Minos seemed to believe.

"If some of the Spiritual World experts tried to use this after a stage advancement, I have my doubts as to whether it would be so difficult." She commented. "A monster like Vico would definitely have the ability to do something that people like me wouldn't have the chance, regardless of how strong they were."

"Hmm, I don't know..." Minos muttered as he watched that woman, waiting for what she would talk about after meeting these bones.

After a few more comments about the spiritual greatness of that skeleton, Hannah turned to Minos and said. "You said you were able to use this skeleton to become stronger... I want you to show me what you did.

In fact, I want to know how that's possible too."

He was not hiding any big secret and said. "Simple, I used my innate ability.

I said before those with compatible skills can certainly manipulate these bones somehow...

Not for nothing did the creators of this sect say that they had to protect these skeletons so they wouldn't fall into the wrong hands. They knew that some people would be able to manipulate these bones and that this could cause chaos.

So they sealed virtually all of these bones and hid them."

Queen McBride had researched the remnants of the primordials in the months that had passed since her year-long agreement with Minos. So she was aware of why these skeletons were not exposed to the public, the organizations famous for hiding them, and also the enemies of these groups.

With that in mind, she understood Minos' statements and said. "I want to see it happen."

Minos had used his innate ability many times before his opponents since reaching the 8th stage. So he didn't hold back. Soon, he was sitting on top of that skeleton's skull, starting his cultivation with his innate ability.

He said to the queen. "Unlike a living being that can use its strength to protect itself, this is just a skeleton without consciousness, which does have a lot of power but cannot use it to protect itself. So I can steal its cultivation base, raise my level through that, and thereby cultivate faster."

"Is that how you can do it?" She narrowed her eyes as she noticed a slight increase in Minos' level, something subtle but noticeable. "But that will pass soon after you finish using this skill... Was it just the ability to manipulate more energy that made you able to cultivate faster?"

"That trait really is what's behind my ability to cultivate faster than others since I reached this stage. But there is one more difference between doing that on a skeleton compared to doing that on a living being."

"Oh?"

He said. "The stolen cultivation base always returns to its original owner because that is a power marked with the mark of its owner's soul. In the case of these skeletons, their souls have already dissipated, and this is power without an owner." He smiled. "So..."

"So you can turn this into your cultivation permanently?" She opened her mouth in surprise, speaking instead of Minos.

"Exactly. A power without an owner would soon transform and come to bear my mark. From then on, it could no longer be mistaken for the power of these bones!"

'I got it... So that's how it is!' She clenched her fists, seeing how lucky Minos was to have such an excellent innate ability while at the same time having access to one of these skeletons.

'If only one of my grandchildren had that ability...' She was thinking but remembered that it wouldn't help as much as she would like even if that happened.

Only one man would have the lineage of Minos, for a woman in her family would surely inherit the powers of her lineage. But the men of the McBride family were all sterile.

In this case, even a child of Minos with Adele or Bridget could only help that state during his short life!

"Sigh..."

'If it were by other means, this could revolutionize my state with the emergence of generations of people capable of using these bones... But as something coming from an innate ability, it would never benefit us.' She realized her mistake.

A daughter of Minos would certainly have many talents, but she would by no means be like him.

Realizing this, she noticed all her chasing after Minos had been futile!

She had always thought that Minos had a natural peak talent. But in fact, he was just fortunate to have something so good and to be so lucky!

In this case, being his friend than his mother-in-law was better!

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Chapter 1586 The Return Of Envoys From The Evergreen Empire

Hannah then said. "I see... Your innate ability is really phenomenal. If you can pass it on to one of your children, you will develop a powerful lineage on this continent."

Minos stopped what he was doing and saw an opportunity in Hannah's words. "This is not only good for my family. Once I get stronger, I will certainly help my friends and allies."

"Really? That will give you the ability to do such a thing?" She smiled, realizing that Minos told her he could help her if he got stronger.

Minos had better results doing what he had done to prove his abilities to Hannah by cultivating within the Spatial Kingdom. But he could use his skill on skeletons outside his cultivation sanctuary and eventually help his allies not so close to him to cultivate faster.

He wouldn't tell Hannah right now that he could use that skill on people other than himself, lest her interest become too high for them to continue this conversation peacefully. But since he still had room for improvement regarding his cultivation and Physique quality, he knew he could use that to convince this woman that he would one day be able to help others like her.

He said. "I don't think it's impossible. If I am lucky enough to find a Divine medicine, I will raise the quality of my Physique to Divine-grade."

She laughed upon hearing this, knowing that finding something like this was harder than finding a needle in a haystack.

But Minos' words were by no means absurd.

Any Spiritual Demigod would have to raise the quality of their Physique to the Divine grade if they wanted to have a chance of reaching level 100. So using something of that level to improve one's innate characteristics was not unreasonable.

If Minos could do this, she didn't doubt that his innate ability would become so strong that he could promote permanent improvements even in someone at her level!

She only laughed, for, finding this resource free and gaining the right to use it would be the hardest thing in this world!

So she commented casually, without taking it seriously. "If you find a Divine medicine and promise that to a half dozen experts, I'm sure you'll find an army of Demigods to help you in the fight, haha."

For Spiritual Demigods, advancing levels was extremely difficult. One level could take thousands of years for someone to achieve the energy and understanding needed to raise their soul force. So certainly, many would help someone able to strengthen themselves with that medicine, but then to be able to help all of them.

Divine medicine was superb only for the one who absorbed it and their subordinates, who would be favored by the increased power of their leader. But if someone who used such a thing could distribute permanent benefits to allies, helping them achieve level advancement, then it would be easy for that person to get the support of the world's greatest experts.

That was precisely Minos' goal!

"I intend to do that." He said in good humor, making that woman think he was joking but also leaving crucial information in this expert's mind. "When I begin my journey in pursuit of this qualitative breakthrough, I will give the opportunity to join me to any interested parties, as long as they support me."

Queen McBride looked at Minos and said a little more seriously. "It just wouldn't be good for you to let one of those experts above level 97 find out about this. Promises of advancement would not sway someone with such power, and they would certainly fight for the resource capable of elevating them to the 11th stage."

With that said, the Queen of the Flowers Kingdom would stand there for a few more moments, admiring, sometimes testing that set of bones. Then, she would talk a bit with Minos about it, the history of it, hearing from him how these giant beings seemed to have self-destructed in a war long ago.

At the end of the day, she had not been able to manipulate it and made a deal with Minos for him to allow women from the McBride family into the headquarters of the Immemorial Graves Sect.

They would study it for alternatives to their forces without taking this item away.

With that, she returned to her state, leaving Minos in that area of the Endless Snow Mountain Range, from where he would have to return to the Dry City on his own.

Luckily for Emperor Stuart, the Immemorial Graves Sect was part of his forces and had a teleportation array that could take him to a city near the core of his state.

In less than 2 hours, he would be back in his capital to talk to the core of his forces about the results of the visit of the mighty Hannah McBride!

...

Four months later...

After Minos' return, time passed quickly.

He stayed in Dry City for almost half of that period because of Isabella's presence.

But she had to return to her state after a few weeks at her man's side, and finally, Minos returned to his periodic seclusion in the Spatial Kingdom, helping to raise the strength of everyone there.

Sarah had reached level 49 at just under 17 years old and was close to becoming a Spiritual King, which could put her in the position of the greatest cultivation genius in the entire empire!

On the other hand, the strongest in the empire had achieved another breakthrough, reaching level 75 this morning.

Minos thoroughly enjoyed the benefits of using the giant skeletons in the Spatial Kingdom. Before leaving seclusion this morning, he finished consolidating his level at the beginning of level 75.

Other people from the Black Plain Army Elite Squad and elders from the Gray Clouds Sect had advanced these days, but no notable special case.

The high-level elders remained at the same levels as before, and Minos' family members were battling to get closer to their desired advancements.

But not only that would happen on this day!

At dusk, the two individuals at levels 84 and 85 arrived in Dry City to receive the response from Minos and Gloria regarding Calvert Evergreen's invitation for them to join his faction.

Upon arriving in their spiritual beast, those two were soon taken to the Dry City Temple. Minos and Gloria were already waiting for them to talk about this complicated matter.

They obviously would not accept Calvert's proposal. They had only taken the time to listen to that man's and his opponents' propositions to buy time for themselves.

At this point, they could no longer prolong the situation. They would make a decision that would undoubtedly negatively affect their interests in a short time!

And so Minos said to that couple sent by Calvert. "Well, we appreciate Prince Calvert's offer, but we judge that the conditions are not the most favorable for our group."

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Chapter 1587 Time To Take A Risk

"So you are going to refuse..." The woman looked at her companion, feeling this was most likely, considering the growing situation in this area.

As free people with growth potential, it would be interesting not to 'auction off' what they had without knowing exactly where they might end up. Maybe joining Calvert's faction would be too worthwhile because their future was not as promising as they thought. But maybe it was the other way around, and it would be better to negotiate this in the future when they would be more sure of their limits.

However, whether it was logical or not, they belonged to the Calvert faction and were unhappy with Minos' decision to go that way.

Not only that but in only a year since they had last seen Minos, he had already advanced one level, something impressive, considering that less than two years ago, he had reached level 74.

So this refusal had much more meaning now than if it had been made a year ago.

The man said to his colleague in a mental transmission. 'They want to run free to see how far they can go... Considering Emperor Stuart's cultivation speed, he can probably reach the 9th stage before he needs our help.'

'Yes, he doesn't think he needs us now, so he will refuse our offer... Meanwhile, his wife will remain confident that she can grow within the Church with only the support of the Black Plain Empire.' She agreed, seeing that it would be futile to talk further about this business with Minos and Gloria.

She then said. "I see... You can make your own choices and live with the consequences."

"His Highness Calvert has given you quite an opportunity. I hope you will not regret it later. The benefits won't be the same if he has to renegotiate this in the future." The man said. "Then I hope you have considered that in your judgment."

"But of course," Gloria replied. "If we have to renegotiate, the conditions would be different."

She was thinking of better conditions for her side, not Calvert's. But those two understood it as accepting the risk of losing benefits with Prince Calvert's faction.

Minos smiled at them as he saw the threatening expressions of the two, not fearing this would lead to a conflict.

Fighting against someone who refused them the first time made no sense. If the world worked like this, there would be no business, and society would probably live in complete chaos.

Warlike conflicts only developed after disagreements, revenge, dishonest acts, collusion with enemies, etc. The group of Minos and Gloria had done nothing against the Calvert faction, only not accepting the invitation to become members of this group.

That was not a good thing, but it was not the end of relations between the parties.

These people knew that Calvert would insist on bringing Minos and Gloria over to his side, and after a while, they or others would be sent on a new business venture.

Hence, there was no possibility of them fighting there. Only verbal threats like the one above had room, and even they could not be too exaggerated.

Rancor only made relationships like the one they wanted to form more difficult!

At that pace, after a few meaningful glances at each other, with comments loaded with hidden meanings, the two Spiritual Sages said goodbye to Minos and Gloria.

They wished the faction of the two and the Black Plain Empire good luck, but Minos and Gloria did not take it seriously.

On the other hand, they made it clear to those people that the empire was open to negotiations with Calvert's group and a visit from members of his faction.

They declined this invitation but were not cutting off relations with Calvert's group. Just a business deal that had not developed.

As they watched those two leave, the couple realized that the pressure on them would begin to increase from then on.

Soon they would receive invitations from other factions, and when they turned them down, they would have various Church groups not only vying with each other for the pose of the northern region but pressuring their group.

There were endless ways to pressure them, even though these groups were only part of the Spiritual Church.

As the ultimate protector of several states in the Central Continent, the Church could make it easy or difficult for people to enter its domains, as well as direct missions of various organizations to new areas.

With the strengthening of the Black Plain Empire, which currently occupied the entire northern region, there would certainly be ways for these forces to send trouble into these areas to show Minos and Gloria the disadvantage of being 'alone.'

Another possibility was related to economics, or rather the competition of foreign resources with those local ones.

The Black Plain was an anomaly regarding resources and prices offered. Due to imperial government subsidies, prices throughout the empire were relatively low. But forces outside and more significant than the Bank of the Black Plain could cheapen their products even more and set them up to compete with those produced in the domains of Minos.

These were some of the many possibilities that these Church forces could use against the group of these two, and both were sure that they would soon face many such problems.

Seeing the departure of those two, Minos and Gloria sighed, realizing that the peace they thought they would achieve after the Flowers Kingdom would have to be delayed.

"That will be tricky." She said to him, noting that from now on, the challenges on their path would be of a new level.

He was silent for a moment, looking at the Spatial Kingdom ring. Then, after thinking for a moment, he said. "Maybe we should take a little risk..."

"What do you mean?"

"The map of the Seraphim Ancient Sarcophagus." He said seriously. "Maybe we'd better search for that location a little earlier than planned."

Gloria frowned, thinking this would be a little riskier than she would like. "Do you think that's the only alternative?"

"No, but it's the best one we have." He tried to imagine the challenges they would face. "I am confident of withstanding enemy pressures for a while."

They don't know us well and think acting on the Black Plain will be easy. So the mechanisms I have created over the years will protect us for a few months, maybe years. But eventually, they will raise their investments in pressuring us and succeed in disrupting our plans.

At that time, we will have to act quickly."

Gloria knew that Minos was a great manager and better at predicting adversary movements. So she didn't question him if that was the way it would be and asked. "And when will we act? I'm afraid going for it will take us quite a bit of time."

"Not exactly... In any case, I think not before the people from the Blood Triangle Pirates group return to fulfill the 10-year agreement." He remembered that fact that was close to happening. "But after their visit, I will assess the situation. If it is not promising, I will act immediately!"

Chapter 1588 Upper Echelon

After Minos and Gloria's refusal, weeks passed, and soon the more powerful factions of the Church learned about their rejection.

That was not definitive about the positioning of the Black Plain and Gloria's group. But it was something that showed the powers of the Church that Minos and his wife would not simply bow down to the factions coming from the Evergreen Empire just because of their magnificent positions and wealth.

It wasn't enough that their group had Demigods, while the Black Plain group had only Spiritual Saints. It wasn't enough that their side offered opportunities for Minos and Gloria's freedom. They had to do something more if they wanted to have the loyalty of those two.

On the other hand, as promising as he was, one of the most talented princes with the potential to become a Spiritual Demigod under a thousand years old, something impressive, Calvert might not be enough for Minos and Gloria.

Perhaps they had not only refused that man because of their ambition to grow more without limitations. Perhaps one of the reasons for the refusal was that the leader of this faction was still a Spiritual Sage!

Because of this, the other factions competing for the position of Supreme Pontiff of the Church judged that Calvert being rejected did not mean that they would be.

Besides Calvert's faction, three other groups were competing for the position that, in a few years, one of the three strongest on the continent would leave. Of these groups, all had candidates for the position of Supreme Pontiff, people who had already passed level 90.

The strongest of these contenders was currently at level 92 and was the disciple of the current leader of the Spiritual Church.

With conditions different from Calvert's, these groups were already sending their representatives to press an agreement with Minos and Gloria, the leaders of that faction!

...

While Spiritual Sages were traveling to the Black Plain, Calvert was in the capital of the Evergreen Empire, dealing with the news regarding Minos and Gloria.

"So the damned Vincent went to the Black Plain on his own?" He asked one of his servants about the chosen one of the faction Gloria's father was part of.

Vincent was two levels stronger than Calvert, currently at level 90 with his 2,000 years of cultivation.

He was by no means more talented or promising than Calvert. Still, in the fight for leadership, there was no guarantee that the winner would be the one who at the beginning of the disputes was the most talented, the favorite.

Only the final result mattered, so even people of lesser talent could vie with those favored by heaven, so Calvert did not underestimate any of his opponents.

The servant replied. "Yes, Vincent Harding went to Black Plain two weeks after the Stuart family rejected Your Highness.

But he was also rejected, which seems to have canceled the Cardinal Quinn faction favorite's trip to the northern region."

"What about Forrest?" The Third Prince asked.

"The Supreme Pontiff's chosen will not subject himself to Minos and Gloria going to that region to invite them. He recognizes the difference in status between the parties and will only send one of his envoys to Dry City."

'Hmm, as expected. The Supreme Pontiff would not educate his disciple for him to make such shameful decisions as Vincent's.' Calvert pondered the situation, remembering his initial defeat in getting Minos and Gloria to join him.

But he hadn't given up, and more, he was working to bring those two to his side in the future.

He intended to make them bleed a little, as there were no eternal grudges in the Spiritual World, only changing interests.

They were not in sync right now, but that could change quickly!

Prince Calvert then said. "Continue with my plans for the Black Plain. Minos won't accept any of these propositions, so we don't need to change our strategy for now.

Anyway, keep an eye on Cardinal Ray's territory. The family seer says that the unstable pocket of space of the former Dragon Spatial Kingdom will open up in this man's domain.

We are unsure when this will happen, but it should not be long. That vision supposedly happened in the last few weeks." He said, changing the subject to something that might help him prepare for the competition a few decades away.

"I will do that, Your Highness!"

...

On the other hand, in the imperial throne hall of the Evergreen family...

The emperor of this great state descended from the main lineage within the Spiritual Church, was at this instant standing next to his subordinate in charge of the Blood Triangle Pirates group.

The emperor of this state, level 98, looked at the level 90 man in front of him and said. "Put more pressure on that Minos Stuart. He is too bold to refuse offers, even from my third son... It's time he learned the difference between our forces!"

"How far can your subordinate go, Your Majesty?" That man asked while having his head lowered, looking at the ground.

"You don't need to destroy his state nor kill him. He will still serve my family through Calvert." That high-level expert in the Spiritual World said. "I don't want our top experts wasting time on this junior either.

The ancient Dragon Spatial Kingdom should open one of its doors on our continent any moment now. But, on the other hand, the Continental Tournament will start in 50 years.

So press him a little against the ground to show him how he should behave.

If he agrees to help us find the map of the Seraphim Ancient Sarcophagus and join my third son's faction, we will forgive him for his daring."

"I will do that as soon as the previous agreement deadline expires." That low-level Spiritual Demigod talked about something his leader was fully aware of.

High-level experts followed promises and deadlines to the letter, especially when that came from agreements with low-level people.

So even the emperor would not rush his man, especially considering that only three years were left before Minos' time was up.

He would give this young man the needed time and then crush him, no longer leaving room for him to dare refuse to join groups like Calvert's.

With that said, the emperor agreed with his man, letting this fellow deal with this arrogant young man named Minos Stuart.

Meanwhile, after this person left, he received his second son, whom he intended to send to the Continental Tournament to represent his state.

Upon receiving the Second Prince, he smiled and asked. "How is your training? Rumors are circulating in the Divine Continent that a Divine medicine will be used as a prize for the winning bettor of the competition."

"Divine Medicine?" That man asked strangely, finding it very difficult to happen. "How is that possible?"

"It seems that one of the seer elves will present the winner with a prophetic dream concerning something of great value..."

What is there of more value than a Divine medicine?"

Chapter 1589 New Regional Reality

Meanwhile, Emperor Evergreen's eldest son, only 80 years younger than his father, was in the Green City Temple, handling his affairs within the Spiritual Church.

He, Duncan Evergreen, level 99, was the current Supreme Pontiff of that organization, someone who had left the imperial family of this state to serve only the Church.

Because of this, he was no longer part of that family, although he was a close ally of House Evergreen.

In any case, he was more talented than his father, so he was at the peak of level 99, not far from reaching what was necessary to attempt his advancement to the 11th stage for the first time.

His father was also supposed to try to do this in the future. Still, even though he was younger, Duncan would go into seclusion before his old man within the next 80 to 90 years.

Therefore, he was siding with his disciple of this generation, who he wanted to take over his duties within the Church when he left.

"Forrest, you must win the dispute over the northern region. That place will grow considerably in the coming decades, and whoever owns the area will have significant support when I leave." This blond, strong, tall man said to the junior beside him.

Not only were these two walking with there, but some of Duncan's former disciples were also with them, as they were part of the Supreme Pontiff faction, among the most powerful of that group.

One of them, level 97, said to the level 92 'young' man. "Forrest, this Minos Stuart is worth having on your good side.

He will suffer from pressure from all sides. So it might be good for you to try a different approach than the others with him.

As the master said, conquer those domains from the other major factions. But, in the meantime, help this Minos in some way against those factions that will try to make his life difficult."

Forrest Howell, black hair, with a mustache even bigger than Dillian's, heard that and thanked his superiors for their recommendations. "I will do my best regarding that region."

"Very good." The Supreme Pontiff clapped one of his hands on this fellow's back as he stood beside him, walking through the Seraph Hall, where a giant statue of the founder of the Church stood. "Before I leave, we will have another chance for you to strengthen yourself. Soon the ancient Dragon Spatial Kingdom will open one of its gates on the continent, and you should take the opportunity to strengthen yourself."

"I hope that with this, you can reach level 94 before my departure."

They didn't talk about the Continental Tournament since that special competition only had openings for heads of state to send people to participate. Unfortunately, the leader of the Church was not a head of state, so the most he could do in this event was bet along with the other world leaders.

So Forrest didn't have to worry about competing in this contest.

At the end of their walk, they arrived in front of a large gate, where Spiritual Demigods, level 96 or stronger, guarded the surroundings.

There at that gate, there was nothing in place of doors, only a spatial distortion that made it seem as if a liquid separated this place from another.

Those people followed the Supreme Pontiff, passing through that distortion until they reached a special place where the energy density was considerably high.

The Spiritual Church's Spatial Kingdom was the core of this organization, where the greatest experts and members of this force trained, studied, or cultivated.

That was also where the Saint medicine plantation of that organization was, as well as the three Divine medicine plantations.

Two would take more than 200,000 years to finish maturing, but one was already not far from reaching its maximum!

In a maximum of 100 years, it could be harvested!

...

Two and a half years later...

Time passed for the Black Plain Empire, slowly bringing new problems to this area, but nothing grand as the past threat of Abe Vogel, Mortimer Burgess, or the criminal raids of Albano.

Spiritual Sages now flew through this region without hiding, landing in cities in Minos' territory and sometimes doing business alongside 8th-stage underlings.

Others of these experts came to the region to train their weaker organization members, sometimes to create outposts of their forces or search for lost items in the region.

The traffic of specialists in the area had increased dramatically during this period, exceeding a few dozen times the movement that had previously existed, which was associated with the passage of specialists heading towards Elves Island.

It was not good to fly in beasts or by oneself by sea or via wormholes, so experts usually traveled by boat to Elves Island. Since this place was closer to the Snow Kingdom than to any other state in the Central Continent, that was where experts passed through.

But the number of experts making this trip was low in the past. They always avoided contact with locals to avoid being bothered by people who had never seen 9th or 10th-stage individuals.

But with the changes brought about by the pressures against Minos and Gloria, many 9th-stage individuals were showing themselves in this region lately, and even these travelers were changing their habits.

That brought some problems for the local people, particularly for Minos. But it was undeniable that the passage of more specialists through the area was also stimulating trade and the development of this territory.

The region was experiencing a golden moment in its contemporary history, with the regional citizens slowly becoming accustomed to the presence of beings above the 80 level throughout the region.

That was true, especially for the areas farthest from the core of the Black Plain, places where even level 70 cultivators were still viewed somewhat differently before. But with the increased movement of high-level cultivators, even in the region's weakest places, it was becoming common to see or feel powerful auras nearby.

Already in the core of the Black Plain, although this area was not suffering as much external pressure as others around Minos' domain, the local population was also becoming accustomed to Spiritual Sages.

Not only because of the constant visits Minos was receiving from envoys from other states and the Spiritual Church but because of his strongest experts, the high-level elders of the Gray Clouds Sect.

After more than two years of seclusion in the Spatial Kingdom, two of these experts advanced to the 9th stage!

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Chapter 1590 Spiritual Sages

In the imperial palace of Dry City...

Minos was standing in front of the two elders of the Gray Clouds Sect, who had recently advanced to level 80.

One of them was an elder of the Coleman family, who had first come to Dry City with Minos years ago and had not returned to Clouds City in the exchanges of people that the local government had made over the years.

The other had also stayed in the city for several years without having returned to the Flaming Empire since arriving here. He was one of the leaders of the Moss family, the house of Ivory.

But these were not the only Spiritual Sages under the Black Plain Empire or even in that throne hall where they were. Oswald, who was no longer part of the Grey Clouds Sect, had also advanced a stage with the help of his grandson!

So now Minos had three experts from that stage in his network of influence, which gave him plenty of peace of mind for when he had to stay away from his state.

These men could not compare to him, who was currently near the peak of level 76. Still, they could manipulate space and, thereby, more easily counter opponents.

Because of these capabilities related to the 9th stage, even though they were low-level and weaker than this emperor, they were relevant to the empire!

"Elders, you have already learned your new techniques and are armed with equipment of a level equivalent to your current strength," Minos said to those two while having Oswald at his side.

Oswald was in a new cultivation stage, so his appearance had significantly improved, even without him making an effort to manipulate his body.

A cultivator's natural appearance was associated with their body's life force. So when a cultivator above level 70 wasn't manipulating their cells to look younger or different, they would have an appearance equivalent to their vitality and characteristics.

If that person had already reached half of what they were supposed to live, they would have a middle-aged appearance. If they were close to dying, they would have an elderly appearance.

Therefore, Oswald and those elders looked younger because they had more than doubled their previous vitality.

The two individuals of middle-aged appearances smiled upon hearing Minos' words, eager for whatever missions he would pass on to them.

Now that they had reached level 80, they wanted to walk through the Flaming Empire or even the Black Plain to show their acquaintances how strong they were.

Minos then responded to their yearnings. "With that, I want one of you to return to the Flaming Empire to replace the level 78 elders who will leave that place to come to the Black Plain.

The other will work alongside Oswald to develop the wormhole ports of the Black Plain Army."

The most efficient way to travel through the Spiritual World was through wormholes.

Spiritual Sages could create such opportunities for themselves at any time. Still, there was a way to create paths through space that worked 'permanently.'

Obviously, this was not permanent, but as long as Spiritual Sages maintained these paths regularly, they could be used in place of teleportation arrays safely for long intervals.

And with this, Spiritual Sages would not be required all the time to enable travel using these paths through space.

What was the advantage of using this means of travel? Simple, the saving of crystals related to the arrays since these paths were straightforward for experts to create and maintain and did not require crystals to travel through them.

At the same time, wormholes could lead to distances limited only by the level of the experts behind them or by patience.

That is, a level 80 cultivator could make a wormhole that would shorten the distance between, for example, Dry City and Payton. But more than that, only by making a new wormhole could they increase the range of these paths. On the other hand, a level 89 cultivator could go much further with a single wormhole than a level 80.

Anyway, with this alternative, one didn't have to use crystals every time they were going to travel long distances, they wouldn't have to invest in buying the arrays, and they could go farther than these alternatives.

Minos wanted to use this to save his state's essential resources and enable him, in one wormhole, to reach the limits of his territory!

That would greatly help his forces to move specialists around the empire!

Oswald already knew of his grandson's plans for this, and one of those men didn't think it bad to go ahead with the job, letting his companion go to the Flaming Empire first.

They agreed on this among themselves, and soon the three left, two of them to start the wormhole ports project, one for the Flaming Empire.

Minos watched their departure through the local skies, where they could not open wormholes due to the arrays around the capital.

'With this, I will solve the problem of my organization's distance and crystal consumption in a few weeks...

I'll be able to use this to nurture more high-level experts.' He smiled, thinking of the remaining Grey Clouds Sect cultivators in the Flaming Empire, who could soon give rise to new Spiritual Sages for the Black Plain Empire.

Amid this, Sarah approached where her father was standing, coming from a small mission she had just completed.

"Father, did great-grandfather leave?" This 20-year-old, level 55 redheaded young woman asked as she stopped beside her 'old' man.

Minos looked at his daughter, who looked more and more like Gloria. "Yes, he will start developing the wormhole ports with the elder Moss."

"Hehe, that's good. I'm looking forward to not traveling through teleportation arrays anymore." She commented as she showed Minos a spatial ring.

Minos looked at that and saw some criminals' heads. People marked for death that soldiers of the Elite Squad had the mission to hunt down.

Sarah was currently part of this renowned group, not because of her status as a princess but because of her merit.

Because of her position, from time to time, she went out to help the forces of the empire to maintain order in this society, helping her father but also her little brother Kendrick, the local heir.

Crime exists in every society. Even in the Black Plain, where opportunities were not lacking for those with the will to grow, crime and social problems happened.

This had always happened, even in the initial moments of local development, when government hiring rates reached more people than in the present time.

But because of the local characteristics and the firm hand that Minos had in acting against criminals, this state had meager crime rates.

In any case, they existed and were opportunities for young people like Sarah to test their skills within this state without taking risks away from the emperor's domain.

Minos saw that his daughter had completed another kill, becoming satisfied as he saw the head of an old acquaintance in that spatial ring, noting Sarah's combat proficiency.

'Nelson Skinner, uh? It seems that Sarah is stronger than ordinary level 60 cultivators...' He thought, seeing the head of the former ruler of the Black Plain territory when this place still belonged to the old Brown Kingdom, and he was unconscious.

"Sigh..."

'So this fellow ended up dying by the hands of my daughter... I guess that ends our business.' He remembered the crystals that man had stolen from him back then.

...