

Black Plain 1601

Chapter 1601 Arrival Of The Blood Triangle Pirates

Three weeks later...

After the arrival of the envoys from the Sista kingdom, the low-level grade-4 spiritual judge arrived in Dry City and confirmed Minos and Hope's agreements. After a week in that place, those people returned to their state, having learned and experienced much of the Black Plain.

With their departure, the capital returned to normal, with people coming and going from the Spatial Kingdom, but Minos spent most of his time outside his cultivation shrine.

He was waiting for the arrival of the two people who had made a deal with him about ten years ago to finally give his final refusal of the request to partner with the Blood Triangle Pirates.

Because of this, he could not stay long in the Spatial Kingdom and was taking advantage of the time he had to deal with the affairs of his state and keep up with the progress of the wormhole ports.

After weeks since the start of creating this, Oswald and his fellow worker had managed to create the first travel corridor of the Black Plain Empire!

This corridor connected the capital of Vogel with Dry City and had a detour that led to the capital of Cromwell, a place relevant to the empire.

Oswald and the other Spiritual Sage were now focused on developing the corridor connecting the capitals of Waves and End, which would be even larger than this part already completed but would greatly change the empire.

Meanwhile, Vogel, Cromwell, and the core of the Black Plain Empire were already taking advantage of this first part of the local wormhole port network, with people and cargo moving through them.

In the Flaming Empire, things were also developing well for the emergence of their network of wormhole ports. The emperor had already settled with Oswald on connecting the states of both.

As such, Harold and Milo were working to build a corridor between Payton and Vogel's capital, something that would revolutionize both states, former mortal enemies on the continent.

But news of the actions of the emperors of these two states did not remain a 'secret' for long. Soon the leaders of Albano, Rosser, and Blackrock were aware of these new possibilities of their neighbors.

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In the capital of Albano...

At this instant, Albano's and Rosser's queen and King Blackrock were gathered in a hall together with several of their trusted men.

They were already aware that the Black Plain Empire and the Flaming Empire each had 2 Spiritual Sages in their forces, both sides working to facilitate the movement of people and resources through their territories.

They had also received an invitation from Minos to join the regional integration he initiated, something that could connect all their states and solve several of their problems.

Because of this, these three people were now meeting to address this issue and decide together whether or not to accept Emperor Stuart's proposition.

"What do you think about that?" King Blackrock asked those two women.

He couldn't deny that having wormhole ports between their states was very interesting. To get an idea, he had spent an entire day traveling through teleportation arrays to get to this city. But not only that, but this sovereign had also spent over 500 high-grade crystals just to come to this city with his men.

That was not an insignificant amount!

They and their men could have spent a fraction of that through wormholes and reached this place in less than 30 minutes!

But that wasn't even the best thing about this travel option. The best of all was not for people but for cargo!

Cargoes were not sent through teleportation arrays because they had too much weight and volume, making transporting them by these alternatives impossible. That was also the case for beasts unable to change into their humanoid form.

As such, cargo and beasts had to travel by water, air, or land, a type of alternative that was much slower, inefficient, and more costly than via wormholes.

With this option, it would be cheaper and faster to send and receive resources!

Queen West then said. "Well, our relations with the Flaming Empire are no longer as hostile as in the past. So even if this alternative connects us to that kingdom more internally, it won't change anything for our security."

"Will it?" Queen Rosser asked.

"I don't think so," Iris said. "With Minos controlling the situation, the Flaming Empire wouldn't dare do anything against us... But not only that, even in his absence, the Black Plain Empire already has experts who can threaten Harold. So if there's any danger to us, it's not this ancient enemy."

King Blackrock couldn't help but agree with that. "The only one who could decide to do us any harm currently is Minos himself and his territory."

"If that is the case, we should accept this agreement." Queen Rosser said. "If Minos wants to do something against us, it won't be the means of transportation that will stop him. We are already within his reach."

The two were silent for a few moments, feeling that, as much as this was a shame, it was the way it was, and they had to accept living like this.

But neither of them thought that Minos would act unfairly, so they soon agreed to accept Minos' offer.

"Well, we just have to define how our cities will be connected to the Black Plain Empire..."

They continued talking about this, trying to sort out each other's interests for a while longer.

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Meanwhile, Dry City had unstable weather this day, with rainy weather and strong winds.

Gray clouds covered the skies, facilitating the training of many former members of the Gray Clouds Sect in this city, who had techniques associated with the related Natural Laws.

Amid this, Minos was looking at the sky from inside his residence, finishing eating while seeing something relevant through the window he was looking at.

At that position, a black area opened up inside the protected area of Dry City, revealing five people dressed in pirate costumes.

Seeing this, Minos frowned, sensing that something was wrong. This time, these people were different from those who had come before at the behest of the Blood Triangle Pirates.

But even though they acted differently and had more people among them, this was the group from that organization, individuals with the red symbols of this branch of the Evergreen family.

Minos then flew towards those people, finally realizing their cultivation levels.

Among those people was a Spiritual Demigod, level 90!

'That's not a good sign...' He thought as he ignored the other four, two level 88, one level 87, and one level 86.

Meanwhile, the group leader, the Blood Triangle Pirates leader, one of the two Spiritual Demigods of this organization, looked at Minos and recognized him.

"Minos Stuart, you have had plenty of time to decide. I will not leave this city without an answer today!"

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Chapter 1602 Minos' Response

Hearing the voice of that Spiritual Demigod, Minos frowned and looked in that man's direction strangely. 'Did the leader of that organization happen to come to me?'

Minos had various information regarding the Blood Triangle Pirates, as he had researched much about this group over the years. Consequently, he knew that the leader of this organization was not a particularly powerful Spiritual Demigod, someone in the early part of the 10th stage.

There weren't many other cultivators of this stage in this group either, so with the appearance of one of only two of them in his city, he found the situation strange.

'Why would someone so strong come to me just to offer me a job? Did his group get angry because I made them wait? But I have no obligation to help them, and they can do a lot without me.' Minos thought before appearing not far from those people.

"To what do I owe the honor of a Spiritual Demigod's visit?" He asked, full of doubt. "That can't just be because of the work I was offered before..."

Meanwhile, the high-level Spiritual Saints in this city watched toward the local sky, fearful of what might happen.

Everyone knew Minos identified the Blood Triangle Pirates as an enemy organization. As such, with someone so strong of that organization there in Dry City, they couldn't help but fear the worst.

'What will happen?'

'I don't think this person is here for good things!'

'Damn it! We have to do something about it!'

Several men and women at levels 78 and 79 thought about this situation, trying to find alternatives to resolve what that man might try against this place.

The Spiritual Demigod looked at Minos and narrowed his eyes, seeing the fellow who dared to refuse His Highness Calvert's offers. This level 77 fellow had also delayed for more than 11 years to decide whether to help his organization find that map in the northern region.

This was too much!

He was a glorious Spiritual Demigod, and Calvert would soon be one too!

But even so, a mere Spiritual Saint had managed to annoy the two of them and still cause His Majesty's fury!

"Minos Stuart, you have guts!" That man shouted, causing everyone in Dry City to bring their hands to their ears as they felt tremendous pressure on them.

The buildings and streets began to crack, showing this entire city the power of a Demigod.

"Accept to join His Highness Calvert's faction and the work offered by my men, or suffer the consequences!"

Minos clenched his fists after pulling them away from his ears, straining to withstand the pressure of that man's voice. Meanwhile, the veins on his neck and forehead appeared, and his face turned red.

"Is that a threat? Are Prince Calvert and the Blood Triangle Pirates setting themselves against me?" He asked in a tone that showed no fear, although he suffered from the pressure caused by the enemy's voice.

"Oh? What if it is? What are you going to do?" That man laughed while his subordinates were delighted to see this man putting Minos in his rightful place.

For high-ranking people like them, there was nothing worse than a person trying to be more than they were, to achieve more than they should.

Watching their leader oppress such a bumpkin was a sight worthy of their attention, so they stood there watching it all with smiles.

Minos then said. "Are you going to choose this path for something so small? What happens if I choose to join Cardinal Forrest Howell's faction because of this?"

"Oh? So you're saying you'll do that because of me? That would be a shame. That would irritate His Highness Calvert." That man laughed, snapping the fingers of his hands in a way that indicated he would have to 'talk' a bit with this person. "If you choose this path, I will suffer punishment, so I must make it worthwhile."

"Decide your fate and don't regret it later. I definitely won't regret it." Minos put up a fighting stance, indicating to that man that he would not accept this oppression quietly and still.

The Spiritual Sages around that Demigod laughed as they listened to Minos, seeing his pathetic reaction.

'Does that idiot think he can fight a Demigod?'

'He's out of his mind. He thinks we're going to kill him, and he's showing all his bravery to the people of his city... Little does he know that we are only here to humiliate him in front of his citizens.'

'Haha, how pathetic... So this is the Stuart Emperor? It seems to me that he got to his position by luck. He's not going to get any bigger than that.'

Those people talked among themselves, sending their thoughts into their companions' minds as they laughed at Minos.

The Demigod there was also smiling, noting that Minos had a lot of courage for someone at the 8th stage. Because of this, he could not deny his surprise.

But breaking someone's trust like that would be even more pleasant than acting against someone subservient!

Once he destroyed Minos' trust, it would be a matter of time before this person started working for him and Prince Calvert!

"Hehe, do you think I will regret anything? Nonsense, you are only a Spiritual Saint! Become a Demigod and come to me and make me repent, if you are able, of course. Until then, shut up and obey!" He said arrogantly.

"I won't have to wait that long," Minos commented, activating his techniques, already with his Soul Avatar activated.

Those people coming from the Evergreen Empire saw that and continued to stand still, giving this bumpkin room to use everything he had.

Once Minos showed his best and was totally crushed by their leader, their work there would be practically finished!

After today, no one would respect Minos in the Black Plain Empire!

That would lead to more problems arising in such a state, eventually leading to him having to accept his inferior position and take orders from the Evergreen family.

That was their plan!

No one stopped Minos as he did his best, quickly raising his level to 79 with the help of some elders in the surrounding area who were there to lend their cultivation bases to him.

Then he soon had a black hole spinning before him, something capable of swallowing even level 83 Spiritual Saints without difficulty.

That was impressive, but it didn't scare those people who were faster and stronger than that.

But then, Minos made a shocking move, surprising even that Spiritual Demigod!

In the blink of an eye, Minos manipulated the space and made his black hole go through it until it reached above where those invaders were.

In that instant, they all stood under the event horizon of that region of space!

"Deal with it!" Minos shouted, filled with rage.

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Chapter 1603 Rancor

When Minos' black hole appeared between those people, they immediately felt a powerful force trying to absorb their bodies and souls.

That was not a force strong enough to kill them in the blink of an eye, but with every millisecond that passed, it became stronger with what the black hole was absorbing from them.

Yes, as they were surprised by Minos' action, all those people felt parts of themselves being absorbed by it, strengthening it.

With the strengthening of the black hole, in just one second after Minos' movement, the thing was already capable of threatening even the life of someone at level 85.

"Shit!" The weaker ones there shouted the same thing, quickly moving their forces to escape from that growing and frightening space.

They have experienced warriors who have already faced death up close several times in their lives. But for the first time, they saw the darkness of death so close, feeling their hearts beating stronger as their souls trembled in terror.

That fusion of techniques was genuinely terrifying!

No matter the level of its creator, it could continuously evolve as it devoured more powerful bodies, being able to threaten more and more of those in its surroundings.

The action of the black hole was happening at great speed, so by the time they realized what was happening, those people were already feeling their bodies distorting, being drawn into the singularity.

That shocked even the Spiritual Demigod, who at the moment had his eyes wide open, to notice that the movement of a mere Spiritual Saint could make even him shiver!

That wasn't enough to kill him, but he felt part of his strength being eroded and felt temporarily restricted when he found himself within the space of the event horizon.

'Unbelievable!' He thought as he acted to save his companions.

As he acted, he felt that the weakest of them, level 86, was already with his body distorted so that he looked like a noodle, which was extremely shocking to see.

As he looked at that body and got out of there with some difficulty, he felt Minos looking at him defiantly inside that black hole.

He could not hear Minos' voice, but he knew that this man was challenging him to stay, that he could only fight inside that black hole, as he himself would not get out of there.

This man was no fool and quickly left the black hole, appearing back in the Dry City sky, this time with a horrible expression.

Simultaneously, the four Spiritual Sages next to him were pale, one of them with his body extremely deformed and the other three with only parts of their bodies like this.

One had both legs turned into something like spaghetti, and the other had only their feet and hands like that.

Only the Spiritual Demigod had nothing deformed on his body, although he seemed to have spent a significant portion of his powers.

That had not been spent just for him to escape the black hole. Part of his soul power, something small but remarkable, had been left in Minos' black hole!

Because of this developing situation, the elders formerly part of the Gray Clouds Sect and the millions of inhabitants of Dry City were shocked by Minos' capabilities.

Their sovereign had, in one move, wiped the smiles off the faces of these arrogant people, making them feel the drama of acting against this place.

They had no absurd thoughts to think that Minos could defeat a level 90 cultivator. But seeing their sovereign acting so well against someone at that level, many were already proud, feeling fate was on their side.

Even if Minos were defeated or hid inside the black hole, they would not lose their confidence in him. On the contrary, after what they had just seen, they would be even more confident in the future of their emperor!

Amidst this, those five individuals looked at each other, while the weakest one there, level 86, was trembling in pain, feeling that person had ruined his body.

"Damn it! Boss, what is there for us to do? I don't think we can get Lian's body back!" One of them said, feeling his situation and imagining that he would lose his hands and feet.

The Spiritual Demigod looked with hatred at Minos' black hole and thought of using his strength to crush that individual because of that dangerous action.

'The wretch can manipulate space even though he is a Spiritual Saint! I didn't know that!' He thought angrily, feeling the effects of ignorance.

He would never have been surprised if he had known this in advance, and his trusted men would not be seriously injured now!

But while this level 90 man was thinking about finishing off Minos, suddenly, some wormholes appeared on the outskirts of Dry City.

By the time this pirate group arrived, unlike Hannah had done, the leader of the Blood Triangle Pirates had destroyed all the defenses on the outskirts of this city with their entry.

Thus, there were no longer any barriers preventing wormholes from opening to the capital of the Black Plain Empire, allowing even Spiritual Sages to get there.

Women who were in the Endless Snow Mountain Range area then appeared on the outskirts of Dry City, quickly noticing those five people.

Those five also noticed the arrival of guests. They looked at the surprised expressions of those women from the Flowers Kingdom, who were shocked to discover those people so angry and some of them injured.

"Uh? What happened here? Why do they seem to have seen death up close?" A level 85 woman asked aloud,

"Maybe they really did see it..." Another of the four women who arrived there after hearing an emergency call from Dry City in Laura's sect said, looking at Minos' black hole.

'This is almost out of control...'

One of the strongest there then looked at the Spiritual Demigod and said. "Your Excellency, whatever the reason for your visit, I ask that you leave Dry City. It would not be suitable for someone of your status if the news were to run around the Spiritual World that you used your strength to oppress a Spiritual Saint...

It would not be good at all if your leader had his reputation tarnished by a failed action..."

The Flowers Kingdom had good relations with the Evergreen Empire and the Spiritual Church. But the people of that kingdom were by no means subservient or unable to say things contrary to the interests of their allies.

Hearing that from that level 87 woman, the Spiritual Demigod felt humiliated, blaming Minos for all this.

But with his men injured to an intensity, he didn't know if they could recover, and Minos hiding in that 'turtle shell,' he had no choice but to leave.

'Damned Minos Stuart! You'll pay for this!' He hatefully thought before grabbing his people and leaving Dry City without saying a single word.

Immediately after his departure, Minos realized what had happened inside the black hole and moved!

'I will not forget this day, Blood Triangle Pirates, Evergreen family!'

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Chapter 1604 Time To Go

Making up his mind about what to do, Minos used his abilities to the best of his ability as he took a low-level grade-4 array to contain the power of his black hole.

With that, that region of space began to shrink in size soon after revealing his body to the women of the Flowers Kingdom, while the mirrored sphere in his hand contained the power of that region of space.

That Black Hole Bomb was so strong that even the strongest of those women felt a little threatened by it, frowning as she didn't expect Minos to be so capable already.

Somehow or another, this guy had found a way to get rid of a Spiritual Demigod and still injure four Spiritual Sages, three high-level and one mid-level.

This was impressive!

At the same time, that weapon was valuable in the hands of Emperor Stuart, who these women knew could use such a thing to create cultivation halls in his state.

'It seems that the Black Plain has gained something from this...' One of them considered, putting aside the bitterness that had been generated this day.

Meanwhile, Minos finished containing the power of that region of space, producing something that would soon help him create cultivation rooms for Spiritual Sages to train outside the Spatial Kingdom.

But Minos had already noticed those women from the Flowers Kingdom and quickly went to where they were.

"Thank you for coming to my city to help me, flower warriors." He said in a sincere tone. "Today, my city suffered at the hands of these pirates, so I will not forget the support."

"That is nothing, Your Majesty." The strongest one there said. "We haven't even done anything. Your Majesty is already quite strong and made a Demigod run, haha."

"Hmm, that guy was boiling with rage." The other women commented briefly to Minos, not long afterward departing back to their posts in the empire.

They didn't care about Minos' plans and the trouble he would get into because of such people. Their partnership with him was limited to help like this, and they would not be involved in anything else.

Hence, soon Minos was at the side of his high-level elders, with whom he had plenty to talk about right now.

"Elders, prepare yourselves, I will soon be leaving on a journey outside the empire, so I will leave the state under your care." He said seriously, with a dark expression.

Those people already knew about the possibility of Minos going in search of what that map in the Spatial Kingdom led to if something happened to those people from the Blood Triangle Pirates or even the Spiritual Church.

Considering what had just happened, they did not question Minos about whether it was appropriate for him to go ahead with these dangerous plans.

His grandmother, level 79, then asked him. "When will you be leaving? Who will you be taking with you?"

"I will leave as soon as possible. In a week at most, the time needed to get everything organized." He said. "I intend to go alone, so I leave no trace of my movements.

In any case, I don't believe you will have much trouble in my absence. The pressures from the Church will continue as they are now, but without the risk of battles. As for this group, their problem is with me, and after today, I believe it will be a while before they move again."

Minos judged that these people from the Blood Triangle Pirates would try to analyze his strength before moving again. At the same time, they had seen women from the Flowers Kingdom on the Black Plain, which could hinder them from acting.

In the short term, nothing should happen.

But he couldn't be sure if it would stay that way in a few months, so he wanted to act as quickly as possible.

After months, the enemy group would certainly try new strategies to get at him!

"What if they attack us in the meantime?" Someone there asked, feeling unsure about the threat of Spiritual Demigods.

Minos reassured his people. "That won't happen. The Blood Triangle Pirates are subordinates of the Evergreen family, of which Calvert is a part. They can't damage the structures of our state and wipe out the potential of the faction they want to absorb.

That would be like giving up Gloria's faction, something that doesn't make sense now."

Minos knew that the big Church factions in that state were interested in his and Gloria's faction because of the Black Plain. Therefore, the better that state was, the further that faction could go and the better it would be for one of them to absorb it.

Damaging the structures of that state would be foolish on that group's part.

Minos continued. "But it is true that there are risks. They may change their position in the future. So I will settle my affairs as quickly as possible."

The people there agreed to this, feeling less pressured by the threat of 10th-stage cultivators.

But that was only a temporary relief. They knew that.

'We must urgently advance to the 9th stage...'

Many of them thought about it, clenching their fists in determination.

"What will we do about the Spatial Kingdom?" One of the elders asked, speaking very low, as there were no more defenses over Dry City now.

Minos looked at that person and said to everyone there, "I will not take, nor bring people there now that we are without the arrays destroyed by these people. So those here will stay in the empire while I travel."

"How will we make progress, Your Majesty? It will be difficult for people like me to progress outside of there..." An elder said this.

Minos then commented. "No. With this Black Hole Bomb, the cultivation room where it will stay will be able to help even level 86 cultivators, so for you, level 78 and 79 people, cultivating in such a place won't be like cultivating in the other special rooms in my state."

"Oh?"

The people there felt relieved, but not only that, happy because even in the presence of Minos, for some periods, part of them could not go to the Spatial Kingdom because they had to fulfill duties in the empire.

But with a cultivation room capable of enabling their advancement to the 9th stage outside the Spatial Kingdom, where they could train even in Minos' absence, they couldn't help but smile in satisfaction.

With that said, Minos and those people dispersed while the local population began to comment on the local events, slowly spreading the rumor about their leader's strength.

In a matter of days, the event involving Minos and a Demigod would spread throughout the entire territory, creating yet another legend about the emperor.

In the meantime, Minos would focus on resolving matters crucial to his departure, again preparing his state for his absence.

This time he knew absolutely nothing about what might happen on his journey, leaving in search of the Seraphim Ancient Sarcophagus, something he didn't know where it was, nor what kind of problems would arise on his way.

So he needed to prepare himself and could not leave immediately!

As for the map of that place, it would not take him long to pick it up in the Spatial Kingdom without drawing the attention of his watcher from the Eastern Empire.

Thus, the time had finally come for him to solve the mystery behind that item!

Chapter 1605 New Destiny

A week after the confrontation of Minos and the level 90 Spiritual Demigod...

Minos was at this moment inside a black hole he had just created, using this method to hide his tracks from the Eastern Empire's Spiritual Sage or anyone else who was watching him.

Minos could control his black holes so he, his clothes, artifacts, and small things not be absorbed by the singularity. Because of these characteristics, he could come and go from the Spatial Kingdom and take strange actions without the risk of being noticed.

Outside the black hole, all that an observer could see and feel was darkness and the absence of spiritual signs. So he had traveled to get this map in his hands in the Spatial Kingdom and was now doing what he should to begin his new journey.

Minos cut the tip of one of his fingers with his low-level grade-4 sword, then allowed a drop of his blood to fall onto that ancient piece of cloth.

That map showed a former area of the Evergreen Empire, but that was a floating island that had been abandoned, so its location should no longer be in that state, as innocent people might think.

So Minos couldn't just use that map in the traditional way, heading for the vicinity of that state.

He followed the procedure he had learned from one of the women of the Flowers Kingdom to get the key to the Seraphim Ancient Sarcophagus.

Following his drop of blood coming into contact with that fabric, suddenly, the impurities on it repelled. At the same time, a red glow appeared all over that thing.

Meanwhile, a large amount of energy from Minos' black hole singularity was absorbed by that thing, causing this emperor to frown as he noticed the power of that item.

'That must be at least a medium-level grade-4 artifact!' He pondered, finally realizing the quality of that map, which was also a key to something.

Then, amidst the absorption of energy and its intense glow, that thing changed color, turning golden, until a beam of light shot toward Minos' body.

That beam was not evil and only contained what was necessary for one to be able to access the location that this map led to. So Minos didn't back down and accepted that spiritual key into his mind.

Simultaneously, the map's fabric turned into countless pieces, activating something that made Minos feel like he was entering an illusion.

He found himself in a quiet place, with clouds covering almost all the surroundings and water coming up to his heels.

A tall, muscular man dressed in all-black clothing stood with his back to him, his face slightly turned to the side, revealing part of his face.

He looked handsome, with a sharp appearance. Still, the serious expression on his face made it difficult to consider him friendly.

He then said. "You are late... Perhaps I am no longer in this world."

Minos frowned his eyebrows and asked. "Who are you? What is the meaning of this?"

"I am the one who created this map, Maximilian Flamen. By all means, hurry up. Perhaps you can free me before the damned Maximus and his people overtake me."

"Maximus?" Minos frowned his eyebrow. "Maximus has been dead for a few million years."

"What?" The figure in Minos' illusion turned to him before the whole thing disappeared, and Emperor Stuart's consciousness returned to the interior of that black hole.

After that, he saw all the fabric of the map disappear, but right after that, he began to feel something in his mind, like something calling to him.

Chapter 1606 Calamity Foretold

After reaching Vogel's border with the first kingdom of the eastern region, Minos used his spatial manipulation skill again and made a wormhole capable of placing him within that state.

He could erase the traces of his wormhole due to his Soul Avatar technique, which made it impossible for those chasing him to know where he had gone, and for those near his destination to find out where he had left from.

Minos did not want people watching him previously to know what he was doing or to notify individuals high up in their forces exactly where he was going.

At the same time, he wanted to prevent people in the states he would be passing through from now on from knowing who he was and spreading the information that he was traveling through this region.

In this way, he used his abilities to hide his tracks while he already had a low-level grade-4 item covering his spiritual fluctuations. Meanwhile, he was manipulating his appearance with his Spiritual Saint abilities.

He now had red hair, blue eyes, a short beard, and a mustache. His body no longer looked as fit as before. He appeared to be a few pounds over his ideal weight, which is rare for cultivators, but possible given some circumstances.

Minos could also manipulate his voice, so if anyone saw or heard him right now, they would not recognize the young and talented Emperor Stuart.

With these changes, he reached the first kingdom of the western region, Veora Kingdom, the weakest kingdom of this powerful region.

But even the weakest state in this area had as its strongest expert someone at level 96!

So upon arriving in one of the forests of that area, Minos immediately lowered his aura as much as possible, beginning his journey on the ground, not in the skies.

From there, he would begin his journey to the northern coast of the Western Empire, from where he intended to leave for the Ancestral Sea!

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

One of the Travisani family's high-ranking elders was at this very moment performing his job of keeping an eye on the vital signs of the empire's most important experts in an area of the imperial palace.

However, these vital signs were not the only thing that was there to be watched. Amidst the many high-level soul lamps was an array that signaled a certain map of interest to the emperor...

Precisely that thing that a level 93 elder was watching with squinted eyes at this instant, watching it slowly burn away, disappearing from this world without him being able to do anything about it.

"Shit! Someone figured out the location of the damn map and gained access to its key!" He shouted after the initial moment of astonishment, then immediately left to notify the emperor of this bad news.

This man was fast, and knowing he had crucial information, he didn't underestimate the situation and opened a wormhole to where his leader was without fear of punishment.

Appearing on that spot, he immediately felt the oppressive aura of Vico Travisani and prostrated before shouting. "Your Majesty, the Seraphim Ancient Sarcophagus map locator has just burned... Someone has obtained the key to that damned place!"

Vico immediately opened his eyes when he heard that, not looking at all well at this information.

"What? How is that possible?" He shouted in surprise, losing some of his poise for an instant, enough to cause storms above his state's capital, knocking out countless people with his voice that was as resounding as thunder.

"I don't know. The locator simply burned out while I was watching it."

The emperor controlled his anger and shouted. "Daniel, go after it immediately. I want to know who found the damned map and stop them from reaching the Seraphim Ancient Sarcophagus!"

A Spiritual Demigod at level 97 willingly heard that and quickly moved, setting off to begin his investigation.

Meanwhile, that level 99 man was worried, feeling that some faction of the Spiritual Church might get terrible help from it.

If it happened, the entire continent could be in danger!

"Shadow guards, I want you to move toward the Evergreen Empire. Keep an eye on the moves of the main factions of the Church and watch what Terence Evergreen is doing." Vico ordered his men.

After those words, half a dozen people hiding in the shadows at that location in the imperial palace moved, leaving for that state in the southern part of the continent.

With that done, Vico clenched his fists and called the imperial seer, a level 95 man, one of the few high-level grade-4 seers in the entire Central Continent.

"Neville, I need your help." He said, drawing the attention of a man dozens of kilometers away from the empire's capital.

'Your Majesty?' That man, in his home, looked up as he perceived his leader's call. 'What should I look for?' He wondered, knowing that his voice could not reach Vico, but that man would be able to receive his mental transmission.

Vico said, only for him to hear. 'Try to find out where the one with the key to the Seraphim Ancient Sarcophagus will depart from. Daniel is investigating the matter, so if you need anything, talk to him.'

'Very well, I'll start preparing.'

Trying to predict something like what Emperor Travisani wanted was not simple. It required preparation, as it involved people of high level. After all, this was about something of continental importance, perhaps even worldwide relevance.

In this case, there was a possibility that the person involved in all this was using defensive artifacts against seers' visions, which could hinder or even hurt those trying to guess the future.

As experienced men of the highest levels, they would not rush to try to predict the future without proper preparations!

So Vico finished his orders and turned his attention back to himself, a little anxious for the first time in centuries.

'I hope it all works out... If what's in that place is found, chaos and wars will cover the continent!' He thought, remembering what a prophet once told him more than 12,000 years ago.

At that time, he was far from achieving his current greatness. Still, he heard from a prophet, a seer with extraordinary abilities, able to accurately tell what would happen in the future, about a significant period of chaos in their lands.

According to the prophet, it would all begin with a revolutionary who would unleash evil on the continent, bringing wars of conquest, power struggles within the Church, and the weakening of most of the Central Continent's states.

This weakening would be the precursor to a revolution that would happen next and would decide the fate of not only this continent but the entire Spiritual World!

As someone who wanted to try to prevent this calamity, who had grown and developed his state for this moment, Vico would do everything in his power to stop this evil from victimizing the continent!

Chapter 1607 Beast City

Two days later...

After Minos arrived in Veora Kingdom, he tranquility traveled for more than a full day, traversing the outer areas of a prominent local forest.

There were 9th-stage and even 10th-stage beasts in this state, and Minos had passed close to the territories of several of them and was in the domain of an influential 10th-stage beast. However, he had not drawn their attention as someone traveling while avoiding trouble and keeping his presence discreet.

Beasts would also not look for trouble with every fly flying in their territories, so other than 8th-stage beings, as was his case, Minos had not had to interact with stronger beings.

He was passing himself off as a traveling merchant, a more respected type of person among beasts.

Beasts liked merchants because when they fought humans, they often got useless resources, like spiritual crystals and armor. But even such items could benefit them if kept, for when they met merchants, they could trade these items for medicines, potions, pills, and even tasty food.

Precisely because of the possibility of trading with this kind of person, beasts, in general, were more friendly to merchants and would not fight unless there were strong reasons to do so if they knew that person's identity.

Minos was cleverly using this to his advantage as he traveled through this high-level realm, having identified himself as a merchant on the occasions he was intercepted during these hours of travel.

Since he had many resources from the Black Plain in his spatial rings, he had been able to do some trading with these beings, avoiding having to show himself.

Thus he had arrived at this moment without having had to fight and was now traveling alongside two beasts, one level 78 and one level 79.

Minos had met them this morning and done business with them before hearing from them that there was a clash of high-level beasts on his way and being invited to stop at their tribe.

When powerful beasts fought, they could make their surroundings tens of kilometers dangerous and would kill anyone who got in their way.

Since Minos had no alternative but to wait for the conflict ahead to come to a halt, he accepted the invitation of those creatures trying to bring a merchant to their tribe, not just help this human.

Anyway, Minos was running alongside those two, showing those creatures that despite being at level 77, he could keep up with both of them.

"Edgar, you are not slow." One of the beasts, in its humanoid form, female, 1.8 meters tall, with large breasts and brown hair, said, smiling.

On the other hand, the green-haired, 2-meter-tall, muscular man next to them commented. "Despite your appearance, you are quite fast... What's with that belly of yours? Why do you look overweight being so agile?"

Minos laughed and said. "About that, I have a genetic condition that makes me have this physique... Even though I'm faster than ordinary level 77 cultivators, I can't burn those little fats on my belly.

Anyway, that's genetics that my parents gave me, and I'm not ashamed of it."

"Hmm, it's not good to be ashamed of what you get from your parents. They are our creators." The female beast said, smiling in sympathy at Minos. "Anyway, you're not so bad. I bet you make a hit with the women being so capable, haha."

"I kind of do okay..." Minos commented as those two laughed, thinking this was not true.

As a high-level Spiritual Saint, he would get women if he tried. But those two would hardly think he could do that with women at the same level as him, the most beautiful.

Because of that, too, those two were nice to him.

"Anyway, have you ever considered having a date with a beast? I'm sure many races have your physical type within the ideal of beauty." The woman continued talking about this.

Minos then answered sincerely. "I'm not against it. I just haven't had the opportunity to do anything cross-species yet... Anyway, at the moment, I'm focused on finishing my trip to the Western Empire."

"Are you going to sell things there?" The man asked.

"And also buy," Minos said, looking ahead where there were many spiritual beasts of these two's race in their tribe.

"Hmm, that's good. Do you intend to pass through here on your way back?"

He answered that green-haired guy. "Maybe. Maybe I'll use some teleportation item to return directly to my state, the Flaming Empire."

Minos had already told these two that he was from the Flaming Empire, from a merchant family located near the Flowers Kingdom.

Because of his proximity to that state, his family had dealings with women from the Flowers Kingdom, and thus he had the resources to travel to that high-level state and trade, even though he was from the Flaming Empire.

"I see... Well, I wish you good luck on your trip. Now let us introduce you to some members of our tribe. They will love your time here, hehe." The woman said before leading the way through the entrance of the tribe where most of the powerful beasts there were 9th-stage beings, but there were many of them at the 8th stage.

That place didn't look like the typical tribe that Minos would find around the northern region or in the eastern region of the Central Continent where Blackrock and the Flaming Empire were. Instead, there was a city not so different from the human towns usually seen around the continent.

There were streets, carriages, people walking around, and houses for humans, with commerce, in short, what one would expect to find in a human city. But at the same time, there were many beasts around the streets that were built not only for those beasts capable of transforming into humanoid forms but also for their low-level descendants.

Because of this, most of the beings around the streets of this city in the middle of the forest were beasts, with several specimens of other species besides these two.

"Edgar, this is our tribe. We have 20,000 members here, and at least a few hundred will want to do business with you."

"Hmm, as long as the items interest me, I can do business with many." Minos did not run away, feeling that it would be good to be on the side of these beasts to finish his journey through this kingdom easily.

"Depending on the situation, as long as someone helps me get to the border with the Western Empire, I can even do a business that doesn't benefit me at all."

"Is that so? Good to know. Some of us constantly travel around the coast of the kingdom. So it won't be hard to find one who is interested."

After that, they went to a building similar to guild headquarters, where the beasts usually put up notices of merchants passing through this city for their companions to come and try to do business.

In that place, Minos would soon meet several peak 8th-stage beings with whom he would trade goods, information, and favors!

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Chapter 1608 Interrogation

"So you are from the Flaming Empire?" One of the first level 79 beasts to look for Minos to do business in that tribe asked upon hearing a bit from him. "I didn't expect to find a merchant coming from that state... Not many of your countrymen come to our kingdom."

"Hmm, that's natural. Veora Kingdom is a high-level state that is not at all easy for people from my state to visit or do business. There are no teleportation arrays or wormholes between our states, so many of us don't risk traveling through a territory where there are so many 9th and 10th stage beings like this." Minos commented in response to that being in humanoid form.

"And why do you risk yourself doing that?"

Minos gave an answer that would be good enough to cover his tracks. "This is naturally a risky move on my part, but it's also how I take advantage of opportunities."

Currently, the empire has grown quite a bit due to the progress of the Black Plain Empire, our ally. At the same time, invaders from the domains of His Majesty Minos Stuart have been bringing essential resources to our lands, generating what some are already calling a revolution in my state.

As a merchant with an eye for opportunity, I realized that my competitors would soon expand their actions outside the empire into higher-level states such as the Veora Kingdom. So I took the lead in the initiative and am now traveling through that domain."

That beast and the two beings I brought Minos to this place saw the logic in his words, not finding it strange that this fellow was putting himself in this situation.

Minos added. "Now I want to go to the northern coast of the Western Empire, from where I intend to create a business route to my territory. By doing so, I intend to help my relatives and raise the standing of my household to withstand the hardships of the moment."

"Hmm, why the Western Empire and not our kingdom? Isn't it too much for someone at your level to trade in two such strong states?" Another beast approached where those four were sitting at the spot where Minos had stopped to do business.

"About that, I am searching for an acquaintance who lives in the Western Empire. He is part of the Elemental Sect and has promised to help me do business in that state if I ever go there." Minos remembered Elen's cousin, Luke Nash. "I also want to buy a ship and sail to the west coast of the Black Plain... My family has business there too."

"Elemental Sect?" That beast, with a pretty female body and blue hair, muttered, considering things she knew. 'It must not be a lie. The Elemental Sect has a long history with Stone Island, part of the Black Plain Empire.'

"So, Edgar, what are you willing to trade for the medicines you have with you? I heard you have several Saint-grade and hundreds of King-grade medicines to trade, right?" That other beast asked, feeling that there was no longer any reason to distrust this merchant.

The two beasts that had brought Minos to this place trusted that he was a merchant and not someone trying to disguise himself or bring trouble to them. But other beasts would take precautions when dealing with people like this fellow.

That was not just because Minos was a merchant but because of what this human had already announced about being willing to do business for a ride to the Western Empire.

Considering his strength, it made sense that Minos would try to get some help to reach his destination. But that could also be an indication of trouble.

Beasts were very sincere beings who hated to be used or manipulated into doing things for others. On the other hand, this realm had its rules and was not as open as others.

In other states, one could enter, do business and leave with relative ease as long as one paid the proper taxes. But in Veora Kingdom, this was not quite the case.

If someone was connected to the Spiritual Church or was part of another high-level state, he had to be watched and have his entry into the state sent to the royal family.

At the same time, many royal restrictions were in place to make life difficult for foreigners trying to do business in their state. That served to protect local commerce and centralize the state's power in the hands of the imperial family.

Unlike other states around the continent, where the leading family basically shared its power with vassals, this place had a single family ruling the entire territory, with no vassals.

The only thing that existed in this kingdom besides subordinates of the royalty were tribes of beasts, who provided an observer service for the one big local organization.

So, after dispelling those beasts' mistrust, Minos could finally do business. "About that, I have some resources on hand. I am willing to trade them for human combat artifacts of high-level grade-3 and higher.

I also accept high-grade crystals, and if someone doesn't have what I'm interested in, I'll still accept the possibility of that beast or its group escorting me to the border with the Western Empire."

Minos was on a journey to seek to solve the mystery of the map of the Seraphim Ancient Sarcophagus but to do so. There were several steps in his path that he needed to complete.

Case in point, he had to obtain a boat and reach the northern coast of the Western Empire, from where he could depart for the site on the Ancestral Sea. But to do that, he first had to cross Veora Kingdom safely.

He did not know the powers in that state well, he had a map in hand that was not one of the most accurate, and he was much weaker than those powerful in this realm.

To avoid being identified as Emperor Stuart and having his journey hindered by his watchers and those interested in this place, he wanted to use the help of these beasts and avoid human cities.

Because of this, he could not casually travel through wormholes or use teleportation arrays in this state, which were human-dominated means.

So, since he had to find a way to reach the inconspicuous Western Empire, Minos was taking the opportunity in the meantime to obtain items necessary for the development of his state.

The Black Plain Empire currently had areas rich in spiritual energy, where resources relevant to their forces would emerge in the future. But it took time for medicines, especially spiritual minerals, to develop.

So even after the recovery of Dry City's spiritual root, it would take a while before high-level mineral resources would emerge in the core of that empire.

So Minos still faced the problem of having less high-level weaponry than cultivators capable of using them.

It made sense for him to sell in that place for such resources, which could eventually be used by his men or disintegrated by Alina, currently at level 69, to produce new items.

"Oh? I have some of those items..." The man in front of Minos said, soon after starting to do business with him.

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Chapter 1609 Getting A Group To Travel

"I have 10 weapons and 12 high-level grade-3 armor, and some low-level grade-4 pills." That man in front of Minos said. "I am willing to trade the grade-3 and grade-4 items for 10 King-grade and one Saint-grade medicine."

Beasts cultivated mainly through food resources. They could not use crystals, as they could not use cultivation techniques. And since the energy in heaven and earth was not so easy to absorb, using food resources was at the base of any beast tribe.

So they would trade items of little use to them, such as weapons and armor, for this kind of resource.

However, don't make a mistake. Even though these beasts didn't see much value in artifacts, they could fully use weapons and armor.

That was not normally possible if they were in their bestial forms. Still, they could use the benefits of artifacts when in their humanoid forms.

However, many beasts didn't see much use in doing this since their bodies were naturally powerful and hardly needed weapons or armor.

The skin of most of the beasts of this world was rigid enough to protect them. At the same time, their claws, grouts, teeth, and other body structures were rigid, sharp, or dangerous enough to strike their opponents.

Hardly a weapon of the same rank as a beast would help them much!

Since it was hard to get anything of a higher rank, most of them used such things as trade items rather than using them as combat artifacts.

But there were their exceptions, in the case of beasts with characteristics very focused on defense, offense, or speed. For some races, it could be interesting to have human artifacts in their possession.

But this was not the case for those around Minos, so most wanted to trade with him.

He said. "I have to see the condition of the artifacts. But if they are undamaged, I can accept that offer."

With those words, the two began to discuss the status of the weapons, armor, and pills that man had to trade.

Minos agreed to keep them as long as he had to give one less King-grade medicine.

That spiritual beast considered this change in his initial proposal a lot. Yet, after a while, he agreed with that overweight human.

Minos went on doing business there, sometimes retelling his story, sometimes listening to local stories.

Veora Kingdom was a state that had a theocracy in power, with many beast tribes supporting the king. However, everywhere, there were those opposed to the leadership of a domain, with grudges and views that were somewhat problematic for local leaders.

Minos heard about how rigid the king was with his people, enslaving those who went against the chosen of the gods, he, and his family.

At the same time, the worship of the leading figure in this state was as intense as the worship of the seraphim and the Supreme Pontiff of the Spiritual Church in some of the domains of that organization.

Crowds worshiped the figure of the local leader and called those opposed to him representatives of evil who should die for the good of the state.

Because of this mixture of religion and governance, it was highly complicated to act against the king, and this was one of the most closed states on the continent.

Minos had heard in that tribe about the massacres of the noble families of the ancient dynasty that ruled these lands during the rise of the chosen of the gods. He was impressed by the difference in history that these people had compared to what was known in the northern region about this place.

But on second thought, he didn't give the matter much importance, considering that it was natural that the royal family of this state had manipulated the history for its inhabitants.

'They probably oppressed everyone opposed to the new history of the kingdom, created laws preventing the real history from being discussed, and also created the cult of the sovereign figure... That must have erased the real history from the popular mentality of this state.' He considered, having heard some signs of dissatisfaction from some of the beasts of that tribe.

But it was not his problem if the situation in this kingdom was complicated. He was not a savior and was merely passing through. As such, Minos merely behaved as someone curious to learn about what the locals had to talk about, ignoring the differences between reality and local fantasy.

After finishing doing business on his first day there, Minos accompanied the two beasts that brought him to this tribe to rest at a local inn.

The next day, he woke up early and returned to the previous building, where more people would come to meet him to do business.

After a few resource exchanges, he finally met with a beast that wanted resources but didn't have things that interested him to trade.

"Well, there is an alternative for me to give you King and Saint-grade medicines. If you can get me quickly and safely to the border with the Western Empire, I will give you what you asked for."

That level 79 beast knew that the help he could give Minos was limited to guiding this human through the kingdom. But if there were a battle or something like that, it would be of little help since something capable of threatening someone at this human's level would also threaten it.

"I can guide you to the border. I know some alternate routes to get us away from the significant problems there would be if you were traveling alone. But I don't have someone who can guarantee your safety with me.

That person, you would have to bear their price on your own." That beast said, indicating to Minos a level 83 beast. "That's Hermes. I have known it for a long time and know that if you invite it, it will join my group to escort you to the border. But there will be a cost for that, something I can't afford."

Minos looked at that purple-haired individual and nodded to the man proposing a deal to him. "I can pay for 2 Saint-grade medicines if Hermes does the job. However, I won't start paying until halfway through and will only finalize the payment once we reach my destination."

"Hmm, I'll see what he thinks about that. If there are no problems, we can leave the day after tomorrow." That beast shook one of Minos' hands.

"What about the beast confrontation ahead? Is it over?" Minos questioned, frowning his eyebrows.

"About that, the two are still fighting, but the tribal elders expect the confrontation to end tomorrow. Both fighting experts are getting tired of the combat...

Anyway, even if they are still getting weirded out, Hermes can safely get through this area."

Minos sighed in relief, as he didn't like the idea of having to stay in one place for a long time, making it easier for those who were supposed to be after him to investigate.

"Then I'll wait for its answer."

Thus, Minos turned his attention to learning more about this state while doing business in that city of beasts.

Chapter 1610 Power Of Faith

Meanwhile, in the capital of Veora Kingdom...

In the central area of this state, which was only slightly larger in area than Stone Island, was the local power center, where this large family mostly lived.

Even though they had direct members of their family living all over the state to maintain local order, most of them were obviously in this large city of over 8 million inhabitants.

In this place, several Spiritual Demigods were stationed, working, keeping watch, or cultivating in seclusion in the royal family's headquarters or around the city.

There weren't many people at this stage of cultivation in the entire kingdom, only 50. But, there were people at every level up to level 96 in this city.

Among them, the local heir, level 91, was currently standing next to some of his family members, dealing with everyday matters.

Due to the form of government, his family used in Veora, members of the royal family always took on relevant roles in the state, and it wouldn't do to have at least a few hundred thousand people under their wing.

Even though the Veora family was more numerous than one would normally find in families throughout the continent, they were also not as numerous as the descendants of the McBride family. As such, there was no shortage of activity for royalty, and one would not see useless princes or princesses locally.

Case in point, the local heir was at this instant talking to his people about the situation of his neighbors, Black Plain Empire to the north, Flaming Empire to the east, Western Empire to the west, and Mairin to the south.

"Your Highness, the kingdom's situation could become more complicated in the coming years." One of the women there with the local heir said, trying to predict what would happen ahead. "The Western Empire seems to be preparing for something. Meanwhile, the Church's situation with Emperor Stuart has been making the Black Plain Empire strange..."

Some family experts even think this will generate some kind of commotion on the continent."

"Commotion?" The prince frowned his eyebrows.

His state had already communicated with the Black Plain Empire, as that state had already shown itself to be quite capable and with a minimally promising future ahead. So even his powerful family was no longer ignorant of Minos, and both kept informed about this state and already had contact and business there.

But this man did not believe a situation in the northern region could cause a continent-wide commotion!

That, to him, was an exaggeration!

That woman explained what she and family experts saw in the problem. "This is not because of the growth of the Black Plain Empire but because of the powers involved. The Spiritual Church and the Evergreen family seem very interested in that area.

There are also reports that the Flowers Kingdom is very close to Emperor Stuart's state and his alliance with the Flaming Empire."

As much as the Flaming Empire was not a worry-level state, it was strategically positioned in the Central Continent. It bordered virtually every region on the continent and was an essential passage for people traveling across the continent.

At the same time, it had a significant population, which higher-level states placed great importance on.

The reason for this? Something called faith.

Anyway, the state of Harold was a means for Church troops to reach this kingdom, and naturally, the local forces kept their attention on this area.

That woman finished her speech. "Because of the increased movement of Spiritual Sages in these two states, with even some Demigods showing themselves there, this could bring about major changes before long!"

One of the cousins of the local heir then said. "Your Highness, the situation in the northern region may well decide some critical things for the kingdom.

For example, our plans against the Church could be greatly undermined if your group continues to develop through the domains of the Stuart Emperor."

Hearing this, the prince became more serious, knowing that the future of his state depended on it.

His state was a theocracy. As such, it opposed the Spiritual Church and had plans to keep its population loyal to its leaders.

But this could be threatened if they had that organization even closer to their domains, growing in the northern region, where the population was getting stronger and stronger.

There was a possibility of cultivating the figure of the leaders in the Spiritual World. And the stronger that leader's followers were, the better the benefits to those people.

But faith was somewhat complicated. It wasn't enough for one to gather hundreds of millions of devotees. They also couldn't allow others to have too much faith in them nearby. Otherwise, this would nullify one's gains.

It was like a mountain having two leaders. It wouldn't work, one of the two would have to perish, or neither could flourish to their full potential.

In the Spiritual World, there were only a few 'spaces' for people who gathered faith in themselves, so it was in the interest of each group battling for it to ward off or lessen the gains of their opponents.

The Spiritual Church was the largest hoarder of faith around its leader in the entire Central Continent. So the best way to act against it and benefit in this matter in the present times would be to prevent this

organization from gaining an advantage in the northern region, a growing place in terms of population and spiritual strength.

Since it was in this prince's interest to diminish the faith of the inhabitants of the northern region in the Church, he couldn't help but worry about the local situation in the empire of Minos.

"Let's send some people to Dry City. If Emperor Stuart is willing, we will help him counter the actions of the Evergreen Empire forces as long as he doesn't sell out to the Church in the future." He said to his group.

"If we help his group, maybe we can get something in that region..." The wife of the First Prince said, smiling, as there were over 3 billion people currently under Minos' sphere of influence.

These 3 billion were weak, but still, the faith of 10% of them would already be equivalent to the faith power they could accumulate if their state grew by 30%, something practically impossible to happen.

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Meanwhile, the king of this state was dealing with matters of a higher level than his first son.

King Veora was with his right-hand man, the supreme elder of the family, walking through a courtyard of the royal palace.

The two had worried expressions on their faces, making their middle-aged faces look uglier than usual.

The supreme elder of that family said. "Emperor Travisani is moving. Something urgent and of great importance is happening in the Eastern Empire."

"I wonder what has happened? I heard that he had been keeping calm lately." The king commented, not understanding what could make the strongest man on the continent become anxious.

He knew that something was happening, but he didn't know what it was. Because of this, he was naturally nervous since not knowing things was highly uncomfortable.

"I don't know, but I believe that soon the Spiritual Church or the Western Empire will show us the emperor's concern." This gray-haired fellow said, sensing that a storm was brewing near them.