

## **Black Plain 1631**

### Chapter 1631 Gratitude

At Minos' words, the colorful fish changed its gaze, feeling that it could use the help of this human to take revenge for the death of its children.

It alone knew eliminating this dark-scaled serpent would be extremely difficult. But if it had help from this human, even more, if it fought outside the sea, its chances would be better.

Alone it wouldn't have many advantages fighting outside the sea, and more, it wouldn't be able to force its opponent to fight in that space.

But fighting in the air, it would have a slight advantage over that serpent, which had its locomotion more difficult in the air.

So seeing its possibility of victory increasing with the appearance of Minos, that fish soon changed its shape to its humanoid one so that it could breathe in the air. Meanwhile, it floated close to the human.

At the same time, the serpent had already changed form, becoming a gray-haired elder, totally different from that pink-haired man, but both several meters high, as if they were giants.

It also needed to use its humanoid form, or it could not breathe, which could risk the lives of even powerful beasts like itself.

Feeling the spatial restriction imposed by Minos, it couldn't help but show its weaker form while looking uglily at this low-level human that stood in its way.

"Damn it! What do you think you are doing? You think someone of your level can interfere in the affairs of someone of my position?" It bellowed, spitting as it spoke.

Minos said. "You like to talk, uh? I don't mind your confrontation. But my yacht won't stand a battle between you. Since you are not moving, I will make you regret this!"

"Hahahaha, you? With what force? With what battalion?" That sharp-looking fellow said, laughing ridiculously.

Then Randall sent a mental message to Minos, 'Ed, stop it! Run away, or he'll kill you!'

Minos could not answer Randall, so he said aloud. "Sapphire, Randall, lend me your strength for a moment."

Then Minos' two hands appeared behind these two as he manipulated the space in the surroundings for his benefit.

In a matter of a blink of an eye, those two low-level Spiritual Sages appeared beside him, shocked by the act of this human who should only be a Spiritual Saint.

Unlike humans from the Central Continent, beasts from the Ancestral Sea, and most of the Spiritual World, they had no idea who Minos Stuart, the emperor of the Black Plain Empire, was.

As such, with his movement, those two and the two beasts fighting earlier were shocked by this human's capabilities.

But in sequence with his spatial movement, Minos quickly raised his level to level 79, further shocking those two as the effects of his techniques grew stronger.

"What? How can that be?" The level 84 fish shouted without understanding.

Meanwhile, the dark serpent was smarter than its opponent and looked at Minos, frowning with its gray eyebrows. "Does he have that damn cultivation technique?" It wondered, knowing an ancient technique capable of making one's level different from one's true power.

Thinking about it, it didn't even pay attention to those two creatures, who were now weaker.

Beasts had their power focused on their bodies, but that didn't mean they had no fraction of spiritual strength. They had to have something, or they wouldn't live as long or have a chance to reincarnate.

In weaker beings, this spiritual remnant was insignificant. But in Spiritual Sages, that was enough for Minos to steal and use to his advantage temporarily.

The two realized where Minos' extra levels were coming from and immediately went pale with surprise, seeing that this was not the technique that the level 85 enemy was shouting.

'Are there people capable of doing that?'

'Impressive! Ed is that strong?'

The two thought, feeling less worried about their situation since he could do something so shocking.

As they thought this, the Soul Avatar of Minos grew in size, while everything in his surroundings seemed to come under his control.

The colorful fish smiled as it realized this sudden ally it got was so strong and said. "Human, help me defeat this worm. I will compensate you later, and I still offer protection for the territory ahead."

Minos knew that the protection of this level 84 being was no small thing, even though he could take him on with all his skills.

It obviously wouldn't be an easy battle, and if he didn't use his escape option to the Spatial Kingdom, nor the black hole, he probably wouldn't win and might even have his life in danger.

As such, getting this being's help and whatever reward he was promising was well worth it!

"OK!" Minos said before adding. "You will act against it, and I will support you."

"Let's go, human!" The fish flew toward the serpent while Minos' two traveling companions stood beside him to watch this fight.

The serpent was already feeling the gravity in its surroundings pressuring it and the intensification of the Infinite Dream, trying to make it lose consciousness of reality.

Meanwhile, the Devouring Art was degrading its strength, making it feel nervous for the first time since it had started fighting that fish earlier.

But it flew towards its opponent even with all these disadvantages, promising it would kill that human once it ended that idiot fish's life.

"Wretched human! I will slowly torture you after devouring this worthless fish!" It shouted as several sharp fangs, similar to the ones it had in its bestial form, appeared in its surroundings.

At the same time, fins appeared in the surroundings of the colorful fish, made of energy and laws, just like the fangs of its opponent.

8th stage beasts could activate innate abilities, which these two used as they resumed combat.

The two beasts with Minos hid inside his Soul Avatar. At the same time, this guy made his defensive technique create a golden 'skin' around his soul projection to protect them all.

With this, one of the most impressive battles ever witnessed and participated in by Minos would soon unfold at that location!

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Chapter 1632 Shocking Powers

The sharp fangs flew towards the level 84 colored fish, while some of them were heading towards where Minos was, flying at great speed.

At the same time, the fins of the colored fish in the surroundings began to move synchronously, making the air in the surroundings move so much and so fast that sounds of explosions appeared in the surroundings.

Amidst this, these fins created a pressure zone over that dark serpent, trying to hit that humanoid being.

Amid this, the colored fish was in its humanoid form, but with much of its body covered by colored scales, using this as armor to protect itself from its opponent's prey.

Each spiritual fang was as large as a human sword, had an extremely sharp point, and had poison inside it, which would send such substance into the target's interior once it hit its target.

This serpent's venom was particularly potent, capable of causing damage to the nervous system and bringing agony to its victim.

This fish knew this very well and was using its dense scales to protect its body from the substance that could kill it in seconds if it entered its bloodstream.

Minos saw the beginning of their battle and didn't stay behind, keeping his Indestructible Body activated to protect himself from the enemy's blows, but without having 100% success with this alone.

Some of the enemy's sharp fangs managed to get through the layer of golden skin of his avatar, reaching inside this soul projection.

When some of these fangs entered his avatar, Minos would open cracks in the space at the position of these spiritual weapons and direct them at the back of that serpent.

He did this at this very moment while also trying to dance with his low-level grade-4 sword, throwing blades toward that dark being.

One of the fangs appeared behind the head of that gray-haired creature, quickly making its way to the back of its head.

This serpent sensed this and couldn't help but frown. It sensed this opponent it had accidentally arranged was not simple.

Its venom would not be able to hurt it, as it would on beings of other species or even beings of its race, only weaker than it. But that fang was very sharp, and if it hit it, it could cause injuries.

At the same time, even if he could use his strength to undo that attack before it hit him, if he did that, it would also be damaging. After all, he would have to focus some of his attention to do that, which could take away precious milliseconds!

In this situation, he felt that as weak as Minos was compared to him, this human could play a crucial role in this battle!

As he undid the fangs coming towards his body, suddenly, this dark serpent noticed several energy blades emerging from 6 different angles, moving quickly toward its body.

They would not be a threat to it. Still, considering the situation it was in at the moment, enduring Chaotic Gravity, Devouring Art, and Infinite Dreams simultaneously, such attacks were worrisome.

They wouldn't finish off this serpent in one attack, but they had enough power to hurt and slowly break down its defenses!

Sensing this, it realized a mistake in its strategy.

'If I let this human keep acting, he will cause my defeat!

I can't focus on that stupid fish. I have to take down that damned human first!' It made up its mind, looking uglily at where Minos was floating in the skies, next to those two other beasts.

The fish saw its opponent's gaze at Minos and immediately realized the contempt this opponent had for it, a level 84 beast.

Amidst its finned attacks, that being would rather worry about a human than its level 84 attacks!

"I will kill you! I will avenge my devoured children!" That fish shouted as it punched the air, causing colored energy to surge from its fists and create a crack in space.

Its fist went through space, glowing in seven different colors as it appeared in front of where that serpent intended to go.

The serpent was already moving towards the Soul Avatar of Minos, but when it faced it, he had no choice but to defend itself.

As dangerous as Minos was, this young man could only beat it through fatigue and a long fight. But the level 84 opponent was someone who could truly end the fight in one blow if given such a chance!

As such, upon seeing this powerful attack, that beast did not follow through with the attack it intended to make against Minos, immediately putting most of its attention on this blow.

This punch concentrated most of the powers of that level 84 Spiritual Sage, almost as if it were a fusion of human techniques.

But beasts couldn't do that since they had no techniques. That was an attack combining the natural abilities of 9th-stage beasts with the unique powers of that colorful fish.

The serpent knew how dangerous this was and spread its hands and legs, screaming with its mouth so open that one could see its throat.

As it did so, a black vortex surged around its body, and its scream became as loud and resounding as the sound of thunder.

With that, a stream of faint, semitransparent energy surged from that vortex, meeting that creature's colorful fist.

As the two attacks collided, a grand explosion erupted at the meeting of the two attacks, causing the very fabric of space in the surrounding area to tremble as the sea churned, moving away from the focus of the collision.

Within a second of the moment the attacks collided, winds of over 300 kilometers per hour surged in the vicinity of the area, pushing everything nearby away from there.

At the same time, waves of more than 30 meters began to form while lightning surged to scare off weaker creatures by tens of cubic kilometers.

Minos luckily managed to use his techniques to protect his yacht at that critical moment, but he felt the strain of fighting such strong beasts.

If not for his many above-average skills, the collision of powers of these two could by itself kill him!

The two beasts beside Minos huddled close to him, feeling their backs sweating as they were frightened as they had never been before.

"Ed..." Sapphire tried to say something, but the chaos in the surroundings was so terrible that her voice didn't reach Minos' ears. 'Ed, what shall we do?'

"Time for us to take our cue!" Minos said, knowing that woman wouldn't hear him but speaking nonetheless as he began to form one of his fusions.

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Chapter 1633 Prize

When he saw those two beings maintaining the collision between their attacks, trying to quickly end the battle, Minos was not slow in his movements.

He positioned himself as if he was preparing to run and activated his movement technique.

Explosive Steps: Killer Jump!

He flew towards his opponent's back, leaving those two fish behind without them even noticing his movement at first.

At the same time, he had both hands gripping his sword in front of his chest, holding it the same way one would when intending to pierce an enemy with a sword.

He circulated his energies through the Spatial Sword and, for the first time, fused this technique with that of movement.

Spatial Sword: Killer Jump!

At that instant, his spiritual sword began to glow brightly, its blade quickly being covered by dark energy.

Meanwhile, the space around him seemed to distort with his movement, creating a vacuum where he passed.

As he neared his opponent, Minos focused all the rest of his energy on his defense, ready to receive a counterattack from the creature if anything went wrong.

Swoosh!

His sword sliced through the air in front of him, making a frightening noise at that beast slowly overcoming the hilt of the colorful fish.

'Oh, shit!' It screamed in its mind as he felt passive in this situation against Minos.

It tried to move a little, but if it were careless, its movement would open space for the enemy. So it could neither dodge nor protect itself properly against Minos!

Thus, when Minos reached its back, he drove his spiritual sword through that being's body at heart height.

"Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!"

A shrill scream broke from the depths of that beast's throat as the colored fish finally felt some advantage over its opponent.

Slowly its fist advanced towards the body of that serpent, making that dark being finally feel desperation.

Minos firmly held his sword, making it tremble inside his opponent's body, while quickly, the colored fist came at them both.

When that giant fist was about to reach that serpent's position, Minos quickly stepped aside, leaving only the serpent to be struck by that destructive blow.

Pow!

Finally, the level 84 fish's blow hit the level 85 snake, crumpling the front of that being, throwing it away, already mortally wounded.

With this move, this high-level battle ended, with that being stopping breathing before it even reached the surface of the water, where its body would return to normal.

Minos saw that and sighed, deactivating his techniques and feeling the exhaustion of fighting beings in the middle part of the 9th stage of cultivation.

'That's my limit per hour...' He thought as he saw the big fish looking at him favorably.

Then the two of them and the two fish who saw this whole battle unfold went to the deck of Minos' yacht.

Emperor Stuart's level returned to level 77, and one of those three thought he was disguising himself again, while the other two knew that this was the actual cultivation of 'Ed.'

As they landed there, the colorful fish immediately thanked Minos for his help and introduced itself.

"Thanks for the support, human. By the way, my name is Ross."

"Hmm, my name is Ed. But it was nothing. It threatened my yacht, so I had no choice but to get involved." Minos said.

"I'm sorry about that. The damned thing devoured some of my children hours ago and intended to attack my tribe. I couldn't contain my anger when I found out and started that earlier battle." It said, regretful about what had happened to some of its children.

It was a spiritual beast, a being that did not give as much importance to the position of its offspring as humans did when those offspring grew up. But still, its children were part of its strength, the ones that could support it once they fully matured. So it naturally valued them and felt bad about their deaths.

"I see..." Minos said, looking in the direction of the remains of the level 85 enemy.

The colorful fish, Ross, saw that and said. "If you want, you can have its body. You delivered the blow that gave us a chance to kill it."

Minos was unceremonious and soon stored that corpse in one of his spatial rings, ready to use that carcass once he returned to the Black Plain.

With that corpse, he could help another spiritual root in the northern region regain some of its splendor!

After he finished collecting that corpse, the colorful fish said. "Ed, as promised, I will compensate you and guide you through the territory ahead if you choose."

"Hmmm." Minos nodded, indicating that he would accept the offer.

"Well then, we will leave in your boat for the hour, but when we reach the edge of my tribe's territory, I will have to guide you to the ocean floor. Traveling by boat ahead can be dangerous." Ross said, thinking about what it had recently heard.

It explained. "Near the edge of my territory, a pursuit is going on. Some members of the Sea Folk are searching for a fugitive traveling by boat. So it would not be interesting for us to travel like that when we pass through there."

Hearing that, the two fish next to Minos couldn't help but feel they had escaped a big problem.

Sea Folk was not kind when they were acting against enemies. Even if one were not their enemy, they would violently act if they were suspicious of anything.

Weighing in how close they should be to entering the pursuit area indicated by this level 84 Spiritual Sage, they couldn't help but feel a chill in their bodies.

"Oh? All right, then." Minos said, not caring whether he would travel on the surface or the bottom of the ocean.

He would not be able to travel across the ocean floor alone. But alongside these beasts, it would be possible, so he wasn't worried.

Seeing that this human agreed with its plans, Ross asked. "By the way, where are you going? Unfortunately, depending on your destination, I won't be able to accompany you to the end of your journey."

"City of a Thousand Races," Minos said.

"It's not far, so I can take you there," Ross said, relieved. "As for the reward I promised, I have something that might interest you, Ed."

After saying those words, Ross grabbed something between his scales from the region of his belly, where he had a small storage space.

He then tossed what he picked up in Minos' direction, revealing a shiny silver pearl to this human.

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Chapter 1634 The Fantastic Underwater World 1

"That is a Golden Mussel pearl from a level 88 elder who recently died near my territory." That fish explained to Minos. "I found it a few weeks ago. I intended to give it to my eldest son, but unfortunately, it was devoured by that damn worm.

So since you not only helped me get revenge but, in a way, saved me, I would like you to have this pearl.

It may not look like much on the surface, but it has magnificent properties.

You can use it for anything from extracting minerals for artifact production to even using it as a weapon, using its properties to your advantage."

Minos already knew this, obviously, and as he picked it up, he couldn't help but watch it closely for a few moments.

'A pearl like this can be compared to some of the toughest natural defensive items in the Spiritual World. At the same time, because of its structure, it can also be used as an offensive artifact.

It can be thrown as hard as a cannonball, but it can also be used as a relevant spiritual item for cultivators.'

It wasn't just any mineral that the Golden Mussels absorbed to form these pearls. The main mineral of interest was the one that repels spiritual energy, the one responsible for the existence of floating islands.

Because of this, these pearls had strong repelling power for spiritual energy and, if used against a Soul Avatar, could significantly hinder the activation of the techniques of the opponent of the one controlling it.

One could connect their soul to this kind of artifact and thereby control it through their will!

Knowing all this, Minos accepted the gift of that fish and said. "I thank you for that, Ross. I will use it wisely." He put it away in his spatial ring.

Ross nodded to Minos, feeling this talented fellow would use that pearl better than it would.

Humans were more compatible with this feature because of the type of opponent they faced most, other humans, beings with the potential to show their soul projections.

Beasts had other ways to use resources like that in their lives, in battles, but it felt that leaving it to Minos would be best.

Ross then said. "Anyway, are we leaving? We'll have some problems on the way, so we'd better go soon to avoid delays."

Minos agreed to this, and soon they were sailing again, heading towards the place where they could go by the surface, and then they would have to travel through the underwater world.

The territory of Ross' tribe was not large, so in less than an hour, they reached the limit of what it considered safe to travel by boat.

When they reached that border area, Ross transformed into its original version, showing its bestial body to Minos again.

Upon entering the water, this being stood facing Minos' yacht and then created an air bubble around it, protecting the entire yacht.

After this, it connected itself to this bubble and the yacht, then began to swim downwards.

Minos, Sapphire, and Randall continued on that yacht as they felt it sinking, but no water entered its compartments.

The bubble created by that fish was powerful and could withstand the water pressure easily, even at high depths. So when the yacht was entirely in the water, that bubble continued as before, showing no signs that it would explode.

Minos could finally see the fantastic water world for the first time, noticing the ridiculous amount of living things there.

He could see groups of different kinds of beasts going from one side to the other, magnificent corals of aquatic beasts in the distance, but also vegetation and rocks floating.

At the same time, in some places, one could see rusted boats abandoned as if they had been there for a long time.

Even skeletons of land creatures could be seen in the distance, matching the ships there.

Most of the beings in the surroundings were not very powerful. Still, there were Saints and Spiritual Sages around, some even of higher levels than Ross.

It was already out of its tribe's territory, so meeting other powerful beings would not be strange from that point on.

Sapphire saw how Minos was watching the sea as his ship went further and further into the dark seabed and said. "Ed, you are powerful, I have to admit that. But will you do well at the bottom of the sea?"

Minos saw this woman's smile and knew she was trying to scare him a little. He then said. "Sea beasts are stronger in the sea, while land beings are weaker here. I know that I know that I am weaker in this place, but even so, that wouldn't change much. My greater ability would still work perfectly here."

The point that made it harder for land and water beings to fight outside their natural inhabitant was air and water.

Both fluids made it easier or harder for beings of different natures to move around, making them take longer to make each decision and act.

A human, for example, would find it difficult to move in the sea because of the shape of their bodies and how they move.

They would have to fly or run to fight in the air or on land. But they would have to swim in the sea, something they didn't normally train for.

So when they were in the underwater world, even high-level beings would have difficulty fighting.

This didn't improve much in the long run, even for beings who continuously stayed in the underwater world.

A human would always be faster out of the water, while a fish would always move better underwater.

Because of this and much more, Minos would have a weaker combat proficiency there than on the surface if he had to fight.

But he wasn't worried. Most of his fusions would work perfectly in the underwater world, and he could control space there in the same way as on land.

"Hehe, I thought you would say that..." It smiled at him before its husband said to Minos. "By all means, Ed, try not to cause trouble in this place.

I say that because, in water, the spiritual fluctuations left by human cultivators propagate to much greater distances than those that propagate through the air.

Between water and air, a kind of 'barrier' makes it difficult for beings on both sides to probe what happens in the other. But within a space submerged by the same kind of fluid, fluctuations sometimes propagate to many kilometers from the focus of a battle.

At sea, this was greatly amplified, so any attitude of a human like you can draw the attention of beings from hundreds of kilometers away, enough to attract all kinds of calamity.

So be careful. The sea is treacherous!"

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## Chapter 1635 The Fantastic Underwater World 2

"Hmmm, I thank you for the warning." Minos nodded to Randall as he watched the darkness of the surroundings increase as Ross swam to the bottom of the sea.

Minos looked up and found himself getting farther and farther away from the clarity of the surface, from which he had departed moments ago.

But as he found himself further away from that source of brightness, he slowly began to see the dark of the sea better as he saw bright beings lighting the way.

Even without using his visual abilities that made him able to see in the dark, Minos was already slowly getting a better view of this fantastic world, where one could be frightened or elated to see it for the first time.

Some of the greatest sea beasts navigated in the zone of darkness, where one on the surface could not see them, even if one had the abilities of a Spiritual Demigod.

Because of this, when Minos saw the first of these beings, he couldn't help but swallow his saliva and open his eyes wider, seeing himself as close to beings as large as mountains.

He saw a gray-scaled whale standing not far from him, looking like a mountain near the bottom of the sea.

However, this could not be a mountain not only because of its shape but because of its level, 87.

Those two fish next to Minos also stood watching the surroundings in silence along with this human while holding their breaths to not irritate this being.

There were eight races of spiritual whales, the strongest of which was the one that could be considered the most powerful race in the entire Spiritual World.

But even the weakest of them was by no means simple. They had gigantic bodies capable of generating terrible tsunamis in coastal regions near where they acted.

As the three watched that 'mountain,' Ross said in the minds of all of them. 'Don't talk or move around much from now on. We will pass for the next 15 minutes through an area where several elders are in seclusion.

So we'd better not give them any reason to get angry with us...'

Ross knew that Sea Folk groups were searching for wanted ones in the region ahead of where they had started their submerged journey. But one could think that these beings might also extend their search to this area, right?

The problem with this was that the Sea Folk, although powerful, were not an indestructible race, nor was their empire friendly to all. Some tribes had these beings as their main enemies, and part of these groups lived in areas below the zone of darkness.

So with the elders of some of these tribes in seclusion in this area of darkness, it was improbable that these beings would go to the same place where Ross was directing Minos.

His travel option was less likely to generate a Minos encounter with the Sea Folk, whom they all wanted to avoid for the time being.

Minos and those two fish beside him already knew what the beasts in that area looked like, so Ross didn't even need to alert them more.

They remained silent, waiting for this big fish to finish crossing this area.

Amidst this, they felt the powerful fluctuations of those beasts cultivating there, some of them even close to advancing to the 10th stage!

'The underwater world is incredible!

Because of water's ability to absorb spiritual energy, the concentration of energy underwater is more significant than in the air.

In a way, it's as if all the marine beings live surrounded by liquid spiritual crystals!' Minos thought to himself, sensing one of the reasons that the strongest beings in the Spiritual World are aquatic.

Also, this was another reason for him to expand his domains into the underwater world, where he could get his people to cultivate faster than they could outside the Spatial Kingdom.

As he thought about the future and watched some of the larger beings he would see in his lifetime, Minos finally began to notice the darkness in his surroundings slowly diminishing.

Ross explained to him and his two companions. 'The ocean can be divided into three major zones, Ed. The first, closest to the surface, is directly illuminated by light from the sky. This is where we normally fight battles, as there is less chance of us affecting other creatures or tribes nearby.

The second zone is the one we are just passing through, where the light from the sky cannot reach. This is where usually the most powerful beings of the underwater world cultivate in seclusion because few beings are willing to cause trouble there.

In a way, this area is like a huge human cultivation room. Still, it also serves as a marine defense against terrestrial beings.

Finally, the zone we are entering is the last, where most tribes and weaker beings live.

In this place, one can even find pieces of spiritual roots because of its proximity to the center of the world.

Also because of this, this place has its own illumination, which is generated by these roots.' It said as it pointed in the direction of what looked like a great river of magma.

But this was not a river of magma but a piece of a spiritual root, which glowed a deep red and could illuminate tens of kilometers away from it.

Because of this, that area below the dark zone had its illumination, even though this was the actual bottom of the sea!

Minos nodded, following the creature's thoughts.

'In this place, you can find everything, Ed. Human ships, elven vessels, bodies of powerful land beasts, madmen trying to get close to spiritual roots, precious minerals, ruins of ancient empires, carcasses of sea beasts, corals. Everything, everything you can imagine, you can find here.' It said, somewhat excited, for it felt proud of its birthplace.

Minos saw that multicolored world, which had even more life than the previous area he had seen when he first entered the sea.

When they finally left the previous dark area, he said aloud. "Magnificent! This place is even more amazing than I thought.

But then, Ross, how will we travel from here on out?"

Ross smiled and said. "On your yacht, of course... Let me show you something interesting, haha."

After pushing that bubble toward a stream of water, it returned to its humanoid form and entered the bubble.

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### Chapter 1636 The Fantastic Underwater World 3

After entering the bubble and landing on the deck of Minos' yacht, Ross used his energy to steer that bubble in the right direction.

After a few moments, this bubble entered a marine current, quickly moving as if it were in a river, but one that was at the bottom of the sea.

Ross explained. "There are marine currents at various points in the ocean. But the safest of them are near the ocean floor, where one can easily move without the same dangers in other areas.

Some beasts use these currents near the sea floor, but they are not particularly powerful for the most part. At the same time, few ships can withstand these currents, so humans don't normally travel here.

As I am doing with you, sea beasts usually direct the few that do. With good guides, trouble has a more challenging time getting to you." It smiled as it saw Minos paying attention to the current carrying them.

They were traveling at high speed, even faster than if they were sailing at full speed on Minos' yacht.

This was only because of the force with which the water was moving there, where bubbles were forming between the path of the current and the surroundings, and the bubble covering Minos' boat was shaking.

No other beings were traveling that way near Minos and those fish, as those strong currents could kill anyone below level 60 who ventured there.

'That's a super efficient highway...' Minos thought to himself, wondering how beneficial this was for transporting items and beings to the underwater tribes and states.

If he could use something like that in the Black Plain Empire, it would save thousands of high-grade crystals.

Unfortunately, that only existed in the water world.

"Traveling this way will take how long to reach the City of a Thousand Races?" He asked.

That level 84 colored fish said. "About 30 hours, no more than that."

"OK."

They then proceeded to travel that way for the next few hours, traveling smoothly for the first few hours but soon encountering a migration of beasts on their way.

When they had traveled more than halfway to the City of a Thousand Races, their group saw numerous groups of beasts moving in the opposite direction to them.

Upon seeing that, Randall said. "It seems the rumors are true..."

"Hmm, some elder is awakening from its seclusion in the center of the Ancestral Sea," Sapphire said.

The distance Minos had traveled until his departure from the Western Empire was equivalent to one-sixth of the distance to the central area of this fabulous sea.

Knowing this, he couldn't help but be impressed by it. "Are you saying that these beings moving nearby are doing this because of a being awakening in the central area of the Ancestral Sea? How is that possible? We are so far away from there!"

But then the level 84 fish replied. "That's right. Those beings are fleeing even though we are far away from that area.

Do you know what races they belong to? I can tell that most of them are from tribes in that area. Plus, you can tell they are seeking refuge from their levels."

Most of the beings traveling in large groups near Minos and his companions were weak.

"Weak beasts like that usually migrate away when something big is about to happen," Randall commented. "They'll probably stay for a while living near the coast of the Central Continent until the sea calms down."

Ross said. "It's not unusual for elders to wake up from their seclusion and devour weaker beings near them. So beings below the 7th stage will certainly flee as far away as possible.

As for those stronger than that, they are probably already moving to the interior of their tribes and safe places, such as the City of a Thousand Races."

"But why travel so far? I doubt that elders will come here just to threaten low-level creatures." Minos said.

"Truly, that would be the normal thing to expect. But the elder awakening from its sleep is a level 99 Blue Whale, which is approaching the peak of the 10th stage. Once it wakes up, it will try to gather as much energy as possible before going out searching for Divine-grade medicine.

Only then can it become a God!"

"To do this, it will devour weak beasts that large tribes would not miss and therefore would not try to avenge," Randall added, making the situation for Minos clear.

"You have to be careful, Ed. You are traveling to the central area of the Ancestral Sea, so you will face its range. If I were you, I would be careful. That elder will not polish any human near it.

It will try to eat you if it senses you around." Sapphire warned Minos.

"Hmm, I'll keep that in mind." He said as he became curious about the strength of that sea. "By the way, that elder is at level 99. How many others like it are there in this sea? Should I be worried about anyone else?"

The level 84 Spiritual Sage said. "It's not easy to estimate an exact number. I myself know the names of six level 99 elders. But some fishes say there are 10 to 15 level 99 beasts in the Ancestral Sea."

The other two fish shook their heads in agreement with this individual.

"If we consider the other seas around the Spiritual World, I would say that there are about 50 or 60 beasts at that level... We are quite numerous, hehe."

That might sound like a lot, but there were hundreds of billions of sea creatures in the entire Spiritual World. Meanwhile, there were less than 30 billion humans, even considering those in the Divine Continent.

So it was natural that the number of level 99 sea beasts was more significant than the number of experts at this level among humans.

Minos knew this was the case since ancient times, so he was not too shocked, although he was wary of these beings.

'The seas are hazardous... I need to be careful on my journey in the future.' He pondered, thinking about this journey and the ventures he already had in mind.

With that, they quietly followed the rest of the journey, seeing more beasts migrating away from the core of this sea while slowly seeing the City of a Thousand Races in the distance.

That place was stratospherically prominent, so less than a hundred kilometers away, one would see that place!

Minos saw that place when it was still 30 minutes before they arrived, opening his eyes wide as he decided to go after something compatible with himself or his interest in this trip.

'Time to see what that elf said!'

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Chapter 1637 City Of A Thousand Races

After arriving near the City of a Thousand Races, Minos immediately saw that grandiose place becoming even larger up close than he could imagine from afar.

The city stretched out in all directions, with buildings utterly different from those one would find in a human city.

Many buildings looked like artificial coral reefs, with houses and businesses at different points and many swimming areas.

At the same time, there were capsule-shaped buildings that could be attached to each other.

Some properties had only one or another of these capsules. Still, Minos could see from a distance several where dozens of these structures were connected to form immense structures.

Beasts of various sizes came and went, usually in groups of beings of the same race.

Even though this was the city of freedom, where all races were welcome, many visitors passed through daily. And these visitors moved in groups without mixing with beings of other races.

But there were many groups containing beasts of various species moving around the city's outskirts. These were usually local natives, beings already accustomed to living in harmony with other species.

Among these groups full of diversity, one could occasionally find beings with characteristics of more than one race.

These were the famous half-breeds of beasts!

In the Spiritual World, once a being reaches the 8th stage, they can change their body to suit their circumstances. In particular, some beings used this to mate with individuals of other species, beings that would be incompatible in other situations.

Through this, hybrid races existed in this diverse world. Among them, their members shared characteristics of both the father's and the mother's race.

These beings were hated by those who defended the purity of the species, as in the case of the elves, some beast tribes from the Beast Continent, and part of the humans from the Central Continent.

Only in cities like these in the underwater world and in the Divine Continent could these half-breeds live in peace because the rulers of their areas protected them.

Minos saw a half-breed for the first time but felt no revulsion. Henricus Longus had seen many such beings in his long life, so he felt comfortable around such beings, even though he was a human of pure lineage.

Amidst this sight of at least a hundred thousand beings, Minos and his group passed one of the entrances to the City of a Thousand Races.

This place accepted beings of all races, whether terrestrial or aquatic. So Minos faced no difficulty entering this place, having only paid the entrance fee of 50 high-grade crystals.

High-level beings demanded high-level vigilance. So the entry fee varied according to the strength of the one entering this city.

For beings below the 6th stage, it only costs 50 low-grade crystals. Those between the 6th and 8th stage had to pay for 50 medium-grade crystals, and those above that, 50 high-grade crystals.

For Minos, this was not a high amount, so he paid it without problem, soon being directed by Ross to a place that all three fishes had said would be interesting for him to visit.

"Ed, I don't intend to accompany you for much longer. The City of a Thousand Races is a relatively safe place. Few dare to act in here, so you can move about freely without worry." Ross said as it led the way. "Since I am here, I will take the opportunity to settle some matters near where we are going. But if you go further downtown, we probably won't see each other around here anymore."

"Hmm, no problem," Minos said, grateful that this fish got him here so quickly.

Randall then said. "We will accompany you for a little longer. Our business is not urgent, so if you need a guide around this city, I will take you wherever you decide to go."

Sapphire nodded, liking that since she did not know this city and directing Minos around might be a chance for her to see places she and her husband would not pass if they were alone.

Minos nodded and said. "I am after something valuable that can help me on my journey. When I was traveling before meeting you two, I met some elves who gave me a hint.

They said that something that would help me in my goal was waiting for me in this place."

"Elves?" Ross asked.

It knew how amazing these beings were but didn't like elves. Several races of sea creatures were friendly to the elf tribe, but this fish was not one of them.

"Do you trust what an elf says, Ed? These beings are always trying to manipulate those around them." Sapphire warned this human, who could not know about the evil nature of these beings blessed by heaven.

They could be talented and stay out of unnecessary conflicts most of the time. But elves were also usually associated with manipulating those close to them, always trying to alter the fate of others.

Elves believed in fate and had powers consistent with it, something that gave them confidence in using those around them.

This made them feared around the Spiritual World, which is why some races hated them.

These fish belonged to races that didn't like the elves, so they all thought that 'Ed' was being manipulated by one of these terrible creatures.

Minos smiled bitterly, knowing the reasons why some sea races disliked elves.

In the distant past, the elves had helped the Sea Folk create their empire, which was why this race had become so strong and is still an ally of the Elves Island.

But to do this, the elves had to deal with countless beast races, oppressing, threatening, and stealing their talented members' karmic energy.

Minos then said. "I have nothing to do. Even if elves have many reasons to be suspicious, that woman has already made a forced contract with me. So she wouldn't benefit if she lied to me."

Upon hearing that, those three felt enraged, remembering their ancestors who had suffered the same as Minos and eventually died to have their karmic energy collected.

"Damned elves!"

"Abominable creatures! I can't believe they even did this to young Ed!" Randall said, feeling anger at these beings.

Ross strained its fins, feeling anger. "What are you going to do, Ed? Unfortunately, the fate of those who are targeted by elves is not usually promising."

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Chapter 1638 Ancestral Chamber Of Commerce

"Sigh... I don't know. I can only believe that what she said I would find in this place will really come in handy on my trip.

The contract she created doesn't have a time limit, so as long as I don't go to Elves Island early, I'll be fine.

Other than that, I intend to return the 'kindness' in the future." He said to Ross, being sincere.

He did not view elves as negatively as these creatures. But the contract that woman forced on him bothered him, and Minos intended to take revenge.

Ross saw the sincerity in Minos' words and felt reassured that it had helped this man who was not a vassal of the elves.

He was someone like them, an oppressed one of heaven's chosen ones!

Ross nodded to Minos and said. "Well, I wish you luck. As for the item you might find in this city, do you have any tips on how to find it? There are endless possibilities here."

"She said it would help me in my goal..." He said, thinking better of it. "It must be something ancient, of human origin, and high-level. I'm after something related to a high-level Spiritual Demigod, so such a thing must be pretty fantastic.

This will probably protect or give me a chance, so it must be a defensive item. Maybe with formations engraved on itself."

Those three listened carefully and concluded they would have a good chance of leading 'Ed' to such a thing just at where they were going.

'Damned elves! You really are impressive!' Ross realized the coincidence, noting that even though it didn't know anything, it led 'Ed' to the best place for this human to look for what the elf had said.

Randall sighed and said. "Then there is no mistake. The place that Senior Ross is taking us must be where you should go through. The Ancestral Chamber of Commerce."

"Sigh... It looks like your future will be grim, young Ed." Sapphire said.

"What? What does that mean?"

"Don't bother with what Sapphire says," Randall expressed. "She is shocked that you will get that item even if you were not looking for it. That's stuff from the elf who talked to you..."

But anyway, the Ancestral Chamber of Commerce has the largest stock of ancient Spiritual World items in the ocean. I dare say that even Spatial Kingdoms of the old Gods don't have things as valuable and ancient as this place."

Ross agreed. "That place was created by a Collecting Mollusk who lived 80,000 years. This senior collected a plethora of sea and land riches in its lifetime, having, according to the stories, visited every continent and island in this world.

When it died one million years ago, it was already among the most sought-after in the Spiritual World by people searching for lost ancient artifacts.

To give you an idea of how relevant this place is, two Supreme Pontiffs of the Spiritual Church came here during this period in search of lost items from their organization.

Only one of them got what he was looking for, while the other left after falling out with the head mollusk of the time."

This place did not exist at the time of Henricus Longus, so Minos listened carefully to the words of that level 84 fish.

"In any case, your fate probably lies in that place," Ross said, already seeing from afar a gigantic building that combined over 400 capsules to form what appeared to be a large square.

Minos saw that place was completely red and had a single entrance in the middle of the face facing in their direction.

In that place, several mollusks were positioned in the surroundings, keeping the order of the beings who wished to enter to observe the collection of this place.

Some items from the Ancestral Chamber of Commerce were on display for observation, so even beings with no interest in shopping passed by.

So when they got in line, one of the mollusks soon approached them and said. "That's 500 high-grade crystals for all of you. You will have up to 12 hours if you decide to enter the Ancestral Chamber of Commerce."

Ross did not want to go in there and said goodbye to Minos. "Ed, this is where we say goodbye.

I hope you can beat the damned elf who put you in this troublesome situation."

"Hmm, I'll do my best."

"All in all, that's all. I hope to hear from you in the future."

"You certainly will." Minos smiled as he saw Ross leaving.

Then he and the two fish paid the expensive entrance fee for that place, not taking long to get their turn to enter there.

Unlike other places that allowed many beings to enter simultaneously, this place allowed only ten individuals at a time.

So when they entered, the three of them found a superb place but practically empty of living beings.

Many shelves and corridors extended at different angles, where one could go up, down, sideways, and even follow diagonal paths.

There were mirrors on the outer walls of this large square area, so anyone who entered there would feel as if this space was infinite because of the optical illusion.

One of the mollusks that looked after the groups that entered there then approached these three and said. "Welcome to the Ancestral Chamber of Commerce. Are you here to buy or observe?"

Minos then said. "I am searching for something that will help me in a goal, but fate has not yet revealed it to me as it is.

I believe I will find it here."

"Very well. Can you tell me anything so we can begin the search for this item?" That being in its beast form, but smaller than its real form, a little larger than an adult human, said. "Rest assured. I will maintain the secrecy of what you seek."

"I am in search of something related to the Spiritual Church." Minos went straight to the point, knowing that beings of this race were very trustworthy.

Collector Mollusks were not only beings with extreme abilities to search for valuable items but also extremely sincere beings who would not, even under torture, hand over what they knew.

That alone was why this place had developed so much, and powers from all over the Spiritual World passed through without fear of having their tracks tracked by their enemies!

"Specifically, something related to Maximillian Flamen and the Seraphim Ancient Sarcophagus."

After Minos' words, that big-eyed beast narrowed its eyes, wondering where it had heard those names.

"Hmmm, I already know where we start! Follow me!" It said before moving to the upper levels of that area.

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#### Chapter 1639 Ancient Items

Minos and those two fish followed that mollusk through that area full of items of the most varied kinds, all marked for their antiquity, easily seen in the appearance of their components.

Some items were cracked, and some had lost part of their coloring or were browned.

Minos and those two looked at various artifacts as they swam after the creature.

Minos was breathing through the gills he had artificially generated in his neck. At the same time, his eyes looked different than usual, which was necessary for him to see normally underwater.

'These beings have assembled an incredible collection...'. He looked in the direction of where the mollusk was taking them and saw half a wing, something he knew the origin of.

When the mollusk stopped near that wing, it began to speak. "Here are most of the terrestrial items related to the Spiritual Church.

This wing you are looking at, human, belongs to a descendant of the founding family of the Spiritual Church. It belongs to a half-breed of human and seraphim."

"Uh?" The two fish exclaimed in surprise, for they did not know that real seraphim existed.

All they knew about these beings were related to the Spiritual Church and how they worshiped the figure of the seraphim. But they had always thought this image was nothing more than a creation of humans, something they had used to create a cult.

At no time had these creatures thought that seraphim existed in the more than 10,000 years of their existence!

For them, apart from the invention of the mind, techniques that created the characteristics of such seraphim were the most anyone could see of such beings.

That mollusk, a being who also loved history and curiosities, saw the reaction of these two and explained. "In the remote past, seraphim existed in the Divine Continent. But due to a war that we don't know the reasons why it started, they were forced to migrate to the Central Continent.

Millions of years later, the race of seraphim met their end as they faced the Ocean Calamity 6 million years ago."

The Oceanic Calamity referred to a period when the first God of the Spiritual World appeared.

As Henricus Longus had told Minos, he was not the first God but the first human to achieve the 11th stage. Before him, elves and some beast races had already achieved this feat.

In particular, the first being to reach the 11th stage had been a member of the Sky Whale race, the most powerful in this world.

When that being was about to advance to level 100, it and its tribe had indicted a war with the dragons and kilims of the Beast Continent over Divine-grade medicine. Such a war devastated much of the Spiritual World and ended many weaker races, as was the case with the seraphim.

Seraphim were powerful and talented, but their strongest members at that time were only high-level Spiritual Sages because of the delay they suffered in their progress when migrating from the Divine Continent to the Central Continent.

"Luckily, some seraphim disregarded the law of their tribe and mixed their genes with that of humans, generating a race of hybrids." That mollusk continued. "One of these hybrids of human and seraphim created the Spiritual Church to cultivate his mother figure and gather faith power.

The Spiritual World experts of the time had just discovered the possibility of getting stronger through this...

In a few hundred thousand years, the descendant of that half-breed has reached level 100.

Anyway, this wing belongs to the grandfather of this Supreme Pontiff who became the first God of the Spiritual Church. The owner of that wing was one of the last half-breeds that still had characteristics of the seraphim.

After him, the wings disappeared from their lineage, and currently, it can only be seen through the soul technique that the high-level members of the Church use."

Minos listened to this story with interest, even though he already knew a good part of it.

Meanwhile, those two fish were surprised by all these amazing revelations.

"I didn't expect that..."

"Hmm, it's shocking how much stuff we don't know." Randall agreed with Sapphire.

Minos then asked. "Why is that wing here? Didn't the Spiritual Church ever try to buy it?"

The mollusk guided people around and answered questions from visitors willing to pay the entrance fee. So he said. "They bought that wing from us in the past. But soon after, they went through a troublesome time with Sky Whales...

For superstitious reasons, they gave up keeping that item with them."

"So that was it..."

The mollusk looked at Minos and indicated. "The items to the right of that wing are in chronological order. If you swim in that direction, you will find newer and newer items.

The item you are looking for should be further ahead. Maximillian Flamen is from the time of Pope Maximus, so anything related to him and the floating island abandoned by the Church will be over there." It indicated.

Minos then moved in the direction indicated, quickly arriving near where some ancient items of varied types were floating in the water.

There was a large, sharp sword with large blades and a large pommel, the kind that few humans could use. It was very rusty and had a half-moon symbol on it.

Another item was a small locked chest, of which no one knew what was inside due to the absence of the proper key to open this high-level grade-4 item.

In addition to these two, there were two more items from the same period as those Spiritual Church men. One was a small vial with a dark liquid inside it. The other was a torn golden cloak, which had a powerful aura about it, the strongest among all those items.

'That must have been from Pope Maximus.' Minos swallowed his saliva as he realized the powerful aura left by a God, the only one capable of leaving a 'footprint' capable of being noticed after so long.

"That was Pope Maximus' cloak when he faced a level 99 Sky Whale. Even though he was already a God then, he suffered some injuries from that creature."

"Is that really possible?" Sapphire questioned. "And what happened after that?"

"Pope Maximus killed it. The oil generated from the blubber of that whale was used to light the streets of the capital of the Evergreen Empire for a whole century after that."

While those two were muttering things among themselves, Minos had his eyes on three of those four items but felt the least impressive of all was the one he should pick up.

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#### Chapter 1640 Purchasing An Item

The rusty sword would be useless for him to use for himself. Still, it might be relevant for accessing some areas within the Seraphim Ancient Sarcophagus.

The locked chest might contain something valuable he would find the key to when he reached the Seraphim Ancient Sarcophagus, which could somehow help him, as the elf had told him.

The small vial, on the other hand, was the one that seemed to have the least potential to help Minos in any way, but strangely enough, it was the item he felt most connected to.

Some kind of 6th sense was telling him that that was what he should choose.

"How much is that vial?" He asked the mollusk.

"That vial is the cheapest of the four items. It costs only 600,000 high-grade crystals."

Gulp!

The two fish next to Minos swallowed their saliva as they wondered how expensive that was.

It was only a tiny vial, which neither of them could feel anything impressive about, other than that it was an ancient, high-level grade-4 item.

But all the items in that area were of that grade and seemed more valuable than that little thing.

That immediately made them think that the prices of things there were ridiculously high!

'What's up with those prices?' Sapphire wondered.

That mollusk explained to those two, even though no one there questioned it. "Every item in this place took a lot of effort from countless generations of our tribe members.

So the value of all the items here is naturally high, even more so considering that these are ancient and high-level artifacts.

For us Mollusk Collectors, these are the most valuable items because they are the ones that have the most history for us to analyze and entertain ourselves with."

Minos understood this and saw no problem paying such an amount, but part of him was hoping that the feeling he had felt was not wrong.

Just in case, he asked. "Do you know the stories of these three items? In particular, the history of this one I am buying?"

"I know some of them, but not everything. Unlike Pope Maximus' cloak, these items are naturally more difficult to analyze since they don't have an aura of a God about them." That mollusk said. "But I know a few things.

That sword, for example, must have belonged to a high-level cultivator of the Spiritual Church. From the location it was, its owner must have lost it during a battle on the high seas.

The locked chest also belonged to that organization, and the key to it must be either in the Seraphim Ancient Sarcophagus or lost somewhere in the Spiritual World.

The Church doesn't have the key to it. Otherwise, it would have already been bought from us.

We do not know what is in it, but it may be of little value to people not connected to the owner of it.

In the ancient past and even today, it is not uncommon for some great cultivators to keep memories and things emotional for them in items like this.

So it could contain something of great value, but it could be that it is just a souvenir for someone who lived tens of thousands of years."

It briefly paused as it looked at that vial and said. "It was found in the Flowers Kingdom over 1.5 million years ago. We don't know anything about what's inside it. It could be ink, blood, or wine; we don't know because we dare not open it.

But this should be important because no one would store something worthless in a device like this and of this quality."

Minos heard that and felt compelled to buy that chest. But just as he was about to do so, he felt his skin creep and changed his mind.

"Very well, I will keep the small vial. Here are the 600,000 high-grade crystals." He took a few bags of crystals from one of his spatial rings and handed it to that creature.

Those two fish looked at Minos surprised once again, not expecting that he had so much wealth that he could spend all that on something that might be worthless.

With 600,000 high-grade crystals, a cultivator could easily pay for all their life expenses until they became Spiritual Demigods.

But these two didn't know that Minos had access to several times that amount of crystals because he was an emperor and controller of the Bank of the Black Plain!

That bank alone had more than 20 times that amount available for the emperor to use as he pleased!

That mollusk didn't bother trying to understand how a level 77 human could pay for that and soon went about the paperwork behind it.

It wasn't complicated to do that. After registering the sale of the high-level grade-4 vial, it returned with the proof of payment and that item in a golden box.

"Here it is." It said before asking. "Is there anything else that interests you? We have other things related to what you are looking for, but they are of lower levels."

Minos kept that item in his spatial ring and said. "No, that was all I wanted."

With that said, that mollusk would soon accompany these three to the exit of the Ancestral Chamber of Commerce, an area entirely different from the entrance, through which only buyers could leave.

There was no one but the employees of that place in the vicinity, so Minos and his two companions could depart far away without anyone noticing.

When they were already quite far from that place, Sapphire asked. "I wonder if that was the item, Ed? I found it so ordinary compared to the others."

"Hmmm, I believe so." Minos said, remembering the earlier sensation, something he could only associate with what he had acquired by spilling his blood on the map of the Seraphim Ancient Sarcophagus.

"I hope it really is..." Randall commented. "Anyway, what do you intend to do now?"

"I want to go to the center of this city," Minos replied. "An elder once told me that if I were to pass through one of the Cities of a Thousand Races, I should look for a statue of a human. According to him, such a thing would lead me to something interesting."

Minos was making up a story to justify his interest in passing through the central area of this city, following Henricus Longus' memories.

Henricus Longus had visited every major underwater city in the ocean and left things in each of them.

This was not something he had left for Minos but for future generations of humans in his family or people who knew his history.

That man knew that one day he would die, and like many high-level experts, he had created several ways to leave his mark on this world, leaving legacies.

Minos knew that one of them must be in this city, so he was interested in going after such a thing!

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