

Black Plain 1671

Chapter 1671 Gratitude

The next day...

After a night of talking, Maximillian had learned many relatively useful things for his journey in the Central Continent that would begin very soon. He was still in Dry City, as maps, more detailed information, and the like would take a little longer to be prepared and delivered to him.

But this man felt that he would not stay much longer in this place, and after receiving such documents between today and tomorrow, he would already leave for the Evergreen Empire to probe the current Supreme Pontiff of the Spiritual Church.

He was much younger than that man, even considering the 5,000 years he had slept inside his sarcophagus. So he was in no hurry to advance to level 100, even considering that was his ultimate goal.

Before going into seclusion, he wanted to live a little in this vast world he had stayed away from for so long.

Among the things he wanted to do, Maximillian wanted to at least get control over the continent he was on before he went into seclusion to become a God.

So even though he was already at the peak of level 99, he didn't intend to go after free Divine-grade medicines in the short term and wanted to focus his time on conquests!

The one place he wouldn't worry about would be the Black Plain Empire, this weak place that somehow already belonged to the Spiritual Church.

His primary goal was the western region, that part of the continent where 2 of the 3 strongest cultivators of these lands were and where the Church still had no space.

But while waiting to begin his journey, he met Darren and the three hostages he had taken the day before.

...

"It looks like you guys slept well, huh?" He laughed as he entered the hotel room where Darren had spent the night watching those two.

This was the same place where the Crown Prince of the Eastern Empire had been staying previously and was now under captivity.

Darren saw Maximillian watching those three and remained silent, anxious to determine what he would do next.

This beast might not like its situation, but it loved trouble and fighting, things that could help it find powerful bodies for it to devour. So it looked forward to what that human would decide regarding these three.

"What do you intend to do with us?" The level 98 man asked, glaring at that superior.

"I haven't decided yet," Maximillian said. "But now I understand your situation better... Then maybe I will use you as a bargaining chip. From what I've heard, this boy's father is not weak at all."

"Tsk!"

None of the three liked how Maximillian referred to the strongest man on the continent. But they didn't object much to the one who held their destinies.

"But that's not decided yet. Your future depends on this Vico Travisani guy... Anyway, get used to this situation. I will keep you for a while before I decide what to do with you.

Depending on everything, maybe killing you is the best thing." He said, trying to scare them.

Those men were confident in Vico, but the prince couldn't help but feel a little afraid to hear a threat coming from someone so powerful.

But still, he gathered his courage and asked. "I know my fate is in your hands, so I will wait to find out what will happen. But senior, answer me one thing, why are you helping Minos Stuart? What makes a Demigod at your level care about a mere Spiritual Saint?"

Maximillian stood next to Darren, intending to give that beast some orders, when he looked back at that young man.

"It may seem strange to you, but I owe this young man a great debt. What he has done for me is second only to what my father and mother did when they raised me..."

Those three found those words strange, while Darren didn't quite understand what it meant.

But Maximillian didn't care whether they would understand or not. He felt indebted to Minos, for this young man had potentially saved his life.

He could still remain in his sarcophagus for another few thousand years, but if Minos had hidden that map, perhaps no one would ever have the chance to free him again.

In another few million years, even he inside that sarcophagus would die!

Minos had given him a second chance, one that wasn't bad, by the way.

The current configuration of the Central Continent was particularly favorable to this man's plans, so his commitment to pay back his promise to Minos was even greater now.

Of course, this did not mean he would forever stand by this young sovereign. But as long as Minos did not oppose him, Maximillian would not be unfair to this person and was willing to protect him from these enemies.

Realizing that this man was not joking, Janus clenched his fists, feeling that his family would have trouble punishing Minos for his insolence.

'Lucky bastard!'

...

While Maximillian was in Dry City with Darren and his hostages, Minos had not yet returned to the Spatial Kingdom to bring his family to the empire's capital.

Obviously, he wouldn't do that in the presence of these high-level Demigods, so he was catching up on the little changes that had occurred in the more than three months he had been gone.

But nothing earth-shattering had happened in the meantime. There was no significant advancement of his forces nor level advancements of important people in the current Black Plain Empire.

Every day members of the army increased their levels, but this was what happened for those below the 7th stage, people who mattered, given their future potential, but who at the moment couldn't influence the state much.

The best Minos had heard from his men was about the situation of the wormhole ports, which at the moment already connected Vogel to the End area. Not only that, Blackrock, Albano, Rosser, and the Flaming Empire were going to integrate into their network of wormhole ports, so several new possibilities could arise in the coming months for the empire.

As for the pressure from the stronger factions of the Church on his and Gloria's group, that was continuing more or less as before, but now some things were changing in their favor!

After months away from the Empire, upon his return to this place, Minos had found out from Gloria's men that they had managed to start conversations with other factions of the same size as theirs.

With this, he intended in the next few days to begin negotiations with people from these factions who would soon be coming to Dry City!

Chapter 1672 High Level Meeting

Another day passed...

As Maximillian prepared to depart from the Black Plain Empire, something rarely seen on the continent was about to develop!

On the border between the Eastern Empire, Western Empire, and Sista, the forces of those three powerful states on the continent were in this neutral area, ready to meet.

Since those two states were old enemies, a single word from Vico would not be enough to make Emperor Quinn go to him or allow this man into his territory. There was a lot of history behind the two, and any possibility of a meeting would have to happen in neutral territory, on their borders with Sista.

Sista was neutral to the conflict between the two, doing business with each state. At the same time, its sovereign was one of the few on the continent that was at the same level as Vico.

Even though Vico was considered the strongest in these lands, in her presence, any action of his would have a harder time developing into a success of his own!

As such, Queen Sista was the one these men sought out when they wanted to meet to deal with matters of war, and precisely because of this background, she was hosting these two groups on this day.

She and her group were on their side of the border with those two states while the groups from the Quinn and Travisani families were gradually entering Sista.

Both enemy sides were looking at their opponents decisively, demonstrating one side's historical hostility toward the other.

In particular, Henry Quinn, level 98, looked with narrowed eyes at Vico while Queen Sista watched them from afar.

That woman, with beautiful blonde hair, a body commensurate with her 1.65-meter height, and a youthful appearance, was sitting in the central position of her camp, where there was room for those two groups to stand with her as mediator.

"Your Majesty, are His Majesty Vico's words really true?" One of the closest advisors to this local sovereign asked, concerned.

"Vico has not the habit of lying. He wouldn't act that way even if he wanted to act against Henry." Willow Sista, level 99, said reassuringly, confident this meeting would go well, "But I'm anxious to hear more about his fears..."

As she spoke, the two groups arrived in silence at their respective positions while the tension in the surroundings was high and cold was present, even on this sunny day.

Luckily there was no one weaker than level 90 there. Otherwise, people would faint just from the deadly serious stares of those men and women from the enemy states meeting there.

Vico looked at Willow and said. "It is good to see you again, Queen Sista. Unfortunately, this occasion is not at a better time. Otherwise, I would have tea with you."

"It's good to see you too, Vico." She said, smiling at him before looking at Henry.

"Queen Sista, you look even younger than the last time we saw each other," Henry commented, paying attention to the face of this woman he hadn't seen in 600 years.

High-level specialists often did not see each other when they were not part of the same force. But even members of the same family could go decades or centuries without seeing each other if their cultivations were high like those of these people in this camp in the Sista kingdom.

Queen Sista hadn't seen Emperor Quinn in a long time either, and she couldn't help but notice this man's improvement in that period. "You are kind in your words, Henry. An old woman like me can no longer improve her appearance. Sigh... Anyway, I feel that you are not far from joining Vico and me. I hope you will advance very soon, for we will need your strength."

"I will do my best." That man said with humility, for this person was the oldest in the Central Continent, already over 25,000 years old.

She was a few decades older than the Supreme Pontiff of the Spiritual Church, making her the oldest on this continent.

Because of this, these two men, even the strongest on the continent, greatly respected her and did not dare to speak her name without the proper title.

When Vico and Henry were born, this woman was already at the peak of cultivation, leading the Sista forces across the Spiritual World!

She then said. "But let's get to the point. This meeting is not for us to talk about useless things but for Vico to present his concerns and intention to seal this peace agreement between your states."

Seeing that elderly woman looking at him, Vico looked at Henry and said. "You know that I never intended to raise the white flag regarding conflicts with your state. We have been enemies since the cradle, so I have always been prepared to kill or die."

Henry clenched his fists but couldn't say this person was lying.

At some point in the last 10,000 years, the Western Empire was stronger than the Eastern Empire, and at one time, Vico had almost been killed when he was at level 95. But even in that situation, this man had not backed down or accepted the possibility of surrender thrown at him by a general of the Quinn family.

So this sovereign kept listening to Vico.

"But things are different now. On my journey, I have met amazing people who have made me strong and warned me about troubling things.

Until a few decades ago, I still considered that our confrontation would be unaffected or would not hinder my plans to prevent the chaotic future predicted by a prophet, but now I see it totally differently."

He looked seriously at Henry, showing his determination.

"If we do not unite against the enemy about to emerge on the continent, not only you and I will perish. Our families, states, and even the entire western region are under threat."

Henry asked, without bringing up old rivalries. "What are you talking about? What enemy could do this to our region? Even the Spiritual Church dare not casually enter these areas."

"I don't know, but a great evil had been unleashed days ago. One of my most trusted subordinates, Daniel, was suddenly killed while pursuing the matter. Now, I sense that terrible forces are rapidly approaching our lands."

At those words, Willow and Henry frowned, knowing Daniel was at level 97 and few could kill someone like that on the continent.

Vico continued. "My high-level grade-4 seer tried to visualize the future of the person who would release this great evil. Unfortunately, he could not continue his vision, as a greater force had prevented him.

But before that, he could see the continent divided, with rivers of blood and mountains of bodies."

...

Chapter 1673 Willow's Decision

Queen Sista looked seriously at Vico and asked. "What is the connection between this prediction, the one from the prophet, and Daniel's death?"

Vico answered promptly. "The prophet told me before his death that the map of the Seraphim Ancient Sarcophagus was connected to a great atrocity that would happen on our continent in the future.

Daniel was investigating the disappearance of this map when he died... And this prediction was made by trying to identify the one who found this map.

Everything is connected, so I believe Daniel's death is the beginning of an era of terror on the continent.

Upon hearing that, that woman was silent, considering that everything was connected, and it made sense to believe Vico's words.

At the same time, unlike Henry, an enemy of Vico, Willow had been closer to Emperor Travisani to realize how the prophet's words always came true on more than one occasion.

She already believed beforehand in the danger that made this man care so much to want a peace treaty with Henry. But as she listened to his words, she noticed that things were far more urgent than she thought.

'It seems that I will face this calamity before I die...'

Willow was already ancient and had no confidence in advancing to the next stage in the short time she had before her vitality ran out.

But knowing that she had a good chance of at least seeing the beginning of this calamity gave her a mixed feeling of worry but also a relief.

Her hair was only at level 95, and she had no hope of him reaching the same level as her, even if he could have a life as long as hers. So such a calamity starting in her remaining time could be the best thing, as she could protect her state in the most challenging time on the continent.

But even she respected death and did not desire to die 'prematurely' in battle.

Henry clenched his fists and questioned. "So you want peace? Do you really believe we won't stand a chance by facing this threat separately?"

"I faithfully believe it. Not only because the evil unleashed on the continent is dangerous, but for what the prophet said would happen after we go through this bloodbath."

Vico replied, telling that person something he had never told people outside his organization.

"When we finish facing this evil, the survivors will not be victors, no matter which side you are on. The worst that the Spiritual World will face will come right after this calamity.

I confess I don't know what this is all about, but the prophet died talking about it because he couldn't bear the 'weight' of the vision he had."

He sighed and continued.

"In that way, I am confident. We cannot let the past interfere with the danger ahead of us. We must come together for the same purpose, the survival of our states and families.

With the threat unleashed by Minos Stuart, we must pause our hostilities and combine forces when the right time comes!

Only then will we have a future to decide whether or not to pursue our old grudges!"

"Minos Stuart?" Queen Sista did not expect to hear that name in this place and could not contain her curiosity.

"Minos Stuart was possibly the one behind the disappearance of the map of the Seraphim Ancient Sarcophagus. Daniel was in search of him when he died." Vico replied while he had an ugly expression on his face.

And with those words, he finally made Henry believe the threat to their states.

'That subordinate said that Minos Stuart believes that what is in the North Sea will cause a great calamity in the future...' Emperor Quinn thought to himself, remembering Grant, a subordinate who had been lost long ago and returned to the empire with absurd ideas.

But after this sovereign heard what Emperor Travisani had to say and Minos' involvement with the prophesied calamity, he couldn't help but believe both Vico and Grant.

'But if this Minos believes and wants to oppose the threat to the continent, why would he release this great evil that Vico speaks of?' He wondered.

Because of this doubt, Henry would say nothing about it to these people at the moment, intent on investigating the situation in the North Sea to judge Grant's follies.

If that place really was hiding something strange, he would notify these two!

He then said. "Very well, I believe your words are sincere. Then as of today, my forces will retreat to the empire's interior and no longer attack unless we are attacked first."

Vico sighed and nodded to that person. "My forces will also follow the same."

Henry continued. "For the rest, we can continue to communicate through Queen Sista if she sees no problem with that, of course."

"Fine, I'll mediate the movements between our states," Willow said. "My state will be open doors to welcome your members and lead movements across the continent."

I will also communicate with my allies and propose they join us to manage threats to our region."

"I am grateful for that," Vico said as he made a gesture of thanks.

This meeting would end with much less tension than when it began, but the mood in which each of the groups from there would leave was one of absolute concern.

Each of them felt that high-level problems would soon arise on this continent.

Some even believed that the powerful Spiritual Church would suffer from this and were already preparing to gather their people and prepare for the worst.

For the time being, they would not join together as a single group to face the threats on the continent. But they would prepare individually for the moment they would have to do so.

While those two groups returned to their states to begin preventive actions, Queen Sista's group returned to the kingdom's interior.

Halfway there, the second strongest of that entourage asked his queen. "Your Majesty, what shall we do about Minos Stuart? If Emperor Vico Travisani's statement is true, he is a great enemy."

"We don't know that yet. Maybe Minos did what Vico said, but that doesn't mean he did it purposefully. Also, he is only a Spiritual Saint. He could be significantly damaged if a war of such immense proportions happens on the continent.

So let's talk to him first. Then, depending on his position, I will continue with my plans for my state to ally with Black Plain in the Continental Tournament."

"I will send someone to the Black Plain immediately."

Chapter 1674 Divine Medicine?

Two days later...

While the high-level powers of the Central Continent were hearing about Vico and Henry's meeting, the news of this unusual encounter crossed continental borders!

In the Divine Continent, one of the observers from the Central Continent was already aware of this relevant news coming from so far away.

The Divine Continent and Central Continent could be considered continuations of the human-dominated lands in the Spiritual World. But even though it was a place blessed by the heavens and far away from that area, the powers of this place had their rivalry with those more powerful from everywhere else in this vast world.

Demigods were relevant throughout the Spiritual World, even more so those at the peak of cultivation, who could dispute Divine medicines if they appeared wildly or matured in a territory with an owner.

As such, the meeting of two level 99 cultivators was extremely relevant to forces on the Divine Continent, and one of the observers from that other continent couldn't help but take this information to his leaders immediately upon finding out.

Such a person, a half-breed of human and dragon, a rare mixture in this world, quickly manipulated space and appeared in an ancient temple where very powerful auras could be felt in significant numbers.

There, the headquarters of a large organization on this continent were at least four level 99 Demigods!

Among them, one was on standby to deal with problems without having to disturb his fellows in seclusion.

"Velor, what brings you to me?" That level 99 elder, a human of pure lineage, asked.

The Divine Continent was divided into three empires, all with a large presence of half-breeds, spiritual beasts, and humans. But even though this place was open to the most varied relationships, pure humans still represented about 40% of the continent's population and were the majority when one looked at the leaders of these lands.

So even though it was the continent of diversity, this was still a predominantly human-led continent, not so different from the Central Continent.

But for much time, the powers of this continent had lived like this, and half-breeds and beings of pure lineage lived just as well in this place as if there was no prejudice in this world.

As such, there was no sense of superiority in the local leaders just because of their race, let alone the subordinates would feel bad about being commanded by one different from them.

This was the case for these two, and when Velor bowed his head, he did so out of pure respect for this white-haired man.

The level 99 Demigod looked at this being who was 3 meters tall, had extremely defined and large muscles, with dragon eyes, a human mouth, and several other mixed features and listened.

"Your Excellency, an unusual movement has just occurred in the Central Continent. Vico Travisani, Willow Sista, and Henry Quinn have met at the border of their states." This being with a deeply grave voice said, while being watched closely.

"The reasons for the meeting are still unclear, but the forces of the Eastern Empire and the Western Empire have begun to retreat from their positions on the contested border.

There are other signs that the sides are at least temporarily at peace."

"Oh?" That old man was interested in this level 95 Demigod's words, curious about what would make Henry and Vico come to an agreement. "Are they preparing for something bigger? Is there any news of the emergence of an ownerless Divine Medicine on the Central Continent?"

"Not that I know of, Your Excellency." That being said. "But perhaps it is on account of Ancient Dragon Spatial Kingdom. Some rumors say that its entrance will open up in those lands."

"Hmm, I heard about that. But it doesn't make sense for two peak powers to retreat from their positions because of it.

The Ancient Dragon Spatial Kingdom is valuable but more important for young Spiritual Sages..." While bringing one of his hands to his face, that expert said, demonstrating a thoughtful expression.

"Something else is behind it."

"What could it be?"

"I don't know. Keep an eye on the actions of these states and look for information about Divine medicines emerging. Vico has several times been able to outmaneuver even some of our men because of his speed to seize opportunities..."

Perhaps he is aware of something!"

"I will do my best."

"But talk about it with Euris. Maybe the elves know something."

At the thought of his colleague being responsible for watching the elves' home, this half-breed soon left that sacred temple, leaving behind the previous elder staring into the void.

This old man looked toward the Central Continent and saw dark clouds, feeling a chill as he noticed such a thing.

'Am I impressed by something? I had better return to my cultivation. A Divine medicine will surely mature in the next 100 years!'

...

Meanwhile, on the outskirts of Elves Island...

In this place where less than 20,000 beings lived, one of the strongest elves awoke from his sleep with dark circles under his eyes as black as night.

As he disconnected from the tree he was using to cultivate, this elf looked up to the sky with concern on his face.

"Elder..." One of the people responsible for watching that area looked into the eyes of this level 99 elf and felt fear.

Elves were very connected to the Spiritual World and had a great affinity with Natural Laws and spiritual energy. Precisely because of this, they were much more sensitive than beings of other species.

In particular, an elf would not leave his cultivation sleep with dark circles under their eyes unless they had had an extremely negative feeling and envisioned a bad future.

This could either mean the death of a loved one, the end of an important family, or even the extermination of an entire race.

You couldn't tell until it happened!

In any case, this was not good news for those who were one of the strongest beings in the Spiritual World!

"Elder... Your eyes..."

That elder didn't need to be warned about this. He felt terrible as if he had been run over by something gigantic and heavy.

At the same time, the negative feeling he had just felt while cultivating could not be mistaken.

"Something terrible is going to happen." He muttered, alerting other elders nearby. "I feel that I will face three calamities in the next few decades."

"Three? How is that possible?" A level 98 elf asked.

"Will it be the birth of Divine medicines? It has happened before."

"I don't know, but I feel that these dark circles are not because of one problem. Instead, there are three, and each one will be worse than the previous one."

Gulp!

"Get ready. Dark times are approaching in the Spiritual World!"

Chapter 1675 Newsflash

Meanwhile, in the Evergreen Empire...

The regent left by the Evergreen Emperor had already received news of the meeting of those enemies of his state and was naturally worried.

Strangely enough, historical enemies had met, and within hours of this encounter, both sides were already moving their troops away from the area of battles between their states.

As such, this man's concern was great, and he had even gathered the most important people in this family available to address the issue.

"People, get ready for movements from the western region. I feel that there is something big behind this meeting, so we cannot miss a single detail about the choices of those powers.

Our job of keeping up with the movements of those powers has never been more imperative than it is now!"

"We have notified the Church about this and will soon have its position on it."

"But why would those enemies stop their historic war right now?"

"I don't know... That's damned Vico's doing!"

The elders there exchanged comments among themselves until a person entered the meeting room where they were with a serious look on his face.

Everyone was silent when interrupted by this person, but they quickly noticed that he had brought urgent news.

He then shouted. "Elders, Your Excellency, I bring news from the Black Plain Empire! Minos Stuart has resurfaced after his weeks-long disappearance alongside TWO level 99 Demigods!"

"What?"

"How?"

"Impossible!"

The people there wondering that Minos' name was mentioned just now could not contain their doubts upon hearing such absurdity.

The regent was the one most shocked, even more so considering the group's previous actions under this family's command.

He asked. "Hey, Xandyr, explain yourself. Where did these experts come from?"

"Answering Your Excellency, no one knows. They came out of nowhere and have been in the Dry City for a few days now. The Church is trying to communicate with the post in that city, but strangely that post is not responding.

In any case, it is a fact that Minos Stuart returned on the side of powerful experts, and one of them even declared himself favorable to the emperor of the Black Plain.

In the words of this expert..." He read a paper. "From now on, the Black Plain Empire has the protection of Maximillian Flamen!"

With those last words, everyone in that place was silent, imagining this could only be a sick joke against this state.

"Max..."

"Maximillian..."

"Falmen?"

The people there remembered this historical figure, thinking the Demigod on the Black Plain next to Minos had probably used that name to tease them.

'What does this mean? Will Minos rebel alongside this impostor?' The regent thought, not understanding where this expert had come from but immediately worrying about the possibilities ahead of his group.

...

Church headquarters was also agitated by the news coming from the Black Plain Empire, a cold shower for many of the prominent factions wanting to absorb Minos Gloria's group.

But there were those groups happy as they were considering joining Minos and Gloria after the talks that subordinates of this Matriarch had had with other more minor factions of the Church in the previous months.

With this recent news, the faction of the two was less likely to be crushed by the Church colossi, giving those groups more confidence to talk to Minos.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Pontiff and his staff had received the news about Maximillian's arrival at Minos' side with apprehension.

They knew nothing about this person who had no respect for them, using the name of someone relevant to the history of this organization.

At the same time, Minos' return with those two experts happening almost simultaneously with the meeting in the western region worry the leaders of this organization even more.

This was not a good time for these two unknown experts to appear!

As such, the Church command was already moving its personnel to investigate the situations in the western and northern regions and strengthen its positions in the Evergreen Empire.

...

Later that same day...

After so long away, Maximillian had finished receiving all the information he needed to begin his journey across the Central Continent.

So he was ahead of Minos, some important local government members, Darren, and the three hostages.

"Young Minos, I will leave for the hour. I don't know how long I will go without seeing you, but even in my absence, know I will keep my promise." He said as he said goodbye to this young Spiritual Saint.

"For the rest, I hope to hear from you in the future. You will have independence when you become a Demigod, but I will give you a week's training before that."

"Hmm, good luck with your plans," Minos said, not speaking much about this man's promises but satisfied.

"See you later. For you, it may take quite a while for us to see each other again, but I feel like I'll see you in a heartbeat." He said with a smile before he opened a wormhole and disappeared along with those four.

With that person's disappearance, Minos' subordinates and family members finally breathed a sigh of relief, for even though they seemed friendly, it was not comfortable to be around such strong outsiders continuously.

Minos also sighed, imagining that the challenges ahead of him would be very different from the ones he had prepared for before.

But first of all, he moved toward one of the capital's high-level cultivation areas, where there was a Black Hole Bomb.

With that, it wouldn't take long for him to use the black hole inside that device to cover his movement toward the Spatial Kingdom!

'Time to bring everyone back.' He thought, missing his wives and curious to see how his children were doing.

But only less than four months had passed since his departure in search of the Seraphim Ancient Sarcophagus, so upon meeting them again, few things had changed.

In any case, Minos would soon spend time with his children and wives, bringing back from the Spatial Kingdom people who had stayed the last few months there and taking others there later.

Now that the matter of the previous map had been resolved, they had many matters to begin dealing with regarding the Church and the empire.

But amid this moment, it wouldn't take long for important visitors to arrive in Dry City to get in the way of Minos' family returning to its routine!

...

Chapter 1676 Sent From Sista

While Gloria was struggling to update herself on the Church in Dry City, Minos, Ruth, and Abby were together with Sarah and Kendrick, going about some local government business.

Minos and his wives believed that daily their children had to participate at some point in their jobs to learn the modus operandi of the Stuart family. So some of them occasionally had Sarah or Kendrick around to watch the local decisions that could influence the empire's future.

Sarah was already an adult, so she participated more actively in these moments, asking questions and sometimes giving her opinion. But Kendrick just watched and listened, always silent when his father or mothers spoke.

In particular, he looked at his father with pride every time he stayed with him to learn how a ruler handled things.

Usually, Abby was always with him at these times since even though she had stopped breastfeeding a few months ago, she was the only one who fed this kid.

Anyway, this was supposed to be just another day for this family, but before they even entered the imperial throne hall, men from the Black Plain Army stopped and alerted them to the arrival of two groups.

One of them had not identified themselves, only saying they were in Dry City to visit the place. At the same time, the other came from Sista, intending to talk to Minos about some important matters.

Since both groups had people of a higher level than what was accepted in Dry City, Minos' men soon warned him about both groups of newcomers.

Kendrick and Sarah heard this and became interested in getting to know these people from Sista.

This was particularly true for Sarah, who felt she could soon visit that state!

"Very well, let them come here." Minos allowed these people in, who were following the local rules, unlike some individuals who had entered Dry City without permission recently.

"I wonder what that's about?" Ruth asked her husband while looking at him seriously.

"It probably has something to do with the Eastern Empire and what I've become involved in over the past few weeks." He said as he looked at Ruth and Abby.

News of the meeting of the leaders of the Eastern Empire, Western Empire, and Sista had not yet reached the Black Plain.

Minos' state still didn't have good enough connections for such news to reach him as quickly as it happens with other powers around the Spiritual World.

But he was no fool, and noting the coincidence of this unexpected visit just after his return, he judged that such a thing had everything to do with the map of the Seraphim Ancient Sarcophagus.

"How do we solve this?" Abby asked. "With the emergence of Maximillian, we will be protected from Demigods. I do not doubt that. But many states friendly to Black Plain may turn against us.

That man must not have good intentions for the continent."

Minos and his family judged that Maximillian would follow part of his old plans to take over the Church and start wars of conquest across the continent.

Since he was closely associated with this man, his forces would undoubtedly suffer from the consequences of siding with such a person.

Minos himself agreed with this and said. "We can do nothing but try to handle the situation as best we can.

Maximillian may get in the way of some of our relationships. Still, he will also provide us with the strength to develop in peace.

If we are isolated and hated, that is the cost of not worrying about Demigods.

In any case, there is no way to disconnect our position from his, and anything he does will have consequences for us. So we'd better prepare for the future and accept that we'll have problems."

"Then we're going to follow his side to the end?" Ruth asked as Sarah and Kendrick listened.

"We will follow that until the time of his promise. Then, after I become a Demigod, we will revisit the matter." Minos said, not wanting to give a definitive position now.

Maximillian could become an ally of his even after he reached level 90, but the opposite could also happen. Minos knew this and wanted to wait for things to develop before deciding.

Until then, Maximillian could develop, but so could he and his people!

Shortly after he showed his intentions to those four, the group from Sista entered the imperial throne hall, where each of the Stuart family members was already positioned in their seats.

Minos was on his throne, with Ruth and Abby sitting on his sides, Sarah slightly behind, and Kendrick in his mother's arms.

The imperial guards and some high-level members of the Gray Clouds Sect were standing there when the three visitors from Sista stopped 30 meters away from Minos.

The three looked up, ignoring the steps before them, and focused on the figure of the level 77 man who had supposedly unleashed a great evil on the continent.

They already knew of Minos' return alongside Maximillian and Darren since news of this was already spreading across the continent.

The Church had been the first organization to receive this news. Still, other areas of the Central Continent were gradually hearing about the unusual allies that Minos had obtained.

The news had not yet reached the Eastern Empire, but those people who had left Sista a day ago had already heard such a thing after passing through Vogel three hours ago.

"Now he seems much more impressive than the rumors say..." One of the men, a level 91 Demigod, thought as he looked into Minos' brown eyes.

On the other hand, the member of royalty among the two royal guards there, level 85, looked at Minos and then at each of the members of that family, passing his eyes quickly, noticing Kendrick and Sarah.

He paid little attention to them and introduced himself to Minos. "Your Majesty Minos Stuart, my name is George Sista. I am the youngest son of Queen Sista, the Third Prince of my kingdom.

Those beside me are Basil and Calvin, my bodyguards."

"Your Highness George, I am happy to welcome someone from the Sista family to my city. Just recently, a nobleman from your state came here to make an agreement between our states regarding the Continental Tournament about to take place in a few decades.

Is that what your visit is about?"

"In a way, yes." That blond-haired, blue-eyed man said, smiling bitterly before getting to the point. "But our visit is also about your search for the Seraphim Ancient Sarcophagus.

My mother has some questions that I hope you will answer. Emperor Vico Travisani suspects that you were after this place and found it. Is that true?"

...

Chapter 1677 Answers

Minos' wives continued to stare at those people while the emperor's children stared at him.

Minos kept his expression neutral, thinking before he spoke.

After a few seconds of silence, he said. "That is indeed true. Some time ago, I found the map connected to the Seraphim Ancient Sarcophagus. At the time, I didn't know what it was about. But with the emergence of various pressures on me because of such a map, I eventually found out what it was about."

He continued as he gestured. "Your Highness, can you understand the pressure on the shoulders of a person who has something valuable to both the Eastern Empire and the Evergreen Empire?"

If I handed over that map to the Blood Triangle Pirates, not only could that turn against me in the future, but the Eastern Empire would turn against me and brand me as an enemy.

If I were to hand over such a thing to the Eastern Empire, I would end up in a horrible situation of making an ally with an enemy power of the one present in my territory...

That way, I would become an enemy of the Spiritual Church and the Evergreen family."

The three men from Sista understood Minos' situation and continued listening to him.

"So I decided not to hand over such a thing to either side.

I decided to take a risk and go after what such a thing carried to find out the value of it." He said sincerely. "I just didn't expect that going after such a thing would make the Travisani family so angry..."

Did you know that some of that family members were in my city to arrest me just because I did that?"

Those three people nodded, for they already knew what had happened in Dry City when Minos returned alongside Maximillian and Darren.

Many people had seen that incident, so Minos made no effort to hide such a thing either.

'This is natural... Such a thing will lead us to disaster.' Those two guards thought the same thing, while the prince saw that Minos seemed to know nothing of the danger that could reach the entire continent.

"Your Majesty, did you know what you would find by following such a map? Did you have control over what happened when you found that ancient site?" The prince asked before moving on with the matter.

"I didn't know. I can say that I was shocked to find out what the map led to. And no, I had little control over what was about to happen. The only thing I did was pull a lever. The rest happened beyond my capabilities.

By following the map, anyone capable of getting where I got to would end up generating the same situation as I did."

"I see..." George said before revealing the truth to Minos. "Your Majesty acted out of ignorance. The truth is that Vico Travisani heard a prophecy that said that such a map was associated with the release of a great evil upon the continent and the beginning of a catastrophe.

Because you used such a map, Emperor Travisani, who always wanted to destroy such a thing, was furious and decided to capture and punish you for putting the entire continent at risk."

"Oh?" Minos was surprised to hear that, not expecting that there was actually such a prophecy.

The same was true for Abby and Ruth, who immediately thought such evil upon the continent must be Maximillian!

They immediately looked at Minos with concern from what they knew of this man's plans and the divine weapon he had in hand.

Only Kendrick, who didn't fully understand what was happening, was confused, watching the expressions in the surroundings.

"I didn't know that..." Minos commented. "Anyway, what's done is done and can't be changed. I didn't mean any harm. I was just trying to protect my state.

I also heard a prophecy about a threat to the entire Spiritual World, and since I started developing Dry City, I've been trying to build a force capable of counteracting that.

I thought using this map would be the best way to ensure the development of my forces, and I don't regret my decision. The information I had at the time said that was the best decision of all."

"Have you also heard a prophecy?" One of the two guards frowned, not expecting to hear this.

But neither he nor his two fellow travelers doubted Minos, for his accomplishments were too impressive for him to have had no help on the way here.

Minos stated. "The continent and the entire Spiritual World will face a great threat in the future. That I suspect will come from the North Sea."

"North Sea?"

"From that place?"

Those three looked at each other, finding this information new and not immediately dismissing it.

But they would not dwell too long on this subject, saving it in their minds for another time.

What mattered now was that Minos had made that risky decision for sensible reasons and not because he wanted to throw the continent into chaos to take advantage of the situation.

He seemed as concerned as they were about the future, so none of the three could consider him an enemy just for his inconsequential actions.

They would no longer act against Minos, given the protection the Black Plain Empire had received from Maximillian. But there was a possibility that they would now end the previous agreement between their states.

But seeing Minos' seriousness and sincerity, they could not decide on their own.

If Queen Sista decided to terminate their agreement after hearing this, then that would be the future. But they, on their own, didn't think they were ready to do that.

"I understand. Your Majesty had his reasons..." George Sista commented before asking. "So you are still interested in continuing with our previous agreement?"

I can't explain it, but I feel that soon our allies and yours may become enemies."

"Senior Maximillian is our friend, but I see no problem continuing our old agreement. I am sure he will not try to stop me... Everything will depend on your side." Minos said, willing to remain allied with Sista.

Even if a war of conquest started in the next few months, if Maximillian maintained his promises, there would be no interference in the Black Plain, and the conflict would take place far away from that area. With that, Minos would not have to worry about Sista being at war with that man and was willing to do business with that kingdom.

For anyone who wanted to be on his side, he had his arms open to welcome them, even if it meant he would have Maximillian enemies on his side!

...

Chapter 1678 Invitation

Upon hearing Minos' response, those men thought that it was now best to report what they had heard from him to Queen Sista and wait for orders.

If she saw no problem continuing with the agreement regarding the Continental Tournament, they would leave Dry City without further delay, with relations intact with that city.

In particular, they judged that Minos had not acted on purpose and that, from his position, his actions even made sense.

Of course, this was not something that someone like Vico would care about. A stupidity that could destroy countless lives on the continent would not be forgiven just because it was not committed with intent.

But for them, this was a sign that Minos had no desire to become their enemy and could still be a minimally reliable ally.

In any case, it was not up to them to decide such a thing, even more so this young prince, who was only third in the succession line.

George then said. "Very well. I will notify my mother and return shortly with an official position."

"Hmm, I hope it all works out. Our partnership does not involve any life-and-death intimacy, and I have never purposely acted against you." Minos said, punctuating such a thing not because he desperately needed these people on his side but because he didn't want to generate more trouble for himself.

Minos knew that from now on, there would be those who would hate him unconditionally on the continent and those who would be on his side. There would be no middle ground, and the relations of his state would be greatly altered in the years ahead.

He trusted that Maximillian would keep his promises and thought his state would be protected at least from Demigods. But if it were possible, he wanted to decrease as much as possible the number of enemies he would have because of these actions of the previous months.

Hence his words to these envoys of Queen Sista. That also shows

his children that a ruler should not always show animosity to potential opponents.

It was worth putting down one's temper and taking a step back in certain circumstances!

With the departure of those three, Minos and his family continued in the imperial throne hall, chatting while the imperial guards brought the next group to them.

"What do you think will happen?" Abby asked Minos.

"Hard to say. I don't know Queen Sista, and as much as I haven't acted to harm her, if this prophecy really exists, then I may have unleashed something problematic for those Western states." He said.

Sarah then commented. "I think they will stay neutral for the time being. They have a lot to process, and considering the father's potential, I feel this woman will wait for things to develop further before taking a definitive position."

"That makes sense," Ruth remarked, figuring they would have more time before Sista took either a contrary or favorable position.

As Minos agreed by nodding his head, a new group entered the imperial throne hall.

When two women and two men entered, Minos immediately recognized the three nobles he had met in the Veora Kingdom, along with the leader of the guards of that group related to the Goddess of Life.

Before one of the imperial guards even introduced these people with the names he had just received, Minos said. "The people interested in the inheritance of the Goddess of Life, right?"

When they heard that, the four formed serious expressions as one of them exclaimed.

"What? How do you know that?"

Minos laughed and said. "That's because I found you a few months ago while passing through Veora and directed you here."

That level 85 man looked seriously at Minos and stepped forward. "You were Edgar, that fat red-headed man?"

"You wore a look like that?" Ruth looked at her husband with a smile on her face.

Minos nodded positively. "That was me. I'm sorry I misled you, but I was doing something dangerous then and needed to keep my movements under the radar as much as possible."

Minos saw no problem speaking the truth to these people for two reasons. First, Vico and everyone else who mattered already seemed to know what he was doing at the time. And second, these people were not strong enough for him to worry about them standing against him.

So he decided to be honest since this had very little chance of generating negative results for him.

The three noble descendants of the Goddess of Life's relatives clenched their fists, feeling bad that Minos had manipulated them.

Abby looked at them intently, feeling a subtle sensation familiar to her coming from those three. "You really are descendants of that family, huh?"

"Is it true?" Minos looked at his wife, for he still needed confirmation about that.

"Yes, I can sense their lineage from what I received from the Goddess of Life." She replied, interested to hear from these people what had happened.

The Goddess of Life had died thinking that her entire bloodline would disappear from this world along with her. Because of this, she hadn't even left legacies to her family members, only to some lucky person who might find that place that Minos and Abby had entered years ago.

So Abby couldn't help but feel curious, with the small part of her that had absorbed that woman's soul fragment making her even more interested.

Those people heard confirmation that one of them had indeed gotten that woman's inheritance and that Minos' words had not been false despite his clear manipulation.

That level 85 man looked at Minos and then at Abby before once again looking at Emperor Stuart. "What is your purpose in bringing us here? You heard what we wanted back there, and yet you directed us here? What do you want?"

Minos looked into that man's eyes and got straight to the point. "Join me. Become part of the Black Plain Empire. At my side, I will make your family rise from the ashes and help you protect yourselves against those who persecute you!"

Those three nobles were surprised to hear such an offer, something none of them expected to hear from a man weaker than them.

But no one else but those visitors was surprised by this, with each imperial guard in the surrounding area used to the invitations Minos made for people to join him.

He had always done such a thing throughout his journey here, so his words were in total agreement with the manners that these people had become accustomed to over the years.

Kendrick and Sarah were not so used to it yet. Still, they both enjoyed seeing how their father spoke to these people, showing confidence and ambition.

"Do you want us in your group?" That level 85 man asked, looking intently into Minos' eyes.

...

Chapter 1679 Time To Think

"Of course. With you at my side, I can significantly strengthen my state and advance several of my plans." Minos was sincere. "On the other hand, you can get a supporter and a chance to live in a less dangerous state, where it will be harder for enemies to track you down.

That's a good deal for both sides!"

The level 81 woman, who seemed to be their leader, stepped forward and said. "I'm not so sure about that. It seems to me that you would be the biggest beneficiary in all of this.

Meanwhile, our ancestor's heritage is in the hands of people who don't deserve it!"

Abby stood up and said. "I don't deserve it? Her soul fragment clearly recognized me as her heir. So are you saying she made a mistake?"

"She didn't know we existed. If she had known, she would never have given you what she left behind!"

"I wouldn't be so sure. We were the ones who fulfilled the Goddess of Life's last wish, to eradicate the tracks of the God of Death from the Spiritual World." The Empress said as she glared at that Spiritual Sage. "Where were you people for that? Why didn't you and your ancestors accomplish this mission in our place?

You had plenty of time to roam the Spiritual World, find and erase those traces... But nothing was done until my husband got involved in the matter!

Tsk!"

That Level 81 young woman clenched her fists angrily but without much to say to Abby.

Kendrick was wide-eyed in his mother's arms, looking at her, seeing that his sweet mother could be scary when she wanted to be.

Meanwhile, Minos raised one of his hands, indicating for Abby to back off her attitude.

He then said. "Let's not get agitated, dear. We may soon be on the same side."

"Tsk!" The level 81 woman turned away, not liking this at all.

The level 80 man then asked. "Do you really believe that? Why would we choose to subordinate ourselves to your state? If it's to escape and seek opportunities, we might as well go to the Divine Continent."

The others looked at Minos and listened to his reply. "Traveling to the Divine Continent would be good if you can get there safely.

But in that place, you will have nothing. You will have to start from absolute zero and deal with much more intense disputes.

On the other hand, in my state, you could live in peace. Currently, we have obtained the support of a powerful expert and will no longer have to worry about the threat of Demigods."

Those four heard this and were not surprised, as they had already heard the rumors of the level 99 Demigod who had passed through this city recently.

They had their doubts, especially regarding how Minos had achieved such a thing. But upon hearing his words, they left it for another time, feeling that as crucial as it was, it would not affect them at the moment.

They were Spiritual Sages, weaker than the ones the level 99 Demigod had said he would protect this state against.

Minos finished. "At the same time, we have things available here that you would have to compete with thousands in other places for the chance to get them. But here, all you must do is enlist in my forces and be guaranteed them!"

The level 85 man had his doubts about this and asked. "What about the inheritance of the Goddess of Life? Can you show us what you got?"

That is the thing behind those possibilities, right?"

"Wrong," Minos said. "What the inheritance of the Goddess of Life gave us was good, I admit that. But, it was good for the one who got the main part of it," he indicated to Abby. "That was of extreme value. But for others, like me and my state, such a thing at most could be considered valuable for arming and strengthening a few dozen people.

But do you think I could get everything I have today from that alone? No, the opportunities I promise you to have another origin. However, to learn more about it, you must join me and swear eternal allegiance!"

Those three nobles were silent momentarily while the level 85 elder stopped to think about it.

'It makes sense. The soul fragment is what matters most in such an inheritance. But that can't be recovered. As for items, I can't tell if he's being sincere...

What do I do? If I stand against him, winning won't be easy, and what we can achieve won't be worth so much... This may also alert our position to our enemies, putting an entire state on our tail.

But can he keep his word?'

Minos saw that these people were uncertain and decided to help them.

"You must have traveled a long way. So rest in my city for a time. Visit places like the Dry City Cultivation Tower and see what kind of opportunity even people outside my group can get just by being part of this city.

After you see enough, I am sure you will make the right decision."

Minos looked at one of the imperial guards and said. "Eduard, get them credentials to access the main cultivation room in that place. Also, leave someone with them to guide them locally."

After a few moments, Eduard quickly accepted those orders and left there with those people.

With that done, Sarah left to take care of some business while Abby returned with Kendrick home for this young man to return to his studies.

Only Minos and Ruth stayed behind to settle matters unconnected to the previous conversations.

...

While the two groups of newcomers to Dry City settled in locally, hours would pass without a definitive position, and the news about Maximillian would finally reach the rest of the western region!

With this news, Emperor Quinn promptly warned his forces to consider Maximillian and Darren as potential enemies. At the same time, his high-ranking members were to avoid trouble with the Black Plain in the short term, while he was unsure what was happening.

But some men were already moving into the North Sea to begin the investigations he so desperately wanted to learn more about the dangers to his continent.

Amid this, this man saw Grant's face again after years of this fellow living under house arrest in the empire's capital.

"Your Majesty, it is good to see you again," Grant said as he made a gesture of greeting and waited for what this man wanted from him.

Chapter 1680 Fulfilling The Promise

While Grant was talking to Emperor Quinn, Vico was finishing finding out about the strange Demigods who had appeared along with Minos in Dry City.

Not only had news of Minos' return to the Black Plain reached him, but also information about the kidnapping of his son and the two bodyguards with that young man.

From what Vico had just heard, his envoys had been stopped by Maximillian shortly after Minos arrived in Dry City, for this level 99 Demigod had sworn protection to the Black Plain Empire against 10th-stage cultivators.

Due to this terrible news, this normally calm man was red with anger, feeling that these people were related to the danger to the continent.

"Damn it!

The fucking Minos is just doing shit! Doesn't he get tired of causing trouble for the continent?" He shouted at his men in the surrounding area.

"The bastard used to torment the lives of the poor northerners. Now he's tired of doing that in the damned northern region, and amid his boredom, he throws chaos in our lives!

What's wrong with this brat?"

The people in the surrounding area were silent as they listened to all this, agreeing that Minos was a problematic pest to counter but knowing that their emperor was exaggerating.

As much as Minos' movements always created problems, this did not mean he did it on purpose, as Vico said...

"I'm going to the Black Plain! It's time to end his life and give peace to the continent!" He rose from his armchair.

But before he could leave, he was stopped by his men.

"Your Majesty, don't do that. We know nothing about those two level 99 Demigods!" A level 98 elder shouted.

Another of the same level said. "Your Majesty, take it easy. If we act without thinking straight, we might create the chance for our opponents to hurt the empire.

Perhaps these Demigods on Minos's side want to encourage us to attack him with these words.

Who will protect the empire if Your Majesty goes to the Black Plain if they attack us?"

Hearing this, Vico hesitated as he clenched his fists hard, making the pressure in the surroundings very high, bothering all his subordinates.

He was almost exploding with rage but narrowly managed to restrain himself.

"Your Majesty, there is still the situation of the Crown Prince. He is in the hands of these people, so we have to act cautiously.

The most important thing to do now is to try to contact these people and start a negotiation."

"Yes, that would have already happened if he wanted to kill the prince.

That man probably wishes to use this situation to negotiate with us."

Vico thought better of it and realized that this was the case. "But what do they want from us? And where do they come from? I don't know any level 99 Demigods that look like them."

"We are investigating that, Your Majesty. We will find that out soon enough."

"But judging that these men appeared right after Daniel's death, I am sure they are related to his death..."

At these words from one of the elders there, everyone was silent, considering that there was a possibility that Maximillian was the one who would bring chaos to the continent.

...

In the capital of Sista...

The queen of this state had also heard about the news coming from the Black Plain and was naturally shocked.

The appearance of level 99 experts in that place was no small thing!

Any appearance of an expert at that level anywhere would be worthy of attention. But this happening on the poor Black Plain was many times more important, even more so for someone who knew of Minos' involvement in something that could change the continent forever.

As such, upon discovering such a thing, Willow was deadly serious and worried about the future.

"I wonder what the significance of this is. Where do these Demigods come from?" She questioned her elders, uncertain of what to do with this information.

She was currently judging whether or not it was worth continuing the agreement regarding the Continental Tournament with Minos, but finding out about this had only confused her.

"We don't know, Your Majesty. But the Third Prince is in Dry City. We'll ask him to try to find out something there." One of the elders closest to her said that.

"However, sending Demigods to the Black Plain in the short term would not be advisable. We don't know anything about those two and whether they really intend to fulfill their promise to protect this state.

Suppose they are going to fulfill it. In that case, we might get into unnecessary trouble because of a young man who isn't even a Spiritual Sage."

The queen agreed with this person. "Hmm, let's avoid sending our experts out of the kingdom anyway, so I don't want our experts trying to get involved with the Black Plain casually anymore.

After George returns, I want any future contact with Minos to be made through our vassal families, as we did before."

"We will follow your words, Your Majesty!"

...

Amidst the discussions regarding the Black Plain Empire's new ally, even the Flowers Kingdom, Albano, Blackrock, Rosser, and the Flaming Empire, heard about the recent involvements of Minos.

But as they reacted to everything in their own way, something related to Minos was about to happen in the East Sea.

While sailing towards the Divine Continent, a group of beasts from the City of a Thousand Races received important communication from allies on that continent.

"Friends of the Ancestral Sea, we have found traces of those you seek to the west of the continent. They must be, or must have been, in the central area of the Grinia Empire. I advise that you begin your search there."

Upon hearing that message, those underwater beings were grateful for the information and promised to visit those people once they finished their mission.

After that, the strongest of the group said. "Okay, fellows, let's go to Grinia Empire!"

"Boss, what if we can't find them? What will we do?"

"Nothing. If we don't find them, there will be nothing else for us to do. After this mission, we will fulfill the last promise of our leaders to Henricus Longus!" That being said.

That was the group after the Longus family tracks!

In the remote past, the leader of the City of a Thousand Races had promised Henricus Longus that he would help connect those who could pass the test he had left on that statue of his.

This had been a request from this ancient God, and even after so long, these beings were still willing to follow through on what had been promised.

Having debts with Gods was not such a good thing for one's karma, so they were taking the opportunity to fulfill the words of their ancestor as soon as possible!