

Black Plain 1711

Chapter 1711 Essential Resources

While various powers were moving around the southern Central Continent, further north to the northeast of the Ancestral Sea, the Black Plain Empire's marine expansion was running wild without hindrance.

More than 100,000 people from the empire were in that area, actively living in the city built below sea level, where there were already all kinds of services and recreation for the workers in the area.

The empire had started the project of this expansion by sending only workers and people to protect the group. But after the foundations of that underwater city for humans had been laid, civilian opportunities emerged in the empire.

To encourage people of all kinds to migrate to his marine empire, Minos gave income tax exemptions to people who moved into this area and continued their economic activities there.

Because of this, all over the empire, professionals from every single specialization were already signing up to migrate to this area, along with their families, stores, etc.

So in recent months, this large underwater city of Minos has gained civilians and people to generate all the essential services in a city.

As such, if one accidentally arrived at that place at that moment, one would see a city functioning as if it had long been there.

Children were living in the surrounding area, going to the local spiritual academy, people working in the local expansions, individuals going out with their spouses for walks, and much more.

Amid this, there was a strong presence of forces allied or subordinate to Minos and many workers who were there to mine precious metals at the bottom of the sea.

Due to the group's objective, submarines could constantly be seen going down to the ocean floor where the work was being done.

Meanwhile, this place was connected to at least a dozen posts around up to 200 kilometers away from there, where the Black Plain Army already had observation points.

One of Minos' goals in this place was to observe the North Sea and predict possible movements from that area, so the forces in the vicinity were slowly extending their network of observation posts.

They were doing this in all directions at the moment, as they needed to watch for danger from all sides. But the focus was undeniably on the north, the most mysterious place for Minos.

Anyway, in this place, the shark that had fallen into Minos' hands was doing its surveillance work, feeling less fearful than months ago.

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'Minos recently reached level 79...'

That shark, who had advanced in recent months to level 85, thought to itself as it looked at the growing city not far from where it was.

Thinking how strong that guy already was at level 77, this beast couldn't help but sigh, thinking it would never escape its agreement with him.

But thinking, on the other hand, it at least could become stronger under the command of someone powerful and with many resources at his disposal.

'If he wasn't crazy, I might be better off.' This beast thought as it looked toward the north side, wondering what they would face following the current plans.

At the current speed things were developing, it would take more than a decade for them to get an observation post inside the North Sea.

But it would eventually happen and could bring unimaginable problems to this place!

This shark was aware of this and could not go even a day without thinking about it.

'I at least won't die alone.' He looked in the direction of the level 84 soldier sent by Ruth months ago, who had been helping it keep this human city and the surrounding mineral exploration safe.

As it was doing this, one of the mining submarines of the Black Plain Army appeared from the zone of darkness.

He saw that and noticed that, once again, a group of miners was returning with tons of precious resources.

Inside that little submarine, the entire crew was celebrating because, with the piece of rock they were bringing back to their city, the empire could produce thousands of high-level grade-3 artifacts!

With such resources, Spiritual Saints from the army or even from allied and subordinate organizations could get weaponry, arrays, and even pills!

This would help the entire empire become stronger!

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Meanwhile, in the seat of government of that underwater city...

Lorelei was standing next to Elena Neel, level 73, and Davy Hayes, level 71, both members of the Black Plain Army, in that city to help the local administration.

Also, there was Brooke, level 70, and her father, David, level 69. Both were part of the Black Plain's government and were also part of this group that had been leading things locally.

"Soon, the army will send a new Spiritual Sage to our city," Elena said, relaying the information she had received from army headquarters this morning. "Along with him, 10,000 more 6th stage soldiers will be joining us."

Low-level soldiers were relevant. After all, these men kept the documentation of posts up to date, the maintenance of arrays, the cleaning and repair of equipment, and many other less relevant functions on time.

All these things were necessary, but high-ranking soldiers couldn't afford to waste their time on them.

So lower-ranking soldiers were needed even in advanced and relevant posts like this.

"That's good to hear," Lorelei said, imagining that with this, they could advance the local development.

Brooke then commented. "That will help establish more observation posts. As such, we will be able to build more areas for humans to live in this city."

Her father nodded and said. "If there is no delay in the arrival of these men, in no more than a year, we will be able to welcome 50,000 more people."

"That will help us get ahead of our work in the surrounding area," Lorelei said. "If we increase our local exploration by 50%, we can supply enough minerals to provide the entire army's demand in no more than three years.

After that, we can give the empire government those resources for them to trade with subordinates and allies."

She was excited about that. From the moment the army's demand was met, minerals would be left over for other organizations, such as her Stone family.

From then on, the entire northern region of the Central Continent could be strengthened with essential resources!

Thus, even with areas that were still poor, families like hers could move up a level in a few decades!

Chapter 1712 Beginning Of The Investigations

One year later...

After the investigations began regarding the man who turned the key in the statue of Henricus Longus in the City of a Thousand Races, the Longus family group finally reached a crucial point in their actions!

After following Minos' tracks in the Ancestral Sea for months, the patriarch Longus' men connected the person they were looking for with the one behind the instability in the Central Continent.

They had discovered Minos' name and his origin!

This had happened a day ago when the leader of this group had sent his information to their leader while he was already in the Black Plain Empire.

However, he not only sent Minos' location and identity. This man also sent Emperor Stuart's relationship with Maximillian Flamen, someone who had sworn to protect him from Demigods!

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"What? He got protection from a fucking level 99 Demigod?" Patriarch Longus exclaimed upon receiving this information, finding it hard to believe that an expert like Maximillian would waste his time with Minos.

Another Demigod was standing with Patriarch Longus at his family headquarters, expressing concern on his face.

"That... I don't know what to say. From what our men said in their report, it's quite possible that this is not a hollow promise, patriarch." That middle-aged, blond-haired man said, somewhat unsure. "It seems that all the problems of this young Minos have been solved with the resurgence of Maximillian Flamen."

"But it's absurd!" The patriarch exclaimed. "That Minos is still only a Spiritual Saint. What kind of expert would pay attention to him?"

"Maybe not on him, but on the words themselves." The Supreme Elder of that family, level 90, said. "Perhaps Minos is no big deal, but if we go against Maximillian's words, we may incur his anger for defying his words."

Patriarch Longus could understand that reason to avoid acting thoughtlessly against Minos and was silent upon hearing that.

"Then we can't send Demigods. Instead, we will send our high-level Spiritual Sages to this Minos.

We'll give him the option of giving us the Spatial Kingdom ring and joining us or dying for his insolence!" He said, determined to steal the inheritance left by his ancestor to Minos.

A level 90 woman, who was also standing there, then said. "I think we'd better wait for a moment. This Minos seems to be an excellent fighter. Let's analyze his situation first before we move.

If we're going to stand against him, I'd rather do that after we're sure how much power he has.

Let's not forget that he received the soul fragment from the ancestor along with all his cultivation understanding. There are also all the resources that were in that Spatial Kingdom..."

Hearing that, those two men couldn't help but agree that they needed to be careful with Minos.

He had methods above normal, he should have a high-rank innate ability, and he could escape to the Spatial Kingdom.

Considering that last detail alone, they had to be cautious about their approach.

If Minos cowered, he could hide in this region of space and stay out of their reach for several years and eventually return stronger and take revenge.

So if they were going to act against him, they had to be as prepared as possible. Otherwise, all could be lost!

"Very well, have this group in the Black Plain Empire keep watching this Minos but do nothing. I want his profile drawn. I want to know all his abilities.

A new group to intercept him will leave after a year." The patriarch said after thinking for some time.

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The next day...

The group of men from the Divine Continent, watching the surroundings of Dry City, received their leader's orders.

Seeing that he should wait, the group leader, a level 90 Demigod, felt a little frustrated since he was so close to the man with the Spatial Kingdom that would save his family from decay.

However, the patriarch had not just sent orders in his communiqué. Instead, he had explained the problems they had to worry about, and the man leading this watch group agreed with his leader's concerns.

As such, even though he was anxious to take the Spatial Kingdom from Minos, he would not disobey his patriarch to act in haste.

He looked at his men hiding in a pocket of space and said. "We are going to divide up by this state. I want you here to pay attention to things regarding Minos and the local forces. I want to know everything possible about his combat abilities.

You have one year."

"OK!"

Those people soon moved on from there, leaving only this Demigod in the vicinity of Dry City while the others traveled through wormholes to other areas of the empire.

'In a year, I will know everything to find out about you, Minos Stuart.' His eyes narrowed as he watched this target from afar, tens of miles from the core of Dry City.

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Meanwhile, in Dry City...

It was noon, and the sun was scorching hot on this sunny day. But the city continued its routine, with its thousands of Spiritual Sages coming and going through this metropolis's outer and inner areas.

Spiritual Sages could be felt here and there, even considering that many were around the empire's strategic points, such as the submarine city, the End area, and the capital cities of Vogel, Rosser, Albano, and Blackrock.

But this was only natural. As time passed, more and more Sages were emerging in this state.

One of the most recent individuals to advance to the 9th stage in Minos' forces had been his mother, Maisie Coleman, who had advanced the week before.

Another who had advanced in this period had been Minos' mount, Little Green, now at level 80.

In addition to them, six other cultivators had advanced from level 79 to 80 in the past 12 months, raising the level of the local forces a bit more.

But internally in the Stuart family. Minos and Gloria were battling to gather as much spiritual energy as possible to reach level 80, while Ruth, Abby, and Isabella worked to get close to that level.

As such, there were more experts coming and going around this city while Minos was out there talking to his men.

While he was doing this, he had no idea that a Spiritual Demigod was watching him!

Chapter 1713 End Of Investigations

Meanwhile, in the Eastern Empire...

Vico was on the border of his state meeting with Willow at this very moment.

Their states were working together to prepare for the unstable times ahead, acting to prevent themselves from the actions Maximillian was taking in the Evergreen Empire.

At this meeting, Vico and this woman arranged for joint training of their forces near the border with the Flaming Empire before the most important thing was finished being discussed.

At the end of this meeting of more than two hours, the one who was known as the strongest on the continent said to that woman. "What's with Henry Quinn? He and I have been mortal enemies for a long time, but I have never seen him so strange as recently..."

He seems to have his mind elsewhere. He doesn't seem as focused on what we are about to face."

Willow heard that and sighed, setting her cup of tea aside.

She closed her eyes and said. "He is confident that the dangers of the North Sea will reach everyone on the continent. His lack of focus on our nearest problem is because he is dividing his attention between there and here."

"But that is nonsense. The catastrophe upon us will come from our weakening due to Maximillian. We'll be fine if we can avoid major attrition because of that man." Vico said, confident that there could not be something so terrible in that place.

He had never been to that maritime region as he had always been quite busy taking care of his state and the constant tensions with the Western Empire and the Spiritual Church.

But he felt that if he went to that place, nothing could threaten him.

Willow didn't believe Henry's theories either and said. "Yeah, but he believes that nonsense... Anyway, don't worry about him. I'm sure he'll be focused on fighting Maximillian when the time comes."

"Sigh... I hope so."

"Anyway, we should thank Duncan. I never thought an enemy would do so much for peace on the continent." This woman commented on the Supreme Pontiff, whom she had never been on good terms with due to the differences of opinion she and he had.

But at this crucial time for the continent's future, Duncan had shown his commitment to peace and not getting involved in a war that could weaken all sides considerably.

Maximillian and Duncan wanted a strong Church, but one had a much more offensive approach than the other. It was unacceptable for one of them to risk so much for just the western region, but the other was fully willing to take all the risks.

Vico had known Duncan for thousands of years, and both had fought each other a few times. So he said. "As much as he is a devotee of the Seraph, he has never had any bellicose thoughts. The current circumstances don't surprise me.

My only regret is that he is already at the end of his life and cannot do more in the short term."

"Hmm..." She agreed. 'He should go into seclusion soon.

Sigh, I doubt he will move on. Then soon he will die.'

"I never thought I would say that, but I will miss him." She smiled before standing up, intending to return to her capital since everything important had already been discussed.

Seeing this woman standing, Vico looked at her seriously momentarily and asked. "I hear that your state remains neutral concerning Minos Stuart and his little state... Why is that? Aren't you convinced that he has thrown us into this chaos?"

For Vico, the situation of Minos could not be ignored, even though he was weak and had not done what he had done for evil. He was an enemy who had unleashed a terrible enemy for them to deal with!

As such, he had to be punished and at least be excluded from the relations of these western region states in the short term!

Willow understood how Vico blamed Minos for releasing Maximillian but also how his heir fell under that man's control.

She stopped and looked at the horizon through the entrance of the tent they were in. "I have an agreement with Minos regarding the Continental Tournament and nothing more. For the moment, I see no reason to end that agreement. He may have done something terrible, but he can still help me achieve my goal in this competition.

In any case, my state and his are not helping each other at all."

"Continental Tournament?" Vico understood this woman's goal. After all, he also had this competition in mind.

He intended to place his bets on this event and compete with other bettors for the magnificent prize that should be given to the event winner.

"I hope it will be just that. It would be terrible if we were destabilized for one of us to relate to an enemy like him."

With those words, he left that place before Willow, leaving that woman thinking about his words.

"Sigh... Minos Stuart, I hope you'll give me some feedback. Otherwise, I'll have to teach you a lesson after this tournament!"

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In the blink of an eye, another year had passed...

In the meantime, Ruth, Isabella, and Abby had advanced, reaching level 78. Meanwhile, Sarah had reached level 62 days ago, when she left the Spatial Kingdom, where her mother was still in seclusion to advance to level 80.

Gloria was still striving to get there, while Minos was no longer far from his long-awaited moment.

Meanwhile, as the core of that family grew stronger, the men of the Longus family investigating Minos gathered all the information they could have obtained that year.

They had discovered not a few things but enough for the previously confident men to become somewhat concerned.

Minos was already very strong at level 79, and with his advance closer and closer to the 9th stage, they had to worry about acting against him fast!

So when their deadline passed this day, that person immediately used the high-level communicator he had with him to ask his leader what to do.

He had already sent the information he and his men had collected, so the patriarch should already have a position.

"Patriarch, what shall we do? This person is by no means simple. He is strengthening quickly and will certainly come after us if we delay. By that time, we will have no alternatives against him."

A voice then came from that communicator. "I have made up my mind. Go to..."

Chapter 1714 Bad Feeling

"I've made up my mind. Go to Dry City... Or rather, send one of your men there to meet this Minos Stuart. I want this person to make it clear to him that we know about the Spatial Kingdom.

After that, he should withdraw and return to your group. Another team will deal with this Minos afterward.

I want to prevent his group from getting involved in a fight with him so that this Maximillian Flamen doesn't come after us." Patriarch Longus said.

Previously he would act only when this other group arrived in the Black Plain Empire. But it would take a few months for this group to cross the East Sea and reach this state.

Since the news about Minos' abilities was alarming, he wanted to stop this individual from further strengthening by putting a big problem on him.

He simply wanted to threaten Minos and then gather his men, making Emperor Stuart too worried about them talking about his Spatial Kingdom.

If Minos did the sensible thing, he would immediately go to the kingdom of Lusmait to investigate the traces of the Longus family in that place. From there, he would have a long journey to the Divine Continent.

In the meantime, they would prepare to take action against him.

In the view of the Longus patriarch and his men on the Divine Continent, this was a great plan!

Hearing that, the level 90 Demigod near Dry City asked. "What if Minos Stuart turns on us and tries to start a fight?"

"From what you said, he cannot stop your group from escaping. So don't bother with him. Get back to headquarters as soon as possible.

After that, his worries will strip him of his peace and prevent him from continuing to pursue his spiritual development.

Once this happens, he will either turn to us, or he won't be able to cultivate until my group arrives at this place.

One way or another, we will finish him off in a few more months!" The patriarch said this in a humorous tone, confident in his plans.

If Minos left the continent, Maximillian could not protect him. Then the patriarch himself would act against this irritating heir of Henricus Longus!

"OK, I will do what the patriarch ordered!" That man said before ending his call.

As he did so, he felt a chill run down his spine, not because of fear of Minos but because of this young man's contacts.

On the other hand, he was very eager to enter the Spatial Kingdom of his ancestor, so part of that feeling was from the anticipation of what might happen soon, not just the fear he had of the trouble that might soon overtake them.

"Len! Come here. You will visit Minos Stuart!" This Demigod said this to the level 89 man standing around, surprising the rest of his group, who were not listening to his conversation with the patriarch.

"What?" That man didn't understand.

But the level 90 Demigod would quickly answer the questions of that man and the other men before ordering the group to prepare to leave.

"Len, we will not wait for you. We will leave immediately for the east. From there, we will sail back to the Divine Continent." That man at the head of the group said after a few minutes. "You must flee this place as soon as you deliver our message to Minos Stuart."

"I will do my best, senior!"

With that said, they soon split up, with most of them leaving Dry City without drawing attention, while that man came out of the pocket of space where they were hiding moments ago.

Appearing in the sky about 20 kilometers from the core of Dry City, that man took a deep breath and then began to descend as he approached that place.

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Meanwhile, Minos was walking through Dry City alongside Kendrick, who would soon undergo his awakening and the beginning of his cultivation journey.

Along with this young man who looked more and more like his father, Abby was also there, wondering once again if her son would be like her or Minos concerning his innate ability.

This woman's biggest concern in recent months had been about this, so she thought about it whenever she walked with him and Minos.

However, while Abby was looking at Kendrick and this young man was following behind his father, Minos suddenly stopped and looked back, sensing that someone powerful was approaching.

Noticing the person flying toward the core of Dry City, he immediately said to Abby, "Go back to the palace with Kendrick. There seems to be a problem outside the defensive dome."

"What? What is it?" She asked, unable to see what it was.

"There's a Spiritual Sage coming here. I don't know what it is, but I have a bad impression about it." He said, confident that such a person was not a Demigod. Otherwise, that person would have already invaded the security area of this city.

After the years of peace this city had experienced, Minos replaced the previously destroyed low-level grade-4 defensive arrays. Therefore, that level 89 Spiritual Sage was not a threat to those within the Dry City Defensive Dome.

Still, Minos had to deal with that kind of expert coming to his city, so even in a safe place, he set off toward that danger.

Meanwhile, Abby picked up Kendrick and headed for the imperial palace, feeling worried as this youngster wished to become strong to help his father.

"What's wrong, Mom?" He asked.

"I don't know..." Abby sighed, feeling something wrong would happen after so many months of peace for her and her family.

Meanwhile, the local experts on standby had already noticed the visitor approaching and had gathered around Minos.

"Your Majesty, what will this be about?" The level 85 Spiritual Sage, the strongest at cultivation in the army, asked as he looked in that person's direction.

That individual had already stopped approaching the core of Dry City and was standing a few tens of meters away from the defensive barrier of that dome.

Minos said as he looked at that tall, blond individual dressed in black armor outside his city core. "I don't know. But get ready to fight. I don't have a good impression of this person."

With those words, Minos did not hesitate and soon used two men to temporarily increase his cultivation base to level 81.

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Chapter 1715 Worrying Threat!

When they left the Dry City Defensive Dome, the group of cultivators between levels 80 and 85 soon came across that level 89 Spiritual Sage.

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Seeing these people and particularly Minos, that man smiled. "Your Majesty is already using your innate ability... It seems I am not welcome in this place."

"Visitor, identify yourself!" That group's level 85 Spiritual Sage said while he and everyone else had defensive positions.

Minos silently stared at that person, waiting for what he would say.

There was no way Minos could identify him as a descendant of the Longus family just by appearance or spiritual fluctuation. It was even possible to do this since the spiritual fluctuations of members of the same family had similarities. But millions of years had passed since Henricus Longus had left this world.

As such, Minos had no idea who this man was or who that man represented.

However, that would soon change!

"Who I am doesn't matter. But don't worry. I'm not here to fight. There's no need for you to act like that." He said calmly, unafraid of these people but cautious since he knew Minos had fusions of techniques that were quite complicated to counter.

But then he went straight to the point. "Your Majesty, I represent people who do not wish you harm, the opposite of that, they wish you to become an ally, a friend.

I am here only to indicate this intention...

Oh, by the way, we know about the Spatial Kingdom."

When those words were spoken, all the men in Minos' surroundings opened their eyes wide, for the first time seeing someone outside their group with such knowledge.

Such a thing was worrying!

No one outside Minos' group knew about the Spatial Kingdom, so nothing bad had ever happened to this emperor because of what he had.

But if these words leaked out to the rest of the world, high-level Demigods would be knocking on his door in a matter of days!

From then on, chaos and disgrace would be ahead of Minos and the Black Plain Empire.

If he were a high-level Demigod, nothing would happen if this news spread. But as a Spiritual Saint or even a Spiritual Sage, even states with Spatial Kingdoms would move against him to take this region of space for themselves!

As they thought about these problems, all those people felt how great a threat this was to them.

Minos, in particular, looked ugly at that man as the veins on his forehead and neck stood out, trembling vigorously.

Then, without warning, he activated his Soul Avatar, immediately trying to merge two of his techniques to deal with that enemy.

"Attack!" He shouted a second later, confident that there were more people behind this individual but that he could not let this threat go by without doing something.

Minos was no fool. He knew who that man represented, for only an organization other than his own in the entire Spiritual World could know that he had the Spatial Kingdom in his possession!

The Longus family!

'Despicable ones! Did you choose to betray your ancestor?' He reminded himself that this family was supposed to help him, not threaten him in this way.

According to Henricus Longus' orders, they were not to seek Minos but to wait for him, for their chosen one would surely come to them one day.

Therefore, this was an approach contrary to the orders of that God and clearly indicated that the leadership of the Longus family was against Minos!

Minos understood this as he should and immediately put these people on his list of enemies.

While he was thinking about this and acting, that man already knew how strong this opponent was and that he would probably try to attack him.

So he didn't hesitate to flee, trying to escape the Space and Time Avatar's domain.

Even though he was a level 89 Spiritual Sage, stronger than what Minos could handle at the moment, this man would have a hard time opening a spatial crack from that place to escape.

So he flew out of Minos' domain under the attacks of those opponents in the surrounding area, ignoring them all, for nothing of that, other than the black hole that Emperor Stuart was preparing, could affect him.

"Farewell, Your Majesty Minos Stuart!" He laughed one last time before opening his wormhole and fleeing the empire's capital.

Minos even tried to throw his already-formed black hole at that man, but the spatial crack left behind was already closing in, and he got nothing.

"Shit!"

After a moment, Minos cursed the name of the Longus family, feeling betrayed like never before, while his men were pale in fear.

With that person's escape, they had nothing to do!

Someone with that crucial information was loose, and they didn't even know who he was or represented.

"Now what?" Patience asked, not knowing how to proceed.

The others in the surrounding area were also in doubt, looking at Minos eagerly for his answers.

After a while of venting his anger at these people, he said. "Those bastards are members of the Longus family! The fucking bastards betrayed Henricus Longus and probably want the Spatial Kingdom!"

"What?"

"Damn it! Does that family really still exist?"

"To make matters worse, they are against us..."

Comments arose among those people as the violently altered spiritual energy in the surroundings because of their attacks returned to normal.

"What do we do now?" Patriarch Terry asked.

Minos then said. "We can't do anything for the moment. I could go after them, but we have time to do that. They won't reveal this information to the world for the moment since they have a vested interest in keeping my Spatial Kingdom.

But it won't be like this forever. If they realize they won't get anything out of me, they will reveal my secret to the world!"

"So, how will we deal with that?" Maisie, also in that group, asked.

"I will advance to the 9th stage and then set off searching for that damned family. I must find them before they feel threatened enough to reveal the truth about my possessions. So get ready. I will leave the Black Plain in no more than a year!" Minos said, still very angry at being threatened by these people who were supposed to become his allies.

"Will that be enough? They may have high-level Demigods in their group." Someone said, worried.

"No, otherwise they wouldn't send someone to threaten me to seek them out." Minos quickly understood the situation of these people. "If they had high-level cultivators, they would just kidnap me and take my Spatial Kingdom.

The fact that they just threatened me shows that they fear me fleeing to the Spatial Kingdom or suffering too much from Maximilian.

They, at most, have low-level Demigods on their side. Otherwise, it would be worth the risk!"

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Chapter 1716 Many 'Ifs'

"Still... Low-level Demigods are still too much for us, no?" Someone in that group questioned, uncertain about their ability to take on a family with cultivators at that level.

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The people in the surrounding area agreed with that, feeling it was too much for them.

But Minos said. "There aren't many alternatives for us.

1. We do nothing and hide in the Spatial Kingdom. By doing that, we will probably lose control of the empire, and in the end, we won't have a group to support us in the chaotic future of this world.

2. We do nothing and wait for their attack, which will probably kill us or lead to a battle that would disseminate the news about the Spatial Kingdom. So we would return to the first option or die.

3. We search for the damned while they won't talk about the Spatial Kingdom and try our luck. We may not have enough to do this and lose some of our strength, but there is a chance that we will succeed.

These are our only alternatives. I prefer to follow the latter and test my luck.

I prefer to kill as many enemies as possible before I fall..."

Upon hearing Minos' words, those still uncertain couldn't help but sigh, seeing that their options were only these very options.

They could not seek Maximillian's assistance, for besides that man being busy, that might cause him to find out about Minos' Spatial seemed promising.

"Perhaps His Majesty will succeed in annihilating them all with a Kingdom and turn him into an enemy.

Therefore, they could not seek help from him or anyone else!

Alone in this challenge, only the three alternatives listed by Minos seemed promising.

"Perhaps His Majesty will succeed in annihilating them all with a black hole or even a Black Hole Bomb." A member of the Coleman family said that.

"Hmm, that's our great alternative." Others agreed.

But then Maisie asked. "But Minos, isn't there any possibility you could control them somehow? I mean, Henricus Longus left an order for these people to follow you as subordinates or allies.

They are rebelling against his words by acting this way... Isn't there anything you can use to control this family?"

Those Spiritual Sages flying over beside Minos focused on him again until he answered his mother, "Hard to say. Any kind of contract has already been lost due to the passage of time.

Even if he was a God, he was not omnipotent and could not change the fate of his family to the extent that orders from millions of years ago still have some great effect."

He formed a thoughtful expression and added. "At most, there may be people in this family who are still loyal to him. If they exist and find out about the decisions of the family leadership, it may be that they will side with me, but even then, there is no guarantee that I would get enough to be able to resolve this situation with their help."

"Not to mention that there are a lot of 'ifs' here." Patience commented, feeling that they had better not consider that there would be allies for Minos within that family.

If there were, that would be considered a gain later on, but they weren't counting on it for now.

Whatever Minos' fate with that family might be, they already knew that this emperor's previous plans regarding House Longus could no longer be completed.

Minos intended to strengthen his group with that family if it still existed. But now his group not only could not rely on this house but was threatened by them!

This was a prominent setback to Minos' plans!

Minos then said after a moment. "Everyone better prepare for the worst. We could be attacked by groups of Spiritual Sages from that family any time from now on.

So be prepared. I will do my best to move forward and head for Lusmait. I will investigate the whereabouts of this family from there.

Eventually, there will be less danger after I leave."

Everyone agreed to this and soon split up, going to different locations from where they would keep watch from now on.

Minos then quickly returned to the core of Dry City, where he picked up his women and took them to the Spatial Kingdom along with his children.

He would now enter seclusion to advance to the 9th stage, so it would be crucial that they be in that place where they could benefit from cultivation in his presence.

With his ability to steal the magnificent energy of the giant bones and give those powers to his allies, Minos would not miss the opportunity to help them become stronger.

His ability was so good that he could use it even during cultivation, so it wouldn't even get in his way!

And so the empire's capital felt the presence of the local sovereigns for the last time for the next few months.

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A few days passed, and information about what had happened had already reached patriarch Longus in the Divine Continent.

This man and the core of his family were delighted with this news, looking forward to the day when they would meet Minos and get back what should belong to their family.

They didn't know what Minos would do, but whatever his choice, they were confident that he would somehow risk himself because of the catastrophic prediction made by Henricus Longus.

To avoid certain death in the future, Minos would have to make a move that would risk his ownership of the Spatial Kingdom!

So for the moment, these Longus family elders were not thinking of revealing the truth about Minos' riches to the world and were just waiting for his answer.

The group of high-level Spiritual Sages that was to confront him and the empire was already on their way and, in a few months, would arrive at the core of that state in the northern region of the Central Continent!

But while the leadership of that family was dealing with their affairs in anticipation of what Minos would decide, some members of that family were gradually spreading the word about the emergence of their ancestor's chosen one.

Years had passed since the patriarch Longus had received this information. But over the months, more and more people had come to know the truth about what the most important people in this family had been meeting occasionally to discuss.

Finally, someone who had accidentally or not passed on this information more than he should have had come forward, pointing out to various groups in the current Longus family the emergence of Minos.

Every family had its factions, and even in times of trouble, there would be different lines of thought.

It was no different in the Longus family, and one of the groups that believed they should follow the chosen one of Henricus Longus had just found out about the deeds of their leaders regarding the chosen one!

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Chapter 1717 Breakthrough: Spiritual Sage

At the headquarters of the Longus family...

In a remote part of that headquarters built among the trees of the great forest in which it was located, a group of mid-level Spiritual Sages was gathered in secret.

This group was basically composed of hybrids of humans and beasts, members of the lower nobility of this family.

When they had come to this continent, part of the family that had mixed with spiritual beasts to ensure their survival had been demoted afterward and had lost part of their privileges.

Even though they used this strategy to strengthen the whole family, those who had remained pure and benefited from this decision to mix their lineage with others saw these beings as their inferiors.

Precisely because of this, the men and women gathered in this group were already opposed to the patriarch's group, even for matters not connected to the chosen one.

They were not enemies of those people to the point of starting a rebellion within the family. Still, the differences between them and the leaders of this house existed and caused friction from time to time.

However, upon finding out about Minos' situation, the most important members of one of the three factions of the Longus family were soon gathered to expose their thoughts contrary to those of the family leadership.

"That's treason!"

"What they are doing is spitting on our ancestor's grave and coveting an inheritance that does not belong to them!"

"Heaven will not forgive the family if we continue on this unforgivable path!"

"If part of the ancestor still exists somewhere, he must be excommunicating us now!"

The opinions there were not subtle; everyone was expressing anger and shame at what they had just discovered.

Not only were their leaders not going to carry out the orders left by the only God this family had ever had, who had left them riches that had prevented the family's demise on four occasions along the river of time, but they were also threatening Minos!

A level 85 woman, with brown scales over much of her body and razor-sharp teeth like those of crocodiles, said to the group leader. "We have to do something. The ancestor didn't leave his heritage with the family for a good reason.

We were so loyal to him then that everyone would have been willing to die if he commanded that. But even so, he chose to leave his main inheritance to someone different...

He must have foreseen that only someone from the outside could guide us toward the light amidst the darkness of the catastrophe approaching us!"

"Yes!" the ancestor Longus was a God. He knew what was best for us.

We must help the chosen one somehow!"

The faction leader, a level 86 man, tall and very muscular, with a pair of red wings on his back, then said.
"All right, here's what we'll do..."

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In the blink of an eye, another six months passed...

In this period, the invisible war between the South and West of the Central Continent intensified, and fears of what was about to begin were reaching their limits.

Recently news had appeared in several areas of the continent informing about the beginning of Duncan's seclusion, which was supposed to be coming soon.

Everyone already knew that this man's movements would decide the fate of the war over these regions, so anything with his name on it would shake the continent.

As a result of the rumors that nobody knew whether they were true or false, the already boiling Central Continent was getting worse.

But in the midst of this, the Divine-grade medicine of the Seraphim Spatial Kingdom was reaching its peak, which would really decide the moment when Duncan would go into seclusion.

Because of this, this man was closer than ever to beginning his attempt to advance to the 11th stage!

However, contrary to rumor, he was not as close to leaving for his Spatial Kingdom as soon as they talked about it.

At most, he would leave 3 or 4 years early, but he still intended to stay a little longer to help his faction prepare for the hard times ahead.

Amid this, Minos was at a crucial moment in his seclusion, reaching the 9th stage!

While the northern region lived in anticipation of this breakthrough, mostly ignorant of the threats upon their leader, his men were looking forward to his return from the Spatial Kingdom.

The more time passed, the greater the chances that powerful enemies would attack the empire or that the truth about local wealth would spread worldwide.

But just 999 days after reaching level 79, Minos reached the maximum threshold and broke through the barrier of the 8th with the 9th stage!

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Inside the Spatial Kingdom of Minos...

At this instant, everyone in this place was watching Minos' stage advancement, smiling as they saw the spiritual and physical changes he was undergoing.

The typical sound of advancement had already emerged from within Minos. Hence, everyone in the surrounding area knew he had already overcome the most challenging time in his cultivation and was now stabilizing his strength at a new level.

So Abby, Ruth, Gloria, Isabella, and Sarah were celebrating along with little Kendrick about Minos' advancement, relieved that he had finally reached this point.

As they hugged each other, the individuals who had remained there while the Spiritual Sages of Minos' forces were in the empire looking after the local security were also celebrating.

Everyone was sensing how quickly Minos' forces were rising, with his innate ability becoming even stronger.

It would not qualitatively evolve since he had not undergone an evolution in his Physique. But it was experiencing a relevant quantitative change.

Now he no longer passed the feeling that he was a false Spiritual Sage, as happened when he raised his level artificially and temporarily to the 9th stage with his innate ability.

Now the solidity of Minos' spiritual fluctuations was dense, charged with the vast understanding of cultivation he had gained.

Amidst this, all of his 8 techniques evolved in phases, showing themselves to be more powerful even without him activating them.

As a cultivator grew stronger, their techniques began to integrate with their powers as if they were no longer external techniques but innate abilities.

As such, by going through yet another stage and pushing his techniques further into his being, Minos displayed them even without realizing it.

The people on the outskirts of the Spatial Kingdom realized this first through the Devouring Art, as they felt their energies dwindling in front of Minos.

Amidst this, he opened his eyes and clenched his fists, feeling all the power within his grasp.

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Chapter 1718 New Abilities And 9th Technique 1

By clenching his fists, Minos felt his control over space at a new level, being able to distort some of the space even though he was in the Spatial Kingdom.

The Spatial Kingdom was a place with highly stable space. So ordinary Spiritual Sages shouldn't even be able to disturb the stability of such a place.

Only Demigods would have such an ability!

But soon after advancing a stage, Minos felt a subtle spatial control even in this place, being able to distort the surroundings of his hands.

However, he was not as surprised as the people watching him. As someone who had actively stolen the energy and laws imbued in the giant bones in this place, he knew that his control over space would be higher than that of an ordinary person at level 80.

Thinking about how those remnants were so incredible, he couldn't help but look at the corpse of Fah'um of Dunov.

He saw this corpse that seemed to be being absorbed into the Spatial Kingdom, with various plant roots from that place connecting to it and thought. 'Level 100 was not the limit of these creatures... What level was this being at? Is the title Supreme Elder Over Heaven a stage of cultivation?'

But as he looked at that corpse, he felt an even greater connection to it and the bones in the surroundings.

Minos tried to use his innate ability and realized the differences between before and now.

After his breakthrough, he improved his ability to steal what was in those bones by more than 40%.

His connection to them had improved significantly!

The people in the surrounding area felt this, as they noticed their cultivation bases suddenly benefiting from Minos' actions.

After a second of testing this new feeling, Minos smiled and stopped what he was doing to check his techniques.

He had a new technique to learn, but since his old techniques had all advanced in phases and he was already feeling them even without activating them, he couldn't contain his curiosity and looked at himself.

Now because of his greater affinity and connection with his techniques, he didn't need to activate them to feel their new capabilities.

He only needed to think about the technique, and by emitting the spiritual fluctuations of it, not only he but everyone in his surroundings could perceive the basics of it.

Thus he proceeded to test the Devouring Art!

As he did so, a dark aura that seemed to swallow up any energy that came near it appeared in his surroundings, while a ring silhouette seemed to want to form.

But that was only the aura of the Devouring Art, not the activation of it!

'Its action space has doubled in size, and now I can reach those up to 800 meters away from me... Its conversion factor has also improved, and now I can use 60% of what it absorbs.'

"Perfect! I'll be able to use more of my enemies' energy and less of my own. That will give me more combat time against anyone!" He muttered, overjoyed at this improvement.

The secondary ability of this technique that worked passively on his body had also evolved. He had now gained an even greater mastery over it and felt that he could use its powers on other people.

'Uh?' Minos found this too magnificent to be true and could not contain himself. He immediately looked at Sarah and said. "Come here. I'll give you something."

Sarah and the rest of the people watching him didn't understand, but soon she approached her father, who was floating 2 meters off the ground while looking at his hands.

When he saw his daughter standing before him, Minos concentrated part of the devouring energy of his passive ability on the tip of his thumb, making it as dark as night.

Then he inscribed something on the forehead of this young redheaded woman with the dark part on his finger.

Sarah did nothing, feeling little more than a cold sensation on her forehead.

Soon after this, black inscriptions spread out from what Minos had done on her forehead, taking over every single part of her body.

A second later, while everyone was wondering what was happening, these inscriptions became invisible, as if they had never appeared on her skin.

Minos then said. "Gloria, attack our daughter."

"Uh? What's the meaning of that, father?" Sarah didn't like this, feeling her old man was playing games with her.

"Come on, Sarah, don't be a coward. Nothing much is going to happen. Let's test this out a little."

Gloria saw Minos wink at her and accepted. She then made a move equivalent to her daughter's level, which would cause a little pain but would not put her at risk.

When a small golden blade of energy broke toward Sarah's body, this young woman tried to defend herself, feeling bad for serving as a guinea pig for her father.

However, just when she thought she would feel pain, the inscriptions on her body reappeared, and she felt nothing.

Amid this, Minos felt the energy of that attack nourishing his daughter's body.

Realizing the usefulness of this breakthrough, he smiled and said. "All right, that's all, Sarah. You already realized what I gave you, right? This is a defense and a way to strengthen yourself during battles.

Now that I have reached my current level, I can place four inscriptions like that to help protect and strengthen people far away from me."

"Oh?" Minos' women heard that and felt how magnificent such a thing was.

With this, they would have his protection even when they were far away from each other!

While the people in the surrounding area were talking, Minos decided on who he should put these inscriptions. 'I will put this on Gloria and Ruth later since they will not accompany me for my upcoming trip. The other I will put on Kendrick.'

After thinking about it, he ignored the people talking about how unique this skill was and focused on his following technique which had evolved with his advancement.

As he thought about his Spatial Sword technique, Minos' surroundings froze with the aura of this restrictive and offensive technique, while a sharp sensation arose amidst the stillness of the surroundings.

'The range of the Spatial Sword is now 640 meters, and any being or object in that space will be under its restrictions.

My attacks with it have also become stronger, and I will now have an increase in attack strength of 50%, a 25% improvement compared to before!'

Before he could already make his blades travel through the gaps in space and thereby surprise his opponents. But now he could not only do this more easily, but he could also create spirit sword attacks hidden in the vacuum of space.

Through this, even without touching his sword, Minos could make several blade attacks emerge from the vacuum, traveling in directions nearly impossible to trace back to his opponents!

This would make predicting his sword attacks extremely complicated for people below level 90!

Chapter 1719 New Abilities And 9th Technique 2

Realizing how his oldest offensive technique had become, Minos made a simple motion, and a second later, several blades appeared in the direction of one of the giant bones in that area.

The dozens of people in the Spatial Kingdom noticed this and were surprised, as they had barely sensed Minos activating his technique when the attack was already about to hit one of those bones.

'Excellent!' He smiled before looking down at his Indestructible Body.

'My body is now so strong while this technique is active that one punch of mine would be able to rupture the space tissue so as to create chaotic wormholes.

A fight using only this would throw the surroundings into chaos, and in addition to hindering movements of Spiritual Sages, it could injure even those hidden in the vacuum of space in space pockets.'

He then checked his Infinite Dream and the Bright Eyes skill he had gained as a passive skill from this technique in his last stage advancement.

In the first stage of the Infinite Dream, he could only affect at most one person 100% more mentally powerful than him. But currently, he could affect eight people 100% stronger than him!

If they were weaker people, this number could rise significantly. For example, he could simultaneously take down over 300 people at the same level as Sarah, 62, with just one look, or rather a single activation.

As for his Bright Eyes, this ability already enabled Minos to see the spiritual fluctuations of those in front of him. But now he could also see through the gaps in space when using such an ability, which could help him see enemies watching him from pockets in the vacuum and better understand the fabric of space.

He activated this ability and looked at the giant corpse in his Spatial Kingdom and saw it seemed to be integrating more deeply into this alternate space than he thought.

'Will it nurture the Spatial Kingdom?' Minos wondered, impressed because if it did, it would mean it was a level above the most valuable thing that existed in this world!

Since the outcome of this would be magnificent, he immediately enjoyed seeing what was actually happening in his Spatial Kingdom.

'This will be good. There are many medicines here, and this place can benefit many of my forces!'

Minos had his selfish side, but even if he reached level 100 one day, he was not confident this would be enough for him alone to use everything from a corpse-like Fah'um of Dunov. Even fleshless and poorly preserved skeletons were difficult for even Gods to move, so this corpse would be too much for him even if he were a God.

In that case, letting such a thing be absorbed into the Spatial Kingdom would be best for him and his people!

After considering this, he turned his focus to his techniques, causing the aura around him to change and a sense of speed to arise from it.

The surroundings became somewhat distorted as Minos felt how the Explosive Steps had developed in this phase.

'While using this movement technique, my maximum speed is now 400 meters per second, and my senses are 70% faster than before. Hmm, with that, I should deal well with surprise attacks from even level 89 Spiritual Sages.

Only someone above that level would be able to surprise me now!'

The space in his surroundings changed once again, with the gravity changing as he checked Chaotic Gravity.

'That feeling...' He noticed his connection to the black holes inside the Black Hole Bombs in Dry City increasing, even though he was in this alternate space.

He felt that his control over his black holes would be greater now that he had advanced, but the sensation he felt seemed strange.

'Hmm, I'll test it when I return to Dry City.' He pondered before temporarily putting that technique aside to analyze his cultivation technique.

His technique had improved dramatically in terms of its speed of absorbing spiritual energy. Still, due to his increased cultivation, it would take him longer to advance at this new stage.

Even using his innate ability to steal the cultivation base of the giant bones in the Spatial Kingdom, it would still take him more than twice as long to advance at this stage as at the previous one!

'Despite that, it will still be a magnificent cultivation speed if I compare it to that of most people in the Spiritual World...' He remembered Henricus Longus' memories but also his current knowledge of the society he lived in.

'In any case, I shouldn't advance to level 81 in less than three years.' He sighed.

His cultivation speed would be excellent, but considering the number of high-level problems about him, he couldn't help but worry.

He had never been in such a hurry to become stronger as he was now!

He clenched his fists and imagined that it would take another 35 to 40 years or so to advance a stage again.

But at that time, he would finally raise the quality of his Physique for one last time and change everything about himself!

He clenched his fists and looked at the last technique he had learned, which had blended least with his natural characteristics, given how little time he had been with it.

He had been with this technique for almost 20 years, but it was still not as connected to him as the older ones.

So he needed to activate it, causing the Avatar of Space and Time to show itself to everyone around him.

When the avatar appeared, it was much denser than before, looking more realistic and more like Minos, while its powers were much more intense.

The size of its domain doubled in space, while the difference in the passage of time between the inside and outside of its domain tripled.

The bonus he would have when activating his other techniques in the form of soul projection also improved, from a previous 10% improvement to one of 20% now.

Finishing checking all his techniques, Minos finally sighed in satisfaction at his growth as a cultivator and picked up a golden scroll from one of his spatial rings.

"Now it's time for me to learn my 9th technique..." He muttered in a low voice as his observers continued to watch him intently.

Everyone was curious about the new technique he would learn and how it would strengthen him. So as he read the scroll and began to learn his new skill, conversations spilled out, with Sarah and Kendrick among the most curious.

This was particularly true for this young man who had become a cultivator a few weeks ago!

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Chapter 1720 New Skills And 9th Technique 3

Kendrick had reached the age to begin his cultivation a few weeks ago.

At that time, he had gone through the awakening ceremony, surprising his family by inheriting his father's innate ability.

Like Minos, Kendrick had the ability to increase energy, one that was already at the Saint grade, the same as that of his father and mother.

But his ability had its own characteristics, and Kendrick could not steal the cultivation base of those of similar levels to his at present.

No one knew if he would ever be able to do that, but in any case, the fact that his cultivation base was already like Minos' was enough for everyone to have high expectations of him.

And he had been fulfilling these expectations. Currently, Minos' second child was already at level 11 and had already learned his father's first two techniques.

Knowing these techniques, after seeing his father check them out a few moments ago, this young man couldn't help but look at him with his eyes shining, seeing how amazing his old man was and where he could one day get to.

He had Golden-grade talent, so there were few barriers in his way to reaching peak cultivation!

"Mom, what technique is Dad learning?" He asked Abby, who was still at level 78, as were Isabella and Ruth.

Abby continued watching for her husband and said. "That must be a sealing technique. It is called Divine Seal, has three phases, and is obviously Golden-grade.

You and your sister will learn it one day when you reach level 80."

Sarah listened to that close to Kendrick, eager to reach her father's level and learn this technique.

"What can it do?" Sarah asked instead of Kendrick.

This time, Gloria, level 79, answered. "This technique can seal things, from cultivation to even space. Because of that, it has many versatilities."

Minos had already introduced this technique to his family, as he intended for them all to learn it when they reached level 80.

So they all knew about each of the characteristics of this technique.

Ruth said. "If you are talented enough, you can use this technique to force contracts without the need for spiritual judges or beast tamers. You can hide an entire city behind a distorted space or even use its properties to summon distant things.

A seal has many uses. It can be used in simpler ways to block a person's cultivation paths or, more sophisticatedly, to create a prison from which things can be summoned.

In short, this technique has as many possibilities as your creativity limits it."

Isabella said. "Ultimately, it can be merged with other techniques you will learn."

As for the limits of this technique, it only worked with people, beings, or objects up to 100% more powerful than Minos' soul and could not be affected by his ability to temporarily steal the cultivation base of others.

So as long as he was at level 80, he would at most be able to use this technique against opponents up to level 83. That is, of course, if he didn't use it in a fusion. In that case, the fusion limit would have no such limitation.

In short, this was not an offensive technique but a supportive and defensive one that would be stronger as Minos advanced.

Some techniques needed to give their users maximum power right away, but for their best growth, having one or another support technique that would become more important in the future was necessary.

As such, Minos had chosen this technique for this stage and, without much delay, achieved basic control over it to activate it for the first time.

Divine Seal: Infinite Connection!

Minos concentrated 100% of his forces on this first activation, not because it was necessary, but because he wished to test his and Henricus Longus' theories.

Henricus Longus had created Minos' techniques to give his heir incredible powers. But he had also developed them to create a warrior capable of connecting in some way with the extraordinary giant bones that existed in this world.

This particular technique had been created for the primary purpose of connecting the energy of these bones to the user of the technique so that this connection would somehow strengthen him.

Henricus Longus did not know that her chosen one would be Minos, nor that the innate ability of this young man would already connect him to these bones. So he had not set such high expectations of what this technique would do.

When Minos made the seals of the technique and pressed a large circular-shaped inscription on one of the bones of those skeletons, his test proved more successful than his 'mentor' had anticipated when creating such a technique.

The moment the seal fell on that bone, it suffered no repulsion from it. It quickly integrated with that part of the gigantic skeleton, forming what looked like a tattoo on that bone.

Those circle-shaped inscriptions changed shape as they integrated with that bone, growing and causing various symbols to appear all over that bone.

It did not move on to other parts of that giant skeleton but soon began to emit something that made Minos happy.

Minos felt his absorption of the laws and energy of that skeleton rising in level so that even without using his innate ability, he seemed to be tempering his body and soul with this seal!

The seal he had just created connected his soul and body to that bone, and no matter where he was, he would continually be 'baptized' by the powers of that bone.

Luckily he had already absorbed enough of those skeletons to achieve good compatibility with them, and for that reason alone, his attempt had not failed!

'Henricus Longus wasn't entirely wrong, but at this stage, I still couldn't do it without my innate ability.' He considered as he assessed what was happening. 'But I believe that in the 2nd phase of this technique, I could do it even without my ability.'

With that, he sighed and smiled, feeling that he was complete to begin his journey searching for the Longus family.

But first of all, he would recover from this activation that had consumed his spiritual energy, returning to cultivating while the people in the surrounding area celebrated the end of his seclusion.

Some were happy just for Minos, but others were also happy because they could return to the mainland after the time they had spent in this place cultivating.

Several had changed levels in this period, so they were eager to show their relatives and friends their current situations!

