

## **Black Plain 1721**

### Chapter 1721 Leaving Seclusion

Later, when Minos had finished cultivating, he was reunited with his wives and children, and it didn't take long to gather everyone who was going to return to Dry City.

Most there had already stayed long enough in this place, so besides Kendrick, Sarah, Abby, and Isabella, who would accompany Minos on this journey to the Western region, only Emlyn and Kyla would stay in the Spatial Kingdom for the time being.

More soldiers from the Black Plain Army and elders from the Gray Clouds Sect would be sent here later. But for now, all the other individuals there would return to Dry City alongside Minos, Gloria, and Ruth, who would stay in the capital to take care of local affairs.

Thus, the Spatial Kingdom became somewhat empty as Minos activated the ring of this space and departed back to Dry City.

"Kendrick, go cultivate. You haven't done that in 2 days!" Abby sighed after everyone left and ordered this boy to fulfill his responsibilities that he had been delaying because of his father's advancement.

Hearing that, he ran over to where Kyla and Emlyn were, inside one of those giant skeletons in that space.

"Don't worry, Mom, I was studying while watching Dad." He said as he ran and smiled.

Sarah smiled as she saw her brother hurrying to escape from his mother and soon headed towards a place she liked to meditate.

'Dad won't let me do what I want until I become a Saint, so I must focus on cultivating now...' She thought, wondering when she might have more freedom.

In any case, she didn't think it was bad to stay in the Spatial Kingdom for a while while she was still such a weak cultivator compared to the many problems of her state.

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Meanwhile, Minos and his people appeared in Dry City in a large cultivation room of the Black Plain Army headquarters.

In that place, protected by several arrays that blocked the spiritual fluctuations of the surroundings, the group of over 100 people soon dispersed.

Minos had in mind to experience some of the Chaotic Gravity changes, but first, he made his way toward his palace while displaying his level 80 aura for the entire core of his capital to feel.

This was his way of summoning his men and telling these most important inhabitants about his success in advancing to the 9th stage!

Immediately upon sensing a new level 80 aura, the people working, training, or in their leisure time within the area protected by the Dry City Defensive Dome realized that their sovereign had advanced a stage.

'His Majesty has advanced to level 80...' A middle-aged man at level 66 thought to himself as he looked toward where Minos was moving, feeling fulfilled to see the growth of this person.

Joey had been in the Black Plain Army for a long time and had seen much of Minos' growth. As he felt the new cultivation of his leader, he couldn't help but feel as if he had, on his own, become stronger and smiled in happiness.

On the other hand, Minos' grandfather, Oswald, was on the outskirts watching over this city and, upon sensing his grandson's spiritual fluctuation, immediately moved from where he was, going to him.

Oswald was already close to reaching level 81, but judging how fast Minos was in his cultivation; this man felt he would soon see his grandson leaving him behind.

As he had dreamed of this moment ever since he had seen Minos at the Peak of Mist decades ago, he couldn't help but feel immense satisfaction with this young man's growth.

Maisie and Patience were also around, and the other Spiritual Sages and relevant government members moved to the imperial throne hall.

At that place, the imperial guards were already with their knees bent when Minos entered the area and said in a single sound.

"Welcome back, Your Majesty! Congratulations on the breakthrough!"

Minos saw those men and smiled, gesturing for them to stop and return to their natural positions.

Meanwhile, his secretary, Dillian, and a few other government members arrived at that place almost at the same time as the first Spiritual Sages to present themselves there.

"Congratulations on becoming a Sage, Your Majesty!"

Several of them repeated similar things. They were pleased that Minos had advanced and that he had returned before major problems had reached the empire.

Oswald arrived at that place, went over to where his grandson was, and patted him on the back a few times, saying his own words of congratulations.

Patience and Maisie would do the same, while everyone had smiles on their faces.

"Thank you for your words, but we must decide some things urgently." He said as he gestured for the people there to lower their tempers in their congratulations and compliments. "Now that I am back, I intend to leave for Lusmait in a few days, so let us settle the necessary as quickly as we can."

Everyone stood quietly and listened to what their leader had to tell them.

This was particularly true for the family members of the Goddess of Life, who were very excited by Minos' strengthening, something that brought them closer to their revenge against the Veora family.

Minos then said. "I want our government to focus on developing the marine empire and the End area for the next few months or years. These two places will be crucial, so we cannot privilege others over them.

As for the army, continue to protect the borders of the empire and these two areas. I want to increase the presence of Spiritual Sages around those areas and decrease in Dry City."

Gloria and Ruth were standing next to Minos and saw how everyone in the surrounding area was strange about this order from her husband.

But even though they were both uncertain about what this meant, the two waited for his words.

"Uh? Are you sure about this?" Maisie asked her son, expressing the doubt of everyone there.

Minos then explained. "With my advancement to the 9th stage and the guarantees generated by the protection we have from Maximillian Flamen, I can secure for myself the safety of this city.

I will show you that in a few moments... Please come with me." He said as he indicated for everyone to follow him.

Then everyone there flew after Minos, quickly arriving outside the Dry City Defensive Dome, where the emperor promptly ordered his men to deactivate the defensive arrays in the surrounding area.

He then said. "I will show you the evolution of Chaotic Gravity. From today we will no longer need defensive arrays to protect this city. My black holes will do that!"

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After his lines, Minos immediately circulated his 8th technique, making the glorious projection of his soul show above Dry City.

Those who had not yet seen it naturally opened their eyes as they observed this Soul Avatar, noting its robustness and dense spiritual fluctuations.

'Minos has a very robust and solid cultivation base...' Oswald looked at that and felt thrilled, noting one day, his grandson would become a Demigod, the first in his lineage to achieve that feat.

Maisie and Patience noticed this too, feeling very proud of Minos.

But while everyone was paying attention to the changes the Space and Time Avatar had undergone, he fused his Chaotic Gravity and Devouring Art techniques.

Immediately upon doing so, several mini-black holes appeared in the surroundings, showing the people there and Minos how much faster this could happen now that he was a Spiritual Sage.

At the same time, more energy from the surroundings was being used to form these black holes, weighing less about Minos' soul, so he was spending less than 20% of his energy on this fusion.

When he formed these tiny black holes, Minos joined some of them together, forming four larger regions of space capable of easily swallowing even level 85 cultivators.

Then he stole the cultivation bases of some of those people in the surrounding area, quickly raising his level to level 82.

In doing so, he immediately strengthened his black holes, raising his level to the 9th stage limit.

With that move, even a level 90 Demigod would have to watch out for those black holes!

'Incredible!'

'His Majesty's level has really risen a lot...'

Gulp!

'Imagine when he advances to level 90? Maybe only Gods will be above him!' Some thought about it, looking forward to when that would happen.

At that time, the Black Plain Empire would no longer have any threats to make them worry!

While some were thinking of similar things, Minos began to move his black holes around the core of Dry City, creating a formation with these regions of space.

He placed three of them in lower positions as if they were corners of an equilateral triangle. Meanwhile, the last of them stood above the central area of the triangle, a few miles away from each of the other black holes.

By placing each of his black holes at similar distances from each other, Minos used his new abilities regarding Chaotic Gravity, creating spatial distortions in space in this black hole formation.

Immediately after he began manipulating space in such a way, everyone in Dry City felt as if the day was slowly giving way to night as the blue sky above them disappeared.

At the same time, something like a dark cloth appeared between the spaces of the black holes, following a shape that, from a distance, looked curved but up close looked straight, like the outer walls of a pyramid.

Minos positioned the black holes below ground in parts without human constructions, creating a gigantic dark dome over Dry City.

He skillfully controlled the black holes lower down to not increase their size by absorbing mass and spiritual energy in the surroundings beyond his interest.

When they were in position, the 'fabric' between the sides of this new dome finished transforming, becoming like the sky on a night when one couldn't see the stars.

At the same time as this, each of the black holes released large amounts of spiritual energy absorbed from outside the dome into the city.

While the day seemed to have come to an end, the spiritual density rose considerably.

Gulp!

"That..." The level 85 Spiritual Sage, with the rest of Minos' group, opened his mouth in shock, feeling as if the entire Dry City had turned into a gigantic cultivation room capable of nurturing even level 90 cultivators!

Everyone in that group realized this, shocked by Minos' creation.

Minos had reached a level of understanding about space that he could already manipulate the spiritual energy in the surroundings in such a way that his black holes could filter out the surrounding free energy and return it to the interior of this space!

Also, due to the properties of this new Dry City dome, spiritual energy could only enter and not leave this space unless it exceeded the level of the black holes at the time!

However, these were only the secondary properties of Minos' creation!

"What you are seeing about Dry City is the new defensive barrier of the city. It can increase the density of spiritual energy inside that pyramidal dome, but that's not the purpose of it." As he spoke this out loud for the whole city to hear, Minos threw a high-level grade-3 weapon in the direction of these dark barriers over the city.

The moment he did that, that item flew into that barrier that looked like just a dark fabric preventing light from entering Dry City. However, just as it was about to cross that thing that looked like a fabric, the weapon suddenly underwent an extreme transformation.

Upon reaching a point of no return, it distorted, turning into something resembling a particle noodle. It was then sucked into the nearest black hole from where it was.

Minos continued. "That is the best defensive barrier that can exist. It can develop as it absorbs things and rises to a level that can even overcome me!

As such, please don't go near it for anything in this world. Once you touch that fabric, there is no turning back. There is only the darkness of death!

This is our city's new defense, a gift from me."

Gulp!

Many people in this city looked up, seeing the absence of light above them and fearing approaching those boundaries.

"But isn't that dangerous for us?" Maisie asked. "How will we get out of here?"

Minos smiled upon hearing that and then moved.

Divine Seal: Portal!

He concentrated more than 60% of his strength on this move, making seals with his hands and striking out in two different directions.

Circular seals with various inscriptions flew toward the two ends of this new dome, touching that dark fabric without being absorbed due to Minos' control over this.



Immediately upon integrating parts of that dome, two semi-transparent areas appeared in the places Minos had attacked, with the darkness there disappearing to emerge something distorted that one could not see through.

"From today on, those will be the only two entrances to Dry City. Anyone can leave only by passing through those areas, but entering will be more complicated. Only by being authorized by the ones controlling the entrance will you be able to enter once you are out."

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#### Chapter 1723 Pyramidal Dome

Minos gestured a few times and created one last seal on two similar artifacts.

He then handed one to Ruth and the other to the level 85 Spiritual Sage. "This is the joint key to this dome. By using both parts of it simultaneously, you can open the city to visitors.

Without one part, the other cannot do the same, so one of you will stay outside the Dry City, and the other will stay inside, controlling the entrance of people."

The two received those items, looking at what looked like a medallion, but had a large pyramidal symbol on them.

"How do we arrange to use this simultaneously?" Ruth asked.

"That defensive barrier does not prevent the transmission and receipt of information. You can still use communication arrays inside this place as you did before." Minos said, teaching these people. It didn't do much harm to the lives of those inside this place.

The only drawback really was that from today there would be no more daylight over Dry City.

The most Minos and his people could do about this would be to create artificial light sources in the surroundings of the new dome, but natural light would not enter there at all.

The people in the group of high-level cultivators heard this and felt that this was indeed a great advance on Minos' part and an unparalleled gift to Dry City.

As much as they would no longer have the privilege of natural light in this place and the entrance of people would be made much more complicated than before, those who lived there would benefit greatly.

Not only would they have defenses that would protect them against cultivators below level 90, but they would also have the opportunity to benefit from the new spiritual density of this city.

Thinking about it, all these individuals above level 80 were happy and in awe of Minos' ability.

"That's almost like a semi-Spatial Kingdom..." Someone commented.

Upon hearing that, Minos smiled, for that was not entirely wrong.

Due to his abilities generated by absorbing the cultivation understanding of the giant skeletons and his technique fusions, he had reached a very high level regarding space manipulation.

He would still have to become a God to develop one Spatial Kingdom from scratch, but he could already create special places like this!

Ruth and Gloria heard that comment and looked at Minos.

"Don't tell me that you can make your Spatial Kingdom before becoming a God?" Ruth questioned him.

"Impossible." He laughed. "At most, I would be able to create a fake-Spatial Kingdom. The problem with it all is that even with the necessary understanding, the energy of a God is required to create such a region of space."

That I would only have if I reached the 11th stage..."

The people with more absurd thoughts in the surrounding area understood this and put their crazy thoughts aside.

He then said. "Anyway, I will do other places like this around the empire in the future. But for now, I will only do this in the main city of the End area and then leave for Lusmait.

I'll do other places like that after I deal with the damned Longus family."

The people in the surrounding area nodded in agreement, understanding that this really would be better.

Oswald then said. "It is not for nothing you want us to spread out around the empire. In fact, Dry City will only need Ruth and the elder Esmond to take care of getting people in here..."

Now that they had seen all about these new local defenses, Minos' men understood why they would no longer be needed there in the short term.

Part of them regretted this, as they would not be able to enjoy the immense benefits of staying there to cultivate in the short term.

In any case, their leader's plans were the best for the empire, so no one else questioned his orders.

After seeing what they needed, they all accepted their missions, and almost none stayed behind after a few moments.

Minos stood next to Gloria and Ruth and a few of the Spiritual Sages near advancement.

Since they were not far from reaching new levels, Minos wanted some of them to stay longer in this place to cultivate and only leave after they reached new levels.

He looked at his women and said. "Ruth, I will have to rely on you to regulate people's entry here. But don't worry, that won't be a difficult job. You just need to keep that medallion I gave you with you at all times, and when you have to do something, infuse some of your energy into it.

But beware. If an enemy tries something against Esmond, don't open the city to anyone. When I return, I will solve any problem there is."

"Hmm, don't worry, I know what to do." She said.

He then said to Gloria. "Get on with your business with the Church and try to advance to the 9th stage while I'm gone. It won't be that hard to do it in this place the way it is now."

She agreed. "I was already planning to do that... As for Church, I will try to move more slowly while you are away. There's no pressure on us, but we'd better not draw unnecessary attention."

"Hmm..."

After that, they returned to the imperial palace, where Minos would finish talking to his weaker subordinates and relevant people in his government.

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Three days after creating the Dry City Pyramidal Dome, Minos finished his business in his capital and quickly made his way to the End area via his state's network of wormholes.

Due to the practicality of these space paths, within minutes of his departure from Dry City, where the local port had been moved out of the dome, he arrived in the former state capital of the Carline family.

In this place, he would meet his old acquaintance, Kara Carline, the current leader of this area and president of the local assembly.

She was currently level 72 and the most powerful native of the area.

Her parents had retired from their roles when she had overtaken them and now lived in seclusion, trying to advance to the 8th stage.

Unfortunately for them, it was more difficult than they thought to achieve such advancement due to the fact that they had aged while they were only Spiritual Kings.

Even with enough talent to reach level 70, they had great difficulty getting out of level 69.

In any case, upon reaching this place, Minos would not waste much of his time interacting with the ancient sovereigns of the area. Right after a brief tea and conversation, he did what he set out to do there.

He created a Pyramidal Dome similar to that of his state's capital in the main city there to help the locals grow stronger and protect themselves from threats from the north.

After this, without delay, Minos went back to using his state's network of wormholes, this time going to Vogel, from where he intended to leave for the kingdom of Lusmait!

This was the beginning of a new journey for Minos!

Chapter 1724 Start Of The Journey To Lusmait

After reaching the Vogel border with Veora Kingdom, Minos said goodbye to his men at that border post and immediately opened a wormhole to cross the border of that state.

Once again, he was entering the Western region with the intention of hiding his movements. So he chose to jump the border of this place with his state to prevent possible local observers from noticing him moving.

Minos was still being watched by powers from various parts of the continent, including the Eastern Empire. But given his current abilities and the presence of a well-developed wormhole network of the Black Plain Empire, following or tracking his movements had become impossible.

At most, someone could keep an eye on whether he was in his state's capital or check his passage through other locations in his domains. But if he wanted to venture into the Spiritual World, reaching him now would be much more difficult.

One of Vico's Demigods had had great difficulty doing this when Minos was at level 77, so now, at level 80, such a thing would be even more complicated.

He knew this and intended to move through wormholes only through the riskiest borders and places on his way since this kind of travel had its dangers.

Upon entering Veora Kingdom, he immediately started down the path he had once taken through this state alongside local beasts who had come to an agreement to direct him to the border with the Western Empire.

Given the fact that he knew the way and was much faster than before, Minos quickly moved through the terrain, following the strategy of moving at a speed equivalent to his level and not flying so as not to draw unnecessary attention.

Because of this, in a matter of a few minutes, he reached the spot on the kingdom's coast near the tribe where he had stayed a few days earlier.

From there, he immediately started his way along the nearby coastline, avoiding the beast tribes and human cities he knew were nearby, given his previous experience.

This helped him at first, and Minos soon crossed more than half of his way to the border of this state with the Western Empire with no problems on his way. But he would soon be faced with a situation he could not simply ignore.

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While running through the dense forest paths of the Veora Kingdom, Minos suddenly came upon a battle in his path.

He was heading west when he saw a creature as large as a carriage flying out of control like a meteor.

This creature looked like a bird with gray feathers, a black beak, and eyes as big as human heads. It had part of its body covered in blood and flew wildly in Minos' direction.

Meanwhile, a creature with a snake body, black and red scales, golden eyes, and vertical pupils was attacking in the direction of that gray creature, invariably sending attacks in Minos' direction.

Minos saw the creature's tail traversing space at a point not far from him and realized that he would have no choice but to act, as it would be too late for him to simply try to dodge it.

Luckily none of these creatures was a Demigod, and his chances there were not small.

Chaotic Gravity: Void Crushing!

He immediately activated this technique as his Space and Time Avatar showed itself, immediately causing the walls of the wormhole used by that snake to collapse over its body.

Amid this initial act, Minos observed the snake's body with his visual ability, noting the creature's weakness.

He then activated his 9th technique without delay, casting a seal against that body.

Divine Seal: Scarlet Hell!

Red flames surged around that creature as soon as the seal reached its body, putting it in the face of its great weakness, flames.

Suffering these two swift attacks from the weak Spiritual Sage in its path, that snake looked at him hatefully, feeling the pain of being attacked so mercilessly by surprise.

It was a powerful level 88 Spiritual Sage. Still, without preparing for Minos' surprise move, it had immediately taken minor damage from the quick action of this level 80 Sage.

"Human!" It looked in his direction and shouted, immensely offended.

The level 87 creature flying toward Minos realized what was happening and thanked the heavens that this human had prevented its opponent's final attacks.

It was badly wounded, and if it suffered those last blows, it would surely die!

Minos realized this and, upon noticing that body so close to him, used his abilities to slow down its speed, initiating a repulsive force on that body to slow it down.

'Lend me your strength, bird.' He said calmly, showing that creature that he was not the least bit frightened by his opponent eight levels above his own.

That bird didn't understand what Minos' mental communication meant since it was severely injured, so how would it lend its strength to him?

But after using this Spiritual Sage's ability for the first time, Minos immediately stole the bird's cultivation base, taking advantage of the fact that it was very weakened and didn't have that many defenses against him.

If it were in another situation, where this bird was at its peak, it would be complicated for Minos at level 80 to steal the cultivation base of a level 87 being. But given the current circumstances, he managed to do that.

In the blink of an eye, he raised his level to 82, immensely shocking the creature furiously looking in his direction.



That snake had already escaped the space trying to crush its body and the flames created by Minos' seal. When he had raised his cultivation base considerably, it was quickly flying towards him, intending to murder him before doing so to its rival.

However, it had made a crucial mistake in approaching Minos!

When Minos felt the level 82 forces in his body, he immediately activated the Indestructible Body and clenched his fists.

Then he made his Soul Avatar clench one of its hands, the space in the surrounding area shook considerably just for that.

Then he punched in the direction of that creature closer and closer to him and the bird.

The right fist of Minos' soul projection brought down the space as it traveled at extremely high speed against his opponent, causing the spiritual energy and space in the surroundings to become chaotic.

Any being more than a kilometer away from Minos could not manipulate space at that instant due to the consequences of his punch!

When that blow struck that snake's head, it felt terror upon itself, trembling with fear as it saw death giving it a nod.

'Shit...'

Chapter 1725 The Dreaded Fist Of Minos

'Shit...' It thought as it saw several unstable wormholes appearing in the vicinity of Minos' fist, feeling the terrible collision about to hit it.

The instant after that thought, its face felt Minos' mighty right fist deforming it in an unnatural way while its facial bones shattered like glass.

At the same time, several wormholes attacked various parts of its head and body, destroying everything in its path as if they were powerful bombs.

Its facial flesh evaporated instantly, degraded along with its scales by the unstable space around that fist.

Without any chance of survival, that creature was exterminated by a single blow from Minos!

When his fist stopped advancing, more than half of the creature's body was gone.

Not even a sign of the powerful level 88 being from moments ago remained!

Slowly the unstable wormholes calmed down, closing as dozens of creatures in the surrounding area watched in shock as this fight was quickly over.

The right fist of Minos' Soul Avatar was covered in blood, as smoke billowed out of it from the intense friction with space in the moments before.

Minos contemplated this in much the same way as the injured bird, finding what had just happened impressive.

Minos had become stronger than he thought himself!

'I didn't think he would be crushed that easily...' He thought to himself as he looked at the remnants of that corpse, somewhat shocked at how brute the power of his Indestructible Body was.

Meanwhile, the bird near him had regained the sparkle in its eyes, widening them significantly to look at its enemy and this unlikely ally.

"How?" It asked aloud, extremely shocked by the developing situation.

The silence lasted for a few moments until Minos left his state of contemplation to say. "It was trying to kill me, so I had no choice. Even though I didn't know it, nor have anything against it, I had to eliminate that snake."

"Who are you? You stole my cultivation to strengthen yourself!" That bird said as it felt its cultivation base slowly returning to normal.

Realizing this, it answered its own question.

'Minos Stuart! You are the emperor of the Black Plain! But how? You shouldn't be so strong!' It said as it used its mental communication, even though it felt quite bad due to the injuries on its body.

Minos had already become so famous throughout the Central Continent that there were no living beings left who had not heard his name once or twice.

Even sentient vegetables knew who Minos Stuart was and his main skill: energy control.

Minos looked at the creature he had unwittingly saved its life and mentally said not to inform the other beings in the surroundings. 'Well, I'm not obligated to stay at the same level forever. I am getting stronger.'

'You talk like it's no big deal...' The bird watched him in silence for a few moments.

'I saved your life, so don't go talking about what just happened here. Can you do that for me?'

But the creature said something else to him, surprising him with its pleading tone. "Please take me with you where you are going! I'm badly hurt and won't survive even with Manacle's end.

Please help me! When I recover, I will be happy to serve you as a mount!"

"Oh?" Minos was surprised by this request, for he genuinely did not expect to gain a mount by this mere action.

"You are a majestic Dodo-Balinese, and you will still offer to become my mount?" Minos questioned him, knowing that members of this race of spiritual birds could reach the 10th stage.

The Dodo-Balinese said. "Better to subordinate myself to someone talented than to die at the hands of profiteering 'hyenas'..."

Minos observed the surroundings, where several weaker creatures were just waiting for his departure to attack this bird.

Beasts could strengthen themselves by eating and digesting the flesh of those they devoured, so when a powerful weakened being appeared, other weaker ones would use the opportunity to devour it!

This was a good way to get enough nutrients and energy for weeks or months of seclusion.

After the beating and digestion, they could raise their level and sometimes even reach new stages!

Minos thought for a while and said. "I accept you as my mount in exchange for saving your life."

Immediately upon saying that, dark energy appeared around Minos and that bird as he once again circulated his energies through his 9th technique.

As he did so, he showed the Dark Sea to everyone in the surrounding area, making every creature for hundreds of meters away from him feel absolute terror.

The Spiritual Saints nearby saw abominable silhouettes appearing near Minos, watching them as if they were warriors of death.

A level 81 Spiritual Sage nearby, waiting for everything to unfold, then felt a chill in its body and saw one of these shadows taking on a more remarkable shape.

The creature looked like a mixture of an ordinary human and a skeleton, with a truly frightening appearance.

This was particularly true for its eyes, where there were actually no eyes but rather cavities that showed the bottom of its skull to those watching it.

Gulp!

'What's that?' That level 81 beast felt that creature staring at it and almost pissed itself.

When it decided to run away, it turned around and suddenly saw that creature behind it.

"Aaagh!"

The first of the cries in the surrounding area came from that Sage beast as Minos forced a master and servant seal on that beast.

Divine Seal!

That creature felt inscriptions surging through its body as a small half-moon formed on its forehead, marking that it would henceforth be the property of the Black Plain emperor.

After a few moments, it saw Minos finishing this domination ceremony, shocked at the abilities of this human.

'He shouldn't have been able to do that before! Is that a new technique?

How fearsome! He's almost like the elves now!' This bird thought to itself, right in its thoughts, for these creatures had inspired Henricus Longus to develop this technique.

As he finished what he was doing, scaring everyone in the surroundings to the core, Minos asked that creature. "What is your name?"

"Starclaw."

"Starclaw, from now on, you will be my mount. For now, I will send you to a place for you to be taken care of."

"Uh?"

However, even with doubts, that creature would soon disappear from that area as a black vortex controlled by Minos absorbed it.

'Time to continue my journey!'

Chapter 1726 Journey Through The Western Empire

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After sending Starclaw into the Spatial Kingdom, which Minos could do without drawing attention from potential experts in his surroundings given his current space abilities, he departed that area, continuing on his way.

The Dark Sea had already taken care of the beasts that had seen him acting; some had even died, and others were so frightened that they would hide for the next few years in fear of those creatures of the shadows.

With no more worries in this place, Minos quickly made his way to the Veora Kingdom's border with the Western Empire.

On this part of his journey, he once again crossed the border through a wormhole without difficulty entering this empire.

But even if Minos had not used this strategy, he would have easily crossed the border of the Western Empire.

Besides the fact that the empire was preparing for a war against Southern Demigods and was not so concerned about mere low-level Spiritual Sages, the emperor himself had taken Minos' name off any wanted list.

He knew this young Northern Emperor had committed crimes in his state years ago. Still, Henry saw Minos as one of the few who agreed with his concerns and was willing to do something about it.

As such, he had ignored Minos' actions from years ago in his empire and had already sent to his vassal organizations and his army that if they saw Emperor Stuart, they should not stand in his way.

In any case, Minos had chosen a more secret way to get through this state and strode as he had done the other time.

But in the present, he knew things he was not aware of in the past and immediately took some extra care when moving.

He didn't have much experience moving through this state since he had only traveled briefly in this empire. However, in Grant's previous passage through Dry City, this man had left a map of the empire with Minos, which this emperor had requested, given his interest in going to Lusmait.

As such, even though he did not know much about the Western Empire, Minos had his path laid out on such a map and was not moving in the dark.

He knew the places he wanted to avoid, and his path could be considered the best for him.

It was longer, but at least it did not pass through the territory of any sect, family, or area of extreme importance in this state.

And so his journey through this state had begun without problems!

...

The Western Empire was one of the largest on the continent in terms of area and population. To give you an idea, this state was almost six times larger than the Veora Kingdom and had almost 3 billion inhabitants.

Most of this population was closer to the northern coast of the Empire, given the distance of this area from the Eastern Empire, its historical enemy.

So the most remote areas of this state were further south, where the long border of this state with its neighbor and historical enemy was.

It was precisely around this area that Minos was making his journey.

As he crossed the Veora Kingdom's border with the Western Empire near the northern coast of the empire, near the Ancestral Sea, Minos immediately changed his direction, going south.

He intended to travel through the southernmost central areas of the Western Empire, where there were fewer cities in his path to slow him down in some way.

Given his speed, he reached this area in only four days of traveling and finally began traveling westward!

...

It was evening, and at the moment, Minos was stopping to get some rest and eat something warm.

He no longer needed to do this often, but once every three days, he liked to make short 1-hour stops to eat and recover from the constant traveling.



Maybe his body didn't need this, but he felt it made his mind good to take approaches like this, even though he was hurrying to settle the Longus family matter.

As he stood in front of a campfire with meat on a spit in the middle of a forest, a gray-haired, yellow-green-eyed woman was tending the fire for him.

This was Starclaw!

After spending a few days in the Spatial Kingdom under the care of Minos' people, she recovered most of her injuries.

Minos summoned her back to his side and had been traveling with her since this morning.

She was a level 87 winged beast, so she usually flew much faster than he did!

At the same time, he could only fly faster than her if he stole a victim's cultivation base, so using her was a much less flashy way to get around this state.

As he ate and now and then listened to the stories of that woman, who was very interested in helping him after her previous discoveries, she noticed humans approaching her position.

"We are leaving. There are people moving this way." She suggested, preferring to avoid these people, even considering they were only Spiritual Saints.

Minos had already noticed these people, but he was sensing soul fluctuations that he knew of. So he didn't move right away, trying to remember who those people were.

'That spiritual fluctuation, I don't remember where I've felt it before, but the other one is from someone in the Nash family... Luke!'

He remembered Elen's cousin, who had challenged him in the past, but also helped him get mercenaries in this state at the time he was facing Abe Vogel.

'I know. The other one is the person who was with him the last time I saw him that day.' He remembered years ago.

The memory of cultivators was excellent, but it was not an automatic thing that they would remember everything instantly. They needed to think about fences to remember certain facts.

Minos then realized that Luke and the man who had traveled with this young master Nash to the northern region had come a long way since they had last seen each other.

Currently, Luke was at level 70, while that man was at level 74.

"Wait a moment. I know some of these people." Minos said to his traveling companion, surprising her.

"Are you sure? I thought you had to reach Lusmait as quickly as possible." She asked, trying to help her leader make the right decision.

If he was in a hurry, the logical thing to do was to ignore these people and move on with his path so as not to get involved in any unnecessary trouble.

But Minos said. "Starclaw, these people helped me with something important once upon a time. As much as I paid them for it, I haven't seen them in decades. Let's just say hello to them. It won't cost anything."

After saying that, Minos' eyes sparkled, and all of Luke and Oriel's companions passed out.

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Chapter 1727 Brief Conversation

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When they saw their companions suddenly faint as they walked through that dark forest, Oriel and Luke immediately drew their weapons, circulating their energies in their defensive techniques.

The Elemental Sect had sent them to patrol this area days ago, so they felt that their companions' fall was because of possible enemies nearby!

The two approached, standing with their backs to each other as they stood silently, watching for traces of movement in the surroundings.

However, they saw nothing, which only made them even more afraid of possible enemies nearby.

"Luke, stay alert. When the enemy shows itself, run away as fast as possible." Oriel said, sensing that they might need reinforcements, and at least one of them had to run to be able to send a call for help.

Gulp!

But as Luke swallowed his saliva, feeling that this could quickly become a deadly mission for his group, a space crack opened up below them, startling them.

With no chance to escape, the two fell into that spatial crack, sensing that this would be their end.

'Shit! I still had so much to do!' Luke thought to himself, regretting finding a fucking Spiritual Sage right after he advanced to the 8th stage.

But the next second, he and Oriel fell a few feet above where Minos was sitting.

When they saw someone sitting below where they would fall, they both frowned, preparing themselves for the impact.

But it would never come.

When they were about to hit that person with brown hair and black gold armor, they suddenly started to lose their acceleration, so they managed to move and land not far away from this level 80 Sage.

When they realized that this level 80 person, next to a level 87 beast in its humanoid form, was behind what had just happened, they both looked at him, narrowing their eyes.

Luke was the first to realize who this was, changing his expression. "Minos!"

Oriel quickly realized who this was and swallowed his saliva, revisiting Emperor Stuart after so many years.

Noticing how easily he had surpassed him in terms of cultivation, this man opened his mouth, shocked.

Minos had been stronger than him for a long time. But until a few years ago, the difference in levels between the two was not great.

But quickly, the young man who had once been more than 25 levels weaker than him was now 6 whole levels ahead of him. Not only that but considering the magnificent combat proficiency Minos had always had, the difference between them was probably much greater!

'Incredible! He's already at level 80!'

Minos looked at Luke and saw how surprised this cousin of Elen's was to see him there, but also because of his cultivation. "Hmm, long time no see, young master Nash."

"Please, Your Majesty, don't call me that..." He said, feeling a little embarrassed.

Minos smiled and said. "Well, I spotted you while I was eating and decided to say hello. By the way, thanks for your help years ago. Back then, your action helped us a lot."

"Your Majesty doesn't need to thank. We got enough for that." Luke said as Oriel agreed.

Luke's advancement to the 8th stage and even Oriel's cultivation speed were explained by the resources they had obtained by helping Minos back then.

They both knew very well said and genuinely thanked Minos once again for that opportunity after their shock of finding him in the middle of this forest passed.

"... But anyway, what is Your Majesty doing here? I thought the Black Plain was focused on its internal projects recently." Luke said.

He hadn't returned to the northern region in a long time. Still, he received letters from his family every few months, sometimes even from Elen. Because of this, he knew the Black Plain Empire had recently been having a few problems relative to the pressures before Maximillian's emergence.

But he didn't know everything. Luke was in the dark about the Longus family because that matter had been treated as a state secret, and Elen or others would not talk about it with people outside their group.

Minos then said. "I am in search of some people... There are some problems that will hit us in the future that I want to prevent. So I'm going after solutions."

"Future problems?" Luke and Oriel muttered.

They had already heard rumors in their sect regarding the emperor's concerns about the future. Listening to Minos, they couldn't help but connect such a thing to this.

Minos rose from where he was standing and said. "Be careful. Times are getting more challenging, especially for your state.

So I wish you good luck. If fate brings us together again, I hope I'm not in a hurry. Perhaps we can have a drink on that occasion."

The two agreed, without trying to delay Minos in what he was doing.

Luke said. "Good luck to Your Majesty and the empire as well. Maybe the next time we see each other, there will already be Demigods there."

Oriel looked at that woman next to Minos, figuring this shouldn't be long.

Minos laughed and said nothing more, soon climbing on Starclaw's back after she showed her bestial form.

With that, the two set off back on their journey westward, leaving those two watching them from afar.

"Minos is really amazing... In just a few decades, he has accomplished so many things." Oriel muttered to Luke, "I fear that in another 50 years, he will become a world-renowned expert."

"If he doesn't die, I fear he will become as great as Vico Travisani one day," Luke commented before sighing deeply. "Anyway, let's get back to our group. We shouldn't worry about the affairs of such great people."

...

A few more days passed...

While Minos was traveling to the border of the Western Empire with the kingdom of Lusmait, the group of envoys from the Longus family had reached the core of the Black Plain Empire!

As they arrived a few days late at this place, the group of peak Spiritual Sages, unlike the previous one that had only one such person, noticed the local changes.

As they flew over the place that should be the capital of this state, they noticed that pyramidal dome devoid of light hovering above this city.

"What is that?" One of them asked as the group leader felt they would have to investigate the local situation once more before proceeding with their plans.

"I don't know. But we'll find out!" He said before they scattered.

## Chapter 1728 Unexpected Discovery

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A few more days passed...

While the envoys of the Longus family found out about Minos' advance to the 9th stage, his departure, and the capabilities of the new defenses over Dry City, he had reached the end of his journey in the Western Empire.

It was morning. Minos and Starclaw reached the border of that state with Lusmait, finally entering the last domain west of the Central Continent.

Beyond this state, there was only a great sea even larger than the continent, through which if one always sailed in the same direction, one could reach the east of the Divine Continent.

Minos was not interested in making this very long sea journey, and after entering this last kingdom in the west through a wormhole, he began his investigation.

From the hints left by a descendant of the Longus family who passed by the statue of Henricus Longus in the City of a Thousand Races of the Ancestral Sea, the family headquarters or the clues to it should be in a coastal area of Lusmait.

Soon Starclaw was flying toward the beginning of the coast of that state with the border with the Western Empire, from where they would slowly search for what they were searching for.

The kingdom of Lusmait was not large, and since they had already entered that state near the southern coastline, they quickly reached the starting point of their search.

...

From what Giordano Longus had indicated, the second seat of the Longus family should be located on a mountain near the coast of this state.

So when Minos and Starclaw arrived in this southernmost area, they immediately began their search by flying at low altitudes while watching the nearby mountaintops.

"Look for any sign of human constructions, ruins, or even the presence of humans in small groups," Minos said to his mount as he checked his surroundings. "When they came to this area hundreds of thousands of years ago, the Longus family certainly built a place to live in seclusion, hidden from the world.

So even if they are no longer around here, surely their buildings or evidence of discreet constructions have been left behind."

"OK."

"Considering how good this place should be, the likelihood of human groups or families occupying these areas, if they are no longer around, is not small.

The headquarters of that family in such an area should be very interesting for anyone to live away from trouble, in a quiet, unflashy place.

So even if they're no longer around here, there's a good chance we'll find people around that area."

"What will we do with them?" Starclaw asked.

"If they are just current occupants of that land, nothing. Our goal is to reach that family." Minos said. "Either they are here, or there are hints here of where they went. So if others are in these lands we are looking for, we will merely take the information left by these people and leave."

She understood this but was still curious about why Minos was confident he would find something useful here if this family had left the area.



So while checking the surroundings, she asked. "Why do you think we will find traces of where they went if they left the area? Traces can be erased, and depending on the time since the departure from the area, the chances of us finding something are pretty slim."

"It would be that way for normal things," Minos said. "But those people in the Longus family had some items created by a God, Henricus Longus."

Things created by Gods were precious and difficult to destroy. Even the passage of time had difficulty damaging these creations.

Exemplifying this were the various things that Minos had inherited from Henricus Longus.

The ring of the Spatial Kingdom itself had an engraving made by that man, something that had connected Minos' soul to this item for him to use as he wished but also protected his destiny.

Henricus Longus had left such a thing millions of years ago, and yet this worked perfectly!

"Henricus Longus was not a blacksmith or an array master, so he could not create artifacts. But he could create paintings and music like any human cultivator with at least one mental technique.

He left several such items with this family, from records with melodies to even paintings.

There was space on some of these items for his descendants to record messages."

"So that's how it is..." Starclaw commented, feeling how amazing things related to the Gods were.

Thinking about it, she couldn't help but consider how lucky she had been to be saved by Minos, an heir of a God!

"But that family betrayed you, right? Why would they leave something to direct you to them?" She asked after a moment in silence.

Minos said. "The members of the current generation didn't do that, but their ancestors did.

But you are right in considering that they could have deleted any message. They indeed could. But until recently, they didn't know about me, and it would be better for them to leave those clues for me to catch up with them one day.

Even if they had to subordinate themselves to me, it would be better for them to do that than to have no slice of what I inherited from their ancestor."

"But that has changed recently... Now they have discovered you and want to act against you. Couldn't they have changed in the meantime?"

"There wasn't enough time for that. Changing a message in something left by a God is even possible, but it would take a few decades if high-level Demigods did it." Minos stated confidently. "If they knew about me decades ago, I would be dead by now, Starclaw."

"That makes sense." She said as she turned her focus to the mountains near that coastal area.

As silence returned for the two to focus on scouring the surroundings, Minos noticed something that fit what they were looking for.

He narrowed his eyes and looked more closely at a mountain peak where a group of humans seemed to be living.

He then said. "Starclaw, let's check that place out. There seems to be some kind of construction on top of that mountain that leads to the inside of it. Maybe that's our location!"

Looking in the direction pointed out by Minos, this large gray-feathered bird saw that place more closely and promptly prepared for them to land there.

There could be powerful enemies in the surroundings, so the two prepared to protect themselves, flee, or attack.

Meanwhile, they were using their soul senses and sensory abilities to perceive the levels of the people in that place.

In doing so, Minos felt spiritual fluctuations that he already knew!

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Chapter 1729 Proposal

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"Spiritual Saints and weaker cultivators... They're no big deal." Starclaw commented as she slowly lowered her altitude to land in the middle of that area.

Meanwhile, Minos was looking at two people in that place, two high-level Spiritual Saints.

"Aren't those King and Queen Vogel?" He opened his mouth in surprise, unexpectedly finding the members of that royal family he had set the Church to chase.

"Uh? You know them?" Starclaw heard that and couldn't help but be curious about the histories between these people.

Minos shook his head affirmatively. "Sort of. I met on a few occasions, but soon after, they began their escape from Spiritual Church men. Since then, I haven't heard of their group.

I didn't expect that they were hiding here!"

After being thrown into a disastrous situation because of Abe's mistakes, the survivors of his family fled across the Ancestral Sea and eventually reached Lusmait.

In such a kingdom, they had moved around a few times until they reached this reclusive and peaceful place years ago.

There they had not only restarted their lives but were slowly flourishing.

Previously the strongest of this family was someone at level 77, but currently, several such individuals could be seen in the surroundings.

At the same time, the former King Vogel had improved his cultivation and was currently at level 79!

Minos realized this quickly, thinking about how this family had escaped certain death for the Spiritual Church to be found by him now.

'Their luck is not good at all...' He laughed just before jumping off Starclaw's back and landing moments later in the middle of that mountaintop where the Vogel family village was.

When he landed in the middle of that area, all the strongest cultivators sensed his presence and moved.

As Starclaw transformed into her humanoid version and stopped behind Minos, several Vogel family warriors surrounded the two.

Among these people, the former Vogel King and his wife appeared there, fearing what these experts wanted with them.

Their place was very inconspicuous and had nothing of great value for tens of square kilometers. At the same time, the top of this mountain had nothing exposed but simple houses, so they couldn't help but worry about the intentions of these visitors.

'What do such strong experts want with us?' The father of the late Abe Vogel wondered until he and his wife got close enough to see the faces of these newcomers.

When they arrived in front of Minos and Starclaw, they realized why some of their men looked so shocked as they stared at these two!

Starclaw was powerful, but if they were subservient, their chances of survival would not be so terrible.

The problem with everything there was the young level 80 Spiritual Sage!

"Minos!"

"Minos Stuart!"

Husband and wife shouted almost simultaneously, not believing that this enemy had found them in this place.

Not only that, the damned thing was now a fucking Spiritual Sage!

Minos was just a Spiritual Emperor when they first met him, but now...

"King and Queen Vogel, it's been a long time, huh? We haven't seen each other for 30 years or so?" Minos smiled at those people, noticing how terrified they were.

"A little less than that..." Abe's father said, feeling that his family was lost.

There was nothing they could do to face this terrible opponent!

"Hmm, that's right... Ah, time does pass quickly. At that time, you were running away from the Spiritual Church. I didn't expect you would be here." He said, remembering the past a bit. "I thought you had died or left the continent.

I honestly would have gone to the Divine Continent if I were in your place."

"The trip would have been too costly for a family the size of mine." Abe's father said as everyone in the surrounding area was too afraid of the situation to say anything.

Even Abe's mother, who had always been somewhat proactive, was silent, watching Minos.

Minos was not bothered by the silence of these people and understood that it really would have been difficult for this family to move to the Divine Continent.

After all, it wouldn't be just one or two people fleeing but dozens!

There were no more children around now, but there had been decades ago when they had left Vogel to begin their escape.

"Anyway, what do you want here? Are you here to kill us, Minos?" The former King Vogel mustered his courage to ask this, feeling that the tension in the surroundings was too high and that he needed to clear things up with this person. "I was never your enemy.

Everything that happened back there had been Abe's doing. But from what I hear, you killed him, didn't you? I think that should end our business.

We also wanted to kill that fucking traitor."

Minos was silent, looking at the people in the area, young Spiritual Kings and Spiritual Generals watching him in fear from inside some houses.

He said after a while. "It is true. Our affairs are settled. I killed Abe, and Vogel belongs to me."

The people in the surrounding area sighed before they felt the pressure on them increasing.

"But I am an outer member of the Church, an organization that wishes your deaths..." Minos said, playing with these people.

Abe's mother, level 78, then gathered her courage and said. "If you are going to do this, do it at once." She looked at her husband and said. "Honey, we tried our best, but fate is not with us. But we won't die humiliated!"

That man clenched his fists, feeling that his wife's words were indeed appropriate.

If Minos would kill them, let him do it once and for all and stop his threats.

On the other hand, they were not totally incapable of action!

They could still sacrifice themselves and finish everything in their own way.

Minos saw the determination in some of those eyes and said. "I can close my eyes and pretend I didn't see you..."

The ancient King Vogel observed him and asked. "If?"

"If you guys work for me."

"What?"

"Work for him?"

"No way! Impossible! We cannot return to the Church's domain."

The people in the surrounding area finally recovered some courage to comment.

But then Minos said. "Work for me in the western region. Watch the situation of these states in the war that must happen soon and send your results to the Black Plain.

That's all I want from you. Be my eyes and ears in this place and, when necessary, my messengers. That is the price for me to keep your secret and not kill you."

...

## Chapter 1730 Quick Fusion

When faced with Minos' offer, the people of that family, for the first time since fleeing Vogel, had to think about what it would be like to subordinate themselves to this great enemy.

Minos had caused the disgrace of this family, having obviously acted out of self-interest against this family in order to gain power over Vogel.

But now they had to subordinate themselves to him knowing this...

It wasn't easy, but the alternative was certain death, so these people knew they would have to get used to the idea of becoming his subordinates.

Abe's mother clenched her fists angrily while her husband looked at the ground, pondering this possibility.

If it were only him, he would honestly rather die than have to bow to this person.

He understood Minos' side, for Abe had given plausible justifications for this northerner to do all he had done. But that didn't change this man's thoughts about how cruel the Stuart Emperor had been to them because of his own greed.

Minos could have just taken his revenge on Abe and those of his faction without putting a mark of death on all the members of the Vogel family. But he had not done this out of self-interest!

Considering this alone, this man would rather die than bow and accept Minos' orders.

However, he had the lives of dozens of people in this small village in his hands to protect.



If he were selfish, all these people would die, even if some of them would rather serve Minos.

So he clenched his fists and said. "All right, we will serve you as eyes, ears, and messengers. As long as you no longer threaten us and you let us live in peace in this place, we will follow through with this agreement."

"Patriarch!"

"What? Are we really going to do this?"

Some elders who would rather die than join Minos raised their voices, not understanding the decision of the former King Vogel.

Minos said nothing seeing these people opposing, watching the situation resolve itself.

"We have no choice. Our young people have a lot to live for, and we can't decide their fate like this." Patriarch Vogel said firmly. "Plus, if we were all supposed to die here, then why did we run from the church all these years?"

Living under the rules of Minos was not our intention, but it is the only option ahead of us. Otherwise, our lineage will disappear from this world, and all the sacrifices of the past decades will have been in vain!"

Those less happy with this decision curled their heads, feeling terrible about it.

But one of them was more unhappy than all the others!

"No! I lost my wife, two children, and grandchildren because of Minos Stuart! I will never bow my head to him!" This elderly woman said as she exuded her level 77 aura, trying to move under the pressure of Minos' presence.

The elders in the surrounding area looked at her and widened their eyes, sensing that she was about to put everything to waste.

"Elder..." The matriarch of that family muttered, sensing the danger of all of them being wiped out by the ill-considered decision of one of them.

But it was too late for her or the other members of that family to try to convince that person otherwise.

By the time they realized what she wanted, she was already activating her sacrifice!

"What a nostalgic sight... How often have I not seen opponents sacrificing themselves before me?" Minos muttered as he appeared behind that woman. "In the past, I would have had to worry, but not now." He murmured into one of her ears. "Without my permission, you can't do that."

With those words, the dark energy about to form in front of that woman disappeared before it even condensed.

A dark vortex appeared at the base of that woman's neck and swallowed up all her cultivation, also taking her vitality as she aged significantly in the blink of an eye.

"Shi..." She tried to say her last word, but before she could finish, her body turned to dust, and she disappeared after a light wave of wind blew towards her.

Everyone saw a sacrifice being stopped for the first time, shocked at what Minos had just done.

He had moved behind that woman so fast that no one there had noticed him moving. But not only that, his movement to stop the sacrifice had contradicted everything they thought they knew about cultivation.

'How? How is that possible?' Someone else thought, feeling that sacrificing himself would really be a mistake.

But Starclaw realized what Minos had just done.

She closed her eyes and reviewed the scene that had just unfolded in front of her.

'Minos teleported behind that woman by a spatial distortion and then sealed the space in her surroundings using her spirit gland. This swallowed all the energy of the sacrifice, but it was not stopped.

The sacrifice was completed. It just didn't harm us at all. That's why she died that way!' She thought, impressed with Minos' abilities.

It seemed simple what he had done, but it was extremely difficult because of the speed with which everything had to be done.

At the same time, how he had degraded all that energy was so impressive that this beast judged that few beings in the entire Spiritual World could do something similar.

'But it is amazing how he can fuse his techniques so quickly...'

While only Starclaw understood what had happened, Minos sighed, feeling the weight of fusing his 7th and 9th techniques to stop this sacrifice from killing everyone else in the surrounding area.

He and Starclaw were in no danger from the sacrifice of a mere level 77 Spiritual Saint, but that could have decimated the people in the surrounding area.

"So? What is your decision? Will you prefer certain death, or will you subordinate yourselves to me?" He asked, not giving those people any more time.

Even those still unhappy at having to bow to Minos had lost their hopes of dying with some honor. If they tried anything, they would only waste their strength and leave their juniors and descendants without support in this cruel world.

Then in a few fractions of a second, everyone in the surroundings bent their knees and said.

"Please give us your orders, Your Majesty!"

Even the young Spiritual Generals and Spiritual Kings came out of the houses they were in to kneel, swearing their eternal loyalty to Minos and the Black Plain Empire.

Minos stopped pressing the people of this village and smiled before using his 9th technique to seal the agreement he had proposed.

...