

Black Plain 1731

Chapter 1731 Closer Than You Think

After a few moments after the quick death of the level 77 elder, everyone in that mountaintop village received contract seals, making Minos' agreement with them official.

With that done, Minos would no longer worry about these people.

The contract seal he had signed with these people was not as strong as a Soul Contract, but as long as no one there became 100% stronger than him, they would be obligated to fulfill the agreement.

Minos was confident in his cultivation speed, so he wasn't bothered that his contract couldn't have the guarantee of the heavens and the lightning tribulation.

"Very well, you are now my subordinates. I will communicate with my people, and they will initiate contact with you." Minos said to the patriarch and Matriarch Vogel as he was already walking towards the entrance to the underground of this area. "But now I have other matters to attend to. Most of you can return to what you were doing."

"What does Your Majesty want here? Didn't you come to us because of us?" Abe's father questioned.

Minos smiled upon hearing that. "No, I am looking for a good place to live in seclusion, where an ancient organization probably abandoned long ago.

That place must contain some magnificent signs."

Minos had no way of knowing for sure that the Longus family was no longer in this area of Lusmait. But he felt this family had moved, as this would give the current generation more security to stand against him.

Hence, he was considering that there was more chance that this power had abandoned its former home in this area long ago.

"Magnificent signs?" The woman accompanying Minos beside her husband asked, looking at the Vogel patriarch.

He looked at his wife and shook his head, indicating he had no idea what it could be.

He said. "There is nothing like that here. At least I haven't seen anything that would draw the attention of someone like Your Majesty."

"Hmm, let me look at this place then," Minos said, sensing that probably the former site of the Longus family in this kingdom was not the current home of the Vogel family.

"It looks like we'll have to move more." Starclaw knew that there was a possibility that these people might not have noticed unique things around there, but from Minos' previous words, the message left behind shouldn't be that hard to find.

In this case, this was probably not the place they were looking for.

And in fact, this was not Minos' point of interest. After a few minutes of investigating the area, he and the bird realized that although the place contained good features, it must have been built less than 300,000 years ago, and there were no signs of powerful items there.

The site left by the Longus family in this place should be at least 800,000 years old since its construction and would undoubtedly have something to indicate the presence of very high-level items.

Realizing they would have to keep moving to find the Longus family's clues, Minos and Starclaw would soon decide to leave.

"Patriarch Vogel, pay attention to this region. I hope your information will help me in the future." Minos said while already standing on top of the bestial body of his mount.

Everyone in that village heard that and soon after saw him and that gray-feathered bird walking away from there.

Sighs spread through the surroundings, but since their lives had not been so significantly changed, they would soon return to their activities.

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After leaving the Vogel family village, Minos and Starclaw would travel around for 5 hours, all the while scouring the surroundings of this coastal area of Lusmait.

By the time night was approaching, they had passed two other mountains with similar characteristics to the Vogel family's place but had no luck in finding the remains of the Longus family.

The current occupants of these two places were relatively weak beasts for the level of the kingdom they were in, so they had encountered no difficulties on these two brief visits.

With this, they were getting closer to the central area of the west coast of this kingdom.

Fortunately, the capital and most of the human cities in Lusmait were further north in the state, where they were closer to the larger cities of the Western Empire, this state's neighbor and great ally.

Lusmait and the Western Empire had very good relations, and people from both states could move freely through each other without major customs barriers.

Precisely because of this, the southernmost part of the kingdom, where Minos was investigating earlier, was less populated and with less human presence.

But as they approached this domain's most densely populated area, Minos and Starclaw slowly had to take alternate routes to avoid human groups.

They were doing this at the moment, standing at the base of a mountain while waiting for a human group ahead to move for them to continue their investigations.

Meanwhile, both took advantage of the stop to eat and rest a bit.

"I think the information you have may be wrong..." Starclaw commented to Minos, feeling they had already surveyed most of the area he had said such a place should be.

Minos also felt the same way and considered that perhaps the message he had received was not entirely sincere.

'Did that person trick me? Or did he just not give me all the answers?' He considered as he looked at the fire where some vegetables were grilling.

"It could be that I misunderstood. The place is not at the top of a mountain but at the bottom." He said to his mount after a few moments of thinking.

"Oh?" That creature looked around, scanning the mountain base where they were.

As she did so, she suddenly felt something and frowned.

"A place like that?" She pointed in the direction of a giant portal in front of a small stream at the base of that mountain.

Minos looked in the direction she pointed, where an ancient stone portal was.

When he looked closer, using his visual ability, he noticed a spatial distortion in that place. "That must be the place! Quick, let's see what's there!"

Quickly he and Starclaw moved in the direction of that portal in front of where a small stream passed at the foot of the mountain.

When they got there, Minos immediately walked over the water, passing over the spatial distortion that had there that made it look like that was just a mountain base.

"What?" Starclaw was surprised to realize that, in fact, that subtle distortion, which could barely be noticed if not observed closely, actually hid a totally different place.

In front of them was not the beginning of a mountain but a lake that led into the interior of that mountain, with an entrance about 300 meters from where they were standing.

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Chapter 1732 Invaders

Upon entering that secret place, Minos and Starclaw immediately crossed the lake in front of them, heading deeper into the mountain ahead.

However, as they were moving, they both noticed the movement of people in the vicinity of the entrance of the construction made inside that mountain.

"There are people here!" Starclaw sensed the spiritual fluctuations of these people in the surroundings and immediately scanned the area for more cultivators.

Minos frowned as he saw those people moving in formation as if they were preparing for something.

"They're going to activate some kind of barrier." He said before Starclaw shouted in a more altered tone.

"There are high-level Spiritual Sages and Demigods around here, Minos!"

"What?"

As strong as he was, Minos' senses were less keen than that of this level 87 creature, so he had not yet sensed the three low-level Demigods that existed within that mountain.

He had only noticed some high-level Spiritual Sages coming towards them when he heard Starclaw's agitated words.

"Shit! We have to get into that place at any cost." He said to himself.

Instantly after that, Minos displayed his Soul Avatar as he activated his Indestructible Body, striking against the defensive formation those people outside the mountain were already forming.

His fist quickly approached the defensive formation of those people, while the friction with the air made their surroundings chaotic.

Then, when his fist hit a thick defensive layer raised by dozens of cultivators, forceful winds spread to the surroundings as cracks grew in that barrier.

"Shit!"

"Invaders! Damned invaders are attacking us!"

Some of the weaker ones shouted, pleading for help through their communicators.

Unfortunately for the group on that mountain, even though low-level Demigods were faster than Minos, his action had been too fast, and he soon overcame those first barriers in his path.

Boom!

The defensive barrier of those dozens of people broke down as the body of the Soul Avatar of Minos passed them by.

"Aaaaagh!"

Shrieks of pain broke out in the surroundings as those who had tried to lift that defensive barrier felt the injuries to their souls from their defenses together, having been easily broken by Minos.

By overtaking these people, Minos entered that building inside that mountain and immediately used chaotic gravity to kidnap some low-level Spiritual Sages.

When Starclaw stopped beside him in a defensive position, already in her bestial form, Minos' level was already at level 82 while some of his hostages were weaker.

His Devouring Art was absorbing the energies of these people while he displayed an aura as strong as cultivators of peak level 89.

"Who are you, people? Why are you attacking us?" A level 90 man, the strongest of the group of Demigods who rushed over there, asked as several high and mid-level Sages gathered behind them.

Minos looked at these people and said. "I do not wish your harm. I am merely searching for something that existed in this place long before your arrival here."

He knew that these people were not members of the Longus family. Why was that? Besides the fact that no one recognized him immediately, something that should happen, given the techniques that Henricus Longus had left for him, these people were using this place in the wrong way.

At the entrance to this place was a board with the word protection, something written by Henricus Longus.

Such a thing could be activated to form a high-level grade-4 defensive barrier, something that only someone knowing the code would be enough to use.

The descendants of Henricus Longus would definitely know this, and it made no sense for a group like this not to use such a thing to protect themselves.

"You do not wish our harm?" A level 90 woman asked while laughing awkwardly. "You have the nerve to say that after attacking us and making several of our brothers your hostages?"

"I am only ensuring my safety," Minos said, looking intently at those 3. "I saw that they didn't even give me a chance to explain myself and already started forming their defenses... I had to attack, or it would be impossible for me to get in here.

But I really don't want to fight. Give me safe passage into the interior of this mountain, and I will leave without any further trouble."

"Humph! You are very arrogant! You think you can challenge us by being a mere Sage?" The third of those level 90 elders questioned him, already with his Soul Avatar activated.

This man's avatar was much denser than Minos' and looked almost like a giant human's body, similar to this man with white hair and a goatee.

Starclaw felt fear as she saw this man using his soul projection to scare them and asked. "What are we going to do? Are you sure these people are not the ones you are looking for?"

"I do. I don't recognize that elder's Soul Avatar. If he were a member of the family I'm looking for, he would definitely have a different technique...

That is merely a Silver-grade soul technique." Minos said, in a defensive position, as he kept his hostages inside his soul projection.

"We have no choice. We have to fight them. I need the information in that place." He said, making that creature regret choosing to follow him.

"We will die if we have to fight them. Not even you can fight against Demigods!"

Minos ignored the fear of his mount and said in her mind. 'Can you take care of those below your level? I'll deal with the rest.'

Gulp!

She looked at Minos, shocked, 'Are you serious? We're talking about three Demigods and 12 high-level Spiritual Sages!'

'Hmm, I'll take the Spiritual Sages out of the fight and find a way to trick the three Demigods. You just need to hold your position and prevent them from activating some kind of array that will prevent our escape.'

'All right, I can do that.' She informed, dropping her gaze to focus on the 40 opponents she would have to deal with.

Most of them were low-level Sages, so she was confident of battling them if Minos took care of two stronger ones there.

With that, Minos wasted no more time and immediately flew toward the opposing group while activating his techniques simultaneously.

Spatial Sword!

Without warning, 100 spiritual swords suddenly appeared in the vicinity of the group in the path of Minos, coming from several different directions.

As they flew towards the strongest ones there, everyone felt the restrictive ability of Minos' technique imbued in each of the swords.

"Shit! Get ready!"

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Chapter 1733 High-Level Movements

The Spatial Sword had evolved greatly by this point and now gave Minos much more power and ability, far above what he had when he was at the 8th stage.

Being 25% stronger than it was a few months ago when he was still at level 79, every spiritual sword created by Minos in the surroundings could endanger even the lives of level 89 Sages!

Therefore, when they appeared, freezing the spaces through which they passed, everyone in the surroundings became much more serious, noting that they had to be careful against this strange opponent.

Even though he was only at level 82, Minos could threaten even the Demigods there!

As 10th-stage people, they had extremely strong bodies, one more technique than Sages, and massive cultivation. But that didn't mean they couldn't suffer from a skilled level 89 Spiritual Sage.

Even though they had advantages against such people, these three would have to be careful, as they could suffer injuries from blows strong enough to kill level 89 Sages.

Upon noticing that this was the power of Minos' technique, all three became serious, showing their soul projections as they moved to dodge the swords coming at them.

Simultaneously, their men in the surrounding area were in danger!

Divine Temple!

The level 90 woman made a few hand seals as she stopped moving while the energy in her surroundings solidified, forming small temples on top of her and some high-level Sages in the surroundings.

As she defended her people, the other two attacked in Minos' direction.

Titans Hands!

One of the two Demigods moved his hands against each other, quickly approaching Minos' body by flying forward.

Minos had already seen this and circulated his energies to activate his 7th technique, affecting the gravity in his surroundings.

Chaotic Gravity: Repulsion!

The moment this technique showed itself, the avatar's hands greatly slowed, allowing Minos to move out of its reach.

Soon after, the two hands crashed into each other, making a loud crashing sound, while the wind and spiritual energy in the surroundings became chaotic.

The other Demigod saw this and didn't hesitate, striking hard against Minos.

Ancestral Roots!

Great roots sprang up from the rocks at the entrance of that mountain, moving like snakes toward Minos.

Divine Seal: Spatial Distortion!

Minos made the gestures of a seal and then clapped his hands together while a golden seal appeared in his surroundings.

Then the gravity in the vicinity stopped working normally, and all those below level 90 felt for a second the gravity decrease 10 times and then increase 100 times.

At first, the people there floated, losing control over their bodies, hitting the walls and the ceiling of that entrance. But then their bodies were suddenly accelerated downwards.

Chaotic Gravity: Spatial Distortion!

So when the snake-like moving roots flew like spears toward the great avatar of Minos, the seal shone brightly, and they passed through his body.

But none of them hit him, and immediately these attacks were directed at the defensive temples on the many men in the surrounding area, protected by that level 90 woman.

"Aaaagh!"

The first sounds of pain came from these Spiritual Sages who thought they were protected from Minos' spiritual swords, feeling the blows from one of their leaders.

Luckily what protected them was the technique of a Demigod, so their suffering had not been deadly serious.

"Damn it! He just used a fusion!" One of those two men shouted as the woman felt the weight of having her defenses destroyed by her leader.

"Fucking trespasser!" The stronger of the three said, seeing that it would not be simple to fight Minos.

But just when he thought Minos would continue this high-level dance, Emperor Stuart activated his mental technique and looked in the direction of the high-level Sages, still unharmed.

Infinite Dream!

In the next second, as several of these men fell unconscious in their surroundings, Minos manipulated space and appeared 200 meters ahead of where he was standing.

"I'll be going ahead. See you later!" He shouted, flying at extremely high speed after that, so fast that by the time his words reached the ears of these people, he was well ahead on his way into the interior of this mountain.

Minos' speed was faster than the speed of sound, so by the time they heard his words, those Demigods had already lost sight of Emperor Stuart.

"The bastard is heading into the interior of our headquarters!" The one who had tried to crush Minos with his hands shouted before moving to the core of this place.

The other two Demigods frowned, and before long, they were opening spatial cracks as they moved into the most important locations of that place.

As they split up, one of them started chasing Minos, while the others went to protect the most important points of this area.

With their departure, only Starclaw and a dozen low and mid-level men of the 9th stage remained behind at the entrance of this mountain.

This bird looked at the surroundings and saw the unconscious people here and there, shocked at what Minos had just done.

'Can he really complete those plans?' She wondered, temporarily ignoring the humans in the surroundings.

But when one of them attacked her, she immediately focused on those people, feeling much better now that she had no people stronger than her around.

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Meanwhile, Minos followed the corridors inside this building, quickly reaching an area inside the mountain that was like a large hollow area covered by the stones of this natural formation.

There several small houses and buildings were built in the middle of the area, which looked like a village of a few hundred people.

Minos used his visual ability to observe the surroundings and soon found one of the paintings made by Henricus Longus in the central part of the village.

One of his opponents was quickly approaching him when he saw that another had already appeared next to this painting.

Seeing this, Minos hurried up, running towards that town while mischievously smiling.

'You want to stop me, but isn't it more important to stop your family members, allies, and friends from trying to kill each other?'

Darkness slowly spread to the surroundings of that inner area of the mountain, which was illuminated by something on top of the mountain.

The dark mist escaping from the Soul Avatar of Minos quickly covered most of that village, reaching the hundreds of people there.

Dark Sea!

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Chapter 1734 The Advantage Of Minos

The moment Minos placed that village under the shadows of his soul ability, immediately the inhabitants unaware of what was happening expressed their concerns.

Some of the more sensitive ones felt a chill run through their bodies and stopped what they were doing to look from one side to the other, searching for the cause of this reaction.

Others didn't even have the chance to notice that someone was about to manipulate them and simply had the mere reaction of momentarily stopping what they were doing and feeling a great blank in their minds.

For a brief instant, nothing was in their minds. It was as if they had suddenly been disconnected from reality and forgotten all about themselves, where they were, and who they were.

The white gave way to darkness in the next instant as monstrous creatures rose from the ground, whispering wicked things, trying to corrupt them.

"Kill them!"

"They have fooled you for too long... Show them your strength! Show them who you are!"

Some of the most vulnerable were carried away by the compelling tone of darkness in their hearts, showing no resistance to Minos' malicious action.

A few moments after much of that village was covered by darkness, dozens of people began to move about strangely, drawing weapons and striking out toward anyone nearby.

Swoosh!

"Aaaagh!"

"Bastard! What are you doing?"

"Ah, help! Help! My mother has gone crazy!"

Cries arose from different parts of that village as brothers turned on brothers, men turned their weapons on their wives, and sons and friends began to attack each other.

Without warning, someone would pull a weapon and strike decisively toward those near them, totally controlled by the fear in their hearts.

The Demigod flying behind Minos realized this and narrowed his eyes, noticing that this village could experience a bloodbath in a few moments!

"What diabolical skill!" He muttered, not being able to believe Minos' ability to influence so many people so quickly.

The other two Demigods around that village, at two important points in their headquarters, also noticed what Minos was doing, and they both felt the same way.

Frustration and helplessness!

The woman from earlier clenched her fists and abandoned her position. "I have no choice but to try to stop this, patriarch. If we do nothing, there's no point in protecting this place.

What value will it have if our people die?"

That stronger man there saw her moving to try to stop the many already crazed people around that village and shook with anger, glaring furiously at Minos.

'Chris, help Sybil stop our agitated family members!' The leader of that family shouted in the mind of that man chasing Minos. 'I'll take care of the damned invader!'

'But...'

'We have no option here. That bastard's ability is hard to counteract. I can feel that even though we are stronger than him, a single one of you can't undo all this damage alone.' He said to Chris.

As Chris stopped chasing Minos, Emperor Stuart immediately smiled as he saw this, noting that his plan would work well.

Unluckily for these people, he had almost nothing to lose there, so he could take his chances against people stronger than him.

That was Minos' advantage!

He didn't have to protect anyone in this situation, unlike these three level 90 Demigods, who either stopped him or stopped their family members from killing each other!

As leaders and people committed to their own family, they could not simply allow an avoidable massacre to happen, lessening their pressure against this invader.

"Elder, you should also join those two. I'm afraid they alone will not be able to control everyone in this city." Minos shouted as he moved quickly toward his target, near that man.

"Don't try to fool me, brat! You are strong, but your skill is not that tremendous."

"Are you sure about that?" Minos smiled.

After he asked that question, he activated his Chaotic Gravity, this time using the previous evolution of that technique, Meteors of Destruction!

As he flew around the outskirts of that village, several of the buildings in the surrounding area suddenly began to crack, shaking as they were drawn to three points of high gravitational density near Minos.

Seeing this, the Demigod feared what Minos was planning and flew towards him, trying to hit him with his own body since other approaches had failed.

In doing so, he went through space and tried to grab Minos' Soul Avatar to incapacitate him from continuing what he was planning.

But Minos noticed the spatial fluctuations in his surroundings and skillfully deflected, changing his position by manipulating space.

The three cores of his meteors remained where they were while more and more pieces of buildings joined them.

Seeing that, the level 90 Demigod facing Minos felt a chill run down his spine and put those three things into his focus.

'I have to stop that first!'

He rushed to attack those things, but just as he moved in that direction, those three clusters of rocks moved downward, gaining a lot of acceleration because of Minos.

"Deal with it, my friend!" Minos laughed, sending those three meteors in the direction where the two Demigods were too busy with their family members trying to kill each other to solve this problem.

"Shit!"

The patriarch of that family missed his target and noted that he had no choice.

He manipulated space and appeared below where those mass clusters were falling, placing a defensive position over part of the village.

In that instant, when everyone was too busy trying to protect this place, Minos took his cue and moved until he reached his goal, a statue in the middle of that village.

At the foot of that statue was a small plaque next to a picture the size of a portrait.

That portrait was something difficult to analyze at first glance but was very simple to Minos.

'That is Henricus Longus' vision of the future.' He looked at that, where was the representation of a great evil trying to crush the world.

A great darkness was drawn over it while a person was standing amid that darkness and the world.

Minos then placed one of his hands on that thing, infusing his spiritual energy to receive the message that was supposed to be there.

"Hey! What's he doing?" The woman shouted, seeing Minos touching that thing that had already caused the death of several of their family members.

Seeing Minos put his hands there so decisively, the patriarch of that family was silent.

'Did he come here for that? Does he happen to know how to pass the test on that thing?'

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Chapter 1735 Memory Of The Past

As far as the people in that family knew, that statue represented some ancient expert, and the painting next to the small text on that statue was loaded with a high cultivation understanding.

Just by looking at it, one could understand many things about cultivation and easily pave one's journey to the 9th stage.

Because of this, having found this place thousands of years ago, the Spiritual Saint who had founded this family decided to establish his organization's headquarters there and has lived in seclusion since then.

After generations, the first Spiritual Demigod emerged, being that level 90 man who currently commanded this family.

But throughout this family's time in this place, some of its members had tried to connect to the picture at the base of the statue, for besides the dense cultivation understanding, it also exuded another feeling. It told everyone in the surrounding area that true 'gold' would be obtained when one tried to connect to the painting.

Unfortunately, the members of this family who tried to do so died of spiritual exhaustion without exception!

According to these people's theories, this was probably a test left by an expert. But with none of them having achieved the minimum to fulfill the demands of this test, they didn't know what it was about and only theorized about it.

Seeing Minos committing this suicidal act, all three Demigods suffering to protect their people, they couldn't help but open their mouths in shock, seeing that all this had been just for him to attempt this stupid act.

But as they thought about it and freed their people from Minos' previous actions, Emperor Stuart felt part of his consciousness being taken to another place.

This place looked very much like the one represented by Henricus Longus' painting, a world slowly being surrounded by darkness and only one standing out to try to prevent the end of the world as it was.

Minos then saw that person with his back to the painting glowing in an intense golden light and changing shape.

Blond hair grew from this person's brown hair, while his white skin had a golden glow.

A armor appeared around his body, growing along with what appeared to be a throne.

A halo appeared above this person's head while his eyes were closed.

His eyes moved from side to side, and then his hands closed, causing a gigantic hourglass to appear behind him.

Then that person's eyes opened, revealing a golden iris as bright as the surroundings.

"My heir, you have come a long way and are about to reach your destination." This man opened his mouth, and a voice that was ancient and full of power sounded until it reached Minos' ears, causing him to frown and stare at it.

"This is but a mere memory recorded on a screen, but know that this is your destiny. Sooner or later, you will be alone against this darkness.

I hope my descendants can help you reach this point in your journey more easily." He said as the hourglass behind him moved slowly around his body, like the hand of a clock.

Time!

Minos opened his eyes wide and felt Henricus Longus' innate ability for the first time as the surroundings changed like a recording returning quickly.

The hourglass near Henricus Longus' figure moved counterclockwise, circling his body rapidly, while his eyes shone like a star.

Gulp!

'Incredible!' Minos struggled not to vomit, feeling a terrifying sensation capable of even unbalancing his solid spiritual foundation.

'Even though he left the Spiritual World so long ago, can his painting activate his innate ability?' Minos wondered, discovering this now since he didn't know much about what Henricus Longus had left for him there.

As he was thinking, the hourglass stopped moving, and the distorted surroundings stabilized, showing the interior of that mountain that Minos had just invaded.

In particular, he could see a group of people moving around the sides of the village, carrying things with them as if they were leaving.

In the middle of the place, where the statue representing the God of Time stood, a man was prostrate, as part of his soul connected to that painting there.

"Ancestor, I am sorry that the family has to disappoint you again. But we are weak to continue living in this state.

If we do not find a better place for ourselves, I fear that when the chosen one reaches us, we will be useless to him.

Therefore, I will move the family to the Divine Continent. I hope to find a way to stop the current decay."

The man left this message engraved along with the picture drawn by Henricus Longus, while his level 93 aura was easy to notice.

'Level 93?' Minos sensed that and frowned.

'It seems that the family was facing a decrease in the number of talents... Hmm, they must not have succeeded in their attempt in the Divine Continent, or they wouldn't have used that cowardly approach with me.'

As he was thinking, the man in that memory recorded on that board said. "Our family will try to find a place in Grinia Empire. I hope the chosen one will arrive here and make his way there. We will be waiting for him in the forests."

'Grinia?' Minos considered that name, knowing exactly where to go.

The Divine Continent had only three states, empires that had existed since the time of Henricus Longus.

Grinia Empire was one of the three states on that continent, the closest to the Central Continent from the Snow area.

He clenched his fists and made up his mind to travel there!

'I will return to my state and depart from the Snow area...'

As he was thinking, the surroundings of that memory suddenly froze.

The blond man looked into Minos' eyes and said. "I hope you will achieve victory against the challenges in your path. Now go. There is no time to waste!"

The surroundings became more transparent, gradually returning to normal, as Minos found himself inside his body again, in front of that statue.

As he looked at that place, he felt the people in the surroundings still battling against his techniques.

He then stood up, startling those people who had seen him finish infusing his energies into that painting, and then, in a single breath, returned as if nothing had happened.

"He managed to overcome the challenge?" The patriarch of that family exclaimed in shock.

But immediately after realizing his situation and noticing nothing else there, Minos immediately moved toward the exit.

'Time to leave!'

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Chapter 1736 Farewell, My Friends

When Minos manipulated the space in his vicinity and then appeared near the tunnel leading out of this place, those three realized his previous words were indeed true.

He wanted nothing against them; he was just after his goal and would leave once he obtained it.

"Is he really speaking the truth?" The level 90 woman questioned as she felt the people in her surroundings becoming less crazed.

As Minos moved away from the area, the Dark Sea lost its influence over the many people in this village, making the Demigods' job easier and preventing them from spilling the blood of their family members.

The patriarch of this family then made his final move against Minos' meteors, destroying them so that none of them could victimize his family members in the surrounding area.

He shouted. "It doesn't matter if he had no evil intentions. He attacked us and invaded our headquarters. Now it's time for us to take action against him!"

The other man finished checking the people in the surroundings and made sure they were okay before flying toward Minos.

"Come on. The damned thing at least owes us some answers!" He shouted, knowing that now they would no longer have to worry about their people and could act freely against Minos.

Hearing her companions, that woman finally moved on, leaving behind the inhabitants of that village who were now extremely confused by everything that had happened.

Fortunately, no one was killed. Only a few buildings had been damaged by Minos' technique.

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After quickly flying to the exit from inside that mountain, Lothur saw Starclaw entertaining her opponents on the outskirts.

"Let's get going. I've finished what I had to do here!" He shouted, indicating for that creature not to delay.

Amidst his warning, Minos' level decreased to level 81, causing him to lose much of his speed.

"Shit!"

Starclaw saw that but didn't stay to wait it out. She immediately flew out of that place, always looking back.

"Minos, hurry! They'll catch up with you!" She shouted as she saw the three demigods appearing behind him.

"Miserable! Now we've got you!" One of the three shouted, seeing that Minos was getting slower.

Minos frowned and finally used his hostages, hurling them so hard against the surroundings that if these Demigods did nothing, they would die.

"Aaaaagh!"

One of them screamed in terror, but upon feeling the gentle energy of one of his elders, he sighed and stopped screaming.

"You won't get far, trespasser!" The patriarch shouted as he saw Minos finally leaving the cave that led into the interior of that mountain.

Minos was practically within reach, so he was confident of finally capturing this daring young man.

Minos made an ugly expression as he noticed that person's proximity to him. Still, at the crucial moment, he saw the item left by Henricus Longus' relatives at the entrance of that place.

When he noticed it, he saw the light at the end of the tunnel and immediately shot some of his energy in the direction of that item with the word 'protection' written on it.

Instantly after Minos' shot, that item glowed brightly, emitting strong spiritual fluctuations.

Then, as Starclaw looked back apprehensively, she saw a huge barrier forming between the place where the secret base they had invaded was and the lake.

Minos was only half a meter away from where this barrier had formed, outside the protected area of the barrier.

On the other hand, the three Demigods were still inside that protected area!

When they realized that, none of the three could stop in time, and they all crashed into that high-level grade-4 barrier.

"Aaaagh!"

All three shouted at the same time as Minos stopped in front of him, floating just ahead of that barrier.

By now, his cultivation had returned to level 80, and he was breathing agitatedly, having used a lot of his skills in the last few moments.

He now felt exhausted, noticing the sweat on his body and the fatigue of acting against so many powerful enemies.

At the same time, as he stepped out of danger, he couldn't help but stop and sigh.

"You guys almost got me, haha." He laughed right before those people, thanking the heavens for that item left by the Longus family.

In the generation that had left this place, there were people committed to leaving things in this place to help the chosen one not only locate them but even get valuable things for themselves.

If the family were to disappear into the Divine Continent, then it would be essential that something of theirs was left behind to at least contribute positively to the chosen one's journey.

So even though there were valuable things in this place that could have been transported to that other continent, they had been left behind in this place.

Not just anyone could use these artifacts to their fullest. Only those who had Henricos Longus's lineage or the mark he left could do it.

Minos had such a mark on his Spatial Kingdom ring, so he could activate and connect to what that man had left!

'Good thing I saw that thing...' He looked in the direction of the painting with the word 'protection' on it and thanked them once again.

Meanwhile, the three Demigods floated right before him, separated only by that barrier.

"Damned bastard!"

"Release us!"

They shouted as they glared furiously at Minos.

Luckily that barrier didn't stop sound waves from coming through it.

Minos laughed upon hearing that and said. "That would be stupid of me.

But don't worry, this barrier needs to be reactivated every 24 hours, so in one day, it will deactivate, and you will again have access to the outside world."

Barriers like this served to protect, but precisely because of this, they had no openings for people inside them to easily leave the protected area.

Just as they protected, they also trapped those within such an area!

"Invader! Come back here!" The patriarch called out to Minos, seeing him turn and slowly depart.

"Farewell, my friends. We may never see each other again." Minos waved one of his hands, smiling. "If we see each other again, we will certainly remember this battle.

It was fun, I'd say.

Anyway, good luck on your journey!"

After those words, Minos disappeared in front of those people, as they shook with anger at his arrogance, hitting that barrier but not even managing to make it shake.

"That was a close one..." Starclaw sighed as he saw Minos coming up beside him.

"Hmm, forget about it. Let's go back. Now we'll go to my territory, Starclaw."

"Oh?"

"We'll go to the Divine Continent. Then we'll pass through the Black Plain Empire."

Chapter 1737 Start Of A New Sea Voyage

A few weeks later...

After departing from where the Longus family's message was, Minos and Starclaw traveled quickly along the path they had taken in the western region without attracting attention wherever they passed.

They left Lusmait without any problems and then moved through the Western Empire until they reached the Veora Kingdom. From there, Minos and his mount reached the Black Plain Army post further south in the Vogel area.

That had been yesterday when they entered the empire's wormholes network and finally moved all the way across the continent, easily reaching Snow's area this morning.

...

Upon reaching the End area, Starclaw immediately spotted the mountain ranges on the horizon of that area, where snow-capped peaks stretched for thousands of miles.

This was in stark contrast to the outskirts of the largest city in that area, where there was lush vegetation and warm weather at this time of year.

But what struck her most was not the sight of the Endless Snow Mountain Range, the largest mountain formation in the Spiritual World, but rather the spiritual poverty of the area.

After spotting that natural landscape, she couldn't help but comment to Minos as she walked out of the local wormhole port. "That place is truly poor. It amazes me that there are localities like this in our world."

Minos bitterly smiled, considering the local quality had already improved since he had dominated the northern region.

Before him, this area could barely nurture high-level Spiritual Kings. But currently, it could even give rise to Spiritual Emperors, and people at that stage could cultivate in the area even up to intermediate levels of that stage.

But for a level 87 beast, the area was impoverished.

"It's been worse... And it will get better in the future." He commented as he walked beside her, seeing the group of people waiting for him near a local port.

The news was spreading fast, and some local nobles were already at the port where Minos had asked for a ship to be prepared for him and Starclaw.

When he passed Vogel's post the day before, he had sent this order, as he would have to travel by boat and would need a new means of sea transport.

The one he had used to reach the island of the Seraphim Ancient Sarcophagus had been destroyed by Darren, the great level 99 whale.

This information had reached this city minutes ago, and the Snow family was already aware of it, while the Black Plain Army already had Minos' ship ready to leave.

Starclaw saw those weak people near the local harbor and muttered. "It's impressive that someone like you appeared in this place."

"Actually, I am from a worse place than this." Minos laughed. "And until recently, that guy over there had a higher level than mine."

Seeing Adam Snow, the man Minos was talking about, Starclaw opened her mouth, noting this man's level 69 cultivation.

'Minos is currently at level 80... Is that serious?' She looked at him with narrowed eyes, wondering what cultivation speed that was.

Humans cultivated faster than beasts, but this more than 10,000-year-old creature had never heard of such high talent.

Therefore, as they arrived in front of the representatives of the local noble powers, she remained silent, reassessing her master's position.

She thought that Minos had impressive combat skills, but she didn't expect that he was also a cultivation genius.

She knew he wasn't old, but estimating someone's age at their cultivation stage was difficult. Thus, she thought he was at least a few centuries or even close to a thousand years old.

Little did she know Minos had only decades of experience in this world!

While she was thinking about the possibilities, Minos was reunited with old acquaintances from this area.

The former King Snow was there with his son, Ambrose, the current leader of Snow's Assembly.

Besides them, their wives and even the son of Ambrose and Misty were there, along with some patriarchs of local families.

In general, the people there were Spiritual Emperors, but there were a few Spiritual Saints, normally young people who had taken over the local families in recent years.

In the entire northern region of the Central Continent, the old leaders of the area before the Black Plain Empire had abdicated their positions for their sons and daughters to take their places.

These sons and daughters did not have the same limitations as them, as they were young and did not have the same past as them.

Thus, many individuals of Ambrose and Misty's age were there to greet Minos.

Minos was in a hurry, so he did not unwind the conversations, merely greeting those people and promising to help this area develop further in the future.

Those people were also impressed by Minos's fine company, noting that he had either won a new woman or had obtained yet another specialist for the empire.

Many of them greeted Starclaw, pushing this beast away from her thoughts about Minos' extraordinary talent.

When he managed to overcome these people who saw him as if he were a god, Minos finally caught up with his soldiers waiting for him in front of the entrance to the yacht that he and Starclaw would be using.

There he saw Celeste, level 71, and Grace, level 72, waiting for him in formation.

"Your Majesty, we prepared this low-level grade-4 yacht as quickly as we could, given the short time," Grace said as Minos signaled for them to relax.

"Hmm, that will do." He said, smiling at the two.

After a few words with them, he didn't take long and got on that ship with Starclaw, quickly saying goodbye to everyone in the surrounding area.

"That's all folks. Go back to your things. I will be traveling for the next few months, but I hope to hear good news from all of you when I return victorious!" His yacht slowly drifted away from that harbor.

Those who knew what Minos would do clenched their fists, anxious for his return and the distancing of the greatest threat that had ever reached them.

But Celeste and Grace couldn't help but feel apprehensive, for they knew that Minos would face more powerful beings than he could on this journey.

"Sigh... In the blink of an eye, we can no longer do much to help him." Celeste commented as she closed her eyes and remembered when she, Mirya, and others of the Black Plain old guard were actively helping Minos.

Grace was part of that group, although, at the time, she was not as strong as Celeste.

She said. "There is nothing to do. His Majesty is much more talented than we are... But we can help him greatly by keeping order and peace in his domains." She looked toward the direction of the large city where they were standing.

"Here, we can enforce his rules, show the populace where all the good things they have come from, and direct the empire to an even better position." Grace smiled as she looked back toward the ship setting off eastward.

"As His Majesty has always said, alone we may not be influential, but together we make a big difference!"

Chapter 1738 Movements In Grinia Empire

A few weeks after the departure of Minos and Starclaw from the largest city in the Snow area...

By now, the group of envoys sent by the Longus family to deal with Minos had finished their investigations into Minos' whereabouts and what that thing about Dry City was.

With those results, they were awaiting a response from their leaders on the Divided Continent, to whom they had sent the compilation of information they had recently gathered the previous day.

...

"So Minos Stuart is coming to us?" Patriarch Longus wondered aloud as he finished reading the information that had just arrived from the Black Plain Empire.

"It seems that he is not in the least bit afraid of us, patriarch." An elder said while having a smile on his face. "It seems he would rather face us head-on than hide..."

"Haha, a fool. But at least he's not a coward. We would lose any chance of getting what we want if he were smarter." The supreme elder of this family commented in an extremely satisfied tone.

They couldn't act in the Central Continent because of Maximillian Flamen's threats. But in the Divine Continent, everything was different. In this place, Minos Stuart had no protectors, and they had a numerical and geographical advantage.

The patriarch was also pleased and said. "It's good that he's coming. We can settle this in a few more months, and then the Ancestor's Spatial Kingdom will be ours!"

My friends, get the party ready for our beloved chosen one!" He smiled.

"Our men on the Black Plain said that he has advanced to the 9th stage, so we have to take some extra care. His techniques are much stronger now, and he should be able to make new fusions." He said, feeling that it would be good they prepared traps for Minos.

As much as they all felt they could handle against a low-level Spiritual Sage, Minos was a little box of surprises.

Getting ready would cause no harm and put them closer to their goal!

"What about the men on the Black Plain, patriarch? What do we do with them?" A subordinate there in that office asked in a low voice.

"Since the cursed Minos' defenses are excellent against Spiritual Sages, have them wait on the outskirts of Dry City.

If anyone relevant to his family leaves this place, kidnap those people. We'll use them as hostages in case he proves more difficult to deal with than we think now."

...

In another part of the Longus family headquarters...

The members of the faction opposing the family's opposition to Henricus Longus' chosen one, the most relevant members of the group, were preparing for their actions in support of Minos.

It would do them no good to protest within the family and simply tell the world that it was wrong for their leaders to betray their ancestor's will. As weaker people, what they thought didn't matter!

For the family leaders, an act of protest by these people would be a good opportunity to get rid of them!

So the leader of this Minos-friendly faction would obviously not set a direct collision course with the patriarch and the high-ranking elders of the family.

His method was more subtle.

"And so? How are our envoys doing?" A rather muscular woman with several scales across her body asked her leader.

Some of his most trusted faction members left the Longus family headquarters a few weeks ago to begin their plans to support Minos.

That level 86 man then said as he put tea in this woman's cup. "Two of them have arrived at their destinations and are beginning the necessary talks. But we have yet to receive their feedback to know their situation."

"Will they make it? Not everyone would agree to associate with people with such strong enemies."
Another person, standing next to that woman, said.

She agreed. "Even though our pledges are not small, we are still talking about opponents 3, 4 levels higher than theirs."

This group wanted to gain the support of tribes and families they had associated with over the years.

These people were not necessarily allies of the Longus family but rather friends and companions of members of this Minos-friendly faction.

As such, the leader of this group wanted to join forces to try to give Minos some influence within the family.

Bargaining power was what they needed!

The faction leader replied. "Hard to say if they will accept. But some of our people are among the most talented of the younger generation. We are opening up the possibility for these powers to connect more deeply to the Longus family.

At the same time, we will give Saint medicines to each group of 4 Sages that join us... I don't know about you, but I would think hard about this offer.

So I believe we have a good chance of getting support."

Half-breeds of humans and beasts could both cultivate as beasts and as humans.

People like them couldn't use combat or support techniques as pure humans. But there was one exception, they could use cultivation techniques to strengthen their soul power.

But at the same time, they could also use medicines to increase both their spiritual and bodily cultivation.

Because of this, half-breeds had both magnificent physical and spiritual powers, the best parts of beasts and humans.

Upon reaching level 70, each of them could use their beastly form, and even though they couldn't learn techniques, they inherited one innate ability from their human relative and one from their beast relative.

So they had two special abilities which they could develop and strengthen throughout their lives.

As they could raise the quality of these skills with medicine, Saing-grade medicine was extremely valuable to them!

The groups that this faction was trying to attract to their side were groups of half-breeds, so this was particularly valuable to them.

"That makes sense..." Another individual in that location said.

"But how will we do to begin to help the chosen one? The family leaders are already planning to act against him."

"The chosen one of the ancestor must be a fearless man." The leader of such a faction said with conviction. "I believe he will not hide like a coward in the Spatial Kingdom. Then let us prepare for his coming to the Divine Continent.

I want part of our group to start paying attention to the west of the empire. He must come here through the East Sea. Then he will arrive on our west coast."

That said, that group would split up soon after, focusing on continuing their plans.

While those groups were moving, Minos and Starclaw sailed on the high seas, slowly making their way to the Divine Continent.

Chapter 1739 One Of Minos' Plans

After weeks of traveling through the East Sea, Minos and Starclaw had left the northern vicinity of the Central Continent and were approaching the middle area of that sea region.

Their journey was still just beginning, for the distance from the Grinia Empire coast of the largest city in the Snow area was even greater than the distance Minos had traveled between the place in the Western Empire he passed and the floating island where the Seraphim Ancient Sarcophagus lay.

They had a few more months to go before they reached their destination, but they were sailing as fast as they could in their low-level grade-4 yacht.

Unfortunately, they could not risk traveling through wormholes or flying long distances in this area because neither knew the submarine power configuration.

Fortunately, with Starclaw's presence there, no one had approached them in the last few weeks.

There were pirates and groups of beasts that would attack other groups for no reason, sometimes simply to steal other people's things. But even beings like that avoided acting against high-level cultivators.

Starclaw was only at level 87, but she was a high-level Sage who was above more than 95% of the beings in this world.

Therefore, even powerful pirate crews would avoid putting Minos' group in their sights and would only act against them as a last resort.

Thus, the voyage had been smooth so far, as the two sailed in peace, even finding time to train and cultivate.

...

Another day had dawned as Minos' yacht continued to head east.

This morning he and Starclaw were passing through a relatively quiet area, with the sea calm and a sunny sky above them.

The sea breeze was sweaty this morning, and the temperature was pleasant, favoring those who could rest and enjoy the day.

ῥαηδὰς ἤθνε | Meanwhile, inside Minos' yacht, while Starclaw was controlling the yacht in the cockpit, Minos was meditating in this yacht's cultivation and training room.

He was sitting in a lotus position above a brown cultivation cushion in a place that looked like any other normal cultivation room.

While his eyes were closed, high-grade crystals shone brightly in his surroundings as their energy escaped to Minos' body.

Simultaneously, the transparent ceiling of this cultivation room allowed sunlight to enter, illuminating Minos and favoring his cultivation.

His technique had positive effects when trained during the day, especially in daylight.

As such, while Minos circulated his energies through the Solar God Breath, a golden vortex was in his surroundings, causing the spiritual energy and laws nearby to enter his lungs like water running down a drain.

While this was happening, one of Minos' arms glowed in the rainbow colors, while something special came out of the ring of the Spatial Kingdom.

This was the energy of one of the giant bones in that space, which he had placed a seal on weeks ago.

Since that day, Minos' body had been continuously blessed by the intense cultivation comprehensions of that thing.

But not only that, when he cultivated it, he could steal the energies from it with his innate ability in the same way he did when he was in the Spatial Kingdom.

Even without going to that place for weeks, he was continuously managing to steal the cultivation base of that bone!

When he finished another cultivation session, Minos opened his eyes, and his lips arched as he clenched his fists.

'That really is a great advantage! Even without going to the Spatial Kingdom, I can cultivate almost as fast as when I'm there!' He pondered as he looked toward the invisible ring in one of his hands.

He then stood up in a good mood before leaving that area to head to the upper level of his yacht.

After a few steps, he saw Starclaw commanding that yacht and asked. "How much further do you have to go to reach level 88? It would be better for all of us if you could advance before we face my opponents in the Divine Continent."

Hearing this, Starclaw looked at Minos and then forward again, seeing the infinite blue in front of her.

"I'm not far away. I can't say for sure when it will happen, but with the resources you've been giving me, I believe I have a good chance of achieving this before we reach the Longus family." She said after thinking for a while, considering that they didn't know exactly where these people were.

They were sure this family was not on the coast of the Grinia Empire since there were no forests in that place, as the family ancestor had said.

Again, the Longus family could have changed their position over the past few thousand years. But as before, they would have to leave something behind, as it was in the interest of Henricus Longus' own relatives to have a way to bring the chosen one to them.

Whether they would betray the chosen one or not did not matter. In any case, they needed to be found by him, for they needed his help to become stronger.

Even with the change in the family's position at present, this did not change, and they should either be in the same position as said by that man in the message Minos received or have left something behind.

As such, they would have to investigate the whereabouts of this family more internally in Grinia Empire, which could take months to years for them to reach this family.

Hence came Starclaw's estimate!

"Well, that will be crucial to our journey," Minos commented before taking Starclaw's post to give her some meditation time.

Before she moved on with her cultivation, she looked at Minos and asked. "How? You are stronger than me."

"That's true, so looking from an individualistic point of view, this would be more for you to protect yourself than to help me." Minos did not hide the truth with his dry words. "But what if we get allies? Unlike in the Central Continent, where it is tough to find mercenaries at our combat level, in the Divine Continent, things are different.

There are giant organizations there that live by renting out their services, their forces to organizations able to pay their high rewards."

He paused and smiled at her. "It will be difficult for us to get Demigods, but high-level Spiritual Sages would definitely agree to join us!"

"Oh?"

"With a large enough group, Starclaw, we can lessen the disadvantage of not having Demigods on our side!" Minos said confidently, sure that his strongest opponents were at the 10th stage but that they were not impossible to face.

Chapter 1740 Something Else

A few days later...

Minos was controlling his yacht alongside Starclaw as they passed through a more dangerous area of the East Sea.

The East Sea was considered the safest for traveling between the three major continents of the Spiritual World. However, there were dangers even in the safest places.

In particular, the large flow of beings from all the continents and large islands of this world traveling through this sea was something that greatly elevated tensions in parts of this great sea.

In the central part of the East Sea, most of these crews were to be found, for that was where one would have to pass in order to reach one's destination.

Elves, dragons, humans from the Central Continent and the Divine Continent, all of them and more, passed through this area when traveling to one of their destinations.

With so many beings of different origins passing so close to each other, one had to be aware and be careful not to get involved in a chaotic conflict!

Minos knew this, and he and Starclaw were traveling on this part of their journey no longer alternating shifts where one worked and the other cultivated.

...

While sailing this morning, Minos suddenly saw a dot in the distance and narrowed his eyes. "What is that? A ship?" He asked, not being able to see well enough given the distance.

But Starclaw could see better than he could, and as he narrowed his eyes, he noticed that it was not a ship. "No, that looks like an island."

"Island?" Minos frowned, curious about this place, as it was not on his map.

"Hmm, there seem to be two crews stationed there. We'd better avoid them." She stated, looking more closely at that place that had the size of a city of 50,000 humans.

There was no population in such a place, just a small forest that seemed interesting to stop and camp.

Sleeping on a ship was never like sleeping on firm land. So occasionally, even large pirate groups would stop in islanding to rest for a few days.

Starclaw could see that the two crews were doing just that, noting the tents on the outskirts of that island.

But as their boat approached that island, Minos slowly saw that place more closely and realized what it was.

His expression relaxed, and he contemplated that place more closely, seeing some ruins at one end of that island.

"So it was actually you..." He muttered, catching the eye and his mount.

"Hmm? What do you mean?" Starclaw didn't understand what Minos was muttering.

Minos continued looking at that island and said. "The other part of that ruined building you see is in the End area, in my territory. That piece of land has long since been detached from that area."

In the Spiritual World, some theorists said that one day all the continents of this world were parts of one gigantic mainland.

After Minos' discoveries over the years, today, he knew that this was not a theory but a fact!

The ancient theorists were not entirely right after all, what existed before the present era was many times larger than they imagined!

Seeing that place in the central part of the East Sea, Minos could not help but look with different eyes at those ruins, now possessing much deeper knowledge.

Starclaw didn't really understand what Minos was talking about and kept looking in the direction of those ancient ruins, which still had good quality considering the time that had passed.

He asked. "Do you believe that this has millions of years since its construction?"

ῥαῖδας ἦθνε | "Millions of years?" She frowned her eyebrows. "Impossible. No building would last that long abandoned and half-built."

High-level grade-4 buildings could last long if they were well cared for or at least not destroyed. But even they would be degraded after a few hundred thousand years if they went through what those ruins had gone through.

"But it is possible. I affirm that to you." Minos said without going into detail. "Knowing about the body in my Spatial Kingdom, do you still doubt things of such a nature?"

Starclaw knew about the skeletons and the preserved corpse in the Spatial Kingdom. After all, they were too big to hide.

Thinking about it, she was silent, feeling that she might be wrong.

"In any case, what is the relevance of this?" She asked him. "If that's millions of years old, it's really amazing. But how would it matter to us?"

Minos continued to control his yacht, passing by that island without attracting the attention of the crews stopped there.

He then said. "That is very important. What if the current limits are not the maximum we can reach? What if there is a later?"

For millions of years, the idea that there was nothing after the 11th stage had been propagated, and the development of our world has not progressed since then.

But soon, we may face something coming from outside the Spiritual World... Maybe they know something!

Maybe these extraterrestrial creatures know how to explain the fantastic past behind our world and have the answers that were missing for us to achieve a crucial breakthrough.

Starclaw, I believe the importance of this place behind us is that it is one of the signs that we can dream of something beyond what we have learned."

"Something beyond? Do you think this is a relic of an ancient civilization that has surpassed the 11th stage?" She looked at him, not finding some of his words strange since she knew some of Minos' fears about the future. However, this theory of his was too much for her to accept right away.

"Maybe... Maybe not from them, but from someone who has attained knowledge about them and their technologies." Minos said with a glint in his eyes.

He still had to investigate the island that had fallen upon him and was now at the bottom of the Ancestral Sea, but he also needed to understand better the artifact left by Fah'um of Dunov. But he felt that as he followed the traces left by those related to that time, he would one day discover the truth.

'So we have to solve the problem with the Longus family fast! I want as soon as possible to reach the necessary to investigate the North Sea.' He thought as he looked in the direction of that place full of dangers to the north.

Meanwhile, Starclaw pondered Minos' words, feeling that as absurd as they were, they could not be easily refuted, at least not while one knew about the existence of Fah'um of Dunov.

She looked at that island again. 'Is it really? Is there something above level 100?'