

Black Plain 2041

Chapter 2041 On the Verge of Realizing Dreams...

A few weeks have passed since Vico arrived in the North Sea...

During this time, the Spiritual World began to learn about the shocking situation in the North Sea and some of the discoveries made by Minos and his crew.

The news didn't spread far enough to reach the low-level cultivators, let alone the world's farthest reaches in terms of the old local alien base.

But some of the world's strongest cultivators from at least two continents were already aware of their drastic situation.

Not only would they have to lead their organizations through an ice age in no more than 20 years. In about 30 years, they would also have to worry about an extraterrestrial enemy coming to the world to dominate or exterminate its living beings.

These extraterrestrial forces were not easy to deal with and were considered tens of times stronger than this entire world!

Consequently, after the first ones from the island, where Minos and his group were still moving to communicate with their leaders, several groups were already aware of the problem and started moving.

Pessimism was the most common feeling among those who knew of the tragic fate of this world. But even without much confidence in the future, most of them were willing to at least try.

If they were going to be enslaved or killed in 30 years anyway, they wanted to at least prepare and try to impose an opposition on their enemies!

Thus, only a few weeks after Vico's breakthrough to level 100, some of the world's major forces began to move in favor of the coalition for the defense of the Spiritual World.

At the same time, Vico's breakthrough to level 100 had gone overlooked by most of the world's top experts, who now had worse things to worry about.

However, the low-level cultivators who were unaware of the imminent destruction of their world's civilization were naturally excited, imagining the revolutions a God would bring in this era.

That was especially true for the people of the Evergreen Empire, where Vico had gone weeks ago after leaving the North Sea under Minos' command.

This state, which had been his enemy for the past few years, was the one that could "suffer" the greatest changes due to his advance. Not only that but since his presence was already known to the local population, hundreds of millions of people were anxious and curious as to what would happen.

...

While the population of the Evergreen Empire was worried about Vico, the blond man was at the headquarters of the local imperial family with his son, whom he had not seen for decades because of Maximilian and Minos.

When Minos returned from the Seraphim Ancient Sarcophagus, Maximilian helped him deal with Vico's heir, who was in the Black Plain Empire at the time to "escort" Emperor Stuart to the Eastern Empire.

Since then, Janus Travisani, currently at level 94, has been held captive in the Evergreen Empire as Maximilian's warranty in the war against Vico.

After so many years, the young man finally saw his father again a few weeks ago when Vico appeared in this city and subdued the forces of the Spiritual Church and the Evergreen Family.

However, Vico hadn't killed anyone on the enemy side, having accepted the local surrender shortly after arriving in the empire's capital.

No one from either the Church or the imperial family had caused him any problems. As someone who had reached level 100, he was practically invincible to Demigods!

Even the fragment of a God's soul was stronger than the power of a level 99 Demigod, so Maximilian's trusted man, who was standing by to defend the area had surrendered without a problem.

The beast that had once nearly killed Minos was now at Vico's side, serving this man with a kindness rarely seen in level 99 Demigods.

"Your Majesty, is this to your liking?" The whale asked as he poured drinks for Vico.

Janus stood next to his father and a representative of the Evergreen empire's forces.

In Maximillian's absence, that level 99 beast and one of the local leaders had been the ones running things in the empire. Since Vico's arrival, they had been the ones interacting with this man.

Vico nodded at the beast before turning his attention to his son and the representative of the local leaders. "As I said, you don't need to worry about past affairs. Of course, I won't ask the families of my men who died in the war to forget what happened.

But I will not take action against this state or order action against this place. I'm only worried about the enemies that will come from the Mechanic Empire."

Janus listened to this alongside the representative of the local leaders, feeling rather bad about the whole thing. He had lived through hell in the past decades, and only after much suffering had he managed to rise a level.

He wanted to take revenge on Maximilian, the people of the Evergreen Empire, and the Spiritual Church, but most of all on Minos, who was to blame for all his misfortunes.

Unfortunately, after seeing his father again and learning of his old man's magnificent progress to level 100, he also learned of a colossal stone that would prevent him from making the journey he had planned.

On the other hand, while Janus found it difficult to move on without thinking about revenge, the representative of the local forces couldn't help but feel nervous about the local presence of a God, someone who had been his great enemy until recently.

How could he remain calm in such a situation? He already knew about the aliens, and groups from various forces of the empire were already on their way to the North Sea to join the investigation of extraterritorial technologies. But between the distant and near enemies, he still feared the God in front of him!

"Your Majesty, don't take this the wrong way, but the senior has been in our city for weeks. What are you waiting for?" This level 98 man asked very carefully.

"What am I waiting for?" Vico looked in the direction of the headquarters of the Spiritual Church, where the entrance to the Seraphim Spatial Kingdom was.

He felt a different sensation and laughed. "Don't worry, my waiting is coming to an end. In the next few days, I'll meet the one who has kept me waiting for so many days."

...

Meanwhile, in the Seraphim Spatial Kingdom...

Maximilian was on the final step to level 100 at that very moment, his face showing the satisfaction of having reached the peak of cultivation.

Thinking about how he would finally be able to realize all his dreams in just a few days, this man couldn't help but smile as he raised his cultivation to level 100!

Chapter 2042 Level 100 Frustration

Another week has passed...

After going through the last part of his progress to level 100, Maximilian finally reached the apex and unleashed a phenomenon similar to the one Vico had provoked in the capital of the Eastern Empire.

Even though he was in the Seraphim Spatial Kingdom, the final phenomenon of advancing to level 100 was so powerful that within and outside that region of space, special changes would appear hundreds of kilometers away.

Spatial Kingdoms were nothing more than regions of the Spiritual World that were separated from the rest of the world by folds of space, something that only Gods could do.

But those regions separated from the rest of the world by folds of space remained in the same position as those lands were before the creation of those spaces.

For example, if Minos eventually reached level 100 and decided to create a Spatial Kingdom in the Dry City area, his state's capital would still be in the same initial position. But after Emperor Stuart's action, it would become inaccessible to people without the means to enter it.

Assuming that the northernmost and southernmost sides of Dry City were represented by the letters A and B, after the creation of the Dry City Spatial Kingdom, these two points would become the same point C. From then on, it would be as if everything between A and B no longer existed, as if the entire space of the city had been erased.

There would be no "empty" space left. The spaces at the ends of the city would be joined together, like a pizza that has had a slice removed and then reshaped into a smaller size to look whole.

lightsnovel But the point of all this is that the Dry City in this example would still be in its original position. So if someone were to advance to level 100 within such a Spatial Kingdom, the city's surroundings, i.e., the outside of that alternate region of space, would suffer the effects of such advancement.

This is why Vico's advancement created the previous phenomenon in the capital of his empire, while Maximilian's current advancement creates it in the current capital of the Evergreen Empire!

Those inside and outside the Seraphim Spatial Kingdom realized this and felt the rich spiritual energy and blessings in the vicinity of the site of the divine advance.

Someone was attaining divinity in the vicinity of this city, so the whole space would benefit from it, bringing opportunities to the local cultivators.

Sensing this from within the Spatial Kingdom, Forrest saw that his master's great enemy had succeeded and couldn't help but sigh in defeat.

'It looks like it will be impossible for Minos and me now...' He thought to himself as he stood up from where he had been and considered leaving this Spatial Kingdom and returning to the mainland.

Since Maximilian was practically at level 100, it was time for him to run away to warn Minos!

However, the moment he left the domain of the Church, he immediately felt a level 100 aura that wasn't Maximilian's!

"What? Who is that?" He stopped at the exit of the Church's Spatial Kingdom and looked in the direction where a blond man was coming from.

Soon, Forrest faced Vico and saw an enemy for him and Minos that was even worse than Maximilian.

Not knowing anything about what had happened in the last three or four months, Forrest was naturally shocked, not knowing how to react to such a discovery!

"Oh? You're Duncan's student, right?" Vico arrived at the entrance to the Seraphim Spatial Kingdom to welcome Maximilian back to the continent and couldn't help but comment to Forrest.

Forrest froze in horror, but no one in Vico's group helped him by informing him that they were no longer enemies. Janus, in particular, watched that level 94 man with a grin on his face as he saw Forrest practically pissing himself.

"That..."

But just as Forrest was about to say something, someone else came out of the Spiritual Church's Spatial Kingdom, attracting the attention of practically the entire city.

At that moment, the citizens and experts of the Evergreen Empire's capital felt the second level 100 aura of their lives!

Maximilian booted one of his feet out of the Spatial Kingdom and left the place with a smile on his face, full of anticipation for the things they were about to accomplish.

"Maximillian, after millions of years, you've finally made it," Vico said as this black-haired, sharp-looking man looked at him with a smile.

Maximillian's smile immediately froze when he heard such a voice. He could not believe that Vico was there.

But before he could do anything, he realized that his opponent was still at the same level as him!

"What? How?" Maximilian lost his good humor as he glared at Vico, unable to comprehend the situation.

'What the fuck! Has that bastard advanced as well?' He asked himself as he looked at Vico, checking the blond man's cultivation once, twice, three times, four times, but always coming to the same conclusion.

'How? If he advanced before me, why am I still alive?' That was the obvious question.

If he had been in Vico's place, he would have already killed his opponent and prevented another from reaching level 100. But Vico had clearly allowed him to take his last step towards divinity, which made no sense to Maximillian.

"How, you ask?" Vico laughed, imagining that this would be the only victory he could claim against Maximillian after all their stalemates over the past decades.

The blond man came straight to the point, not wanting to prolong the subject unnecessarily. "I thought about killing you, if that's what you want to know. But in the face of the Mechanic Empire and its 32 Gods, I had no choice but to spare your group and you, Maximillian."

"Mechanic Empire?" Forrest's eyes narrowed considerably, while Maximillian felt as if the number 32 had punched him in the stomach.

"32 what?" He asked, not believing what his ears had just heard.

"32 Gods. The Mechanic Empire is the extraterritorial power that ruled the North Sea and has been hiding in our world. The brat Minos Stuart discovered the truth about this region and revealed to the world the terrible enemies we will face in no more than 30 years," Vico elaborated.

"Thanks to them, Maximilian, you're still alive, as I alone won't be able to stop the enemies."

These words from Vico frightened even the people who had been thinking about it for weeks.

When they heard it from the mouth of a God, Forrest, Maximillian, and a few others who didn't know the truth yet could hardly control their hearts.

'Shit!' Maximillian paled as he saw all his dreams from millions of years ago slip away from him at once.

Chapter 2043 Formation of the World Coalition (1)

2043 Formation of the World Coalition (1)

"Are you really serious? 32 Gods? What do you mean? Where did such a powerful enemy come from?" Maximilian asked after a moment of silence, cursing his bad luck.

Vico replied. "The enemies come from another world of cultivation like ours. It seems that there is life outside the Spiritual World. And these first aliens we met seem to be more technologically advanced than we are."

The enemy comes from a world called The Adamant Land, which the Mechanic Empire rules. This state is wealthy and advanced, to the point that they have groups in various galaxies and space explorers throughout the universe looking for new lands to dominate.

Our Spiritual World was their chosen one. Right now, the main forces of this state are creating a universal wormhole to the North Sea. From there, the enemies will invade our world."

The two alien survivors had revealed much about the enemies in recent weeks. As a result, Vico and hundreds of people connected to the formation of the worldwide coalition for the defense of the Spiritual World were aware of these details.

"Universe?" Maximilian opened his mouth, hearing some terms he didn't know but others that already existed in the Spiritual World.

The population of this planet had long recognized the existence of other places beyond their own world. They called what existed beyond the Spiritual World the universe.

To them, the universe was what was in the sky, the stars and distant celestial bodies that they could never reach.

From the point of view of some of the lesser religions of the world, the universe was infinite.

So when Vico heard that the enemies had explorers in the universe, he immediately understood the difference in scale between them and the natives of The Adamant Land.

"That's terrible, then." He muttered as he turned pale, worse than Forrest. "How did we attract such a terrible enemy? Can't we solve this with dialogue?"

"Dialogue?" Vico laughed. "Would you talk to someone weaker who has what you want, Maximillian?"

If they themselves would not talk to each other if they had greater strength on their side, why should they assume that the enemies were different?

They had to assume the worst so they could prepare better!

Maximilian clenched his fists, knowing that he would never listen to the weaker side to change his plans about important things.

"Okay, so what's the plan? What are you doing to prepare?" He realized he had no alternatives and focused on the most important one.

"The plan is simple. Help our forces understand the alien technology as much as possible before the enemies arrive. If we can't use it to strengthen ourselves, at least we'll understand it so we know how best to act against our enemies.

Meanwhile, we'll give the world a chance to cultivate for the next 30 years to raise the average level of our population a little.

With luck, other relevant cultivators will make progress, and we can try to fight our enemies." Vico said soberly, saying what could really be done without saying unrealistic things to convince Maximilian of their chances.

The coming war would be a conflict for the survival of the world. It would not be a conflict in which they would have a good chance. Many people would probably die when the aliens began to arrive in this world.

Maximilian sighed and closed his eyes before he said. "Alright, let's get on with it. This seems to be our only alternative anyway."

"Hmm, I'm glad you see it that way. Well, since you understand how drastic the current situation in our world is, I advise you to visit the North Sea and see the situation there for yourself. It will help you understand your enemies a little better.

In the meantime, I intend to go to Elves Island. While we were in seclusion, Aurae Aegolor began her own attempt to reach level 100. I will go there to inform her of everything if she succeeds in her advance."

"That woman?" Maximilian remembered the name of one of the three strongest beings in this world in the current generation, an elf even more impressive than he and Vico.

"Yes, Makai also went into seclusion to reach the 11th stage."

Vico was talking about the strongest being in this world before their advancement to level 100, a Sky Whale.

"I see. Very well, I'll go to the North Sea. Who's in charge there?"

Vico laughed. "Minos Stuart."

Maximillian remembered the young man who had woken him from his slumber and smiled, imagining how difficult it must have been for Vico to move up a level and face the frustration of not being able to achieve his goals.

'At least it wasn't just me..! Maximillian sighed before disappearing, leaving only a few moments before Vico left for Elves Island.

Meanwhile, Forrest stood there a little longer, processing everything he had heard.

But even after the stratospheric changes he had heard, he still felt he had to go to the Black Plain Empire to join Minos' forces.

'Minos is still in the North Sea, but this must be temporary. With so many high-ranking Demigods and even Gods going there, he'll probably be back in Dry City soon! Forrest thought to himself.

He would then leave for the north shortly after, as would other individuals from the Spiritual Church, since Maximilian's advance had caused several people to leave the Seraphim Spatial Kingdom.

After discovering their dire situation, many wanted to go to the North Sea to understand the real situation of their world!

Meanwhile, those who had already visited the place or heard about the situation at the North Pole from people they trusted wanted to go into seclusion as soon as possible.

With the departure of Vico and Maximilian, everyone felt more comfortable!

Meanwhile, in the states surrounding the Central Continent and the Divine Continent, the strongest powers in their areas had already ordered the strongest of their forces to cultivate in seclusion.

Only those below level 80 and a few who worked to maintain the order and functionality of their areas could waste their time on things other than cultivation.

Meanwhile, practically all the forces in the world began to use the resources they normally kept for the benefit of the future and began to invest more heavily in their members!

That was the time to invest as much as possible in strengthening their most talented warriors!

Chapter 2044 Formation of the World Coalition (2)

Another three months passed after Maximilian's breakthrough to level 100!

In the meantime, Maximilian had visited the North Sea and spent a few weeks learning about enemy technologies and talking to Minos' companions, as well as the two remaining aliens.

Seeing many fantastic things for himself but also hearing honest answers from the very aliens he was questioning, Maximilian understood better the problem his world was facing.

So when he left the North Pole a few weeks ago, he returned to the Central Continent with new perspectives and plans.

Gods could make their own people cultivate faster just by meditating.

Meditating in front of the most important high-level Demigods was one of Maximilian's plans to increase the power of this world!

As for chasing the Sky Whale in seclusion to reach level 100, that wasn't in Maximilian's plans. That sea beast had only recently gone into seclusion, so it would take a few years to see results, even if he succeeded on the first try.

Unlike the elf, who had been in seclusion for several years, this whale had been in seclusion for less than two years.

It would take him at least another 5 years to reach the crucial point of his seclusion, so it wouldn't make sense for Maximilian to go to the Sky Whale Tribe right now.

Vico's case was different. Aurae could advance at any time in the coming months, as her talent was far greater than that of any other level 100 aspirant, and she had been in seclusion since the discovery of the ice age.

That's why such a God was already on Elves Island to present her with the same situation he had presented to Maximilian!

...

While Maximilian was helping the men of the Spiritual Church on the Central Continent and Vico was on Elves Island with many of his men, the Continent of Beasts and the South Sea had finally discovered the disturbing news about the future of their world.

Being at the furthest reaches of the North Pole, the forces of these two regions had taken a few weeks longer than the rest of the Spiritual World's powers to learn of the worst challenges of the current generation.

But even the Arctic Whale Tribe at the South Pole of the Spiritual World was already aware of the situation in the North Sea and the expected arrival of the enemies in no more than 30 years.

Due to the arrival of the news in these areas, some events that were normal until a few months ago had already changed significantly in the surrounding area.

For example, the problem between the Dragons and the Sky Whales completely ended after the news of an enemy with 32 Gods on its side arrived.

Just like the forces of the Divine Continent and the Central Continent, the forces of these two regions had already ordered the strongest of their tribe members to go into seclusion and cultivate, forgetting about old problems and focusing on the current challenges of their world.

Even the remaining Gorgons had changed some of their recent behavior, no longer being so difficult to deal with and starting to interact better with their neighbors, as in the case of the Nine-Tailed Foxes.

As such, the Continent of Beasts was more peaceful than ever, with the leading members of each race secluded in caves around these lands, while only the essential personnel looked after the juniors and the stability of their territories.

Meanwhile, the South Sea, which had been very peaceful before the war between the Dragons and the Sky Whales, had become quiet again, but now it was even more peaceful than before.

With the strongest fearing the end of the world, only the weakest were still strolling around as if tomorrow was guaranteed.

It was only because of the movements of the weaker ones that there were still problems in these regions that were typical of such places.

But even these problems were less frequent now that practically all of the tribes had instituted new rules to prevent unnecessary confrontations.

These groups weren't outlawing healthy competitive fights, but conflicts involving death were now considered terrible crimes and carried heavy punishments.

In the midst of all this, the group that was supposed to maintain order during the ice age was being used to form the defense force of this world.

Almost all of the powers of the Spiritual World had already sent Demigods to this temporary organization, which would be based on the Divine Continent for the time being.

...

On the Divine Continent, in the Pantheon of Honor headquarters city...

Almost all of the exclusive Demigods of this group were currently in seclusion at the headquarters of this organization, while the many non-exclusive members were attending to their affairs around the Spiritual World.

Julian was still at the North Pole, while the groups on the other continents were working alongside their own organizations to strengthen their people.

Meanwhile, the temple's best spiritual professionals were working between the North Sea and this city, trying to decipher alien technologies.

That was the case with Wren, who had excellent analytical skills but was at the organization's headquarters guarding the temple members' cultivation site.

Next to her was Aarav, who was preparing to leave this place to go to the Black Plain Empire.

"Do you think you made the right decision?" The white-haired woman asked as she looked at Aarav, preparing to leave.

Aarav had volunteered to go to the Black Plain Empire to guarantee Minos' safety and help him advance to level 90.

The organization wanted to help Minos maintain the stability of the Black Plain Empire and had already sent someone powerful to the area. But the original plans didn't include sending someone as powerful as this council elder.

Aarav had suggested doing it himself.

He replied to Wren. "Minos is the future. He only has 30 years to improve, so I'll help him improve as much as possible."

"You think he's the future? I know his potential and how much he's contributed to resolving the situation in the North Sea. But in 30 years, he'll still be just someone with potential." She sighed, imagining Minos wouldn't have the time to mature.

"We'll see. I think Minos can reach level 91 by then. At that level, he should at least be able to join the ranks of the strongest!" Aarav said before disappearing after his journey to the Central Continent.

Chapter 2045 Leaving the North Sea

Another four months had passed since Aarav left the Divine Continent for the Black Plain Empire.

Many things had happened in the Spiritual World, but on this day, it was finally time for Minos to return to the Black Plain Empire with the rest of his party!

It had been almost three years since they had left Dry City to investigate the situation in the North Sea, and they were finally free to return home.

Some of Minos' party had already left in recent months, with a few individuals returning to their tribes alongside more powerful members to bring news of the discoveries at the North Pole.

But those who would go to the Black Plain Empire to join Minos' government after this journey had stayed behind with Minos and Ruth to return together.

Even after everything that had happened, which basically limited Minos' future prospects, some members of his crew had decided to accept his invitation to join the Black Plain Army.

Not only had Minos saved the lives of many of them in past battles, but he had also promised to support them in any way he could.

As much as Minos wouldn't reach his potential in 30 years, they could all become stronger under Emperor Stuart's command than if they returned to their tribes or armies.

On the other hand, as much as Minos would improve in 30 years, that didn't completely define his limits. As those who had spent the most time at Emperor Stuart's side, these people knew that he could surprise everyone when that time was up.

Even after almost a year in the old alien base, together with powerful emissaries from practically every side of the Spiritual World, Minos and his people were still among the most advanced when it came to understanding some alien technologies.

There were things they had outgrown, but when it came to the armor the aliens used to reduce their weaknesses, he and his companions were still the most advanced regarding understanding!

What's more, Minos had the Spatial Kingdom on his side.

As a result, of the 50 or so crew members on Minos' ship who sailed with him and Ruth from Dry City to the North Sea, 10 were preparing to leave the North Pole and join the forces of the Black Plain Empire!

...

At the old alien base in the Spiritual World, when one arrived near the great volcano of the only island left there, you would see a number of ships of different races nearby.

Within a few dozen square kilometers of this area, warships from virtually all of the 10th-stage powers of this world were stationed, with powerful crews watching over the area.

There was a military encirclement there to prevent low-level curiosity seekers from approaching, while inside the volcano itself, more than 2,000 Demigods were currently working on the technologies there.

Some of the groups there were already thinking about barriers to be erected in the area in anticipation of the enemy's arrival in less than 30 years. But the vast majority of people there were seeking progress for the world.

As such, every imaginable sector of that place was bustling, with thousands of high-level Sages there to assist their superiors.

Meanwhile, all the spiritual professions had 4th-grade representatives, sometimes working separately, sometimes together, to try to decipher the things left behind by the enemies.

The two alien survivors hadn't been much help to the Spiritual World investigators. As much as they knew more than the natives of that world, they were not scholars and only knew how to use their people's technologies.

So, all their help had been limited to advising on how best to use their technologies.

Amidst the work of the many people currently living at this base, a group of 13 people were preparing to leave this place on a ship with the symbol of a golden tree.

In addition to these 13 people, there were several high-level Demigods, individuals between levels 97 and 99, from several different races.

Julian looked at Minos as he boarded the ship, sighing as he imagined how unlucky this young man was.

'Sigh... Minos has reached level 88 and will probably reach level 91 before the enemies arrive, but...' He closed his eyes, regretting that such a talent hadn't appeared 50 years earlier.

If Minos had been 50 years older, he would probably be a mid-level Demigod by the time the aliens arrived!

But the reality was cruel, and someone so strong and talented would be far from his peak when the strongest enemies he could face arrived to threaten his life!

Seeing Minos return to the Black Plain Empire without much time to advance was a shame!

While Julian was thinking about this, some of the spiritual professionals that Minos and his group had helped introduce the alien technologies to waved goodbye to the rest of the group and smiled.

"It's a shame they're leaving, but considering Minos Stuart's fighting skills, we'd better not get in his way anymore." An elf said to the others who would stay.

Minos had impressed several Demigods from all over the world who had come to this place to study alien technologies. Even though he was only at the 9th stage, he could understand some things about his enemies more easily than high-level Demigods!

Some of these experts thought that this was a peculiarity of Minos. But only this young man and those who knew him best knew that this was not the case.

One of those who understood why was at Minos' side as their ship prepared to set sail.

"Minos, when do we start? I can't wait to begin our preparations." Titus asked.

"We will begin our preparations when we reach Dry City. But we won't make the final part of our plans until after I become a Demigod." Minos replied, having in mind some experiments with alien technologies using the chaotic energy of the giant bones in the Spatial Kingdom.

'Luckily, I was able to negotiate with Vico and Maximillian and take one of the bodies of the enemy robots with me.' Minos thought to himself as he remembered how he had been forced to return most of the alien things he had obtained before Vico arrived in this place.

But he had kept one item of each kind and received the assurance from two Gods that he wouldn't have to worry about losing what he had been allowed to have.

With that in mind, he watched his contacts in this place drift further and further away from him as his ship began to move south.

It was finally time for them to return home!

Chapter 2046 Minos' Ambitious Plans

A month and a half after Minos advanced to level 88, his party finally reached Dry City!

After traveling by ship between the North Pole and the End area of his empire, Minos led his party through the state's network of wormholes to reach Dry City quickly.

Thus, the Stuart family was finally reunited after years of separation, now in a much worse situation than before, despite the progress made on both sides over the past 3 years.

...

In the imperial palace of Dry City...

Minos had just seen his family and important members of the government when he arrived in the capital with his group.

As they casually talked about how the last few years had gone on each side and some of the changes that had occurred, such as some of the companions who had returned with him joining the empire, Minos was finally alone with the most important people in the empire.

Standing in the imperial throne room with his four wives, Dillian, his maternal grandparents, some important army members, and the Longus family, Minos presented what was most important to them.

"Well, you already know what the Spiritual World knows or expects about the enemy regarding the planned invasion in about 28 years," Minos said as he looked into the eyes of his people, including Forrest, who had been in the city since Maximilian's advance.

He continued. "Now let me give you my perspective.

The enemy will be difficult, and without understanding their technology, it will be impossible to defeat them. But even if we understand it, this is only the beginning of our nightmare. Only by raising our level and using the enemy's technology can we really find a way out of our difficult situation.

And I have my own theories on this." He smiled and looked confidently at his people, even if the chances of his plans succeeding were less than 10%.

"What do you have in mind, Your Majesty?" Dillian asked.

Everyone was paying more attention to Emperor Stuart as he showed everyone the hand that had the Spatial Kingdom ring.

By connecting with the skeleton that had his seal in that space, he stole a part of the cultivation base of that remnant, causing a special energy to circulate through his body.

Forrest and the people in the imperial throne room sensed this and immediately became more serious.

Minos explained. "What you just sensed from me is the special energy of the giant bones that exist in our world. Fortunately, I can steal some of it and use it for both my own cultivation and the cultivation of those under my influence.

Some of you might be wondering what that means, right?" He looked from side to side before answering.

"Well, at first, I didn't expect it to help me, but after practically two years of dealing with alien technology daily, I realized that this energy is compatible with us and our enemies."

"That..."

"If that's true..."

Some people understood part of what Minos meant.

But then Titus, the only one of the group who had come from the North Sea to stay behind for this meeting with Minos, said. "Whoever can have this energy within them can more easily understand and master alien technology. It's not just a source of power for our races. It serves as a way for us to understand and master alien technology."

Gloria and Abby opened their eyes wider when they heard this.

"If that's true, you must already have an understanding of the alien technologies very advanced, right?" Abby asked her husband.

Minos smiled and said. "I still have a lot to improve on. But it's a fact that my progress with the things our enemies left behind is quite interesting.

I'm not a blacksmith or an array master to try to replicate some of the things I've understood about the ways of the enemies. However, I will be able to facilitate the understanding of professionals that I help to absorb some of that energy.

On the other hand, I intend to decipher some of the ways of the enemies myself and, with the help of professionals, try to replicate some things, though in a different way.

So, I want everyone here to start working on our new plans.

We will continue with our agricultural projects for the sake of our food reserves during the ice age. But I want as many grade-4 spiritual experts as possible to be brought to me.

I will help them increase their strength and understanding of alien achievements as much as possible in the next few years.

I want to build an alien ship division, a spaceship division, an armor division, and eventually, a robot division. We will independently develop our own technologies from what we already have and what we have already discovered.

We'll expose the enemy's weaknesses but also learn how to use their 'poison' against themselves!"

Everyone there wrote down in their minds what they needed to do. At the same time, some imagined the progress their group could make and how they could surpass the rest of the world in their race for development.

Who in the Spiritual World would bet on the Black Plain Empire right now?

Hardly anyone. But the people there with Minos saw things differently and couldn't help but raise their expectations.

'Maybe there's still hope at the end of the tunnel.' Dillian thought to himself as he smiled, seeing that their whole journey so far was finally coming to a climax.

Then, as everyone clung to their hopes, Minos said the most absurd part of his plans.

"After all that, we can't believe that this enemy from The Adamant Land will be the only threat to us. We have been discovered by an advanced civilization that has already made contact with other inhabited worlds.

There is a great chance that our position and characteristics will reach other worlds and put us in the sights of enemies as powerful as the present ones or even more powerful.

In that case, to protect our future, I propose that we prepare to invade the Mechanic Empire in the future!"

"What?"

Several people were surprised.

Minos continued with an ambitious smile. "When the problems of the Spiritual World are stable again, I'll lead a group to use the universal wormhole of the enemies and infiltrate the Mechanic Empire!"

I'll use this opportunity to bring the enemy 'brains' over to our side and avenge the losses of our state and the Spiritual World in the war that's brewing!"

Chapter 2047 Development of the Empire (1)

A year and a half had passed since Minos returned to the Black Plain Empire.

With the changes in the Spiritual World and the Central Continent caused by the situation with the aliens, few external problems could get in the way of Minos' current projects.

Moreover, he had no interest in leaving his nation at the moment, so he had remained in his capital for the past few months, helping his experts to become stronger while strengthening himself.

All of his family, government members, and closest allies had recently been living in Dry City, which had contributed to the rapid improvement of the local forces in terms of strength but also in terms of understanding enemy technologies.

In a year and a half, they had developed their projects on many fronts!

...

Sarah and George inspected one of the empire's food storage facilities in Dry City.

Though most of the local forces were involved in projects related to alien technologies, they and many others had been busy preparing for the arrival of the ice age.

Sarah, level 76, was at her husband's side, level 89, in the central office of the city's grain storage facility, where the two of them dealt daily with problems related to the empire's goals, as well as the security of the silos.

They should have left for Sista months ago, now that the war between Maximilian and Vico was officially over and the peace treaty between the Church and the nations of the Western Region had been signed. But given the future challenges of the Black Plain Empire and Sarah's desire to be close to her family, George and she had decided to delay their trip to Sista.

Until the situation with the aliens was resolved, the two would remain with the Stuart family.

"The numbers are higher than expected," George commented to Sarah as he counted the day's results. "It looks like your father's investments are paying off. The underwater part of the empire is producing more and more food.

We may be able to exceed by more than 100% the food reserves he predicted years ago when the ice age actually arrived."

"That seems to be the case." Sarah sighed as she realized that things weren't going so badly for them despite the bleak future ahead of them.

If it hadn't been for the imminent arrival of the aliens, this information would have been enough for her to know that her family would be fine during the ice age. But since the coming age of disaster wasn't the only problem that awaited them in the future, Sarah couldn't celebrate just that.

She looked at a subordinate and asked. "How's the guard situation..."

...

Meanwhile, near the large lake in Dry City, several experts of the empire were gathered near some members of the imperial family while soldiers were running a simulation on the lake.

On the lake in question, there was a warship completely different from the army ships and another strange ship completely enclosed, with no deck or other structure open to the air.

Meanwhile, a soldier presented the two vehicles to the members of the imperial family present, including Kendrick, currently at level 69, Isabella, level 85, and the three youngest Stuart children, who were between levels 28 and 32.

"Your Highnesses, Your Majesty, before us are two prototypes created by combining the empire's most advanced navigation technologies with what we have already understood about the enemy's technologies." A level 90 soldier introduced it to the group.

"The first example before us is a model ship developed from the alien superships. It has special cannons attached to its structure and much stronger and more resistant defense arrays than the ones we had before.

Even though this ship can only be considered a low-level grade-4 vehicle at present, its defense, attack, and speed surpass what we found in the Spiritual World a few years ago in medium-level grade-4 ships."

The people who heard this smiled as they muttered about the incredible progress of the state.

Then, that army soldier gave the signal, allowing the soldiers in that prototype to attack a medium-level grade-4 target that was there to serve as a target.

Boom!

The ship's cannons fired, unleashing attacks that could threaten even low-level Demigods, showing everyone the true power of this ship.

After the attacks, it was fired at by the empire's ancient cannons, items of the same rank as this ship, which should have been able to damage at least some of its structures.

However, when the cannons attacked it, its energy barriers were merely pressurized by the attacks without showing any problems with its durability.

'Excellent!' Kendrick thought as he saw how the empire's new ship model was more advanced than the technology available around the Spiritual World.

'If the world's strongest powers hadn't made as much progress as we have, their ships would be losing to ours by now.' He thought, but without considering the possibility that the world's other powers had mastered the same or more than this state.

The rest of the group thought such things, while the children there enjoyed the simulation.

After a few moments, the level 90 man returned to what he was presenting today.

"That was the demonstration of what we have accomplished with the ships. But now I present to you the first starship of the Black Plain Empire!" He said as he gestured to the fully enclosed ship, drawing all the eyes of this group to it.

At that moment, the spaceship next to the warship began to float above the lake, with several side turbines lifting it off the lake's surface, while defensive and offensive structures similar to the ship's appeared around it.

"This ship has the same offensive and defensive level as our warship. However, its focus is on speed. It can fly five times faster than the ship!

Meanwhile, it has special structures that may eventually allow it to travel through wormholes! We're still developing the parts of this ship that relate to that, but we have high hopes of proving our theories in a few years' time."

The people next to Isabella and Kendrick clapped as their eyes lit up, seeing that their state still had much to improve and that the future might not be as bleak as many had assumed!

Chapter 2048 Development of the Empire (2)

2048 Development of the Empire (2)

While some of Minos' family saw some of the improvements that would soon be available to the rest of the army, he stood next to Titus in the Spatial Kingdom with other professionals.

Near the house were several individuals between levels 88 and 91 who had come to focus on researching alien technologies.

The Black Plain Empire group currently had two fronts for technological development. One was in the Spatial Kingdom, where Minos was helping the best professionals in his state cultivate and understand the things he had already understood, as well as studying the things he had brought back from the North Sea.

The other group was in Dry City and was responsible for taking what the men of the Spatial Kingdom had already understood and adapting it to their reality, replicating these new methods in weapons and army vehicles.

Through the combined efforts of these two groups, the two vehicles tested while Minos was with his men in the Spatial Kingdom had been made possible after only a few months of work.

In short, the best that the Black Plain Empire had to offer was still being developed here, where the professionals were constantly improving their understanding of the enemy's methods.

At the moment, Minos was with Titus and some of the men who weren't working in a moment of conversation that they held every 12 hours.

It would be impossible for one person to understand all of the enemy technology in the time available. So, several people would study different parts of the items left behind by the enemy, and at each group break, they would share what they understood with the rest of their companions.

Through the reports of different people discussing ways to understand the enemy's methods, other professionals, sometimes from completely different fields, could more easily make their way through the aliens' means.

So Minos was with the group that had just stopped to rest and train, talking about what they had seen in the last few hours.

"The alien technologies are really dense. I feel that every time I get closer to understanding their methods, new obstacles appear in front of me, hindering my progress, and I end up with more questions than answers".

"Yes, I feel the same way. If the understanding of extraterrestrial techs were a ladder, it is as if two new rungs appear before me with every rung I climb." Another person commented.

"I think the key is compatibility. Basically, the problem is that we are 'animals' trying to learn 'human' techniques. Our understanding of these methods is limited without proper bodies or structures. So, I think it's normal for new questions to arise."

A level 91 individual, someone who had recently joined the empire, commented.

The Black Plain Empire had recruited 10th-stage spiritual practitioners from all over the Central Continent.

It wasn't so easy to attract such renowned professionals, given the more advantageous position that other states on the continent currently had. However, over the past few months, Minos had managed to recruit several levels 90 and 91 experts from virtually every spiritual discipline.

Some of them were currently with him in the Spatial Kingdom, while others were in the other group that had been working on the production of completely new items in Dry City.

With the participation of these people, the empire had made great progress in these months!

Perhaps the most notable advancements had been in spaceships and ships, for these were advancements that the state of Minos had not received information about from other powers worldwide achieving what they did. But even more interesting were the advances in the field of auxiliary armor.

By now, there was a battalion in Dry City specializing in using these armors, as well as a group of blacksmiths and array masters who were gradually creating armor components similar to these alien items.

Some of the men who had made this possible were now chatting with Minos in the circle of companions.

One blacksmith said. "The alien metal alloys are very special. I have the feeling that they have a mind of their own and are 100% efficient when it comes to integrating with inscriptions."

An array master agreed. "Yes. I've seen myself in studies with the alien cables and had the impression that the arrays in those items were moving independently, making it difficult for us to understand."

"In a way, it's like advanced cryptography." Someone there commented.

Titus heard this and looked at one of the doctors there. "These enemies were able to create conscious pieces of metal. We must consider the doctors' opinions on how the enemy robots and armor work. Perhaps they were inspired by living beings from their world to develop these creatures."

"I agree..."

They continued to talk, focusing especially on the enemy robots, as this was the alien structure they had found the most difficult so far. Even after months of trying to study the robot body in their possession, this group had understood less than 8% of it.

But that 8% didn't refer to the most important parts of the robot, but rather the simplest, most external, and easiest to understand. But even with the parts they understood, they could not go much further and try to make things. They had grasped the idea behind those parts but lacked the ability to replicate them!

After a while, Minos stood up and sighed, "All right, everyone, that's all for now. I want you to focus on your cultivation for the next few hours and remember what we've discussed.

We'll have another meeting in 24 hours, and we'll let you know what the other group will report in 12 hours."

With that, everyone went to their meditation places, leaving the other beings in the Spatial Kingdom to train, meditate, or study enemy technologies.

Meanwhile, individuals like Mirya and Kyla continued their lives in this place, aware that they shouldn't get in the way of these people or see anything too unusual happen between them.

Minos used his innate ability to steal the energy from the giant bones in this place and redirect it to the men cultivating in the area.

While doing so, he looked at the enemy robot, which more than 40 people were studying at the moment.

'When I reach level 90, I'll try to inject some of the chaotic energy of the giant bones into you. Then we'll see what happens. He thought as he narrowed his eyes, imagining that such a thing would give him some answers.

Chapter 2049 Development of the Empire (3)

At the same time that Minos was working with the army specialists in the Spatial Kingdom, Abby was in the army headquarters watching a battle between level 90 soldiers.

Two army warriors in different armors were standing on the highest battle platform in the barracks, while more than 20 people were standing near Abby on one of the stands.

Among these were some of the army's Demigods, professionals such as blacksmiths and array masters, but also relevant members of the empire's forces, such as allies and government members.

That was the case with Forrest, but also with Dillian and the rulers of Albano, Rosser, and Blackrock.

They were all watching the demonstration of the Black Plain Army soldiers' ability not only to use the alien armor but also to replicate it.

On one side of the battle was a level 90 soldier wearing alien armor brought from the North Sea. On the other side was a soldier of the same level wearing a new model of armor developed from the discoveries already made about the extraterritorial model.

This new model was still under development and had only been released for testing a few days ago. However, it was so promising that Minos' closest allies marveled at how far the Black Plain Empire had come.

The rulers of Blackrock, Albano, and Rosser, currently between levels 83 and 84, didn't know how far other powers had progressed with alien technology. But they could see how advanced Minos' state was just by watching the two of them fight.

The Demigod wearing the alien armor was definitely imposing himself on his opponent. However, his opponent didn't suffer too much. He was able to dodge some of his opponent's moves from time to time. At the same time, he was able to defend himself without being destroyed in a single blow, and he was also able to attack.

That might not sound like much, but the same witnesses had seen the same Demigods fight without their armor. Then, one of them wore alien armor, and the other wore a normal piece of equipment from the Spiritual World.

In the first battle, the result had been fairly even because the two Demigods were members of Minos' army and had similar techniques and cultivation. But when one used the alien equipment, the other lost any chance of fighting on equal terms.

The Demigod wearing the alien armor needed only one blow to defeat his opponent!

Such a display of power was so impressive that Abby and these rulers were sure that the Demigod wearing the alien armor could even challenge level 92 Demigods with good odds in his favor!

Because of these two confrontations, in which the same men had fought to the limit of their strength, these people could see how advanced the methods of Minos' men already were.

"The army's developing armor still loses a lot compared to the alien creation. However, it is already superior to the armor of the same classification we have in our world." Iris West said as she clenched her fist. "The man who wears it has a fighting ability similar to that of a level 91 warrior!"

"That seems to be the case."

"That's impressive." Queen Rosser commented with a smile. "I can see that this armor can't do some of the tricks of the alien creation yet, but in terms of combat, it already seems to be between 40% and 50% of the level of the alien version."

"That's right." Abby, who was in charge of the project to replicate the alien technology in the empire's armor, said. "We are still facing problems with various parts of the enemy armor to make our model as compact as the enemy's, as well as auxiliary parts of it."

But we are confident that we will be able to absorb the essence for ourselves, the protective part and the part that increases the wearer's combat ability."

King Blackrock understood the Black Plain Empire's proposal and asked. "Will the empire's new armor be for sale?"

"No. Only those who contribute to the project during its development will have the chance to receive their own models." Abby said.

Dillian stood up and said to the Minos' allies there, "The empire has plenty of resources. But given our current needs, we need as much support as possible from our allies."

Natural resources, crystals, men, in short, any kind of support is welcome. Only in this way will we be able to speed up the development of the empire and increase our chances of producing enough of this armor model to distribute to our supporters."

The Black Plain Empire spent billions of crystals every month to maintain agricultural and local development projects based on enemy technologies!

It wasn't enough to bankrupt the state. Still, the empire was getting to the point where it was using up more and more of its reserves and no longer had enough guarantees to attract foreign "brains" to join its development efforts.

Because of this, they needed maximum support from their allies, such as the Flaming Empire, Blackrock, Rosser, and Albano.

Isabella was already doing her best to get more support from her family's state. Now, Abby was presenting concrete evidence of what her state could offer their friends in the future, which obviously served to convince these three leaders to join Minos more meaningfully.

The three looked at each other, thinking basically the same thing.

'With this new model of armor, we can be much stronger when the war comes!'

Forrest was impressed by Minos' progress with alien technology, having just seen something that he knew few in the Spiritual World had been able to replicate.

'Perhaps I should join Gloria Frost's faction.' He thought to himself, knowing he couldn't offer the same as those leaders but that his support could mean a lot to Gloria and Minos.

As a level 95 Demigod who had several other powerful Demigods in his network of influence, his support alone could get him what these three rulers were after.

"I understand. His Majesty Minos Stuart can expect the full support of Blackrock. We will do our best to increase the pace of local development."

"Rosser will not be left behind. We still have a lot of spiritual professionals wasting their time in our state. I'll try to convince as many of them as possible to come to Dry City."

"My kingdom will support you financially. I hope you will use our crystals to attract Demigods to our side." Queen West said, aware that she didn't have many resources or people Minos might be interested in.

"My group will join Cardinal Frost's faction," Forrest commented.

Chapter 2050 Competitors

2050 Competitors

Meanwhile, Gloria was at the Spiritual Church Temple in Dry City, acting on behalf of the empire through that ancient continental institution.

Gloria was not in charge of any technology development projects, much less agricultural projects on the continent or in the underwater regions of the empire.

She focused on improving her influence within the Church while strengthening herself.

The war between Maximilian and Vico and the end of the conflict due to the threat of the extraterritorial enemy had not changed the reality of the division of power within the Church. This organization still had several factions and minor disputes over who should do what.

But while two groups had coalesced around Maximilian before his arrival, the former Supreme Pontiff's group had disintegrated, and Gloria's faction had grown in size.

Everyone who didn't want to be in Maximilian's faction was joining Gloria's group.

That continued even after Maximilian reached level 100, as many believed the current Supreme Pontiff might fall in the war in a few decades.

If that happened, many feared that the whole world and the Church would come to an end. But some felt that the death of Maximilian was more likely than the disappearance of the Church.

In his absence, some people wanted to be on the right side, on the side of Minos Stuart's wife.

So even now, Gloria's faction continued to grow, with more and more members of the Church becoming part of her group.

And how could this help the Black Plain Empire in the future war against the aliens? Basically, Gloria's job was to grow within the Church, to get better information and resources for her group, and to get in touch with renowned professionals.

She wanted to raise the level of the empire's professionals and increase the state's chances of getting specialists, but also for Church members to help them by passing on news of possible advances by their competitors.

As much as the whole world was in danger, the local powers were competitors until the enemies came. All of them, or at least most of them, cooperated with simple things about their enemies' techs, but the essentials were developed in secret by each organization.

But this wasn't as strange as you might think. That is, each group was developing what they understood about the aliens in their own way, using their individual realities and characteristics.

The Sky Whales worked according to their aquatic characteristics and their large, powerful bodies. Meanwhile, the elves dealt with the alien ways through their great spiritual affinity and intelligence. How could they work together when one's methods might not work for the others?

How could they forget millions of years of history and reveal their secrets just to help others with things that might not make a difference?

As far as each group could help the other beings in the Spiritual World without compromising themselves, they did so. But when it came to parts that involved deep secrets of their races or organizations, each group was secretive about their progress.

And, of course, everyone knew this, and there were already beings who were watching the powers around the world as if they were competitors in an arms race.

Gloria was taking care of this side of the current moment for the empire, trying to protect the empire while observing her opponents through her vast observation network.

She was in her office, dealing with this with her parents, who had also joined her faction.

"Sigh... What we're doing seems wrong." Gloria's father commented in a sighing tone after they had finished giving some orders.

"Yes, but it's necessary," Gloria said. "As much as we risk all dying very soon, we can't rule out the scenario where the Spiritual World continues long after the war.

In that case, would it be a good idea for us to share all our secrets? Wouldn't it be appropriate to have some guarantees and means to protect ourselves at least?" She said as she looked at her parents, aware of the risks of not sharing everything they knew about the aliens but also prepared for the uncertainties of fate.

If they survived the aliens, and that was Minos' plan, this state had to be prepared to deal with their fellow neighbors of the Spiritual World. If they didn't, it was almost certain that the forces working together today would turn at least some of their weapons against them in the future!

To avoid this, they had to do the same as their competitors, hide how much they had developed while secretly observing others worldwide!

"Sigh... You're right, daughter. But how long are we going to hide what we've developed? I must say, the empire seems to be more advanced than other powers I've come in contact with.

Even after Vico forced Minos to stay in the North Sea almost a year longer, it doesn't seem to have been enough for other powers to overcome our initial advantage." Gloria's mother commented.

Some of Minos' group believed that Vico had not left Minos in charge of the alien base in the North Sea so that he could integrate other people from the world with the alien technologies. They felt that God wanted the Black Plain Empire to lose the advantage of their time alone in that area, learning alien things!

No one knew if this was exactly true, but the fact was that the suspicion was there.

According to some of the data Gloria's parents had access to, even though the state of Minos had lost its initial advantage due to

Emperor Stuart staying there for an extra year, the Black Plain Empire was still more advanced than some of its 10th-stage competitors.

Aware of this, Gloria answered her mother's question: "We will keep our theories and progress secret until Minos reaches the 10th stage. At that point, he will decide the best time to share what we've achieved."

Minos believed that his state's most significant progress would come after it reached level 90. So, there was no way the empire could share its discoveries with the competition before then.

"Level 90, huh? At the rate he's growing, that doesn't seem so far away." Margot commented with a sigh, remembering the first time she had met her son-in-law.

"I imagine the forces of our world still have about a decade to work on Minos' information." Gloria's father agreed, a little relieved that the empire would reconsider its current position but still worried about the world's future.

'I just hope it's not too late...