

## **Black Plain 2051**

### Chapter 2051 The Third

Another year passed...

While the Black Plain Empire was secretly making progress with alien technologies, the Spiritual World was experiencing a technological boom.

Not only the powers involved in developing war technologies for the fate of the world were learning the alien methods. In addition to the powers most concerned with the survival of this world and its people's freedom, some organizations seized the moment for short-term financial gain.

Several blacksmiths, alchemists, array masters, etc., had been working with alien technologies for the past two years, but they weren't just trying to improve the world's powers. Many professionals used part of their knowledge to change pill formulas, array inscriptions, weapon models, and so on. Through these changes, better items became available to those with more resources.

Everything from weapons, defensive items, cultivation items, and even new types of lamps, doors, and so on constantly appeared on the market. All kinds of products were being released, proposing that warriors could fight at a higher level, cultivate faster, rest better, and so on.

As a result, some people became wealthy at an unprecedented rate as their products spread throughout the market.

Before, it would have been impossible for many of these professionals to get enough resources to get protection or access to the world's most advanced powers in terms of brute force. But through this opportune moment, individuals of all kinds gained notoriety for their "revolutionary" products and gradually gained what they needed to gain protection or access to stronger powers.

As a result of this revolution, people who were disconnected from the world's major powers gradually discovered the tragic fate of the Spiritual World!

Until now, only high-ranking professionals, their closest associates, and the major powers of the spiritual world were aware of the troubles that awaited them in the future. But this revolution was attracting the

attention of people on every continent and island in the world, and they were gradually realizing the strange situation they were in.

Where would this lead? Few in the world knew at the moment. But some were already beginning to worry as rumors began to circulate around the world!

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On Elves Island...

Vico had been in this state since he had said goodbye to Maximilian in the capital of the Evergreen Empire years ago.

After more than 2.8 years in this place, he felt his waiting was about to end.

As he sat with some elves and high-ranking members of his empire, he turned his attention away from the topic at hand, the widespread world rebellion, and looked in the direction of the Tree of Life.

"Auræ is about to leave her place of seclusion." Vico smiled as he felt the last Lightning Tribulation strike the woman, but her mental state seemed stable.

Auræ had just endured five Tribulations, which was extreme, but it also meant that the chances of her experiencing another one were very small.

Rare were the beings who had to face so many trials in their divine ascension!

Considering her talent, Vico could feel she would reach level 100 in the next few moments.

All the elves besides Vico turned their attention to where Auræ should be, feeling hopeful about the progress of the strongest of the tribe.

Aurae was second in power only to the leader of the Sky Whale and Dragon tribes, the only ones stronger than her at level 99.

If she really managed to break through to level 100, the Spiritual World would have a better chance than everyone thought!

She wasn't like Vico and Maximilian. She alone could be considered stronger than both of them put together!

Thinking about how much her breakthrough could mean to the Spiritual World right now, all the elves on the island turned their attention to the Tree of Life, sensing the decisive moment for all of them.

And so, on that fateful day, she would succeed in advancing, overcoming the last cultivation bottleneck between level 99 and level 100, and reaching divinity after several tens of thousands of years in this world.

The same phenomenon that had already affected the capital of the Eastern Empire and the Evergreen Empire reappeared in the world, with Ellves Island 'suffering' more than those two places from the phenomena caused by such an advance.

A few moments after the spiritual signs appeared in this place, Aurae left the Elves' Spatial Kingdom through the door of the Tree of Life, returning to her homeland after years of seclusion.

"Sigh... The world seems colder now. The ice age hasn't arrived yet, but it's very close." She murmured, feeling the laws of the atmosphere, before closing her mouth and looking where Vico was.

"Vico Travisani... What happened?" She asked the man, seeing that his island was fine and that the man seemed to be waiting for her.

In that case, something severe must have happened in her absence!

"Lady Aegolor, I'm glad you have succeeded in your attempt to reach the 11th stage. In addition to the two of us, Maximilian has also become a God." He said as he greeted the beautiful woman with a gesture typical of the Spiritual World.

"Maximilian?"

"Yes, but as my lady can imagine, we are in such serious trouble that he and I have given up our war and are uniting with the rest of the world to strengthen ourselves together while we still have time."

"We have time for what?" She became serious, feeling that things were much worse than she had imagined when she had succeeded in her stage advance.

Vico was direct in his answer. "There are enemies of the world in the North Sea, beings who come from another planet. They're going to attack us with everything in about 27 years. The problem with everything, which even frightens Gods like Maximilian and me, is the number of opposing Gods."

"What number?"

"32. Our enemy has an army of 32 Gods." He replied, looking into the eyes of this green-skinned woman with the same colored eyes, giving this expert the first big shock of her existence!

As a powerful and talented elf, she had never felt so pressured as she did right now!

Even though she had reached level 100 and was very talented, there were still threats that could scare even her!

"Shit!"

Vico laughed bitterly, realizing that everyone who reached his level in this generation would be frustrated somehow.

Chapter 2052 New worry

"So... what are we going to do?" Aurne asked after a few minutes of silence, trying to work through her frustration alone.

"Well, if we're lucky, we'll have a fourth God in our world by the time the enemies reach the Spiritual World," Vico commented to her. "Makai may succeed in his advance in the next decade."

"Makai?" Aurne immediately thought of the strongest being in the world, an old acquaintance of hers, one of the oldest beings in the world in this generation. "Did he get a Divine Medicine? I heard that the medicine of the Sky Whales would take 29,000 years to mature."

"He found a wild Divine Medicine. That guy is really lucky." A level 99 elf commented.

"So that's it. Is he in the middle of his seclusion right now? How long has it been since he started?"

"About four years, ma'am." Another elf answered her question.

"I see. I feel that he will not fail. In fact, I feel that anyone with the minimum talent and resources will succeed in their advancements starting from today." She commented as she cooled her head and talked about what she had felt during her breakthrough.

"What do you mean?" Vico asked her.

One of the level 99 elves standing around the large Tree of Life asked. "Does it have to do with a last effort before death?"

"Yes, it does," Aurne confirmed an ancient elven theory that when the world was in danger of ending or being completely exhausted by something, the world itself would change its laws to continue to exist.

As was already known, this world was alive and depended on the "metabolism" of important spiritual organisms to function as it did.

As a living being, it could work below what it was capable of, which usually resulted in temporary weakening, or it could work above what it was capable of, which resulted in overgrowth.

The latter had never happened in the entire history known to the creatures of this world, but the former had happened a few times.

In any case, the elves had this theory that the world would try to defend itself if it was attacked by something capable of destroying it. The method of defense was quite simple: to facilitate the cultivation of the natives of the planet itself so that they could fight off the threats.

As she progressed, Aurae felt that things were easier than she had expected. When she discovered that Vico and Maximillian had also advanced and that an unexpected Divine Medicine had appeared for Makai, she couldn't help but feel that the world was helping them.

She explained her theory to those who didn't know much about it. "The world has its defense mechanisms, but it can't fight back in the normal way that we can. The most it can do is use Lightning Tribulations to destroy threats. Still, with so many living beings in the world, it's hard to distinguish between enemies and allies. So only we can do that.

Therefore, the Spiritual World probably uses its foundation or origin to temporarily increase spiritual wealth, which should make it easier to advance from any cultivation level," said the elf.

A Level 99 elf said. "If that's the case, it will be easier for Divine Medicine to mature and for those who consume it to reach level 100."

"Not only that. It will be easier for everyone to cultivate; even Spiritual Kings and Emperors will be able to advance more easily from now on." Aurae said, very sure of her words.

"If that's the case, good. We'll need it." Vico said before continuing what he had said before. "While this news is not bad, there aren't many known Divine Medicines that will mature in a short time. Moreover, the number of low-level cultivators won't be important in the future.

Only the number of Demigods and Gods will make a difference, so let's focus on that. That's why we're working on alien technologies. You must see this, Lady Aegolor. Go to the North Sea as soon as you can. Most of what the enemies left is there. You'll understand why I said all this when you get there."

"I will." She agreed quietly.

But before she could move, the second strongest of the elves' tribe stepped forward and said. "Before you go, Aurae, we have a problem developing in the world that you might want to know about right away."

"What is it?" She asked, looking seriously at the elf.

"As we speak here, around the Divine Continent and the Central Continent, low-level people are gradually spreading rumors about the future and the arrival of enemies." He said, returning to the topic they had discussed before the end of their foray.

"And what's wrong with that? The people of our world must know what will happen next, so they'll cooperate and fight alongside us." She said naively, unaware of the disturbing signs that some groups had already noticed.

Vico closed his eyes while some of his men there took a deeper breath as they considered what was emerging on a larger scale on these two continents and what was already appearing at the bottom of the seas.

The elf from before said. "The problem is that some people think that the Spiritual World doesn't stand a chance against the aliens. They think that if we fight, we'll only bring disaster to everyone. Some people just think that surrender is worth considering."

"What?" Aurae couldn't believe her ears.

Vico confirmed it. "We already have reports of groups holding protests, demanding that we give up fighting the enemies and prepare to surrender. At least a small portion of the people on my continent seem to prefer living as slaves to facing almost certain death in 27 years."

"But that's not the worst of it, Aurae. A minority of these people are radicals who are gradually taking action to try to hinder our progress with alien technologies!" Another level 99 elf said.

"As much as we are making significant progress in various areas and hope has not yet died, more and more people in the Spiritual World are programming this madness of surrender.

If we're not careful, we could face a widespread internal crisis before the enemies arrive in 27 years!"

Everyone was worried at the thought of this, imagining what would happen if 80% of the world's population, who were weak but responsible for almost 99% of the world's production of food, resources, minerals, etc., stopped working in a kind of strike against the powerful people trying to strengthen themselves to fight the aliens.

#### Chapter 2053 The Emperor's Decision!

A few weeks after Aurae's level-up...

Minos was back in Dry City this morning after several months in the Spatial Kingdom.

Earlier today, he had completed his final breakthrough within the 9th stage, reaching the last level of this stage, level 89!

After stabilizing his cultivation, he decided to return to his city and take a few days off to spend more time with his wives and children.

That was an important time for the world to prepare against the aliens. Still, Minos felt that a temporary break from his interests could give him new perspectives when he was too stressed.

Working with alien technology was very stressful. As much as he and his group were constantly learning new things, it was a lot of work to make improvements. Moreover, they were still far from understanding the core technologies of the people of The Adamant Land.



After leaving this morning, he left his Spatial Kingdom to take a breather and hear from his men how things were going on this side.

Leaving the imperial palace, he managed to reach the central part of his city before any of his men could reach him.

Looking around this place, well-lit by the area's lighting arrays, he saw many members of the government and army walking from one side to the other while some people were wearing or carrying things he had never seen before.

'New technology?' He realized what it was and how it had come about without needing anyone to explain it to him.

But in less than five minutes of watching the movement of his city, several soldiers caught up with him, and one of them brought him important news.

"Your Majesty, it's good to have you back in the city. And congratulations on reaching level 89." A 10th-stage soldier said as he made a military greeting to a superior.

"Your Majesty, I don't want to interrupt your observation, but we have some urgent matters that need your opinion."

"What is it?" Minos asked as he looked at his citizens, noting the changes in his city, this place that had once been a barren, undeveloped end of the world.

"First, we have good news for the world. The strongest of the elves, Aurae Aegolor, has succeeded in her attempt to reach level 100 and is now the third to become a God."

"Oh? Is that true?"

"Yes, she's currently in the North Sea, catching up on what happened during her seclusion. We still don't know what she will do, but she may come to Dry City." The soldier said.

"Why?" Minos looked at him.

"Our state has received some advantages that only the strongest powers in the world received after the discovery of what's in the North Sea. She's a God, so it's possible that she wants to question us or change something that the Gods Maximillian and Vico have already decided.

She's supposed to be stronger than them."

"I see. And what else has happened in my absence?"

The Demigod replied. "Many things. As Your Majesty can see, the continent is being transformed by alien technology.

Many new things appear on the market almost weekly. These adaptations of alien technologies are already beginning to influence our world, giving more power to individuals at all levels but also facilitating cultivation, communication, transportation, and so on.

There is a positive side to all of this, but there is also a significant negative that has concerned leaders around the world in recent months.

With technological advances, more and more people are suspicious about the status of the North Sea and the sudden peace of the high powers of our world..."

Minos frowned. "Speak directly, General."

"Yes, Your Majesty. At the moment, groups of people who believe in waging war against the aliens are already gaining notoriety on the Divine and Central Continents.

There are even radical groups fighting against the technological advancement of the Spiritual World and calling for surrender." The General said as the soldiers around Minos felt anger at these cowardly people.

Minos didn't express his thoughts when he heard this, but he was really disappointed.

How could anyone prefer slavery or even death to fighting for freedom?

The fight for freedom would have its dangers, and many would die. But wouldn't it be better to die fighting for the chance to live the way they wanted to than to be humiliated, possibly beaten, tortured, and then killed by a ruthless enemy?

That's what most of the strongest people in the world thought, and that's why they didn't talk about surrendering. They wanted to strengthen themselves as much as possible and try to fight their enemies at least once before giving up and surrendering.

Many would prefer to die, while others were willing to humiliate themselves if it meant living a minimally acceptable life. But even those who thought of the latter alternative saw the rebel movement to fight the war in defense of the world as absurd!

"This... Are you serious?" Minos asked after a moment's thought. "Be honest with me. Is there such a group in my state?"

The General of the Black Plain Army lowered his head and sighed.

"I am serious, Your Majesty. And yes, there is such a group in our state. After all, we are the largest state in terms of area and population on the Central Continent, and practically every state on our continent suffers from these rebel groups these days."

Minos clenched his fists in anger. "Wretches! Since these cowards prefer certain death, let's help them reach their destiny!"

"What do you mean?"

Minos walked over to the army headquarters and said. "We will start a program to surrender groups to the aliens and offer them to the rebels."

"What?"

"All those who decide to surrender will be marked for death. We'll kill all the fools who choose to serve the aliens! That is the punishment for treason against our state!"

All the soldiers heard this and looked at each other, remembering that there were not one or two people in the rebel groups but millions of people!

The Black Plain Empire currently had nearly 4 billion inhabitants. The number of rebels already identified by the army was over 5 million, a significant number of people for the state to eliminate with a single order.

"Your Majesty... We're talking about millions of people. It's not a small group. These cowards have a very attractive speech."

"How many are we talking about?" Minos asked as he walked alongside his men.

"About five million."

"Hmm, so if we count their families, it must be between 10 and 30 million. All right, do as I say. Start a program to make it easier to identify the rebels. Let's kill them all and expel their families from the empire!"

#### Chapter 2054 Controversial Program

A few days passed after Minos' order, but the Black Plain Army had already publicly released a surrender plan that promised to hand over all those who signed it to the aliens before the war began.

In short, this plan promised to help these people surrender to the aliens and make them hostages of the world invaders, so that the aliens could decide for themselves the future of the defectors from the forces of the Spiritual World.

At the plan's beginning, everyone thought the army was playing a trick on everyone. However, after a few days and the news of what was happening in many of the empire's major cities, the population slowly began to believe that the plan was real.

Minos still intended to fight the aliens, but he opened the possibility for his citizens to surrender to the aliens before the war began.

As the people realized the plan was serious, Minos' allies began to worry about what was happening in this state.

His allies were also facing protests and even terrorist attacks in their states by groups who wanted to surrender to the aliens. How could they not be concerned that such a famous and important ally would take such a rash action?

But even though many of his allies were looking for him, Minos had refused to meet with virtually everyone who had tried to arrange a meeting with him recently.

Even members of the Pantheon of Honor and Julian and Aarav's faction hadn't had a chance to meet Minos to talk about it.

Aarav was already living in Dry City by that time. Still, even on the occasions when he and Minos had met, Emperor Stuart had refused to talk about it.

Since Aarav was one of the few in the Pantheon of Honor who knew about Minos' empire's advances in enemy technology, he didn't insist, determined to see how far Minos would go.

So, the first hundreds of thousands of people around the empire signed up for the project, signaling their preference to surrender to their enemies rather than fight their opponents and be exterminated without any chance of surrender.

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Three weeks after the start of the Black Plain Empire's Surrender Project, Aarav reached this state.

Specifically, this God arrived in Dry City, where she wanted to meet Minos and talk to him about her experiences and see how he was doing with his projects.

Upon arriving at the core of the empire, the blonde woman, with a serious look on her face, smiled when she saw the dome of Dry City, that thing made of the combination of several black holes.

'This is impressive. These defenses can currently prevent even level 97 Demigods from invading this city. Besides, this thing almost looks like a Spatial Kingdom to me. If it advances a little further, the space in this area will probably fold up and form a space region independent of the normal world.' She quickly analyzed the situation of the defenses created by Minos when he reached level 80.

But that wasn't enough to stop her. As soon as she moved, she passed through the defenses of Dry City's dome as if it were nothing and reached the inner part of that place where millions of people important to the empire lived.

Looking at this place, she immediately realized how alien technologies had already changed how people lived there.

She didn't know the Black Plain Empire, but she knew very well what the lifestyle of the entire Central Continent was like. Seeing how things were today in the most important city in the north of that continent, she realized the changes brought about by alien technologies.

'It looks like my generation will have to get used to these things.' She saw a group of children flying around in canoe-like artifacts.

But it was there that she saw the most important changes, noticing a large boat floating in the air near the city's lake.

"That..." She identified the thing, a spaceship, something only the elves and sea folk had understood enough to make their boats fly.

But from what she had just noticed, the Black Plain Empire was as advanced or more advanced than the two most intelligent races in the Spiritual World!

'It seems that young Minos Stuart has been hiding his discoveries... It's good I came here, or we'd be in trouble.' She laughed, pleased to discover the truth about this state, and imagined that her people could advance quickly with the discoveries of the young local leader.

lightsnovel But as she watched the empire's technological advances, the woman with the big pointed ears realized the famous Emperor Stuart wasn't around.

She saw a woman with a strong scent of Minos and moved towards her, appearing in front of a beautiful blue-haired woman who was looking in the direction from which she had entered the city.

Everyone in the city had noticed the arrival of a God, so Abby wasn't surprised to see this person appear before her.

"Lady Aegolor..." She immediately recognized who this person was, knowing that she was the strongest member of the elven tribe, the only one in this generation to have reached level 100.

"Human, your talent isn't bad. You're close to level 87, not bad. But you're still below your husband." She commented as she touched Abby's body, quickly understanding many things about this person, from the Empress's age to the fact that she had already carried a child in her womb.

"Where is your husband?" She moved from Abby's back to the front of the young woman so quickly it was as if she was teleporting.

"My husband is in a city in the Brown area right now. He's dealing with the problem of the rebels who want to surrender to the aliens." Abby said as Aurae looked in the direction of Brown.

"Oh? Is he working on that little project? I heard about it. It's quite interesting, although I disagree with it." She commented.

"Forgive my impertinence, but you may have misunderstood my husband's intentions, Lady Aegolor," Abby said. "Many underestimate the laws of the empire and the consequences of breaking them."

Aurae narrowed her eyes. "What does he intend to do?"

Abby asked instead of answering. "Lady Aegolor, do you know the laws of my state? Here, not only soldiers are punished for crimes of treason. Any citizen can be punished.

In normal situations, citizens who betray the state are punished with expulsion from the empire along with their families. However, betraying us to the aliens is an unforgivable crime punishable by death."

"You're not saying that..." She looked away from Abby and in Brown's direction, feeling a shiver run down her spine.

While they were talking there in Dry City, a massacre that would soon make headlines across the continent and the world was taking place in Brown's area, where more than 2 million people who had joined the Surrender Program were being killed!

Meanwhile, their relatives already had army men at their doors to tell them to leave the empire!

Chapter 2055 The Owner of the State Makes the Rules

After hearing from the Empress of the Black Plain Empire what Minos was planning, Aurae went to where Emperor Stuart was supposed to be, leaving Abby behind.

It didn't take Aurae long to figure out where Minos was, but it was too late to do anything about it when she reached him.

Arriving in the area of Brown, where Minos had arranged an extensive meeting with the citizens of the empire who wanted to surrender, Aurae found an empty place, while a black hole capable of swallowing lower Demigods was near Minos.

She couldn't distinguish the energy in Minos' black hole, but she sensed that much of it didn't come from the young level 89 Sage. In her opinion, it had come from the 2 million or so people who were supposed to be there.

Seeing that only a few hundred people were there but were all wearing symbols of the Black Plain Empire, the elf looked around, her eyebrows furrowed.



"What have you done?" She asked in a somber tone.

The silence in the area and the way some of the people there seemed to be there, not to organize the previous event but to record everything that was going to happen, disturbed her immensely.

Minos looked at Aurae, not so surprised that she was there since his government had expected her to come to him at some point.

"Lady Aegolor, I did not expect to meet you under these circumstances..." Minos said as he controlled his black hole, shrinking it even more while preparing a suitable device to store it.

"By the way, congratulations on your breakthrough. The Spiritual World is counting on your strength." He smiled at her.

Seeing Minos' attitude, this level 100 woman questioned him. "Minos, don't you want to explain yourself? Did you kill all the people who were here? Aren't you afraid that this will cause a widespread rebellion?"

"Rebellion? We don't have time for that, lady. That's why I solved the problem at the source before it could cause any more problems.

My state has laws. I've never hidden them from anyone. If someone has come here to take advantage of the opportunities I offer but doesn't want to follow the local rules, they have two choices. One, leave immediately. We don't force people to stay. Or two, accept the local laws or pay for their crimes.

I will punish anyone who breaks my laws! This is my commitment to the Black Plain Empire and the war heroes who gave their lives for this state!

If you want to join us, you'll have to expect this. Today, I didn't kill any innocent people. But I have punished over 2 million traitors who took advantage of the empire's services but wanted to side with our enemies.

As we speak, I have hundreds of thousands of soldiers expelling the families of these traitors from my domains. They have already lost all their property and investments in the empire and will be forbidden to return or use the services of the state for eternity."

As Minos spoke, a man from the local government used a recording array to broadcast the local supreme leader's words live to the largest cities in the empire.

Minos had broadcast everything that had happened there before Aurae's arrival, and it was still on the big screens in the empire's largest cities.

At the moment, his words reached at least 200 million people north of the Central Continent.

Over the next few days, newspapers throughout the region would report on the event from the empire's point of view, with reports from the journalists Minos had invited to cover the entire trial that afternoon.

Yes, it was a trial, but it was also an execution. Before Aurae arrived, he had read the laws of the empire and the crimes committed by the people who had appeared in this place today.

After finding them guilty of the crime of treason, he did not hesitate to punish them for using the black hole to kill more than 2 million living beings.

Understanding everything that had just happened, Aurae couldn't help but feel a little frightened by such brutality, seeing that Minos was more determined than ever.

'The rumors said that he was ruthless, but I never thought it would be like this.' She looked at him in silence, realizing that there was nothing she could do for the dead. 'But I don't think there's anything to say to him. People who sign agreements when they come to this state must follow the local rules.

If they are foolish enough to break imperial laws while they have such a strict ruler, well, that is their problem. '

"Sigh... You're very hotheaded, Minos Stuart. Your people won't like this at all." She sighed but didn't press the issue because he was right.

This was Minos' empire. Everything that existed there was only possible because of his decades of effort. Even though many people had given their sweat and blood for this place, without Emperor Stuart, nothing in this area would be the way it is today. The northern region of the Central Continent would still be the same as it was more than 60 years ago if he hadn't made all the decisions he did!

Anyone who came to this state should accept the local rules.

Wasn't it natural that violators should pay for their transgressions?

'It was just a shame that so many people had to die in a moment of fragility and that such a delicate matter had to be given such prominence.'

"The Black Plain Empire is focused on developing and becoming the bastion of the Spiritual World if necessary. We will develop our technologies as much as possible and eventually win the war against the aliens!" Minos said with great determination as he looked at Aurae and had his image and voice broadcast throughout the empire.

When the person responsible for the transmission signaled that everything was over, Minos went to Aurae's side.

"Hunting criminals is not an easy or efficient task, Your Excellency. I'd rather frighten the rebels in my state than deal with them individually." Minos explained to her. "Some will hate me for it, but I think most of the disgruntled will leave the state after that.

That will reduce the number of people and problems my men will have to chase in the coming years."

"Oh? You don't seem so hasty now." She understood his motivation.

Whether the plan to scare off the traitorous rebels would work or not was another question that only time would tell.

In any case, since Minos had already broadcast everything to the entire state, it wouldn't make any difference for her to interfere.

"I would have thought of another solution if I were you. But since you've already done everything your own way, I wish you luck. In the meantime, we need to talk about alien technologies. Minos, what do you think about a partnership between the Black Plain Empire and Elves Island?"

#### Chapter 2056 Agreement with the Elves?

When Minos heard that level 100 woman talking about a partnership, he smiled because what she really meant was, "kindly give me your technologies in exchange for me not taking them from you.

Aurae wasn't there to make a deal with him but to get what she wanted and pretend to give him something in return!

There was no choice, and Minos' answer could only be one.

"Establishing a partnership between my state and the Elven Island would be an honor." He said as he looked into the green eyes of this beautiful woman who was a little smaller than he was.

"What do you need?" She asked him. "I already know about your advancements, so you don't have to list what you have to give me. I want you to give me everything your empire manages to develop over the next ten years concerning the models you brought here from the North Sea."

'What a naughty woman!' Minos looked at her, pretending that everything was fine, thinking about what he could ask of her in return, but also how much of an advantage it would give him against the elves.

'So basically, I have 17 years left to try to outdo the elves before the war... Tsk, as little as it may seem, that's the same as nothing for ordinary people. She wants to limit my state's development level to the same level as Elves Island!'

Seventeen years was no small feat for Minos and the Black Plain Empire. But Aurae didn't know how that state worked, nor Emperor Stuart's theory, or how that theory implied local technological development.

In 10 years, the state of Minos should be close to the maximum it could reach before the aliens arrived due to the Understanding Curve.

The Understanding Curve was a special model developed by the elves that indicated the maximum a cultivator could understand in a given time interval.

Once a certain limit was reached, even the most talented elves could not continue learning. In other words, even if the whole world were to study alien technology right now, at some point in the future, about 10 years from now, most or almost all of the world would stop making progress.

After reaching the critical point of the Understanding Curve, one would have to make a qualitative advance. In other words, one would have to advance one stage to continue advancing and understanding the enemy's methods.

However, after these 10 years, there would be less than 17 years until the aliens arrived. In the meantime, it would be unlikely that the vast majority of the world's cultivators could advance any further, let alone focus on the enemy's techniques.

Therefore, Aurae's words to Minos were very clear from the perspective of anyone who understood the Spiritual World. She wanted all the knowledge he was supposed to get from the alien technologies and had only not asked for the next few years until the enemies arrived to limit what Emperor Stuart could ask.

In a way, she was taking everything from the Black Plain Empire without even showing it!

For a high-ranking elder, this was perfect for protecting her honor!

'I will probably be a Demigod by then, so my chances will change... Fortunately, she underestimated my importance in developing the empire's technologies.'

He then replied to her. "If that's the case, I would like to ask Your Excellency for three things."

"What are they?" She asked as she crossed her hands behind her back and began to fly back to Dry City alongside Minos.

"First, I would like your protection in case another God decides to make similar or more demanding requests on my state in the future."

"Another God? You mean the leader of the Sky Whales?"

"That is correct. He's mighty, and I don't know what he might want from my homeland in the future." Minos nodded as he spoke. "As much as it's in my interest to protect the world, I also want to protect my state and my legacy. I cannot give everything I have and have nothing to protect my own people.

I have already recognized with my men that certain alien technologies cannot be replicated in large numbers. So, if I'm forced to give away everything I have, I'll end up with nothing for my state.

That's why I want you to help me. Maybe this guy won't even waste his time on me. But if he or one of the other two Gods decides to demand something of me, I'll either spend it on having Lady Aegolor speak on my behalf and even act if necessary."

"I can speak on your behalf and plan things to keep them from coming to your state. But I will not fight them." She said.

"All right, that's enough," Minos said before making two signs with one of his hands. "Secondly, I would like the elven tribe to share their progress with us. Perhaps we have perceived alien technology in a different way due to our origins. It's possible we could develop faster if we shared information."

"Oh?" She liked that and saw no problem in sharing information with someone as advanced or more so than her people. "Very well. We'll cooperate until the ten-year deadline I mentioned."

"Third, I would like Lady Aegolor to grant me access to the Tree of Life. I would like to visit that place during the Continental Tournament."

The Continental Tournament was still scheduled to take place about five years before the arrival of the aliens.

It would no longer be as expected before the alien invasion was discovered. On this occasion, which would take place in about 22 years, the world's powers intended to use the event as a major test before the alien invasion, where their most talented high-level warriors would train together and receive tips from top experts.

There would still be prizes and stakes for such a competition, which would still be held on Elves Island, as planned.

Aurae became more serious after hearing this, for the Tree of Life was a place that only the strongest elves or very strong beings from the Spiritual World could enter.

She asked him. "What are you going to do there?"

"I am going to test a theory, but mainly to cultivate. I believe that by having access to such a place, I'll be able to advance one level further than I could without this chance." Minos said without revealing too much of the truth but without lying.

Looking at Minos' serious look, Aurae felt it was worth taking a chance on this human who had inherited the legacy of the God of Time.

All current Gods knew about it at this point.

Then she said. "Very well. I can allow you to do this."

"Then we have a deal."

Chapter 2057 Reactions (1)

Days later...

The entire empire was still discussing what Minos had done in the Brown area days ago.

More than 200 million of the empire's citizens had watched as the emperor judged and executed more than 2 million traitors to the nation before ordering the expulsion of the same number of families from his territory.

Of the 5% of the state's population that had witnessed the event across the state, more than half of the inhabitants of the Black Plain Empire were aware of everything that had happened.

The day after Minos' deeds, all anyone talked about was the punishment the emperor had meted out to the group of rebels who had tried to surrender to the aliens.

Many people were a little afraid because many had done nothing but express their desire not to join the war. But the part of the state's population that had lived in the region the longest and knew the most about Minos' history, who had followed him since the War of Independence, saw things differently.

Minos was not a leader who ruled only to be admired and supported by his people. He had a clear interest and would do anything to achieve his goals.

He didn't create opportunities for his people out of compassion. He did it to strengthen his state and increase his chances of gaining more power with the army and, more recently, with alien technologies.

In the past, he had exterminated families, expelled people from his state, and punished those who broke the rules he created.

So when the news of what he had done came, at least 1.5 billion inhabitants were not so surprised by the massacre of the rebels, as they had treated it as just another of Minos' moves.

But another part of the state had been in the Black Plain Empire for less time, having arrived there after the war in the south had begun when things were relatively stable in the north of the continent.



These people had heard the stories of Minos' past exploits, but they had never lived through the terrible experiences.

Faced with the first great moment of uncertainty, many couldn't help but fear the future and wonder if they were on the right path.

But when the first news of the event was published a few days after Minos' deeds, the discussions around the state would reach new heights!

...

In a tavern in the capital of the End's area, one of the most developed areas after the core of the empire...

Several sheets of newspapers lay on the tavern's floor, and there was a lot of noise in this place where people normally came to eat, drink, and relax among friends.

On one side of the tavern, some people were talking in low voices with worried expressions, while on the other side, the customers were loudly talking while drinking.

One of the loudspeakers said. "The empire must kill these bastards! Aliens come to the Spiritual World, and a bunch of cowards want to surrender? They want to get in our way because they're afraid to fight? Fuck them!"

"Yes! If anyone from our state wants to side with the aliens, then let them leave our land and find a place to wait out the invasion! But we don't have to live with those bastards or accept their opinions!"

"I won't accept an enemy that sees my children as food or slaves to dictate things in the world! If we have to live in misery, I'd rather fight to the death! His Majesty is more clear than ever. His decision couldn't have been better!" A local man said aloud, his face shaking.

He had seen the war of Minos and the rest of the northern region decades ago and then seen the benefits of being on the side of Emperor Stuart. He had suffered before, but by siding with his former enemy, he had grown up, stopped being a Spiritual King, and then reached the end of the 7th stage!

He now dreamed of advancing to the 8th stage, something he had never dreamed of before the rise of Minos.

But these opportunities didn't come for free. First, he had lost a lot in the War of Independence, and then he had to learn to live by Minos' rules.

The price was that he had to forget the past, accept the enemy, and even work for him.

Was it worth it? Of course, it was!

But now he couldn't help but feel irritated when he saw that there were people who had never lost anything or given anything in return but thought they couldn't be accused by His Majesty Minos Stuart.

How could he see these people muttering about it and remain silent?

To him, these people were ungrateful for the opportunities they had been given, foolish for thinking that everything in the world should be fair, and ultimately cowardly for not seeing that the current situation was one of life and death.

By now, more than half the continent was aware that an alien invasion was planned to take place in a few decades, something that would bring a war of world proportions to this planet.

The enemy was coming to this world to gather resources, not to make friends. It would exterminate everyone in its path, as it didn't need the local people to work for it.

All this had been revealed in the latest newspapers, which Minos had used to convince his people to work even harder for the empire and to justify his actions of days before.

Knowing this, Minos' supporters could not remain silent!

Meanwhile, those who were afraid couldn't help but comment on the situation's absurdity.

"What are we going to do? These people are fanatics! At least half of the population is willing to die in this absurd battle that the newspapers are talking about." A person who had been in the empire for less than 10 years said to the group of 5 people sitting around two tables.

"I didn't expect there would be people who would side with His Majesty after this." A woman said quietly. "Not only were 2 million people unjustly killed that day. More than 8 million people were expelled from the empire for being related to the dead.

Do you believe that? Innocent people were punished simply for having blood ties to the so-called 'traitors.'" She said as she looked wide-eyed at her tablemates.

"The situation on the ground is really complicated. His Majesty seems to have control over a large part of the population, even though he has acted so cruelly." Another said with a sigh, not knowing what to do.

## Chapter 2058 Reactions (2)

Conversations similar to the one in the previous tavern were elsewhere in the empire.

"What do we do now, people? This situation is too dangerous. Two million people just expressed their opinion about surrender and were killed. There's no freedom of speech here." A young man commented to his friends from the western region who had come to the Black Plain Empire with him after the beginning of Vico and Maximilian's war.

A woman commented. "It's extreme, but where are we going to go? Back to Mairin? The Black Plain Empire currently has the best professionals for Saints like us. Local resources are the cheapest on the continent, while salaries are among the best.

Here, we can invest in the state and earn crystals without working. We have various benefits, such as free special cultivation areas, opportunities to join the army, and much more.

Are we really considering giving up all these opportunities to people who died for opinions we don't even agree with?" She looked at her old friends.

"Don't you see the problem here, Alice?" A man of level 74 asked with a disgusted look on his face.

"What if we're the following ones? What if some of your relatives think differently from His Majesty in the future? You could lose everything, including your investments in the empire just because of that!"

"Yes, that's a problem." A blonde woman said to Alice. "I don't even talk to my older brother. I haven't seen him in over 100 years. But I know he lives in the empire today. What will happen to me if he screws up?"

What happened to those 8 million people is very unfair, you know? I understand that maybe the punishment for those who actually expressed their opinions is understandable, but this is entirely out of touch with reality. It doesn't exist anywhere!"

"I understand your concern. I, too, feel uncomfortable with all of this. But people, we've come from our state to this place. We have to abide by the local rules." Alice spoke. "No migrant comes here without being introduced to the imperial law book. If you accepted the rules when you came here, why hesitate now?"

...

Meanwhile, Ambrose Snow, currently at level 73, was in a fancy restaurant in the largest city in the Snow's area, where he was still the local leader as the current representative of the assembly.

Next to him was a high-ranking Saint with whom he had a business meeting this afternoon but who was talking to him about local insecurity.

"Ambrose, what do you really think about this?" The black-haired man in front of Ambrose asked, a little concerned about continuing in a state where the emperor could kill so many people so quickly, and the local population had no right to ask questions.

Some residents had recently attempted to protest, demanding further justification from the imperial family. However, all attempts at protest were prevented by soldiers or police, and many people were arrested for public disturbance.

Knowing this, this man, who had lived here for less than six years, couldn't help but be concerned and ask for the opinion of someone who had dealt with Minos since the very beginning of the emperor's rise to power.

Ambrose smiled as he listened to his business partner's delicate question. "James, His Majesty is both generous and ruthless. Would I do the same as him? No, but I'm not him. I don't have his ability and knowledge. Otherwise, I would be the regional leader, not His Majesty.

His Majesty sees things differently, and maybe that's why he's so successful in his journey. So I think he is right in his decisions.

And from a lawful point of view, these people have committed a crime. The aliens are threatening the whole Spiritual World, so it's right to say that they are enemies of the empire and that they are trying to destroy the state.

Anyone who says out loud or signs a declaration that they will surrender to the aliens and be at their disposal in the future is basically saying, 'we are on the side of the enemy of the empire.' How is that not treason?" Ambrose smiled as he gestured.

He continued. "So the punishment was appropriate and followed all the empire's law book rules." He placed a small book on the table where there was food and drink, drawing James' eyes to the item that every migrant would receive with their ID when they migrated to the Black Plain Empire.

Ambrose finished his thought. "James, we're businessmen. When you sign a contract, you must follow through with it, right? So why question His Majesty's actions in enforcing the 'invisible' contract he had with these residents?

Anyway, if you follow the state's rules, you and your family will be fine. Here, you'll have a chance to grow like nowhere else in the world. So I wouldn't worry if I were you."

"Do you really think so?"

Ambrose asked, spreading his arms. "Do I look nervous? Just learn to dance to the music, James. You'll be very big when you do it."

...

Meanwhile, in an area near Brown's border with Albano, a group of people were hiding in a house on the outskirts of a large city.

In the basement of that house was a group of four nervous people, each of them breaking into a cold sweat as the latest newspapers littered the floor of that sparsely decorated or lit area.

"Shit!"

"We have to leave this state." One of the people there, a woman, said as she felt afraid to continue planning her group's actions in this place.

"But our plans to sabotage the empire haven't even gotten off the drawing board yet! How will we stop the madmen of this world from further developing their powers if we give up now?" A bald man asked.

That was a group of terrorists from a faction on the Central Continent who had planned to interfere with the powers of that continent to prevent the development of technologies based on alien projects.

The group they came from believe that the war Minos and his allies wanted to fight was a losing confrontation. Fighting would only cause more casualties for the world as a whole. So, instead of fighting, they wanted to make the world aware that accepting the aliens as their new monarchs might be the best way out for everyone.

Some may find this strange at first. However, this group used an excellent narrative and was successful in recruiting more and more people as more and more people believed similar things to them.

This story was very simple. The Spiritual World was already dominated by less than 0.1% of the population, those high-ranking individuals from organizations such as the Trivisani Family, the Elves Tribe, the Pantheon of Honor, etc. For 99.9% of the population, switching from these and other groups to the aliens wouldn't make much of a difference!

So why not avoid unnecessary deaths and surrender to the aliens?

That was the group's argument!

Chapter 2059 Terrorists Terrify the Continent ?

While the ordinary people of the Black Plain Empire were discussing the current issues affecting them, the terrorists in the state were divided.

Some of them wanted to give up their intentions in this empire, fearing what would happen to them if they defied Emperor Stuart.

As terrorists, they would be in great danger anyway. But before Minos' action, they had more than 2 million people they wanted to use to cover their movements in this state.

But with the murder of those 2 million people and the rest of the like-minded people in the empire becoming afraid to expose what they really thought, the terrorists were more alone than ever.

If they acted now, they would most likely have no people to cover their actions, and the chances of being caught by empire soldiers or police would be exponentially greater than before.

That made some of the terrorists reconsider what they would do in the Black Plain Empire.

But another part of them believed that now was the time to act, to show that they weren't afraid of the tyrant known as Minos Stuart.

For these people, fighting now was more imperative than ever, as it would show the world the oppression of the powerful people, the only ones who would "really" be harmed if the aliens took over the Spiritual World.

Who else would lose in the event of an alien victory in this world? The ordinary people who farm and mine? Or the influential leaders of organizations like Minos, Vico, Maximillian, Aurae, and many others?

99.9% of the population was so weak that they could be compared to ants. It would be easy for the aliens to make them follow their rules. And so there was a chance that these people could continue with their lives as they were if they surrendered to the invaders from the Spiritual World.

But the strongest 0.1% of the population, those who could give the aliens a headache, wouldn't be needed by the world invaders at all and would be the only ones who could make domination difficult.

So they would certainly be eliminated when the aliens arrived, and that's why they so desperately wanted to fight their enemies.

But should the ordinary people suffer? The terrorists didn't think so, and the boldest of them wanted to act now more than ever to show the actual situation in the world to ordinary people who hadn't yet realized the obvious!

And with that, Minos' action was not enough to put an end to the dangers posed by the terrorists!

...

Meanwhile, the rest of the continent reacted to the latest events in the north.

But outside of the Black Plain Empire, hardly any people spoke out in Minos' defense. After all, there were hardly any people in other states of the continent who understood that state as well as the more experienced inhabitants of that area.

Moreover, the further south you went, the fewer allies Minos had to defend his side.

The first terrorists to act across the continent after Minos' recent actions took the opportunity to expose what was happening in the north and how the world's leaders were thinking just like Emperor Stuart.



A group had just attacked a facility belonging to the imperial forces of the Evergreen Empire, where military products based on alien technology were being developed.

As the terrorists fled the scene and local soldiers rose from their positions to secure the area and pursue the criminals, hundreds of civilians came out to protest the actions in the north.

"Punish the tyrant Minos!"

"We want the genocidal Minos Stuart to be punished! We demand the empire sever its ties with the Black Plain Empire!"

People appeared in the vicinity of the newly attacked site, carrying banners and placards in support of the families expelled from Minos' state but also mourning the deaths of the innocents in that terrible state.

Meanwhile, the local soldiers didn't know what to do, as they were prevented from doing their job while the protesters cleared the terrorists' escape routes.

"Shit! Where did this crowd come from?" A soldier shouted.

"They were protesting outside the imperial palace a few minutes ago. It looks like they've moved here."

"What about the enemy tracks?"

"I lost them."

"Me too. The bastards used these people against us!"

...

Meanwhile, in the capital of the Flowers Kingdom...

Queen McBride received news of attacks across the continent, with estimates that radicals would soon hit her state.

Having also heard about the recent incidents in the Black Plain Empire and the continental's concerns about the rebels, this woman had a worried expression on her face.

This woman, who was currently at level 94, then commented to her group. "What was Minos thinking? After what he did, the whole continent is worse off than before!"

Her advisor, a level 92 eunuch, then said. "Minos Stuart has always been arrogant and decisive in his actions. I don't think the power has changed that in him. He's just more rash now that powerful enemies are approaching."

"But how do we deal with this situation?" She asked. "The Flowers Kingdom is a closed state, but these terrorists seem to be everywhere. I've heard of incidents even in the city of Vico. Nothing like this has ever happened before!"

One of Hannah's eldest daughters then said. "I think we have to make a quick decision and get the state on Minos Stuart's side. Our state is closed, so whatever we decide will be accepted by our people. But if we remain undecided for too long, the terrorists may succeed in winning the hearts of our people."

"To side with Minos..." The queen murmured, aware she couldn't stand against him even if she wanted to.

Her history with him was too long to turn against him. Besides, she had promises of support from the state of Minos, so it wouldn't even make sense to stand against him.

But now, siding with Minos was like asking to be attacked by radicals.

"How can we do this without losing too much of our progress?" She asked, looking at the people in the royal throne room in her state's capital.

"The only alternative we have is to ally ourselves even more with the Black Plain Empire. Why don't we implement the same rules as Minos?" Suggested a level 91 eunuch. "Anyone who chooses to side with the aliens will be considered a traitor to the kingdom. Meanwhile, any man who enters our state, regardless of origin or background, will be captured by our strongest members!"

The Flowers Kingdom only acted against men with women of a similar level to those men. They didn't use experts to force weaker men to sleep with their juniors.

This was a matter of honor for these women but also a method to keep the continent's powers from looking too closely at them.

This eunuch, however, had suggested doing away with it!

"But that would make the whole continent angry..." Said one of Hannah's daughters.

"Not if we have the support of His Majesty Minos Stuart. Then we can do what we want and protect the Flowers Kingdom!"

Chapter 2060 A Global Movement?

Minos was currently one of the most respected experts in the Spiritual World. How had he achieved this as a mere Sage?

Not only was he the big name behind the discovery of the alien invaders, but he had also received the approval of several Gods to take parts of the alien technologies to his state, something that only peak powers in this world had achieved.

Less than 20 organizations in the entire Spiritual World had obtained parts of the technologies in the North Sea to bring back to their headquarters.

The Black Plain Empire was one of those 20 powers. As such, Minos' position was higher than ever, and many respected him as much as some high-ranking Demigods on this planet.

In addition to these accomplishments involving the aliens in some way, Minos also had a large food-producing state under his command, something important at a time when the world was about to enter an ice age.

As much as the aliens were a real problem that threatened everyone, the ice age could also affect the powers of the world if the people of that world didn't organize against it.

That was another point that gave Minos influence in the present, which is why members of the Flowers Kingdom government might think of using him as support to justify their plans to defend their state.

The Demigod, who suggested taking action against anyone who entered the Flowers Kingdom, then said to the queen. "Your Majesty, if we do nothing, rebels will invade our state, and we will have internal problems. But if we quickly stop the infiltration of foreigners into our kingdom and enact aggressive laws against pro-alien positions, we can improve local control until the enemies arrive.

With the support of His Majesty Minos Stuart and the justification that we are closing our borders to prevent rebels from entering our state, no power on the continent will try to act against us."

Another eunuch thought about what this man had just said, remembering Minos' promise to this state years ago. "It may be time to use His Majesty Minos Stuart's promise to you, Your Majesty. Right now, we are just ordinary allies. Using that promise to get closer to the Black Plain Empire might be interesting.

Why don't we temporarily ally ourselves with them? We could cooperate with His Majesty Minos Stuart in the development of new technologies, help with specialists, or even finance projects. In return, he could speak on our behalf to the continental community and help us fight our enemies."

"Do you think we've gone so far as to use that promise?" Queen McBride asked, wondering if it was worth getting so close to Minos.

The relationship her men were proposing did not seem to be one of equals but of powers on very different levels. But Minos seemed to be in a higher position than them, even if he still didn't have the numbers of the Flowers Kingdom.

Such a decision would be difficult for any leader to make!

Hannah had her pride, but she also didn't know what could happen if she relied so much on Minos.

"Yes." The two eunuchs said, while others agreed it seemed to make sense.

Not only was Minos currently influential throughout the Spiritual World, but he also seemed to be the most rigid regarding the problem with the rebels. It would be interesting for anyone with similar thoughts to take his side.

Besides, Minos was on the verge of becoming a Demigod, which would put him in an even better position than the one he's in now. Being by his side when that happened would be extremely beneficial.

To achieve the best results for the Flowers Kingdom, the eunuchs agreed to a deeper alliance with the Black Plain Empire and to support the non-tolerance policy for those willing to surrender to the aliens.

Hannah then announced. "Very well, since all advisors seem to think the same and no one has any arguments against these plans, let's proceed with what has been suggested. Contact the government of the Black Plain Empire and initiate local procedures to implement these changes immediately!

...

In the following days, Minos' allies in the world received news of what had happened in his state and the worsening situation of the rebels and terrorists in the Central Continent.

Some reacted with concern to Minos' actions, but they all understood his motives. They all faced similar problems and wanted to stop the part of the population that was thinking of surrendering.

It might seem reasonable to think that if aliens replaced the strongest in the world, maybe things would stay the same for the weakest.

But the ordinary people didn't understand how strong their enemies were!

They didn't understand the super-advanced technologies of the aliens, let alone what these beings looked like. They were entirely in the dark about 99% of the enemies, not knowing whether the aliens were world conquerors or something else.

The world leaders talking about what little they knew wouldn't help either because part of the population would never have the chance to deal with the invaders personally to understand the reality. Any justification given by world leaders would result in distrust and disbelief on the part of the terrorists and the mentally weak people.

Even if the world leaders were truly trying to protect the world from the worst, it would be challenging to solve the problem.

But Minos' ways were somewhat extreme, which made many powers concerned about what he had done.

Only a fraction of Minos' allies and business partners had publicly expressed their support for him, even after the recent news.

But even those who avoided the subject understood Minos' move and didn't blame him for anything. Contrary to what the terrorists and surrenderists had expected from the world after his actions, no one would put pressure on Emperor Stuart for his actions!

On the contrary, he had gained more support from some powers than ever before while keeping all his relationships intact.

Amidst this, those who were thinking of surrendering were more frightened than ever, seeing that tyrannical acts like his could soon be repeated outside of this state of the Central Continent!