

Black Plain 2061

Chapter 2061 The Right Decision?

The entire Spiritual World would be abuzz with talk of Minos' methods.

When he was weaker and less relevant, no one really cared if he killed left and right or if his methods were fair or unfair.

But after he became influential, the leader of one of the most populous nations in the world, and as powerful as 10th-stage experts, everything he did caused reactions.

Weaker people all over the world talked about how terrible he was and how bad it must be to live under a tyrant like him. Meanwhile, the strong envied Minos and imagined how good it would be if they could act like him and deal with the rebels in their states the way he did.

Unfortunately, doing what Minos did wasn't easy. As much as it seemed that it only depended on the will of someone powerful, most of the states in this world had been formed based on the trust of the ancient powers in the sovereign forces.

If the sovereign forces of each territory started doing extreme things, the pillars of their states would become uncomfortable, and this could even lead to internal wars or even worse weakening than the weakening caused by terrorists.

In short, the reality of most of the world was too delicate for others to repeat Minos' actions.

But the strongest agreed with him, even if some publicly said they did not.

As these discussions spread north and south, east and west, other information spread among the strongest in this world.

Amid the chaos of his actions, Minos had forged an important partnership with the Elven Island, having made a direct agreement with Aurae, the elven God of this generation!

Even after the terrible deeds, the winds continued to blow in Minos' direction!

...

"Your Excellency, was it the right decision to partner with Minos Stuart?" A level 99 elf asked the level 100 woman who had just returned to Elves Island after traveling through the North Sea and then the Central Continent.

Hearing this, Aurae didn't hide the truth. "What are 2 million lives? Hagen, the Black Plain Empire, and Minos Stuart will be critical in the war against the aliens.

Do you know how much progress they've already made in Dry City?"

"How much?" Hagen, one of the five strongest on the island, asked. "30% of what we've accomplished?"

"Funny." She laughed. "That's what the ignorant think. But the state of Minos Stuart is probably the most advanced in terms of foreign technology in our world right now."

"What?" The elf found that hard to believe.

"I've seen it with my own eyes, Hagen. I don't know how Minos did it, but I think we'll find out once we begin our partnership. Anyway, the Black Plain Empire will be vital if we are to continue to be the protectors of this world.

With their advances in the technologies of the people of The Adamant Land, we will resist the invaders of our world!

As for those fools who thought of surrendering, he was right to kill them. The world will not miss them." She said as she looked into the green eyes of the elderly-looking elf.

The man was completely surprised by Minos' state. But as for the fact that Aurae didn't care about the dead beings, he really wasn't surprised.

In normal situations, Minos' actions would be viewed negatively, as he was one of the most important axes of the world today. Any strange action on his part would be worrying.

But if he really was so good at facilitating alien technologies, then his action made more sense than anyone could have imagined. After all, he wasn't just eliminating annoying people. He was trying to reduce the number of fools in his state who believed in surrender and thereby reduce the chance of terrorist attacks on his territory.

Why was this important? Simply because the terrorist attacks had targeted spiritual professionals and technology development sites. In other words, they were trying to stop the world from progressing!

But while it might be worrisome for someone to kill so many people for small advances, it was pretty different when their advances were significant.

'If Minos can really make such a difference, then eliminating these problems was the right move.' The level 99 elf thought to himself, seeing that the strongest of his tribe hadn't gone mad to support Emperor Stuart.

"I see... Now, it makes sense. What did Your Excellency promise him in return?" He asked with a smile on his face.

"Three things, two easy things, and one annoying thing. I promised to let you into the Tree of Life."

"What?" The man's expression changed completely.

...

Meanwhile, in Dry City...

After the deal with Auras and her departure from the Central Continent to return to Elven Island, Minos returned to his city to prepare for the start of the partnership with the elves.

He had explained the situation to his government and family and was now adjusting his plans so as not to give away everything his group could develop over the next 10 years.

For example, he decided that the plans he had for when he reached level 90 would not be implemented until after the period agreed upon with Auras.

In the meantime, he wanted his people to focus on using the discoveries of the elves to try to develop what they already knew rather than having to develop everything new in the next few decades.

They were in a hurry to grow and make further technological advances. But since they would face limits in the future that would prevent them from continuing to learn and develop new things, slowing their pace a little for 10 years wouldn't change where they would be when their enemies arrived.

So Minos intended to use the loopholes in the agreement he had made with Auras to gain some future advantage over the elves!

As for the problems with the rebels, his state had dealt with them with a zero-tolerance policy.

Army and police had been cracking down on protesters and terrorists throughout the state and had already dealt with a few thousand since the trial and execution a few days ago.

This action alone wasn't enough to completely scare off all of the government's enemies. However, Minos and his people had anticipated this and acted accordingly, arresting and punishing those who had fallen victim to their actions.

Meanwhile, the major cities of the empire were becoming more difficult to enter and leave, with more frequent identity checks and inspections inside and outside the city.

As a result, the state had fewer incidents than other places on the continent!

Amidst all this, new proposals for treaties and alliances arrived at the local ruler's table!

Chapter 2062 Gains and New Deals to be Made!

In the blink of an eye, another two years have passed!

During this time, the world's problems with the part of the population that didn't want to fight the outside enemy increased, with more attacks and more people joining the cause of those who wanted to surrender to the aliens.

World leaders had tried to convince their populations that the external enemy was not coming to this world to talk or to replace the world's experts. They were coming to take over their world, kill everyone in their path, and only keep what they were interested in: the world's resources.

For the members of the Mechanic Empire, all that mattered in this world was how it could be used to their advantage with the economic exploitation of these lands.

They already knew everything there was to know about the Spiritual World because the group of space explorers had spent centuries there, studying what it was like, the civilizations, technologies, forms of power, language, and history of the world.

The aliens just didn't know about the world's greatest secrets. Still, even the ordinary population of the Spiritual World didn't know about them... In other words, this population wasn't necessary and would only cause headaches for the invaders.

But even with many arguments and proofs that the enemies won't come to the world to talk, the world leaders still couldn't convince everyone. Most of the world's population was on their side for the time being, but the number of rebels was becoming alarming.

Only in some of the more radical states of the Central Continent had things not gotten so bad during this period due to the extreme actions that had isolated these places from the rest of the world.

These were the cases of Blackrock, Albano, Rosser, and the Flowers Kingdom, which had begun expelling the families of people associated with the rebels from their states and killing people who publicly expressed their rebellious thoughts.

Unlike the Black Plain Empire, these places didn't have much to offer the world. As a result, they had all come under heavy criticism from the world's powers and had lost many of their old allies.

However, this was not the case for the Black Plain Empire. Not only had the Minos' empire begun to do even more business with these states, but it had not lost a single deal as a result of its actions.

It must be said that during this period, two more massacres, like the one years ago, were carried out by Minos. Therefore, the incidents in this state remained under control.

Apart from these more radical states, only the states where there were Gods were not so chaotic at the moment.

Otherwise, the Spiritual World was getting colder and colder and had problems everywhere.

Meanwhile, some of the forces in this world were making fantastic progress with alien technologies!

...

Minos and his wives had been getting stronger and stronger over the past few years, but none of them had made any breakthroughs during that time.

Minos was currently near the peak of level 89, but he was at the end of his stage, which meant that it would now take him longer to level up than his wives.

He didn't expect to reach level 90 for at least 3 years, so he didn't waste any time thinking about reaching the 10th stage or improving the quality of his physique.

But his wives were in different situations, and they all intended to level up in the next 12 months, with some of them close to finally becoming high-level Sages.

The rest of the family was also becoming stronger, with the children rapidly approaching the 5th stage and becoming more mature.

Lily, Rowan, and Hollie were still teenagers. Still, they would soon come of age and begin to take on more responsibility.

However, they were far from dealing with the important issues of state that Sarah, currently at level 77, had already dealt with.

Surprisingly, however, someone who no one expected to be relevant at this time did. Kendrick, who had recently reached level 71, had joined the enemy technology development group in the previous months after demonstrating great skill with the alien armor.

Kendrick had an innate ability similar to his father's, energy boost. As he grew stronger, he displayed powers more similar to those of Minos.

Because of this, and the cultivation with the chaotic energy of the giant skeletons he did with his father's help, this young man was already one of the most compatible with the alien armor in this state.

He couldn't use the armor Sages wore because it required him to strengthen himself. But Kendrick had been working closely with the army professionals, serving as one of the official testers of the alternative armor models the army had developed over the years.

For the time being, his work was still minor. Still, the entire government and the upper echelons of the army already had high expectations for him.

Meanwhile, Minos' group's progress with the alien technologies they had been studying had been very good over the years. Although they had slowed down so as not to benefit the elves too much, they had improved their previous knowledge by more than 30%.

All of the army's armor, ships, and spaceships were now based on alien technology, while more advanced versions were being developed in secret in Dry City.

But the partnership with the elves had also helped the empire!

Through the information shared by the elves, Minos' group learned many useful things in developing new techniques, strengthening their soldiers, and manipulating resources from the world.

As Minos had expected, the elves' view of the enemy's technologies differed greatly from his and his people's. Upon receiving the elves' insights, he and his group soon realized the methods the elves understood were more compatible with the new methods of empowering cultivators and managing resources more efficiently.

As a result, new techniques and ways of absorbing and even harvesting resources were used throughout the empire. At the same time, Minos and his government sought out various powers in the Spiritual World to do business similar to that one.

Since Aurae had forced him to hand over his advancements, why shouldn't he hand over the same things to other powers in exchange for new ways of looking at alien methods?

Minos had spotted this opportunity after realizing the usefulness of the deal with the elves and was currently in Dry City receiving envoys from the Continent of Beasts to discuss the matter!

Chapter 2063 Cautious?

In a conference room of the Stuart family's imperial palace, Minos was talking with envoys from the Continent of Beast.

Among the six beings in their humanoid forms, two were from the Dragon Tribe, while the others were from the Phoenix Tribe and the Great Mammoth Tribe, which were among the six strongest races in those lands.

Minos had just welcomed them, having invited not only these tribes to his state some time ago but also other powers from the Spiritual World, such as the Marine Empire and the Sky Whale Tribe.

However, these were the first to respond to his invitation, as Minos was closer to them or even close partners.

After they had all chatted casually about how things were going in their respective powers, Minos got right to the point. "Well, I don't want to waste too much time with unnecessary conversations. I know

everyone here has things to do and worry about. I want an agreement with your forces to share the discoveries our people have made regarding the items left behind by the aliens."

These mid-level Demigods looked at Minos in silence for a moment, not underestimating him.

They were in Dry City, but that didn't mean they had seen the progress Minos' people had made. To welcome these beings on this day, the local government kept their most locally developed items in secret locations.

However, even if they didn't know the true strength of this state, the representatives of the Continent of Beast tribes could guess that Minos wasn't there just to get something for himself.

Minos was already well known throughout the Spiritual World. And with his many high-level achievements, none of these people thought he would call them to negotiate without having anything to give in return.

If he wanted to exchange information, it was likely that he would be confident in the progress he had made concerning alien methods.

"What exactly can you offer us? And what do you want?" The main representative of the Great Mammoths asked, looking into Minos' eyes.

Minos revealed. "What I'm offering you is the same as what I already offer the elves—everything I have on alien technologies and what I would have for the next 8 years. In return, I want you to share with me what you understand differently from what my people have already understood and also what you have managed to develop so far and in the next 8 years.

I don't care how you arrived at your conclusions. I'm just interested in the conclusions."

That was exactly what Minos did with the elves. Neither the members of the Aurae tribe nor the people of the Black Plain Empire told each other how they had achieved their breakthroughs against enemy technologies. All they had done was to share the last of the knowledge each side had developed.

He wanted to do the same with these beasts, to use the things he had already delivered to the elves and would deliver in the future, and to get new things that could help the empire advance more quickly.

If Aurae hadn't pushed him before, he wouldn't have done it because he knew how fragile the relations between the continents still were.

Even though almost all high-ranking beings agreed that they had to face the aliens and that they had to learn the enemy's methods, there was still enough time for internal wars to break out in this world.

All it would take would be for one group to overstep certain boundaries or expose more wealth than they should, for others to feel that it was worth starting confrontations.

Because of this, Minos felt he still had to be careful with his neighbors in this world, for the enemy was not yet close enough for them to be united as they should be.

That was also the reason why he hadn't considered talking about or showing any of his Divine Medicines, as he was almost certain that he would be killed or at least brutally attacked if others knew what he had.

He was careful with what he had in his Spatial Kingdom but also with what he was developing in the empire.

Since he was already giving things to the elves, he wanted to arm other powers in the world with the same kind of technology to limit the elves. At the same time, he could get new things.

Aurae had made the mistake of not demanding exclusivity from him, so Minos was making the most of the loopholes in his agreement with her!

"Elves? You have such a deal with the elves?" One of the Phoenixes asked curiously, not knowing about it.

Rumors had been circulating in the world that the Black Plain Empire and the elves had been involved in something in recent months. Few, however, knew the truth about what was really going on.

When Minos told them what it was, four were surprised to hear it, while the Dragons heard something they already knew.

The Dragons hadn't approached Minos to make a similar deal because they didn't want to disrespect Auaræ.

But from the looks of it, Minos didn't have the same level of respect for a God that the Dragon Tribe had!

Since he initiated this agreement, these Dragons were naturally less afraid of it being seen negatively by Auaræ. That was Minos' doing, not necessarily theirs!

"Yes, we've been doing this for two years." Minos smiled as he confirmed it, while those who had just discovered the truth became more interested in his proposal.

'If the elves have made such an agreement, even though they are one of the most advanced with alien technologies, it means that the Black Plain Empire has also made good progress.' The strongest phoenix there thought before looking seriously into Minos' eyes.

"Very well, I'm willing to make this deal possible. I'll have to communicate with my tribe, but in six months at the most, we can start our joint efforts if everything goes well."

"The same for my tribe." The Great Mammoth said, thinking more or less along the same lines as the Dragons and the Phoenixes there.

Minos smiled when he heard that and got up from where he was to greet each of them.

"Haha, that's good. With an agreement between our groups, the Spiritual World will become a stronger and safer place. Maybe we can even work together to deal with the radicals better because of this agreement."

They agreed with Minos because even though they had fewer problems with radicals on their continent, the problem of rebels had arrived there as well.

Chapter 2064 Progress Within the Same Level

After Minos received members of some of the major races of the Continent of Beast in his capital, a whole year passed, and his agreements with the Phoenixes, Mammoths, and Dragons were confirmed.

During this time, he had also reached similar agreements with the Marine Empire, which had sent a group of representatives to negotiate with him months after his meeting with the six beasts earlier.

As for the Sky Whales, they hadn't made up their minds yet, but they already knew why Minos wanted to invite them to Dry City.

The Black Plain Empire was already working on its partnerships with the Elves, Dragons, Mammoths, Sea Folk, and Phoenixes, which was hard to ignore. But as much as the Sky Whales more or less understood that he wanted a partnership and that it could be beneficial to all, these beings were more resistant to making a deal with him.

The Sky Whales had made great progress in their studies, which focused on their special characteristics and great strength. This race was one of the least likely to use external devices in battle in the Spiritual World, so whatever Minos might offer them would not be so advantageous to them.

Because of this difference, the Sky Whale group still hadn't contacted Minos directly, even after more than a year since the young man's invitation.

That was unfortunate for Minos, as he wanted to make deals with all the major players in the current technological development of the Spiritual World. However, this didn't affect his plans negatively.

After another year of working with the elves and a few months with their new partners, Minos and his state had made new advances in practically every possible field.

Things they hadn't understood before were becoming clearer to his people, and the army's soldiers were gaining better resources, techniques, and technologies.

Because of these agreements and the fact he didn't have to share what he achieved through his allies with the elves, Minos had once again gained an advantage over the members of the world's most intelligent race!

Meanwhile, his family continued to level up.

...

In the empire's capital, Minos was at the army headquarters in the combat and demonstration arena of this high-level local facility.

There were some professional spiritual Demigods with him, people between levels 90 and 92, the strongest in the empire.

On the other hand, some 9th-stage soldiers were fighting on the battlefield in that area, using not only items based on alien technologies but also new ways of using their powers and techniques.

Among them were Lee and Alison, who had volunteered to serve as guinea pigs for the tests that had been conducted over the past few months based on what the state had discovered with the help of the beasts from the Continent of Beast.

Both Lee and Alison had already reached level 80. They had been studying the new methods with the knowledge of the Dragons, Phoenixes, and Elves, which only a small portion of the empire's soldiers had access to at that time.

For each level of cultivation between the 8th and 9th stages, only four people in the army had been given the opportunity to help the state's spiritual experts improve what they had done so far!

Thus, even though those two were nobles of the empire, they were there to help, but they were also there to take advantage of the opportunity to be among the first to use the empire's new methods.

"Incredible," Minos said as he watched the low-level 9th-stage soldiers struggle with the mid-level 9th-stage soldiers who had not yet gained access to the new methods developed locally. "Even with similar talents and techniques, these soldiers, who have had access to the deepening of our ancient techniques through the discoveries of our allies, are displaying combat powers far above normal."

Until a few decades ago, a warrior's strength in the Spiritual World depended first and foremost on their level. Second, one's combat power would be greatly influenced by the characteristics of one's innate ability, which may or may not be of the martial arts type. Third, the quality of one's techniques made the most difference in combat, which might or might not allow cultivators to fight above their level.

But most people didn't have innate martial arts skills, and the quality of most people's techniques was more or less the same: Black grade. Therefore, cultivators at the same level usually had fairly balanced powers, and fighting someone above their level was rare.

However, with the discoveries made by Minos' professionals and the members of the tribes of Elves, Dragons, Phoenixes, etc., this had changed!

By combining the knowledge of many different beings and adapting it to human reality, Minos' group had arrived at methods capable of making people with similar techniques and common characteristics but different levels capable of fighting as equals!

That meant if they made all the soldiers in the empire learn what they had developed so far, the strength of the entire empire could be increased by several levels, even without the soldiers having to progress!

That's why Minos couldn't help but get excited when he saw weaker soldiers fighting against stronger soldiers, seeing in front of him the realization of years of hard work by his forces.

One of the leaders in improving the empire's techniques, a Demigod from the Longus family, smiled at his leader's comment. "This is not all. We will improve much more in the coming years, Your Majesty. As remarkable as the current progress is, we are only at the beginning of revising the army's techniques.

What's more, the level of our soldiers continues to improve. The stronger they get, the better our results in terms of understanding, and the easier it will be to understand things we didn't understand before.

Several other professionals besides Minos and this man nodded in agreement while some watched the battle of those with new types of artifacts.

"We haven't done a proper test with a warrior equipped with our new ways of seeing the world and the laws of nature, with the new weapons and armor. I believe that a level 80 Sage can single-handedly take on level 84 Sages under these circumstances." Said one of the men to Minos.

Then, this level 92 old man became more serious. "For now, we've only managed to improve Silver-grade techniques and low-level 4th-grade resources. However, if one day we improve superior techniques and items, we may be able to produce things that will give Your Majesty the ability to fight against high-level Demigods."

They hadn't been able to develop things that could affect the power level of someone like Minos, but they were aiming for that breakthrough!

Chapter 2065 Level Improvements

After leaving his professionals with the soldiers who were helping them make the necessary changes to the projects under development, Minos was soon with Ruth and Abby.

These two, as well as Isabella and Gloria, had been leveling up over the past few months. Except for the former heiress of the Flaming Empire, they were all currently at level 87.

Isabella was at level 86, a level weaker than the others due to her pregnancy and the fact that she hadn't received an inheritance like Ruth and Abby.

In any case, as the years went by, the cultivation became more difficult and slower, and they were actually getting closer to each other in terms of strength.

Their level wasn't something that affected their family relationships. It was just a measure of strength for them to know how much they could get involved in their state's current problems.

That was why Isabella was now busy raising the family's children and managing the state's partnerships with old allies, such as her paternal family's empire.

She did this while Gloria was at the headquarters of the Spiritual Church in the northern region, continuing her work to increase her influence within the Church.

As for Ruth and Abby, they had finished some of their duties and were spending their free time with Minos.

"How long will it take you to reach level 90?" Ruth asked Minos as she relaxed in a comfortable chair in their home, a little tired but very much looking forward to his breakthrough.

Many things would change when that happened, and many of their plans could finally be implemented.

Minos replied with a smile. "It won't take long. I should have all the conditions to attempt my breakthrough in about two more years."

"Two years, huh? We'll all reach level 89 before you reach level 91." Abby muttered, considering the fact that Demigods take much longer to advance than Spiritual Sages.

"The kids will be Spiritual Emperors by then," Ruth commented, not wanting to talk about anything but her family in this moment of rest.

Hearing this, Minos and Abby smiled as the young members of their family broke record after record.

With the new methods of using techniques, but also building arrays and artifacts in general, the training equipment, resources, and everything else these young people were using was much better than Sarah and Kendrick had had access to.

As a result, Rowan, Lily, and Hollie had barely reached adulthood and were already close to level 50!

At their age, Minos was only a level 39 youth, while even the most talented and wealthy of his wives was a level 43 cultivator at best.

"Good," Minos said, in a good mood. "It's just a shame that they won't be able to venture out like we did. Their early adulthood will be a bit rough while they're stuck in our domains."

"Yes... But there's nothing we can do about it. Since the aliens are about to reach the world, they can only stay close to us, where we can keep them safe."

Minos closed his eyes and said. "After I advance to level 90, I'll try to get high-level grade-4 professionals to open a portal from our Spatial Kingdom to Dry City. This will allow our family and government to come and go from this region of space without depending on me."

"Huh? Why do you say that?" Ruth was surprised because he had never mentioned it before.

"Because it will be hazardous to continue to have only one way in and out of the Spatial Kingdom. We don't know what will happen during the war against the aliens. Even if the Spiritual World wins, it's not certain that nothing will happen to us or to the Spatial Kingdom ring.

I want to have a way for us or even our relatives to come and go from that place to enjoy the riches there." Minos said, being realistic without ignoring the future risks they would face.

"So that's it... It makes sense." Abby sighed and agreed with her husband.

"But isn't it dangerous?" Ruth asked him.

Minos said sincerely. "After I reach level 90, some things will be different. But even if I can't guarantee the risk won't be zero, I think it will be more dangerous not to do it.

In any case, I plan to have mid-level and high-level Demigods willing to protect the entrance to the Spatial Kingdom for me. After that, I'll use as much of my influence as I can to keep it as safe as possible."

While they were talking, a soldier appeared in their part of the residence with an update for them.

"Your Majesties, the professionals developing the empire's spaceships have just made a major breakthrough. They've managed to complete the first unit that will supposedly be able to withstand flight through wormhole tunnels!" The 9th-stage soldier said as he entered the living room where they were.

The three of them were interested in this because in order for Minos' plan of revenge, which was to invade the Mechanic Empire, to work, they would need spaceships capable of taking them to The Adamant Land!

So far, they hadn't been able to get these vehicles to fly through the wormholes that existed in the Spiritual World.

When the three heard that the latest project that would supposedly be able to do this was ready to be tested, they stood up and rushed to the test site.

"Where is the ship?" Minos asked.

"It is already being transported to the wormhole port outside the capital's defense dome, Your Majesty." The man said.

With that answer, Minos and his two wives soon left the imperial palace and headed for the wormhole port, where the great test of the spaceship would take place in the next few moments.

Arriving at the place that had already been cordoned off for this test, they soon saw a ship with the symbol of a golden tree and those who had been training to pilot it for the past few years.

"Where should the test be conducted?" The group of Demigods who had participated in the development of the ship asked Minos.

He thought about it and said. "I want you to take your test to the territory of the Sky Whales. Take this with you." He threw a whale's tooth at one of the ship's crew members. "If you succeed and find a high-level Sky Whale, invite them here for a tour."

"Yes, Your Majesty!"

Chapter 2066 Minos' Spaceship

Minos and his group watched as the test spaceship hovered a few meters above the ground before the entrance to a large wormhole manipulated by the surrounding Demigods opened.

At the appropriate moment, the spaceship activated its engines. It moved forward at high speed, entering the wormhole in a matter of seconds.

While the people in the wormhole port watched, the ship's crew collectively controlled the appropriate parts of the ship as it moved through the wormhole's space tunnel.

This ship was completely different from the ships of years ago when the Minos people began to evolve their techs.

As the empire's spiritual experts' understanding of enemy technologies increased, they were able to create new mechanisms and technologies that were more similar to what one would find in alien objects.

But this ship was still very different from the ship the empire had brought from the North Sea to study, and even though this unit was not ship-like, it had parts of its control with ship-like functions.

For example, ships always had people in charge of navigation, people who would take care of the route between the ship's starting point and its destination. This ship also had people responsible for that, who had to use their own powers to determine the path to take.

A wormhole wasn't like a straight tunnel leading from one point to another.

Space wasn't that simple!

Some points in space had different energy densities and other properties that made it more or less difficult to form natural or artificial wormholes.

Because of this difference, wormholes could take on unimaginable shapes even if they were created by conscious beings such as cultivators.

In most cases, these space tunnels would be curved. As such, someone flying through them would have to make special movements to avoid touching the walls of the space tunnel, which could destroy the bodies of practically all kinds of beings.

While the spaceship's navigators were taking care of the path, a group of operators were making it turn, while others were slowing down and speeding up it according to the path ahead.

At the same time, people were standing by to control the vehicle's laser and plasma cannons, which wouldn't be useful in this part of the test but always had to be ready for use.

They were heading for the central area of the South Sea, so they had to be aware of the possibility of an attack, which was not zero.

So, in addition to the gunners, there were people there to activate the ship's defenses, which basically had three levels, the first of which was the body of the vehicle itself, which was a large piece of resistant armor. The second level consisted of an electronic barrier capable of degrading attacks and reducing the offensive power of things or attacks that were between the ship's armor and up to 10 meters away from it.

The third and final level was a large barrier supported by special arrays that stood 10 meters away from the ship's armor and were capable of withstanding attacks from even mid-level Demigods.

"Get ready! We're about to reach the domain of the Sky Whales!" The ship's commander shouted as he saw the end of this wormhole coming closer and closer.

The 40 or so crew members of this spaceship prepared to exit the wormhole, a dangerous moment as they traveled through a space tunnel that had just been created.

They weren't traveling through a tunnel the empire had built within its territories but one that had been built for a trip.

Moreover, they were going to the middle of the ocean, an uninteresting place for wormhole travel since battles, extreme natural phenomena, and other things could happen where the wormhole exit opens.

However, the testing of this ship had to be extreme enough for them to take the risk since the empire's plan was to use such a ship in the future to travel to the Mechanic Empire.

The ship's defenses and weapons needed to be tested after all, so if anything happened when they arrived at their destination, it would be a good opportunity!

With everyone eager to get to the South Sea, they passed through the end of the space tunnel, leaving that dark and frightening area to reach a sea area that seemed to have no end, where it was sunny, and the sky was cloudless that day.

By the time they reached the place, the crew had the ship ready to defend itself, with its defenses activated and its weapons ready for use.

However, there were no strange phenomena at the place of their arrival, let alone any battles or beings displaying their powers there.

As the ship slowed down to fly more cautiously over the area, the crew smiled as they breathed more easily, seeing that the test flight through the wormhole had been successful. They had managed to reach this place without any problems.

"Navigators, where exactly are we? How do we accomplish His Majesty's mission?" The commander asked the people sitting on the right side of this ship's command area.

The empire's first wormhole-capable spaceship had about 500 square meters of floor space, with bathrooms, a training and cultivation area, as well as dormitories, a mess hall, the command area, a detention area, and the engine area.

The space on this ship was very well utilized. It had a total of four levels, with the middle two being the living areas, the top being the command area, and the bottom being the engine area.

Then, someone answered, giving directions to the group responsible for controlling the ship. "We are about 800 kilometers from one of the underwater cities in the territory of the Sky Whales. We should be able to complete His Majesty's mission there."

"Then let's go there." The commander said, just before the ship started moving again at high speed, following the directions of the navigators.

By now, it was flying at over 7,000 kilometers per hour, so fast that it could make continental voyages in a few days, even without using wormholes!

Ordinary grade-4 ships would take months to make the shortest ocean voyage in the world!

So, in less than 10 minutes, this crew would be over the area where this small underwater city was located, where they would soon be identified as they began to move toward the bottom of the sea!

Chapter 2067 Pact with the Strongest Tribe?

The spaceship of the Black Plain Empire could not only fly through wormholes and the air but also navigate like a submarine.

When they arrived above the location of the submarine city, the group on it did what they had to do and entered the sea, still traveling at high speed.

It wasn't possible to sail at the same speed as they could fly through the air. But even so, it could still sail underwater at more than 500 kilometers per hour, and it could withstand the pressure of the water at the bottom of the sea.

In a matter of seconds, that ship passed through the dark zone of the sea and reached the deepest part of that place, where a group of gigantic Sky Whales were already moving against them.

"Those..."

"Aliens?" Some of the Demigods imagined this was the case when they saw this spaceship since no one in the Spiritual World had yet shown such development to be able to use this kind of technology.

But when they thought about it, the first to identify the invaders of their territory realized they couldn't be aliens. Otherwise, the world would be in chaos, and their people in the North Sea would have already warned them.

It even made sense for the aliens to attack them first when the time came for war, but a single ship, several years before their enemies arrived, couldn't be the work of the aliens.

"Who are you? Identify yourselves!" A level 96 whale said as he appeared in front of their city, while the spaceship looked like an ant next to these colossal beings.

Then, a hologram appeared on the front of the ship, another alien technology that Minos' group had been working on.

The ship's commander was the one who appeared in the hologram since the empire's technology was not yet good enough to work with beings very far away from the hologram.

This man, dressed in the uniform of the Black Plain Army and holding a Sky Whale tooth, introduced himself.

"Your Excellency, we are members of the Black Plain Army. We are here on behalf of our leader to invite you for a short trip to Dry City." He said, assuming a military stance with a serious look on his face.

"His Majesty Minos Stuart wishes to do business with the Sky Whale Tribe regarding technologies such as this spaceship I'm on. Please consider accompanying us."

Hearing about the Black Plain Empire and how this spaceship had been developed by Minos' people, the nearby whales couldn't help but be surprised and open their mouths.

'They managed to get that far?'

'Is it really true?'

They mentally communicated as they stood in silence near the ship.

That was an outpost from their tribe's territory, one of the outposts around their tribe's main city.

Minos' group of men would never go directly to the main city of these beasts without being taken there, as it could cause too much trouble.

But since some of these whales were very strong, they had enough influence to decide to go to Minos' state and start a possible negotiation.

One of the strongest there said. 'Don't be silly. That is the symbol of the Black Plain Empire. Can't you see that thing working right in front of you? I can clearly feel how strong this thing's weapons and defenses are!'

'Yes, this can't be a trick. But how did they do it?'

"That doesn't matter now. Apparently, Emperor Minos Stuart wants to give us this kind of technology... I think it's worthwhile for one of us to go to him and hear what he has to say.'

They agreed until the strongest one there, a level 96 Sky Whale, transformed into his humanoid version as he approached the ship.

"Very well. I'm ready to visit your leader and see what he has in mind."

With that, the tension in the area subsided before the creature entered the empire's spaceship, and it left as quickly as it had arrived.

That Sky Whale would be shocked to experience the spaceship's high-speed flight before the crew returned through the same wormhole as before, which would remain open until the end of the next hour when it would close naturally.

...

Less than an hour after the group left to test the empire's new spaceship, they returned to the same place they had left from!

Seeing the ship back and undamaged, the group waiting for the return of this crew celebrated.

That was especially true for the spiritual professionals involved in developing this vehicle, who were now thrilled to find that their recent adjustments were correct.

Minos, Ruth, and Abby also smiled as they hugged each other, happy for a successful test.

Meanwhile, they noticed that someone else was on it and that their men had also managed to attract a Sky Whale.

'It seems that my ship has attracted the interest of one of the strongest creatures in the world.' Minos thought to himself as he saw the spaceship landing at the place he had left from earlier.

He and everyone else made their way there as the entrance to the spaceship opened, and the first crew members waited to disembark next to the level 96 Sky Whale.

"Unbelievable! I can hardly believe I was in my tribe's territory less than 20 minutes ago!" The muscular man in the blue robes made from his own scales said in surprise as he looked around and realized that he really was on the Central Continent.

"Your Majesty, this is the Senior Olgran. He has agreed to come to the empire to hear what we have to offer the Sky Whale Tribe." The commander said as he introduced Minos to the sea beast.

Minos smiled at the 2.6-meter-tall man and said. "Welcome to my city, Mister Olgran. As for what I have to offer, it's the same as what I offer to my allies, like the elves and the dragons."

Olgran took no notice and asked. "Will what you have to offer to enable my people to build such spaceships?"

"Yes, with some minor differences, but yes. You will be able to do most of what you've seen."

"Okay, I agree to make a deal with you," Olgran said, ignoring almost everyone and staring at the spaceship as if he were in love with it.

"What did you say?" Ruth asked, not expecting this guy to accept their offer so easily.

"I'll take it to my tribe, and they'll accept it. Don't worry, if it's like your leader said, we'll accept any condition."

Chapter 2068 Corrupt Scheme

After Minos' encounter with the level 96 Sky Whale, 15 months passed!

In those months, the Sky Whale Tribe and the Black Plain Empire would hold some talks and then sign a treaty of alliance and partnership regarding alien technologies. They would start exchanging information 3 months after that fateful encounter.

In the months to come, the Black Plain Empire would use the agreements made with the world's strongest powers to increase their understanding of alien methods, combining what each of their allies understood to reach new conclusions.

That would be a time of great growth for Minos' empire when everyone in the army would be greatly strengthened by the upgrades to the previously developed techniques that had already been released to all soldiers.

With better techniques, better cultivation items, more efficient pills, and better arrays, practically everyone in Minos' army was evolving while also increasing their combat prowess.

Amidst all this, some old problems continued to irritate the local powers and the people, for even with the growth and advance of the empire, the rebels had not weakened.

On the contrary, the crisis with the radicals seeking the surrender of the world was getting worse by the day, and even the places with the most minor problems were facing complicated situations.

Even the states with Gods and Minos' allies who had followed his methods were under increasing pressure from the people.

Meanwhile, the cities farthest from the core of the Black Plain Empire were suffering from terrorist attacks.

...

In the Dry City...

Minos was in his imperial palace, in an audience with some of the empire's soldiers, advisors, and a recently captured terrorist.

"So you have your own interests besides surrendering, huh?" Minos muttered after hearing his men's findings, seeing that the terrorists weren't just acting out of protest and defending the pacifist cause of those who wanted to surrender to the aliens.

From what the imperial officers had discovered in their investigations, as well as what they had learned from the terrorists they had captured so far, the rebel group had its leadership and was operating on the global black market.

"Your Majesty, this is only a small member of the rebel group. He doesn't know the identity of the leader of this faction. But it is a fact that the leaders of this faction are using the yearning of a part of the population to gain commercial advantages and increase their income.

When a terrorist group acts in a certain place, it usually causes a lot of trouble for the local infrastructure and loss of resources. But soon after these actions, other members of the same faction appear in these places with resources to sell on the black market.

The result is a temporary increase in resource prices due to greater demand than supply, which generates profits for these people, Your Majesty." The chief investigator said, revealing the corrupt scheme of these supposed fighters in the name of world surrender.

"So that's it," Minos muttered as he looked at the chained and kneeling man in front of him, a few steps below where this emperor was sitting.

"Very well, use everything you have discovered to create news against the cause of those who want to surrender. As for this man, as much as he has revealed important things, he hasn't said what he should out of remorse." Minos said as he looked at this person, and he saw Abby standing behind the man.

"In that case, I sentence him to death by dismemberment," Minos stood up, tears flowing from the frightened man's eyes.

"Please! Please have mercy, Your Majesty!" The man cried as he tried to stand.

But Minos would never be merciful to someone like that!

"Mister Pierce, your actions have caused the death of 20 innocent citizens of my state. Do you think you deserve to live after that?" Minos muttered as he looked down at the person, who felt the pressure of being stared at by a dragon.

When he fell silent and looked away from Minos, the men of the local army took him to the place of public execution while the sovereign made his way alongside Abby and Dillian.

Abby was still at level 87, but Dillian had recently advanced to level 83.

As they left the imperial throne hall, Minos said to them. "Prepare for my seclusion. In no more than eight months, I will begin to cultivate in isolation in the Spatial Kingdom. My time to move up a level is approaching."

They hadn't spoken to Minos about this for months. Hearing this warning, they both felt excited about the future.

"Don't worry, Your Majesty, we'll take care of everything, so you don't have to worry about us while you're in seclusion to become a Demigod," Dillian said, the smile on his face showing how happy he was.

After so many decades at Minos' side, he would finally see his former young master become one of the strongest experts in the Spiritual World.

Considering how different Minos was from most people, many things would change after he reached level 90, and everything in the empire might be different after he became a Demigod with a Divine Physique.

Abby then said. "Don't worry about anything. Even if those damn rebels cause trouble, it's nothing we can't handle."

After she said this, Aarav appeared in front of them, having overheard part of their conversation. "Are you close to moving on?"

"Hmm, I'll isolate myself to do it in 8 months," Minos replied as he looked at the level 99 man.

"Okay, I'll help your people more than I promised from now on," Aarav said, interested to see what else would change after Minos became a Demigod.

He had high hopes for this day. So he was ready to do his best to make that day come as soon as possible.

Minos then said. "Then help the empire deal with these damned terrorists. We'll start a global hunt against the enemies, expose their corrupt plans, and put a bounty on their leaders' heads."

"I can start that. But will we be able to solve everything in such a short time? These fanatics already have hundreds of millions of people in their group.

In just a few years, they have ceased to be a mere group of rebels and are already comparable in numbers to states. However, few have considered the possibility that they are an organization as you suggest," Aarav said.

"It won't be easy. But if the main forces of the world ally themselves with my state, it will be less complicated and faster to reach the leaders of the terrorists. However, we can only try. Otherwise, the loss of manpower, technology, and food will continue worldwide."

"Okay, count me in. I'll do whatever it takes."

Chapter 2069 Revolting Action?

After Minos' orders on how to deal with the terrorist group, a few days passed, and soon, news of the corruption of the supposed defenders of the weak began to spread all over the world!

Minos' people had joined forces with their counterparts on the Central Continent, as well as the Divine Continent and Continent of Beasts. They made the world's major media newspapers publish the truth behind the terrorists.

They were not individuals who just wanted the weakest to surrender, or instead, the right to surrender. They were profit-seeking cultivators who struck at strategic points to offer solutions to the problems they created.

They had grown in recent years by taking advantage of the ignorance or innocence of the people, disrupting the high-level powers of the world, and killing innocent people to create the business opportunities that they had used for profit.

In short, the stories in the world's mainstream journals treated this group in the same way, as a terrorist group that didn't give a damn about the surrender of the weakest and only wanted to make a profit.

It was fine for someone to make a profit, but when they were the ones creating the problems they set out to solve, things got a little weird.

Most people in the world hated that kind of thing. As soon as the news broke about it and how the powers were going to hunt down those responsible for it, the world's population quickly reacted in favor of Minos' side.

Many people were still unsure of the best course of action for the Spiritual World. The world's populace understood why those who wanted to surrender thought this was a viable option. But they also understood the fear of the world's strongest organizations and thought it made sense for these powers to try to strengthen themselves while they could.

But while about 30% to 40% of the population was committed to one side or the other, the rest of the world was unsure which side to support when the enemy arrived.

This segment of the population was the most reactive to the latest news, viewing the terrorist cause more negatively than ever before.

Regardless of the arrival of the aliens, the ice age was about to hit the entire Spiritual World. But still, there was a group that was wreaking havoc on forces worldwide with a justification that had lost all credibility after the current revelations.

Before, one could debate and try to understand the cause of the terrorists, for they were like ordinary people, oppressed by the great powers of the world, who were merely trying to make their own way.

Their actions were questionable, but not their motives.

But after the revelations that began in the Black Plain Empire, it was difficult for anyone to defend such a group without being connected to it somehow!

...

In the Black Plain Empire, in a city outside the state's core...

In this place, a terrorist attack had just taken place on a large resource storage facility, and several groups of people dressed in black and masked were fleeing the scene of the attack.

As flames engulfed the site, illuminating the area on this cold night, people watching from the street stopped to look at it angrily and disgustedly.

"This is the central silo of our city! The food in this silo will be essential if our people are not to starve at the onset of the ice age!" A middle-aged man, a level 74 resident, standing a few hundred meters away from that spot, clenched his fists in anger at the sight of those people fleeing.

Another person then shouted. "Stop them! Those wretches are deliberately trying to raise food prices!"

"What?" A man with deep circles under his eyes heard this, and his face darkened. "Sons of bitches! I'm already spending everything I have on food because of the recent price hike! Are these bastards going to make our situation even worse?"

Others became angry at the same thought until one of them took a weapon from his ring and moved, attacking one of the enemies who was fleeing in his direction.

"You piece of shit! Die!" The first civilian to act shouted as he stabbed the level 77 Saint, who was running toward him, fleeing from the place he had just attacked with his group, which was dispersing.

"You..." This person hadn't expected a civilian weaker than him to act and shout. "We are acting for your good!"

"The fucking good! Let me take care of myself and my family, you maggot!" This man shouted while the others in the area grew bolder.

"Kill the terrorists!"

"Don't let the bastards escape!"

In the blink of an eye, as the police and army men began to take action in the surrounding area, more than three hundred people in the streets drew their weapons. They looked at the terrorists as if they were seeing rapists trying to flee the scene of a crime.

The stronger ones simply acted against their enemies, while the weaker ones began to stalk and observe them, feeling determined to counterattack these people who were trying to make their lives difficult in order to profit from their misfortune.

Until that day, the terrorists of the pro-surrender group only had to worry about the official forces and, in many cases, were even helped by parts of the population.

But that night, everything changed. Citizens raised the weapons of their own accord, angry at the criminal audacity of the terrorists, longing for the heads of these troublemakers.

An ordinary citizen might not be bothered if the official forces were the only ones to lose in problems like the current one. But after the recent news, a part of society realized that, in fact, every time there is a terrorist attack, those who lose the most are the weakest!

After witnessing a terrorist attack and quickly realizing what the consequences would be, some witnesses became angry and began to take action.

As more and more people took action, others gained more courage and joined in, increasing the number of people involved from dozens to thousands as an all-out battle began to spread throughout the city!

"Damn it! What are we going to do? These people are hard to handle!" Said one of the strongest terrorists in the group, a level 85 Sage, as he saw the men in his group finding it increasingly difficult to escape.

"Kill everyone on the way. If they're against us, it means they're fanatics who want to fight in the war against the aliens!" Said the leader of the group that had started the attack in that city.

"Won't that give our enemies an excuse? These are just ordinary citizens." The level 85 person commented with some concern.

"What could be worse? Our situation already sucks! Let's just kill these fools!"

Chapter 2070 Official Incentives?

After the previous conflict in a city of the Black Plain Empire, where citizens had joined state soldiers and police to fight terrorists, similar events occurred in other parts of the Spiritual World.

Even before the journals began to report the cases of ordinary civilians acting against terrorists, similar events occurred on the Central Continent and the Divine Continent.

After the news of the corruption of those behind the terrorist attacks, the ordinary people of the two continents realized that they had been the real victims of everything those radicals had done.

As new terrorist attacks followed the news released earlier, events like the one that night in the Black Plain Empire began to take place around the world, even without news of these civic acts spreading.

But it wouldn't be long before newspapers around the world began to report the results of these first civilian vs. terrorist battles!

Given the results of each battle, the terrorists' standing in the eyes of the public would only get worse from then on.

In the battle that had taken place in that city in the state of Minos, hundreds of civilians had fallen to the terrorists, who had decided to fight back to protect their lives and escape the agents of the empire.

That was very much frowned upon around the world, as it pushed the terrorists even further away from their previous narrative of being the defenders of the rights of the weakest.

How could they be defenders of the weakest if they were killing the weakest?

Not only would their actions in such incidents worsen their public image, but the terrorists lost more men in actions like that night than they had lost in recent years in confrontations with official forces.

That night in the empire city of Minos, several hundred civilians died in the confrontation with the terrorists. But it hadn't been for nothing. All of the terrorists of that day were later killed, most of them lynched by angry citizens, while imperial soldiers and police eliminated a small number of criminals.

Similar results have occurred around the world in events such as this, which have become more frequent in the wake of news of the terrorists' corruption.

Previously, terrorist actions had a survival rate of about 65%, meaning that for every 100 men who participated in attacks, an average of 65 returned alive. But after civilians joined the official forces to hunt down and kill the terrorists, the survival rate of the radicals had dropped to 8%!

Within weeks of the first civilian involvement in the terrorist crisis, the powers of the world were trying to use it to their advantage in the struggle between those who wanted to fight the aliens and those who wanted to surrender.

...

In the Grinia Empire...

An imperial edict had been issued this morning by the imperial armed forces, with the state using official means to publicize something new to the entire population to encourage the fight against the terrorists.

From this day forward, any citizen who could prove their involvement in killing terrorists involved in attacks would be rewarded for their meritorious deeds!

The imperial family of this state promised to pay between 1,000 and 10,000 high-grade crystals to any group that succeeded in eliminating terrorists fleeing from attacks!

In addition, anyone who helped the empire's forces reach, locate, or pursue fleeing terrorists would receive between 10 and 50 high-grade crystals for information that led to the death of such state targets.

When these new rules were announced that day, the local population was soon in high spirits, with mercenaries and bounty hunters taking an even greater interest in these battles than before.

...

Meanwhile, in the Black Plain Empire, the government of Minos had also initiated new measures to encourage its citizens to join the state's defense against the terrorists.

Posters and advertisements throughout the empire warned the entire population of the new opportunities available to those most brave and willing to protect this land.

Such was the case with a mural in a mercenary guild in the former capital of the old Kingdom of Waves, where a group of people were reading a poster about the recently introduced opportunities.

"Starting today, any citizen who acts against the terrorists, fights, or provides information that leads to the overthrow of the terrorists will receive opportunities for growth in the empire. That includes better conditions for joining the state forces, discounts on official services, individual and collective awards, as well as public recognition.

In addition to rewards commensurate with the terrorists' level, citizens will be able to grow with the state and even gain opportunities to test completely new alien technologies!" A middle-aged man read what was written on the part of the poster that talked about Emperor Stuart's new measures.

Meanwhile, a dozen people were silently reading the same poster, excited about the opportunities the empire was opening up for the citizens most enraged by the terrorists.

The benefits even included the promise of food during the ice age, something very attractive to people who had large families but were far from being able to guarantee their family's future.

'Your Majesty is indeed very generous.' A young level 72 Spiritual Saint thought to himself, excited by the possibilities he had just discovered.

The citizens of the empire were already ready to take action against the terrorists simply because the radicals' actions were hurting them most of all. But even knowing it, Minos had created incentives that could change the lives of those who vented their anger and frustration against the radicals.

These opportunities would apply not only to the bravest and most willing to die in battle but also to less courageous people who could become the eyes and ears of the state.

With this in mind, a young woman of level 68 clenched her fists and remembered a strange conversation she had overheard earlier.

'I'm going to report these two people. Maybe they're terrorists planning something.' She thought as she walked away from the mural.

...

Many people in the empire of Minos reacted positively to the new opportunities created by the imperial government.

Meanwhile, similar things were happening across the continent, with the situation of the radicals changing significantly in a matter of weeks, losing public opinion and becoming an organization frowned upon by virtually everyone.

Actions similar to those of the Black Plain Empire and the Grinia Empire were being taken all over the Spiritual World. Even those who hadn't cared much about the previous confrontation began to take an interest in the matter and take a stand against the terrorists.

Meanwhile, the terrorists' leaders saw their plans unravel much sooner than they had imagined!