

## **Black Plain 2141**

### Chapter 2141 Time To Go To The Competition

After hearing Minos' proposal, Vico did not tarnish his reputation by trying to wriggle out of fulfilling his earlier promise. He accepted Emperor Stuart's orders and left without further delay.

After losing to Minos, he didn't want to be around that young man, let alone Henry and Maximilian!

With such a departure, Maximilian also wouldn't be in Dry City for long. He was unhappy with what Minos had done, giving someone a Divine Medicine without first consulting the Gods of this world. But after Emperor Stuart's show of power and, more importantly, his realization that the Black Plain Empire would have Henry and Vico to protect it, he put aside thoughts similar to those Emperor Travisani had earlier.

After seeing Maximilian off, Henry sighed as he looked at Minos, trying to process everything that had happened and how much this ruler had grown in the last ten years.

"What was that you used at the end of the fight?" He asked curiously.

Minos smiled as he felt the consequences of using everything he had against a God. "You will understand better in the future. But in a nutshell, it's a new kind of technique based on cultivating the same energy as alien robots."

"Oh? You've already reached that level?" Henry was surprised when he remembered that the robot corpse was alive in the Spatial Kingdom, quite different from the situation he had found when he entered that place about a decade ago. "How much has your state evolved in relation to alien technologies in recent years?"

"Quite a lot." Minos smiled. "We're still not able to create robots as good as the aliens, but we're on our way to understanding them well enough to know their weaknesses and strengths and use that to our advantage."

As for similar techniques, the first group of men in my army are already beginning to learn this method so that we can make it compatible and safe with people from our world."

"That's incredible." Henry mused. "I thought my breakthrough was important, but what you did in that Spatial Kingdom was no less important than my breakthrough!

And your strength isn't bad either. If you were level 95, I imagine you'd even be able to threaten the life of someone at my level!"

Even if Minos could get Vico to use one of his techniques, it wouldn't be enough for him to fight the Gods directly. At most, he could use it against a distracted, tired, or even injured level 100 opponent, but even then, he wouldn't have a chance to deal a lethal or definitive blow.

That was the most he could do to annoy someone of Vico's importance!

But Henry could see that Minos had a lot of potential if he was given the chance to grow!

"We don't have time for that. And I can tell you that one of the strongest enemies will be coming after me." He laughed bitterly at the thought of the Mechanical Emperor's promise.

"What are you talking about?" Henry frowned.

"When I revived the robot in my Spatial Kingdom, I saw the Mechanical Emperor. He said he'd hunt me down when he reached the Spiritual World.

'That makes sense. If I were the enemy, I'd think the same thing.' Henry didn't find it strange, especially considering the wealth Minos had in mind.

Minos' whole current problem was time. With the wealth of the Spatial Kingdom and Emperor Stuart's individual abilities, it would be easy to reach level 100. So any enemy of his would have to seek his end as soon as possible, or the worst might happen to him!lights

Henry thought so and didn't doubt that the enemy Gods would focus on Minos before the level 100 cultivators of the Spiritual World.

He sighed. "Don't worry. Aarav, Willow, and I will protect you from the level 100 enemies. And if we all fall, you can escape through space. With your talent and wealth, you can reach level 100 anywhere. All you have to do is hide for a while, and then you can take your revenge in the future."

"That's a possibility... But I'll fight before I do that." Minos murmured before changing the subject. "Anyway, let's stop talking about what we can't change. The Continental Tournament will start in a few months, so I'm preparing to leave the empire."

"Oh? Is it time for the Continental Tournament already?" Henry's eyes widened as he realized how close he was to the war of the worlds.

There must be about 10 years left until the aliens arrive. After that, the war of the worlds could start at any time.

"Yes, will your state participate?"

"Yes, my daughter will represent my group. Will you participate?" Henry asked while they were already back at the portal to the Spatial Kingdom of the Black Plain Empire.

"Of course. If I win, I will have a level 99 cultivator with an affinity for ice to pick up a new Divine Medicine. I don't know if it will come from the prize that the elves will reveal where it is or if it will come from my Spatial Kingdom. But it's a fact that I have to make an effort for this person to reach level 100."

Minos didn't know all of the powerful cultivators in his world. Some elders lived hidden in the mountains, cultivating in seclusion for centuries or even millennia.

Unless someone knew them or they showed themselves, there was no way for someone as concerned as Minos to know about them and their characteristics.

Otherwise, Minos would have invited Julian's friend into his group!

"If I win the main bet, I'll be able to use that as a justification to give this person Divine Medicine. That will save us trouble."

"You're right." Henry agreed. "Well, I'll send a message to my state so they can try to help you."

"Thank you." Minos thanked him before saying goodbye to Henry and finally leaving to begin preparations for his group's journey to Elves Island.

It was finally time for the biggest expert competition in the Spiritual World!

For the next few days, Henry would work as the doorman of the Spatial Kingdom, while Minos would meet with the key figures in his state to present the current situation of the empire and also assemble the group that would travel to Elves Island.

Aside from Gloria and Abby, almost the entire Stuart family would be going, along with Minos and a few specialists. Apart from them, the vast majority of the important names in the state would stay behind to take advantage of the opportunity to come and go freely from the Spatial Kingdom while developing important measures for the near future.

Chapter 2142 Attraction For Participants And Players

A few weeks after Henry's level 100 breakthrough...

As the news of the new God of the Spiritual World spread, a dragon from the Continent of Beasts also ascended to divinity, becoming the sixth God of this planet!

Many powers in the world were shocked by the advancement of these two beings, whom no one expected to reach level 100, and many powers were naturally more excited than ever.

With two more Gods, the planet's strength had increased by 50%, which was quite significant for a world that feared its own end in about a decade.

But while many organizations and even organization leaders were surprised by this new advance, and many wondered where the Divine Medicines responsible for it had come from, Minos and his state had paid no attention to the matter.

Emperor Stuart was well aware that a dragon would advance to level 100 near the start of the Continental Tournament. After receiving this news this morning, Minos was only happy because, with more 11th-stage cultivators in the world, fewer people would look at him.

As much as some might suspect strange things about him, they were in the minority and not enough to bother Emperor Stuart.

So, while the world was reacting to the recent advances of these two beings, Minos and his group traveled to Elves Island to participate in the Continental Tournament.

They were on the Black Plain Empire's most advanced spaceship, traveling across the East Sea, where the freezing cold and space storms now made traveling very difficult.

But unlike many groups who faced these phenomena with less advanced ships or artifacts, the Stuart family was on a spaceship capable of ignoring up to 90% of the phenomena in its path.

Just a fraction of what was happening because of the Ice Age was enough to cause the crew to take a detour on their way to Elves Island!

In any case, without the ability to travel through wormholes, the party had already been on the road for several days, and it would be several more days before they reached their destination.

Meanwhile, Sarah and Kendrick, along with Minos, were isolated in the ship's main training room, receiving training from their old man before participating in the Continental Tournament.

Sarah was currently at level 81, while Kendrick was at the peak of level 76, very close to reaching level 77.

One had to be able to manipulate space to participate in the Continental Tournament. Otherwise, they wouldn't be able to enter the independent space where the matches would take place. However, Minos was confident that his son would be able to participate in this competition!

Even though he was only level 76, Kendrick had the same spatial manipulation ability and energy advantage as Minos!

Therefore, even though he was only a Spiritual Saint, the Crown Prince of the Black Plain Empire was fully capable of participating in the most prestigious competition in the Spiritual World!

While training, Hollie, Lily, and Rowan took advantage of the trip to enjoy their lives a little, knowing that they would soon be stuck in the Spatial Kingdom.

Minos and his wives didn't intend to leave these 'children' outside their family's cultivation sanctuary during the war. At most, they would be Spiritual Saints when the war began, too weak to fight or, rather, too vulnerable.

So, the three of them were enjoying what might be their last trip and adventure outside of the Spatial Kingdom before the Spiritual World disaster reached its peak.

Lily was currently at level 67, while Rowan was at 66, and Hollie was at 65.

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While Minos was training with Kendrick and Sarah, Isabella and Ruth were in the middle of this spaceship in a not-so-large but very comfortable and luxurious living room.

With them were some of the group's traveling allies, including Queen McBride, who was currently level 95, but also George Sista, level 90, who was there to represent Sista. No one from Albano, Rosser, Blackrock, or the Flaming Empire was there, but those states were allies of the Black Plain Empire in the event that was about to begin.

Anyway, while they were traveling with these two and their advisors, the two women from Minos talked to them about the competition they were about to enter.

"So, what do you know about the Continental Tournament?" Ruth asked the people who knew the least about this event, being Minos' wife.

"The Continental Tournament is a big attraction." Hannah McBride said as she looked into Ruth's eyes. "You would certainly have a lot of fun taking part in it under other circumstances."

The tournament lasts a few weeks, but during that time, there are a variety of attractions for spectators and bettors, with fantastic prizes for each side.

Young people can participate as contestants and win prizes for the competitions they take part in, while gamblers can have fun following the fights and betting at a high level.

The main part of the tournament is undoubtedly the Secret Hunt in the Spatial Kingdom created by the organizers, but there are many other contests, from races, flying, ordinary fights, arm wrestling, comprehension contests, and, in short, everything you can imagine. There are opportunities for lesser cultivators, gamblers, and powerful people. In a way, it's a very democratic competition."

George said to Ruth, not disagreeing with Hannah's words at all. "This is the Continental Tournament in normal situations. We'll still have plenty of attractions and opportunities, but we'll hardly be able to enjoy the event in our current circumstances."

So, aside from the high bettors, I think the only people who are going to be able to win anything at this event are the people who are going to be playing in the main events."

"I wouldn't be surprised if there are more than 60% fewer attractions in this tournament edition." A Sista advisor commented.

A eunuch from the Flowers Kingdom then said. "The main point of the tournament is the high-stakes betting, which can give away a prize worth as much as Divine Medicine. In the Secret Hunt, 9th-stage participants will face creatures, ruins, and traps to collect items hidden in the area."

There is no map of the area, as the forest is almost like a living labyrinth. Because the creatures there change so often, each participant will feel as if they are in a completely new place, even though this Spatial Kingdom has been used many times in the past."

The player's task is to choose competitors to bet on and invest in, as well as a series of cataloged items that they can bet about whether they will be found or not and who will find them. The more the bettors get right, the more points they earn. The more accurate their bets, the better their scores. At the end of the event, the player with the highest score wins the right to hear the result of a collective vision from the elven tribe's seers."

Those who didn't know what this contest was about became more interested in the event, seeing that participating in the contest could indeed be interesting, both for fun and for great results.

#### Chapter 2143 Arrival At The Elves Island

As Minos' party traveled to the Elves Island, those who knew the least about the event learned about what was about to happen there.

The Continental Tournament was a great event for observers, bettors, and participants. It was undoubtedly more beneficial to the bettors who won the best prizes, but it could still contribute to everyone involved.

Because it was such a prestigious and sought-after competition, just participating or even watching the tournament could change people's lives in ordinary times.

That wasn't the case in the current era. Still, in other times, the Continental Tournament would have been enough to open the eyes of young and old alike.

At first glance, the bets might seem unfair, as someone with more powerful representatives would have a better chance of winning their bets, right? However, the organization of the tournament wasn't so simple.

The tournament was fair despite the apparent imbalance between the participating powers and their respective participants and bettors.

One empire could send a level 89 Sage, and another state could send a level 80 Sage, each betting on their own envoy. But even with that difference, both sides had a chance to win.



Obviously, the side betting on a level 89 had a better chance of making the right moves than the side using a level 80. However, the stronger the participant, the lower the score for each hit. On the other hand, the weaker the player, the higher the score for the side that hit the bets on that player's name.

For example, an organization using a level 89 player might get 5 points for a particular hit. But if the same hit had come from someone at level 80, that bettor could have collected 40, 50, or even more points!

In this way, the Continental Tournament balanced out the differences in power and influence of its participants and bettors.

Stronger individuals had a better chance of success, but the points they could offer their bettors were lower. On the other hand, the weaker ones had less chance of succeeding, which meant that betting on them was riskier, so the prize was higher.

Now that they knew how the Continental Tournament worked, the group traveling in the Black Plain Empire's spaceship was reassured about their chances in the event that would begin in the next few days.

And so the journey continued for a few more days until the group finally arrived at Elves Island, with some of them reaching the area for the first time in their lives!

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When they reached 90 kilometers from the southernmost coast of Elves Island, the Black Plain Army soldiers controlling the spaceship slowed down when they saw a large barrier ahead.

As they dodged the rain of ice blades in their path, the ship's commander announced over the vehicle's loudspeakers.

"Good morning, crew. Prepare to land on Elves Island." Every room on the spaceship received this audible warning, including Minos and his two eldest children while they were in the spaceship's training room.

"You have heard. Your training is over." Minos told the two, both youths extremely exhausted and sweaty from training with their father.

Minos then left them behind and, without hesitation, went to the control chamber of his spaceship.

Once there, he saw on one of the surrounding screens the image of what stood in their way: a group of elves who were there to stop visitors and inspect new arrivals.lights

Elves Island was closed, and only authorized personnel could enter the area.

Minos then turned on the ship's main communicator, which immediately made a hologram of himself appear outside the ship.

"Friends of Elves Island, I'm here with my group to participate in the Continental Tournament."

The elves near Minos' ship already knew that this group was from the Black Plain Empire, but they were still surprised to see the light projection showing Emperor Stuart in front of the ship as if he were actually outside of it.

"Your Majesty Minos Stuart." The elves there greeted him with respect, already aware of this emperor's recent achievements and the fact that he had a God on his side.

The leader of this group then said. "Your Majesty, welcome to the island. We have closed our territory, and only personnel accompanied by members of the Elven Guard can enter the island. We also need to make a quick inspection of your ship. I'm afraid I can't close my eyes. These are the orders of my superiors."

Minos heard the words of this level 95 elf and saw no problem.

He quickly let some elves into his ship to check the passengers and cargo.

After making sure that there was nothing that could seriously endanger Elves Island, the leader of the group of guards authorized Minos and his people to enter the area ahead, leaving an elf behind to lead them there.

The Elves Island was not a large place, but the tribe preferred that their guests not roam freely through the territory. That was especially true in this time of the Ice Age when everyone was in danger.

It would only take one person with bad intentions to go to the wrong place on the island for all the elves to suffer terrible consequences!

Minos paid no attention to the elves' concerns, and soon, his party was on their way in the spaceship, taking only a few seconds to enter the protected area of this territory and land in a suitable spot.

As he left the spaceship, Minos looked at the island paradise he had been planning to visit for decades, one of the most beautiful places in this vast world, where the spiritual energy was the densest on the planet.

This was a blessed land, the place in the Spiritual World that most resembled a piece of a higher world.

However, the immortal energy available there was only slightly stronger than what Minos could feel in other parts of the world, as it was far from the normal levels of the weaker areas of ancient Panvuter.

In any case, this place was wonderful, and even amid the Ice Age, it was not so affected, with a cold climate but no ice in its territory, something remarkable.

Minos' group members were amazed to set foot in this place, and his children loved the trip.

"Wow! This place really is as beautiful as the stories say." Hollie commented as the elves who led them felt proud of his territory.

Chapter 2144 Ayla Daeharice

As soon as they entered Elves Island, Minos' group was guided through the territory by the elf who had joined them a few moments ago, with this Demigod showing them where to go while introducing the city.

"Elves Island is not large, but we still have six cities here, three cities exclusively for elves in the center of our territory, and three other cities where beings of other species are free to come and go.

In regular times, the island would be open to visitors. However, given our current circumstances, only authorized personnel with good reason to be here are allowed on the island. That's why you can see that this city we're in is so sparsely populated."

"What about the people attending the Continental Tournament? Will there be no crowds at this edition of the competition?" Ruth asked.

"There will be, but it will be smaller than other editions. Many people who normally come for the attraction won't venture out into the world under the current circumstances. Only participants, gamblers, and powerful people are expected to attend the event.

The audience for this edition will be smaller. However, the city will still be filled with beings from different parts of our world, Your Majesty. You were one of the first to arrive here, so it's natural that you will see less movement in this city." The elf smiled before showing the group interesting monuments and places to visit in their spare time.

After a while of walking through the main streets of that city that could comfortably house up to 60,000 beings in humanoid form, the group came to a large resort where rulers or representatives of heads of state would stay during this period.

"This is where you'll be staying for the next month." The elf said. "The entire building we're in will be at your group's disposal only, so make yourselves at home here." The group members looked around with interest, understanding that the other 30 or so buildings in this paradisiacal area of the city would individually serve the strongest powers in the world.

The elf continued his explanation. "Here, you can move freely. But when you move around the city, you must carry your identification with you and, if possible, be accompanied by a member of the Elven Guard." He said, having already handed over the IDs of each of the people in Minos' group.

"Anyway, I'll stay with you until the end of the day to answer your questions and introduce you to the city. When you're ready, let me know. I'll show you where the Continental Tournament will be held." He said as he led the way for the group to settle into their temporary home on Elves Island.

The Continental Tournament lasted from 7 to 14 days, depending on how some of the games went. Since Minos and his team had arrived a little early, they might have to stay on Elves Island for a whole month. After the elf's words, the group quickly entered the building that would be their home for the next few weeks, each choosing where to stay, and the Black Plain Army personnel quickly familiarized themselves with the place.

Without stopping to rest, Minos, his wives, and children soon returned to the entrance of the building, eager to finish getting to know this place.

"We are not that tired. Please finish showing us the town." Sarah said, anxious and a little excited for the tournament to begin.

The elf didn't refuse and soon began to lead them to the central part of the city, where most of the tournament would take place, where the places for registration, betting, viewing, stands, shops, etc., were located.

On the way, the group passed other newcomers, who watched them carefully because of Minos' identity.

But they didn't see any old acquaintances and didn't stop to talk to anyone. They just followed the Demigod for the next two hours, visiting the most important places in the city, learning more about the area, and even hearing local stories.

As they were about to finish their exploration, Minos felt something calling him from the north, a sensation too strong for him to ignore.

'That fluctuation...' He looked in the direction of the beautiful forests of Elves Island while the people in his group realized that something wasn't right.

The elf observed Minos, understanding what the ruler must have felt.lights

"Minos, is something wrong?" Isabella asked worriedly.

The elf explained to the group. "What His Majesty Stuart is feeling must be because of his old deal with an elf. It's nothing dangerous as long as he doesn't ignore it."

The elf looked at Minos and advised him. "Your Majesty, you should follow this feeling and sort out what there is to sort out. My leaders have warned me that you would do this, so don't worry. No elf will stand in your way if you just go for it."

Minos folded his hands and said. "That's what I'll do. But what about my deal with Aurae? When do I get access to that place?"

"About that, you should take care of your personal affairs first. After that, someone will take you to the place of your interest." The elf replied, not liking that his tribe had given Minos access to the Tree of Life.

Unfortunately, he was too small to fight him. Since someone like Aurae had already made up her mind about it, he and the other elves could only keep their feelings to themselves!

With that in mind, Minos said to his group. "Enjoy the city until the start of the Continental Tournament. I might be gone for the next few days, so don't expect me."

"Okay." The people in the group replied before watching Minos leave in a northerly direction. Minos didn't hesitate to leave the city he was in and ran so fast towards his destination that, after only five minutes, he couldn't see the city on the horizon anymore.

The closer he got to where he was going, the stronger the previous feeling in his being became.

As he felt the place he was supposed to go become more and more tangible, Minos clenched his fists as he remembered the woman who had forced an agreement with him decades ago.

With her face in his mind, he murmured the name of the one who had put herself in a position to steal his destiny. "Ayla Daeharice, I'm here to finish our deal!"

After saying this, he stopped in front of an ancient castle where he could feel a level 91 aura in the place where he could feel something calling him.

As he stopped in front of the place where more than 30 elves lived and worked, Minos soon saw someone appear at one of the entrances to the place.

It was a woman whose appearance he remembered very well, someone he had met when he was only level 79 during his journey to the core of the Ancestral Sea.

She still looked the same as she did then, with long, straight blonde hair and a breathtaking beauty.

But now she was much stronger, having advanced many levels to become a level 91 Demigod.

"Minos Stuart." She murmured the name of the person she had made a deal with decades ago, finally coming to the realization of that deed.

#### Chapter 2145 Fulfilling The Contract

Facing the elf who had forced a contract between them, Minos remembered that fateful day on the Ancestral Sea.

"Ayla, I haven't seen you for a long time, but I can see that you haven't grown up badly." Minos' eyes narrowed.

She laughed subtly. "I'm ashamed compared to you. There was a big difference between us then, but now you're at the same level as me..."

"Yes, we're at the same level now, even if we're not at the same combat power." He said in a neutral tone.

Minos didn't hate Ayla like he had hated many of his enemies during his journey. Even though what this elf had done was quite dangerous for him, he didn't ignore the fact that she had given him something in return.

Ayla was a gifted seer who had given Minos something useful and information that had saved his life. If he hadn't met her, he would have fallen to the level 99 Demigod who had pursued him before he entered the Seraphim's Ancient Sarcophagus.

He was grateful to her for that. But of course, he didn't like having his life in other people's hands, so he didn't see her in a friendly light.

He could do very badly if he couldn't help her with her goal!

Ayla could see the contradiction in Minos' eyes and felt he was more inclined to punish than thank. She closed her eyes and smiled, wondering if she had made a mistake.

But then a level 98 Demigod appeared beside her and said to Minos. "Your Majesty Stuart, seeing you on my island is good. Ayla has told me all there is to tell about you, and I've also heard from Her Excellency how formidable you are."

Minos looked at the elf and made a greeting gesture. He didn't want to create a conflict with the elven tribe because of Ayla or the history of the elves.

He knew very well how dangerous elves could be and how slippery they were. Dealing with a being of that race was never easy, and often, the non-elven side came out very badly.

But his goal was to deal with Ayla alone.

"I'm glad to hear that."

The elder next to Ayla continued, now in a more serious tone. "Young man, your agreement had its problems and negative points, but we should focus on the positive.



Because of that agreement, you are still alive, and the entire Spiritual World has won your contributions.

Without Ayla's intervention that day, you might have fallen before you even discovered the aliens in the North Sea. That would have kept us ignorant and technologically backward. We would probably have succumbed to the enemies of the Mechanic Empire with no chance to defend ourselves...

Fortunately, you found each other, and Ayla made such an agreement with you."

"That's true... But she didn't have to connect my fate with hers." Minos said as he looked into Ayla's eyes. "If not for that, I would have come to the Elves Island much earlier. It might have helped me to grow up faster or even to develop my knowledge more easily."

"You never know, Minos," Ayla commented. "Sometimes, the best path is the one we take. Without knowing it, we've already taken the path that will benefit us the most."lights

"Is that so?" He asked.

"You can ask yourself as many questions as you like. You'll hardly come up with a different answer." She said. "Anyway, you no longer have to worry about fulfilling your agreement with me. Our relationship is over."

Minos frowned.

The old level 98 elf explained. "Ayla wanted to be my heir, so she made a deal with you to help her either with your influence or your talent. She expected that you would have to come to the Elves Island to make a difference in her life, but from the moment we learned of your agreement, her status in our tribe has evolved."

She said. "Because of you, I have reached the position of the Chief Disciple, and now I am on the path I've always dreamed of. So our agreement is no longer worth anything from the moment you entered the Elves Island and fulfilled the last requirement of our invisible contract." Minos frowned. "What about that feeling I felt earlier?"

"That was me calling you." She smiled. "This kind of agreement shows no signs when it's completed. So I used the remains of my contract with you to lure you here and warn you."

After hearing this, Minos looked down at himself, searching his being for evidence of what these two elves had just said.

He would find nothing, a sign that the agreement between him and Ayla was indeed no longer valid.

'That seems to be the case.' He felt relieved to have solved such a problem, even if he still felt a slight grudge against Ayla.

"What now?" He asked as he looked at her.

"Now? Now you do whatever you want, Minos." She said. "You will not be punished for the old agreement, so you are free of your obligation to me."

"You deserve to be punished," Minos muttered as he clenched his fists and showed them his dragon aura.

The level 98 elder didn't like that and gave a strong warning. "Minos, the tribe is your friend, but I will not tolerate your insolence."

"Elder, Ayla doesn't deserve to die for what she did, but that doesn't mean I'm going to forget about this with a mere conversation. Don't worry, I'll just teach her a lesson. She'll be able to fight alongside the rest of the tribe in the war."

"Tsk! How dare you say that in front of me? I'm telling you to back off!" The level 98 Demigod stepped forward and raised his aura to counter Minos' mighty power.

Minos saw sweat begin to form on the woman's forehead and smiled. "Elder, if you want to get beaten up too, I don't mind teaching both of you a lesson. I'll give you three breaths to back off before I move."

"Three breaths? I only need one!" The old elf loudly said as he disappeared from his position and attacked Minos without further hesitation.

As he appeared behind Minos, already manipulating the surrounding trees with his super-environmental abilities, the rest of the Demigods from the elven outpost left their position to see what was going on.

Chapter 2146 Show Of Force

"Nonsense," Minos muttered as he felt a level 98 Demigod acting without restraint against him, a clear sign of respect from his opponent, who knew that Emperor Stuart was not to be taken lightly.

Even before stealing Ayla's cultivation to reach level 93, Minos was strong enough to escape the level 98 elder's attack. He quickly dodged the many trees that tried to reach him with their branches and roots.

He flew at high speed and quickly arrived where Ayla was.

Standing behind her without giving her a chance to react, he grabbed her neck, making her weaker as he became more powerful.

"I would have fought you differently, fairly. But since your elder is interfering, I'm afraid I'll have to be a little rough with you." He muttered before throwing her to the ground, giving her no chance to react, defend, or prepare.

"Aaaaagh!"

After Ayla's long, high-pitched cry of pain, Minos pushed her aside to take care of the level 98 elder.

"You're not bad. Your powers seem quite dangerous, elder." Minos said as he dodged the roots that were trying to reach him.

He could feel that if he was touched by one of those roots, not only his spiritual energy but also his vitality would be sucked away to the point of exhaustion or even death.

The level 98 elder used what he had to confront Minos, knowing he couldn't do it any other way.

Even if his original goal had been to protect Ayla, since he had already failed, he now had to protect himself. There was no way that Minos could ignore an attack. After attacking him, it was certain that the old elf would have to deal with his opponent's counterattacks.

So he concentrated on showing Minos his best while he couldn't help but acknowledge the remarkable skills of Emperor Stuart.

"Minos Stuart is truly an abomination." One of the elves, watching the battle, muttered to his colleagues as he saw Emperor Stuart escape from the many branches controlled by the level 98 elder.

Another said. "But his strength is borrowed. He'll lose much of that power in a few moments and be vulnerable to the elder."

"But before that, he might win..."

"Yes, he looks stronger than a level 98 elder..."

Comments spread around, and these 10th-stage elves saw a rare high-level battle taking place right in front of them.

"I'm going to get you, Minos! You can run all you want, but I'll get you sooner or later!"

Hearing the level 98 elder's cry, Minos provocatively smiled as he stopped moving. "Is that so?"

Nullification!

Just as he was about to be hit by a bunch of branches and roots, Minos activated his most advanced technique, causing everything around him to instantly vanish into thin air.

"Damn it!" The old elf saw this and realized that Minos was not only able to fight him but also beat him!

Dragon's gaze!

Minos' eyes flashed, and the level 98 elf immediately felt an overwhelming pressure fall upon him as if a level 98 dragon was looking down on him.

Ayla lay where Minos had thrown her, but even as she howled in pain, she felt Emperor Stuart's power and watched as a golden dragon figure formed around the brown-haired fellow.lights

"Old elf, I'll show you my most advanced shared skill!" Minos said as he focused his spiritual energy on unleashing the second phase of the Dragon's Eye, something he had gained in his previous qualitative breakthrough.

After completing the formation of the Spiritual Dragon, Minos showed the elves something very similar to a real dragon while an apocalyptic aura emanated from it, making the weaker Demigods tremble.

The old elf looked at the creature, which also looked like a real dragon, and immediately realized that he was fucked.

'Shit. It's going to take me a few months to recover!' He realized he wouldn't be able to defend himself and immediately started to retreat as the golden dragon around Minos prepared to attack him.

Suddenly, the golden dragon used one of its claws to slash through the air, opening a spatial rift.

It then made a quick movement with one of its paws, and a paw with razor-sharp claws instantly pierced through space and appeared in front of where the level 98 elf was flying away.

Aside from fusions and techniques based on immortal energy, this was Minos' most powerful move, capable of seriously injuring even a level 98 demigod.

Feeling how much this could threaten his life, the old elf regretted having protected Ayla as he quickly felt the golden paw approaching him.

In the blink of an eye, he was struck, sliced in several places, and hurled toward Ayla as fast as a falling meteor.

BOOM!

When his back hit the ground, the ground shook for several kilometers as dust rose into the sky.

Not a sound came out of the old Demigod's mouth, his consciousness already gone, while only his body showed signs of pain, with his facial muscles contorted and a terrible look in his eyes.

Ayla saw her master fall beside her while Minos floated majestically in the air, not far from them.

The golden dragon was still close to Minos, emitting a powerful sensation that could make even level 99 Demigods stare in awe.

Minos looked into Ayla's frightened eyes and said. "You got away with it today because of your elder. Thank him for that. But be careful in the future. Don't be so selfish in your dealings."

Minos had already sensed the presence of level 99 Demigods in the area, so he wouldn't pursue the matter any further. His demonstration of power had been enough to warn the elves but also to show his value to the Spiritual World and the Elves Tribe.

"This is a compelling ability, Your Majesty. The dragons will be jealous of you when they find out you can do something so supreme." A level 99 elf said to Minos as he hovered high above the area.

He and another level 99 elf had watched the entire fight without intervening, as Minos had shown no intention of killing.

The level 98 elder was injured but would be fine with some rest and cultivation, so the two weren't angry with him.

"Are you here to take me to the Tree of Life?" Minos asked, imagining that this was the case.

"Yes. Are you ready? Do you have anything else to do?" The other elf, a young-looking man, asked.

"I am ready. I've taken care of everything here."

"Then come with us. We'll take you to Her Excellency Aurae, and then you'll have access to what you want." So the three of them left the area, leaving behind many Demigods talking about what had just happened.

#### Chapter 2147 Fountain Of Life

Not long after defeating Ayla and the level 98 elf, Minos arrived at the location of Aurae.

When he reached the elven city in the center of the island, he was able to personally observe the Tree of Life not far from the small elven city, where normally only beings of that race could enter.

The tree was huge, beautiful, and exuded a powerful aura full of vitality.

Minos felt good when he smelled the scent of the leaves of this gigantic tree, something as ancient and relevant to this world as the many spiritual roots around the planet.

"Incredible." He murmured as the two level 99 Demigods led him to where Aurae stood with Vico Travisani.

Of the current Gods of the Spiritual World, Vico had been the first to arrive on Elves Island to accompany the Continental Tournament.

Not all of them would come, but the presence of at least half of them was expected for this event.

Feeling Minos' aura, Vico didn't take long to say goodbye to Aurae and return to his group, which had just arrived on Elves Island.

Aurae left the wooden house she was in and stopped in front of her small dwelling to see Minos and two of the tribe's elders arriving in what looked more like a village.

"Minos, you look better than ever." She complimented as she saw the brown-haired young man standing in front of her.

Minos made a gesture of greeting and said. "I am far from your level. But thank you for your words, Your Excellency."

"Hmm, I heard about your disagreement with Vico." She commented, looking deeply into the eyes of this young man who had hidden something so critical from her and the others. "You are a box of surprises, Minos."

Minos laughed softly. "I play with the cards I have. I had the option of choosing someone who would help me or risk being targeted by all the Gods of our world. The choice was easy..."

She laughed when she heard that, not disagreeing with his logic, although she would have preferred to know about such medicine before Henry used it.

Aurae had someone she thought was more capable of absorbing a Divine Medicine than Henry!

But what was done could not be changed. Besides, Henry had succeeded, and now the Spiritual World had 'one' more God because of Minos.

She sighed and said. "Well, let's not talk about something that can't be changed. Have you settled your business with Ayla?"

He nodded affirmatively while the two level 99 elves next to him showed Aurea what had happened.

When she understood what Minos had done, she was pleased and said. "Very well, now you have no more problems with my tribe. Remember this after I give you access to the core of the Tree of Life.



Elves are proud and often harm others for the sake of the tribe and the Spiritual World. But everything we do, we do for good reasons, and we are not beings who do not negotiate.

Everyone wants to profit, and we are no different. But we're here to save the world, not to get into trouble with humans."

"Hmm, I know. Thank you for being so direct, Your Excellency." Minos said.lights

"Okay, now these two will take you to the place I assured you you'd have access to. You'll have until the start of the Continental Tournament to take advantage of this opportunity." She said as she walked away, preparing to leave to attend to other matters.

"Thank you for the opportunity. I'll do my best to get to level 92 before the aliens arrive." He said before watching Aurae disappear.

Standing next to the two elves, Minos listened. "Come on, let's not waste any more time." "Do you know how to get to where we're dropping you off?" One of the two asked.

"Yes. I studied some old books about you." Minos said, lying since his knowledge came from the memories of Henricus Longus. "I know that I will have the opportunity to cultivate in the underground lake where the source of life is produced. Even though it is a fantastic place, it has its dangers and can lead even unprepared cultivators astray. That's why even high-level elves don't stay there for long."

"Exactly. You're a human, so you might not be able to stay as long as Her Excellency guarantees. Use this device if you feel you have to leave early." One of the elves gave Minos a pendant.

The other said. "Also, be careful in this place. Usually, only top elves are allowed to do this, so there may be some kind of challenge or resistance to your presence in the lake.

If you're not careful, you might even die."

"I'm willing to risk everything," Minos said before thanking them again for the opportunity but also for their concern in warning him.

As terrible as the elves were in many ways, they were honest when they promised something!

Soon, Minos was standing in front of the entrance to a tunnel full of roots in the walls, where he could feel a strong spiritual fluctuation concentrated underground.

"You'll be going alone from now on." One of the elves said as he stopped in the middle of the path.  
"Good luck on your journey. I hope you succeed and return the favor by helping in the war of worlds."

With these words, Minos continued on his way until he reached an underground area surrounded by bars and small roots that completely covered the walls and ceiling of the area.

In the area, which looked like a crypt of roots, Minos saw the top of the area, where there was a golden root from which drops of a special kind of liquid dripped, colored like a rainbow.

Below this drip was a small pond with a radius of about 6 meters, where Minos felt that it was 30 centimeters deep at the shallowest point and 70 centimeters at the deepest point.

Seeing the ceramics in the area and some statues made by the elves, Minos felt like he was fulfilling a dream.

This place was as valuable, if not more so, than the volcano where the giant skeleton of the ancestral dragon god lay!

Here was the source of life, the potentially most valuable place in the entire world, where even mortally wounded Demigods could escape certain death if they were brought back in time.

That was one of the strengths of this place. Still, it was also special for its spiritual cleansing abilities, which could boost the level of talent and physical quality of those who meditated there.

As one of the highest spiritual forms in this world, it wasn't even impossible to learn rare laws of nature that went against one's natural affinities.

With this in mind, Minos didn't hesitate and immediately took a bath in the small lake before starting to meditate in its deepest part.

#### Chapter 2148 Time

As he began his meditation at the fountain of life, Minos felt his fatigue from the earlier battle fade away as his muscles relaxed and regenerated with great speed and efficiency.

The essence in the marrow of his bones, which currently contained a large amount of immortal energy, was stimulated after he started meditating, something that was hard to come by when he wasn't trying to use his innate ability or one of his seals on the giant bones.

This liquid seems to stimulate deeper and denser natural laws, similar to those of Panvuter. Minos thought to himself, amazed by the effects of the Tree of Life's fountain.

There was a big difference between the laws available in Panvuter and what was in that place on Elves Island. Still, the spiritual density there was the best he had ever seen in this world, and it could stimulate what he had already achieved through years of hard work.

Other people wouldn't feel the same way. But since Minos had already cultivated an immortal cultivation technique and had also absorbed a lot of immortal energy from the giant bones, this source was able to stimulate his marrow to become stronger by itself!

His physical essence was already at a very high level due to the fact that he had used Divine Medicine to improve the quality of his physique, so just a few hours after entering, Minos could already feel his understanding rising to a new level.

If before he was able to manipulate laws in a similar way to ordinary level 98 cultivators, now he felt that he could understand the world around him more like someone at the absolute peak.

That didn't mean that his strength had reached level 99, but rather that his understanding of reality had reached the peak of this world!

Sensing this, Minos was naturally excited because even at level 91, he could feel that his understanding was already very close to reaching the threshold between that of level 99 Demigods and Gods!

'When I reach level 93, I'll be able to manipulate laws in a way that only Gods can.' Minos estimated, imagining that with this power, he could wreak havoc against the group that would soon invade the Spiritual World.

'Even if I can't deal with them here in the Spiritual World, I'll find a way to take the war to The Adamant Land.' He thought, considering that this place might be 'weakened' during the action on this planet.

In that case, attacking the enemy in The Adamant Land might be a way not only to disrupt the enemy's plans but also to bring victory to the Spiritual World.

If I can fight on the same level as a God, I'll be able to settle the war between our worlds!

While he was thinking about these things and taking advantage of the opportunity, his first few days there passed so quickly that Minos didn't even notice.

During those days, nothing bad had happened to him, as the elves had thought.

Minos felt so good and comfortable in this place that he forgot that he should have some kind of test or resistance against it since he wasn't an elf.

But not even the elves knew everything about this place. While Minos was taking advantage of this great opportunity, a tattoo in the shape of six wings on one of his hands had been glowing since he had entered.

Minos didn't know what was happening because he didn't feel anything except the changes in his being. But his contact with the remnants of a true seraph helped him in this place!

This tree had not been born in the Spiritual World with the chaos of that world during the stabilization of this planet after the end of Panvuter. It had been planted in this world after a meteor had fallen in the region that would become known as Elves Island.

The entirety of Elves Island was a piece of another distant world that had also exploded, sending pieces of itself across great distances of the universe.lights

More specifically, this meteor came from a planet controlled by the lord of the Seraphim Tribe, and the seraphim who came to the Spiritual World had methods of recognizing or being recognized by the essence of that ancient world.

By identifying the characteristics of that source, the tattoo on one of Minos' hands made him more compatible with that place of origin in the World's Tree.

Meanwhile, Minos continued to meditate, feeling very entertained as he understood the profound laws of time and space.

Time and space were closely related. Since Minos already had a good handle on space and a basic understanding of time, he could easily learn more about one of the most difficult and rare laws to control.

Time was one of the supreme laws of the universe, and when mastered, it provided unimaginable benefits to its wielder.

Aware of this, Minos focused more and more on developing his control over time and gradually began to affect the passage of time around him.

He had less than two weeks to stay in this special area. But while two weeks would pass in the outside world, Minos would feel that his stay beneath the Tree of Life would extend over a much longer period of time.

...

When he felt that he had been cultivating in this place of the elves for almost three months without interruption, Minos finally felt that something was strange.

'Why haven't the elves interrupted me yet?' He asked himself as he continued to meditate, not noticing that the water level of the lake he was in had dropped by three centimeters.

Normally, level 99 elves who stayed as long as he did would leave the place 1 centimeter shallower.

But near the end of his time, Minos came very close to lowering the level of this lake by 4 centimeters!

While he worried about the passage of time in the lake, the elves outside the place were still waiting for him.

The two level 99 Demigods were amazed at Minos' performance, as he didn't need any help and didn't have to leave early after more than 10 days in that place.

One of them kept an eye on the tunnel leading to where Minos was and sighed for another day. "It looks like he doesn't want to leave before his time is up..."

"Minos Stuart... What kind of monster is he?" Muttered the other Demigod, quite impressed.

One of them had entered this place, but even though he was an elf, he couldn't last the maximum time in such an area!

As for the other notable humans who had entered, not even the most impressive of them had made it this far into this area!

Thus, these two would continue to guard the area until Minos' last day in this place, the day before the start of the Continental Tournament!

#### Chapter 2149 The Eve Of The Continental Tournament

On the last day that Minos was allowed to stay in the lake below the Tree of Life, he cultivated in the same place as before, using not only the special energy of the area but also that of the giant bones in the Spatial Kingdom.

At the end of his experience in that place, Minos had enough confidence to use all of himself simultaneously, thus achieving the best result in his cultivation in that area.

He had become much stronger there, possibly saving a year or two of cultivation in those two weeks or so.

Considering his short time before the aliens arrived, that was a great result! But today, Minos' short seclusion finally came to an end when the two level 99 Demigods who guarded the area entered to call him back.

However, before telling Minos it was time to leave, the two elves looked in shock at the small lake and saw that the place was 6 centimeters shallower than when Emperor Stuart entered it.

"That..." One looked at the other with concern, seeing they had lost much more than they had expected with Minos' entrance.

Minos' entrance could be compared to the entrance of three level 99 Demigods from this Elves Tribe!

They knew that the lake would eventually return to its average level, but with this result, they would be left with a weakened lake for centuries!

"What are we going to do? He sucked up our precious lake like it was nothing." One of the two said as he felt drops of sweat forming on his body.

"Sigh! He's really hard to analyze... But some evils come to good. Maybe we should look at this as an investment for the good of the Spiritual World." The other high elder commented, feeling that there was nothing they could do.

There was no going back and making this place the way it was two weeks ago. Besides, they couldn't punish Minos for something they had given him unlimited permission to do.

Besides, Minos was probably stronger now and closer to reaching level 92, something that was just as important for the world at the moment as the situation of this lake.

"Let's wake him up."

With that, the two of them emitted fractions of their auras, enough to show Minos that they were there, but without suddenly disturbing Emperor Stuart's meditation.

Sensing that two powerful elves were watching him, Minos easily got the message and gradually came out of his meditation state.

Opening his eyes, he smiled and thanked them again. "Elders, you don't know how much your tribe has helped me. Thank you again. It was really good for me."

"It must have been..." One said a little regretfully, although it hadn't been his choice to let Minos in.

Now, all they could do was accept reality and think that Minos would make good use of what he had won there.

The other elf said. "In any case, you should hurry and get back to your group. The Continental Tournament is about to begin. You only have a few hours for it."

"Oh?" Minos realized that the passage of time had been different for him and these people and noticed that his powers had developed more over time than he had imagined. 'That's perfect. My mastery of space and time has probably been greatly strengthened by this time of seclusion.'lights

"Very well, if that's the case, it's time for me to leave. Please convey my thanks to Her Excellency Aurae. I will return to my group now." He said to the two elves just before he saw their affirmative sign and finally left the area in the center of Elves Island.

The two elves stayed behind to watch Minos leave, curious to check the integrity of the area after this human's seclusion.

...



After a few minutes of flying around Elves Island at high speed, Minos spotted the city where his group was and soon headed for the exclusive building of the imperial family of the Black Plain Empire.

There, sensing the auras of his men and his family, he realized that Kendrick had finally reached the end of the 8th stage and was now at level 77!

Looking at his group, which had no other members who had become stronger than Kendrick, he talked a little about what he had been doing lately but also listened to what his group had been doing.

The last two weeks had been pretty quiet for the people in Minos' group, most of them just cultivating and having fun wandering around the city.

As the elf who had led them earlier had said, the city had become more crowded and diverse as the days went by, with the arrival of the groups participating in the event that was about to begin.

Of the current Gods of the Spiritual World, Henry and the Sky Whale were the only ones who hadn't come to this place; all the other groups had already docked on the island and were currently in this city where Minos was.

Among the high-ranking groups that had arrived on the island was Julian's group, who had already sent someone to wait for Minos and bring him to them when the young man had finished his business with the elves.

Upon hearing this, Minos quickly decided to meet the level 99 woman Julian had told him about.

Betting and matters related to the Continental Tournament could only be dealt with after the event began, so he didn't need to do anything the day before the long-awaited competition began.

So he didn't stay long with his family when he saw them again but went straight to the building where Julian's group was staying in the beautiful place where they were staying.

...

Arriving at where Julian and his group were staying, Minos met some old acquaintances from his faction with this man before finally coming face to face with this level 98 Demigod.

Julian stood next to the person he had talked to, Vicente, a woman with a beautiful appearance, attractive measurements, and hair as blue as the sky on a sunny day.

This woman had a solid level 99 cultivation, and the most striking thing about her was her icy and powerful aura, clearly focused on the Laws of Ice, which made her exceptionally powerful in this day and age.

"Minos, this is Callie Paull, the leader of the Divine Continent's Blue Flake Sect. She's an old acquaintance I had the pleasure of meeting in my youth." Julian said as he pointed to the woman smiling at Emperor Stuart.

Minos smiled back in greeting. "Lady Callie Paull, it is a pleasure to finally meet you. Julian has told me about you and our plans. What do you have to say? What is your opinion of the current situation in the world?"

#### Chapter 2150 Opening Of The Tournament

Hearing Minos' question, Callie became more serious as she answered him. "The situation is worrying. The enemy has 32 Gods, but even if not all of them come to our world, we might have to face more than 10 or even close to 20 of them. On the other hand, we only have six Gods right now, which isn't bad, but it's far from the enemy's numbers.

If we don't get more level 100 people by the time the aliens arrive, our chances of losing the war of worlds will be very high. But our chances still won't be good even if we get more Gods." She said as Minos and Julian stood on the roof of a building, the three alone there.

She continued, knowing that she had to convince Minos that she was someone who should be among the Gods of this world. "Since we can't have an interesting number of Gods on our side, we have to get the best we can afford. I have rare powers among our world's current level 99 Demigods, and I can use the Ice Age to our advantage.

Even though I don't know the strength of our enemies, I'm confident that when I reach level 100, I'll be able to contribute a strength similar to that of two normal Gods."

Minos already knew this and didn't think her words were exaggerated. Just as a fire-focused cultivator would have advantages fighting in the middle of a great fire, an ice-focused cultivator would have advantages during the Ice Age.

In particular, this woman's gifts would be especially helpful in any battle today!

Minos said. "I agree with your opinion. Especially about your powers giving you the potential to have the value of two Gods. But we must be pessimistic. At best, you'll advance about two years after the enemies arrive. In the worst case, it will take 5 to 10 years longer. Do you realize that even with a Divine Medicine, you might die before you have a chance to fight?" He asked her.

"I am. I'm willing to take that risk." She replied promptly. "And if we succeed in our plans, I will act as quickly as possible to alleviate the problems of the world."

Julian looked at Minos, hoping that this would be enough to convince his ally about Callie.

Minos said. "Very well. I can't guarantee anything, but I'll pass it on to you if I get a Divine Medicine. If all goes well, I hope you'll do your best in the fight against the aliens."

She smiled as she shook Minos' hand, glad he had given her this confidence.

"I hope I can thank you again in the future." She said as she looked at them both with sincerity in her eyes.

"Don't thank me. If the situation were different and I was at your level, you can bet I wouldn't be making this deal for you." Julian joked.

"Well, I wouldn't either if I could get to level 100 myself," Minos added, making them both smile in the midst of their complicated situation.

After a few moments of relaxation, Minos asked. "Anyway, what about the rest of the temple? How are the Elders' Council?"

"Elder Wren is here on Elves Island with elder Merritt. They are dealing with the organization of the Continental Tournament. As for the other two, they're at the organization headquarters taking care of the temple." Julian said. "They're preparing for the war as best they can, but they're not that excited."

"That's normal," Minos said. "It must be frustrating for high-level people like them. There's no way for them to improve without a Divine Medicine, and time is running out for everyone."

"You should have thought better of your choice of Henry..." Julian sighed. "I don't particularly see a problem with you giving what is yours to whomever you want, but some of the elders were disappointed, Minos. They thought you should have considered one of them before Henry."lights

Minos had expected to hear something like that and replied. "Henry accepted conditions that I'm not sure others would accept. He's also younger than most of the elders on the Temple Elders' Council, which guaranteed his advancement in time.

Anyway, sooner or later, you'll understand my motives. I didn't try to hurt anyone. I just did what I could without endangering my whole group."

Everyone always wanted the best for themselves. There was no question about that, even now, on the eve of the aliens' arrival in this world.

If there were a way for someone to protect their family so that at least they wouldn't be among the first to die, then they would do anything to make it happen, even if it meant making things worse for others.

Julian understood this perfectly and didn't say anything more about it, while Callie wasn't interested in getting into it.

In a way, Julian had also chosen someone from outside the Pantheon of Honor to have a chance to advance to level 100...

"Anyway, good luck with the competition," Julian said to Minos. "We will be depending on your result. But judging by your skills and your competitors' talent, I'm confident that our chances aren't too bad."

Minos thanked them before saying goodbye, ending this conversation, and finally preparing for the start of the Continental Tournament!

...

Hours later, a new day dawned on Elves Island, and it was finally time for the greatest competition in the Spiritual World to begin!

This morning, the gates to the area where the event would take place opened, allowing the thousands of people who would either participate, watch, or bet on the event to enter and begin their journeys.

Minos and his group entered one of the many entrances to the area specially prepared for this event, with Sarah and Kendrick soon separating from part of the group to join their allies in the competitors' area.

On the other hand, those who weren't competing or betting on the event, the majority of the group, made their way to the place where they would watch the entire tournament, leaving Minos and his allies behind.

Minos, George, and Hannah then made their way to the betting area, an area where they would return many times over the next few days to place new bets and take other actions for the benefit of their competitors.

Arriving at the bookmakers' hall, he and his partners soon met many famous figures of the Spiritual World, old acquaintances, and beings they had never seen before.

In particular, Minos encountered his friends from the Dragon Tribe, who didn't hesitate to approach him for a chat.

"Minos, you look magnificent. Your aura is stronger than ever." The level 100 dragon Minos favored said in a delighted tone, seeing this young man who had given him a chance to protect his tribe in this difficult time.