

## **Black Plain 2151**

### Chapter 2153 Bets (1)

Seeing the level 100 dragon, the leader of the Dragon Tribe, in front of him, Minos smiled with satisfaction, for this was one more ally he could count on in the war that was soon to come to the Spiritual World.

There was no obligation between him and this dragon since the Divine Medicine had been an exchange for Minos entering the place where the skeleton of the Ancestral Dragon God lay. However, it had been a deal that had brought the strongest tribe on the Continent of Beasts and the Black Plain Empire even closer together.

The agreement brought good karma to both sides, and Minos had become more compatible with the dragon bloodline.

As he faced the young brown-haired human, the level 100 dragon God had no spiritual indication that Minos was not of his race.

Hell, the level 98 and 99 dragons on his side seemed to be "less" dragons than Emperor Stuart himself!

The sensation this God felt from Minos wasn't that of a Divine Dragon yet, but it wasn't far off.

Minos said to this fellow. "Your Excellency is much better. Level 100 suits you, I'd say." "Hehe, maybe one day you'll reach my level." The dragon replied in a good mood. "Let's win this war against the damn aliens and pave the way for a new generation.

Minos, let's not be bound by the ties of the past. The future of the Spiritual World lies in the universe. When we finish this war, I hope we can work together to expand our operations to other worlds!"

Hearing the Dragon's confident tone, Minos didn't disagree. "I've been meaning to talk to you about this..."

He continued to talk about it while the two of them walked towards the betting shop in the area.

Part of the Continental Tournament went beyond betting, competition, and attractions. It was also an event for experts to meet, for business to be done, and so on!

While Minos and that God of the dragons were discussing a future deal, the members of both groups realized that their parties were not the only ones considering exploring the universe.

In fact, plans like those of these two groups were already on the minds of the major leaders of the Spiritual World today.

Everyone was more or less afraid of the future and whether they would actually survive the arrival of the aliens. But one could never plan for the future by considering one's own end!

When thinking about what they would do if they survived the aliens, several world leaders had come to the same conclusion, even without revealing their thoughts to each other.

They had to explore the universe!

There would still be disputes in the Spiritual World, but with the technologies of the aliens from The Adamant Land, the powers of that world could finally gain the ability to begin universal exploration by utilizing the achievements of the people of the Mechanic Empire.

Regarding technology, the Black Plain Empire was currently the most advanced, so the dragons didn't want to waste any time and were already discussing future partnerships with Minos.

"... Anyway, a partnership in universal exploration is something I am interested in". Minos didn't refuse to share his technologies or even form exploration groups with the Dragon Tribe. "We will talk about this in the next few days, but for now, excuse me, I will place my bets."lights

Seeing Minos' respectful gesture, the Dragon God of this generation made a similar gesture, indicating to everyone that he saw Emperor Stuart on the same level as himself!

"Look at that! A God is bowing to a level 91 Demigod!"

"This is really impressive! Isn't that Minos Stuart, emperor of the Black Plain Empire?"

"That's right. I didn't think he was that influential!"

"What do you mean? His Majesty Stuart is one of the strongest in the Spiritual World right now! On top of that, I've heard that his state has created its own God!"

"What? Really?"

Several people commented on Minos and the level 100 dragon, murmuring as the two temporarily separated to attend to their Continental Tournament business.

After saying goodbye to this God, Minos ignored the stares and whispers about him and headed straight for one of the VIP betting rooms.

The Continental Tournament betting room had a general area, a premium area, and a VIP area. Each gave punters access to different levels of betting. In the general area, you could bet on the simplest contests, with maximum bets of up to 5 million low-grade crystals. In the premium area, you could bet on all contests, but your bet was limited to 5 million mid-level crystals. There was no betting limit in the VIP section, and you could bet on any contest.

The value of the wager indicated the type of prize you were competing for. For example, by betting amounts well above the limit of the reward area, you could stand a chance of winning something as valuable as a Divine Medicine!

Since only a few players had a chance of winning the many bets available at the event, the prize was significantly higher than the amount placed to enter the bets.

The more you bet, the more you were entitled to the total amount collected. In other words, the event organizers got a share of everything collected from the bets, but the winners could have more or less of the total amount raised if their bet were for a higher amount.

The amount distributed to the winners could vary from 30% to 60% of the amount raised. If people who bet more won, the percentage would be closer to the upper limit of 60%. But if people who bet less won, the prize distributed would be closer to 30%.

In short, there was also a difference in the quality of services and the comfort of gamblers in each of the areas.

Minos realized this when he walked through a luxurious area and was soon seated in a special room where an event official would come to collect his bets at certain times.

Meanwhile, he and his fellow bettors, George and Hannah, had the opportunity to analyze each of the events that would take place in this edition of the Continental Tournament and plan their bets.

Sometime after they had arrived and been served fine drinks and snacks, the person in charge of collecting bets and payments arrived in the group's VIP room.

"Your Majesties and Your Highness, welcome to the Continental Tournament. Have you decided on your strategies?" A gorgeous elf asked as she smiled and looked into the eyes of the three important people in the room.

Chapter 2152 Bets (2)

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Minos allowed George and Hannah to place their bets first, and the two of them soon chose the events they wanted to bet on and what they thought would happen.

This type of betting was both good to be right but also impossible to predict the possible scenarios. In other words, if you bet on a particularly strong competitor, it was very likely that they would perform certain feats during their events. But maybe the competitor's strategy would be different from what the bettor wanted, or maybe a dark horse would show up in the middle of the event.

So, while it was logical and even likely that certain things would happen, it was also impossible to say what exactly would happen.

The slightest wrong move could lead to a completely unpredictable outcome by the bettors and ruin the bets of many, if not all, of the experts.

It wasn't like a lottery with a finite number of possible outcomes. The Continental Tournament could have an outcome where everyone died, or everyone survived, with infinite possibilities in between.

Experts could bet on virtually anything they wanted, including saying things that the organizers had not anticipated.

The organizers had several things they used to encourage people to place bets. For example, many resources were available in the contests that would start that day, and finding each item was considered an interesting bet. Players could bet on whether these resources would be found or not, whether certain groups or even certain people would find them.

It was possible to bet from vaguely on whether it would be found or not to precisely on who would be responsible for it.

These were the bets that the organizers encouraged everyone to make.

However, a bettor could make an offer and say something like: 'Sarah Stuart will kill Pyka Stauss with a split dagger on the third day of the main event.'

That was a very specific option and was unlikely to happen exactly as the bet said it would. But if it did, the bettor would win a lot of points.

Why would anyone bet on such a thing? To solve past problems, have fun, gain valuable resources, show dominance, etc.

The Continental Tournament had its more useful goals and benefits to the world. Still, it was also a form of entertainment for high-level cultivators, where such individuals could play with the lives of weaker ones without any consequences.

Hell, they could even get prizes for it!

Because of the secondary purpose of the tournament, all kinds of bets were possible, and there were few limits for the bettors in the VIP area.

After George placed his bets on behalf of Sista, Hannah placed hers for the good of the Flowers Kingdom.

With only Minos left to place his bets, he numbered a series of resources and things he would pass on to his children to pursue in the days to come.

Bettors could place their bids and then meet with their competitors to tell them what to do in the contest. That is why people would not bet on people they do not know, and partnerships like this one with his group could be very beneficial for the parties involved.

But Minos didn't go too far with his ordinary bets until he said specific things that would happen in the Continental Tournament.

"Place this unusual bet: Kendrick Stuart will manipulate space in the Secret Hunt competition, even though he's only at level 77. His name will go down in history as the first Spiritual Saint to do so in the Continental Tournament." Minos said as he read out the first of several very specific bets he was going to make for this event.

Hannah and George heard this and looked at Minos strangely.

'That... Can we really bet like that? Isn't it a bit obvious?' George asked in Minos' mind.

'Only people very close to me, and you know that. But I suppose she won't be able to tell anyone, so we'll just bet on it.' Minos said and looked at the elf in front of him.

The elf woman was surprised because she thought it unlikely that what Minos had said would happen because it was really very difficult. She said. "This bet could bring a large reward, considering the chances of it happening or someone else making the same bet. The minimum bid for it is 100,000 high-lights

quality crystals."

"Hmm, you can put it on my account," Minos said with a satisfied look.

The bet cost was high, but his chances of winning with this bid were extremely high!

"Also, bet that Kendrick Stuart will fight Spiritual Sages during the Secret Hunt for resources and win. Sarah Stuart will steal items from cultivators at level 84 or higher..."

Minos went on to make a series of specific bets about what his children would do during some of the main trials of the event.

They weren't so specific that he would name the opponents or people who would lose if he got them right. But they were specific enough that he had the potential to earn more points for such bets than for ordinary moves.

After listening to Minos for some time, the woman collected more than 4 million high-grade crystals from him, with him placing more than twice as many bets as his two allies.

Minos also placed some bets on behalf of Harold Edwardstone and the rulers of Rosser, Blackrock, and Albano.

After collecting the bets from this group, the elf left them behind, free to linger in the room for a few minutes.

"These were very risky wagers. Nothing guarantees that more than half of what you said will actually happen." George said, a little worried about the dangers his wife would face, as well as the chances that they would lose a lot because of Minos' possible mistakes.

They had made individual and collective bets. So, even if they did well in their individual bets, they could lose as a group if Minos made a big mistake.

Hannah had more experience with Minos and knew how this young man liked to take risks.

"Are you confident?" She asked him.

Minos nodded without hesitation. "Kendrick and Sarah will do as I say. I've trained them personally, and I know their limits better than anyone.

They will do what I tell them. That gives me the confidence to say that we'll have a good margin of success in what they do."

"What if we lose?"

"It will only be a few million high-grade crystals. That's not much for the Black Plain Empire these days." Minos said calmly.

"Sigh... I hope you do it right. If we can have a new God in the Spiritual World on our side, it will be very advantageous when the war breaks out." Hannah said, not knowing much of what George and Minos knew.

Minos agreed with her. "Do not worry. There are still many things to happen before the aliens arrive. Anyway, let's get back to our groups. The children should have already signed up for their respective competitions.

Time to tell them what we are betting on and give them some equipment to use".

The bettors could help their competitors. They couldn't use items they gave to those competitors in their bets, but they could give accessories to their groups.



That is, a bettor couldn't bet that competitor "x" would use a recovery pill on day "y" of the event. Since this was something premeditated and very possible, such bets were worth almost nothing.

However, bettors could provide resources to help their competitors achieve their goals. For example, Minos could give his children recovery items to use when necessary to recover from fatigue or injury and complete their main goals.

Soon, those three were back with the rest of the crew that had come to Elves Island!

Chapter 2154 The Achievements Of Sarah And Kendrick

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With the start of the Continental Tournament, the rankings of the competitors and bettors soon began to be updated, and points were awarded more frequently.

Due to the lesser appeal of some of the tests to the general public, some of the tournament's competitions were run concurrently, so it wasn't uncommon to see multiple tests running simultaneously during the first few days of the tournament.

The first few days of the tournament consisted of events that anyone could bet on, and there were fewer restrictions on who could actively participate in the competition.

The first few contests were enough to captivate many of the event's spectators, but they also guaranteed the first results for bettors of all backgrounds.

Minos and his allies scored their first in the first two days of the competition, securing a good result for their bets, but very much under the radar.

Most of the group's bets were focused on the main events of the Continental Tournament, so while they were doing well, they were currently losing out on points to many others betting on this competition.

At the same time as Minos's group was gaining its first points, their competitors were beginning to show their skills, winning individual or collective challenges and obtaining important resources for people of their level.

Sarah had participated in four tests in the first few days of the tournament, placing second in a comprehension and cultivation competition, first in a team resource fight, winning a strength test, and placing third in the race on the first day of the event.

He had participated in fewer races but had already achieved his first notable accomplishment: a battle royale against low-level Sages!

He had placed fifth in the other exam he had participated in. However, his result was still great, as he had contributed 100 points to Minos, something fantastic that was worth more than all of Sarah's victories!

As for the chosen ones from Sista and the Flowers Kingdom, they lost most of their contests, but together, they won three more victories for Minos' group.

Everyone had shown their skills and did not embarrass or take away from the good expectations of their groups at this event!

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On the fourth day of the Continental Tournament, Sarah and Kendrick would finally be competing together, having competed individually in each of their tests so far.

Today, they would compete in only one race, the Endless Labyrinth, an area prepared by the elves for this edition of the Continental Tournament.

In this race, they were tasked with traversing a magnificent maze filled with traps and items that would easily cause conflict among the competitors.

At first, the idea of facing a maze might not seem too difficult, but there was a reason for the maze's name. It was a living maze powered by an ancient sentient plant from Elves Island that changed its paths and the location of special items every 30 minutes.

If you couldn't reach the end of the maze in 30 minutes, the shapes and paths of the maze would change, which could cause a duo trying to complete the race to move away from the right path!

That was a test of duos with a total of 100 teams competing.lights

Sarah and Kendrick had already heard how this competition would work and were currently at one of the 50 entrances to the maze, giving the 100 teams about to enter this area the same difficulty level.

Sarah looked at the other couple who were about to enter through the same entrance as her and Kendrick and saw the two people watching them intently.

"We have to be careful. Father said he set us up to win this race." She said to Kendrick. "Then be ready to fight at any moment. We won't let our father down."

"These two are middle-level Sages," Kendrick commented without looking at these individuals. "Do you think they will try to hinder us at the beginning of the test?"

"Anything is possible. Be prepared to fight if necessary." She said in a tone that only they could hear. "But from what I know of this exam, there's no point in fighting the others. There are traps around the maze that will try to kill us, and the main point is to reach its end."

"Yes, but the resources around the maze will pit competitors against each other." Kendrick pondered. "Also, it's possible that competitors will try to throw opponents against traps to slow them down."

"I know, but it's more likely to happen further into the maze. There's no point in wasting our energy once we enter this place." She said she was aware of the risks and how slippery humans could be. "We'll have to watch out for other duos, but it's more likely that our first opponent will be a trap."

"Hmm, how will we find our way to the end of this maze? It's not easy to complete this test in just 30 minutes. And after that, it will get harder and harder because we won't be able to use the known paths to eliminate the wrong ones." He commented to his sister as the clock ticked down to 3 minutes to start this test.

"I'll work it out with my skill. I'll have to familiarize myself with the area a bit, but I'm confident I'll find our way in the next three hours." She said, thinking of her innate ability to control gravity.

There was a critical detail in this test. At the top of the maze were arrays that made flight or spatial manipulation impossible, so there was no way to use these options to reach their destination.

But inside the maze, one could use whatever other powers one had to try to make their way to its end.

"Okay. So let's go through the maze and get you to recognize the area as soon as possible." Kendrick said, not interested in the valuable items that might be lying around but worried about the traps they would have to overcome.

As far as he knew, this was a test not suitable for those with cultivation below level 80. Since he was below that, he would have to worry twice as much about his upcoming journey!

Finally, the remaining time until the start of this test was over, and the 50 entrances to the maze opened, making room for the 100 groups of Sages to rush in.

No one wanted to fight once they entered the maze. Knowing that the corridors would change in less than 30 minutes, the competitors ran along the paths before them, eager to find the right one.

Soon, the first would find the valuable resources scattered throughout the maze, while others would stumble upon the traps strategically placed throughout the area.

Those who were less attentive or hurried would suffer a bit at the beginning of the test, as the first battles for resources began there.

Everyone thought that when they entered the maze, they would just focus on getting to the end. But when they came across items as valuable as Saint-grade medicines, many couldn't ignore them and fought to possess them!

Chapter 2155 Problems In The Maze

2155 Problems in the Maze

After some time since the start of the maze competition, Sarah and Kendrick encountered a number of traps along the way and failed on their first attempt within the first 30 minutes of the event.

As they ran down a long corridor in the middle of the maze, Sarah felt something strange and made her brother stop moving just as the maze paths began to change.

Everyone in the maze felt the same thing at that moment and stopped moving, paying attention to the changes in their surroundings.

The long corridor Sarah and Kendrick were in suddenly shrank to half its length, with four new exits appearing in its vicinity.

The same thing happened around the maze, with participants who thought they understood some of the paths available to them losing all their progress so far.

"Shit!" A level 85 Sage shouted as he stood very close to the last piece of the maze.

Now that all the paths had changed, there was a high probability that he would choose a path that would take him away from the end of the maze!

Many others reacted the same way, while groups that had been fighting for resources found along the way were forced to stop and reconsider their options.

"Fuck! The damn Saint-grade medicine that was here is gone!" A woman shouted as she noticed that the item that had caused her duo to fight with other competitors had disappeared with the change in the maze.

None of the participants in the dispute had collected it. The medicine had been moved to another part of the maze, something that would happen every time the sentient being behind this place changed the shape of the maze.

Meanwhile, other groups saw valuable items appear near their location, some preparing to fight immediately because of the witnesses in the area, while others had better luck getting things without their opponents noticing.

Sarah and Kendrick saw a spatial ring appear in front of one of the new passages in their path and immediately looked at each other.

"This contest is really interesting." She commented with a serious look on her face. "Even if we don't look for trouble, trouble will come to us!"

"What should we do? Should we take that ring or ignore it?" Kendrick asked.

He and Sarah didn't need the resources of the Continental Tournament. But they were both young people who, on rare occasions, had been able to fight for what they wanted.

They both felt great about fighting for things for themselves, even if they didn't need those items or resources. Seeing this ring, Kendrick couldn't help but feel the urge to grab it and fight for it if necessary.

His heart beat faster, and he unconsciously smiled, feeling good about the situation.

Sarah felt the same way as her brother but had more experience and control over herself. "If we come across interesting items when we decipher the paths of this maze, I don't mind letting you take what you want. But for now, we must continue our mission."

Kendrick clenched his fists but accepted his older sister's decision, then ignored the 3rd-grade ring and took an alternate route while Sarah led the way using her gravitational ability.

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Meanwhile, Minos and his group were following Kendrick and Sarah's race, with a few individuals outside the room where they could watch all of the Continental Tournament competitions.lights

Rowan, Lily, and Hollie followed the competition in the maze of the grandstands, getting a close look at their older siblings' journey.

Meanwhile, George and Hannah's group was paying attention not only to the maze competition but also to other events taking place simultaneously, as well as to the tournament rankings so far.

'Minos is rising rapidly in the main rankings.' Hannah looked at the table with the names of the bettors competing for the most valuable prize in the competition.

Minos had started in 49th place but was now in 15th place, just a few days into the competition. Even though he was one of the experts with the fewest candidates and relatively weak candidates, he already had a score that put him ahead of organizations that had brought in high-level Sages to compete in the tournament.

Considering that most of his bets would only earn him points in the next few days, Hannah became increasingly confident in him.

She wasn't participating in the main ladder, as she was only betting on the side events of the tournament in search of other types of winnings. Still, she was excited to see that Minos' chances were not small.

On the other hand, George was competing in the main event, having already benefited from his state's partnership with the Black Plain Empire, and was currently ranked 21st in the main rank.

He was paying attention to the competition his wife was involved in, watching Kendrick and Sarah run through the maze corridors with excitement.

"No! That's the wrong way!" He muttered as he saw them running down an endless corridor that would lead them into a trap.

Meanwhile, Minos was watching another group that was getting closer and closer to those two.

'It looks like those two are going to have a fight soon.' Minos thought as he sensed that a meeting of duos in this maze could be very tense and easily lead to a conflict.

Ruth and Isabella thought the same as they watched the area where Kendrick and Sarah were.

They and everyone else following this race could see the maze from the top, from where they could see the ways out of the maze and also what was happening around the whole area.

That was also the situation for the people watching the maze from the grandstands.

While they were watching, Sarah and Kendrick fell into the trap at the end of the dead-end corridor they had been following.

They were a little surprised by the trap. Still, with Sarah's gravitational powers, they escaped the worst of it after acting almost instantly.

That sent them running in the opposite direction, a path that would inevitably lead them to another duo following that dead end!

After more than 50 minutes from the start of the test, Kendrick and Sarah finally encountered the first enemies in their path.

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Coming face to face with two Sages, one level 82 and the other level 84, Kendrick and Sarah stopped with their weapons in their hands and looked at the two in the same way they looked at them.

"So? What do we do?" One of them asked after a few moments of absolute silence.

Chapter 2156 Battle Of The Children

After identifying Minos Stuart's children, the level 84 Sage asked. "So? What do we do?"



His comment was directed not only at his companion but also at the two siblings in front of him, who had more or less the same doubts as these two Sages.

To fight or not to fight.

There weren't any valuable resources around that would give them a better reason to fight, but knowing the identity of these two, the Sages couldn't help but imagine that Kendrick and Sarah had great resources with them.

Wasn't finding these two there the same as finding something precious available to anyone with the strength to pick it up?

The Continental Tournament was a fantastic event where the leaders of the organizations couldn't take revenge for things that happened during the event. So even if Minos had been watching them, he couldn't punish them if they decided to steal Sarah and Kendrick.

That gave the two Sages the confidence to think about winning more in this test than they might have been able to if they had simply ignored them.

"Kendrick and Sarah Stuart, hand over your spatial rings." The level 82 said, sensing that the two young people in front of him were easy prey. "After that, we will let you continue your test without further problems. Just do as I ask, and we'll clear the way for you."

Sarah frowned as she made a serious expression. She hadn't expected a mere level 82 Sage to threaten her like that.

"You're courageous to have the guts to say those words." Sarah opened her mouth while Kendrick had a dark expression on his face. "But I'm going to give you a chance. Hand over your spatial rings, and we'll let you go."

Hearing words similar to his own, the level 82 man laughed provocatively and said to his colleague. "It looks like we're going to have to teach these inexperienced brats a lesson..."

"Yeah, they must have grown up on their father's wing and don't know how the world works." The other said as he clenched one of his fists, not intending to go so far as to cause an uproar in the Stuart family but intending to humiliate and rob these two.

"Kids, today I will teach you a valuable lesson!" This level 84 man drew his gun as he jumped at Sarah, intending to kill her first and then the "poor" level 77 spirit saint.

Sarah and Kendrick probably had Golden-grade techniques, which gave them the confidence to stand in front of stronger cultivators. But these two and the vast majority of the Continental Tournament participants also had complete sets of Golden-grade techniques!

Sarah smiled when she saw the move of this stronger man who had obviously underestimated her and Kendrick.

"You deal with the weakest. I'll take this fool down." Sarah said to her brother as she used her innate skill on her surroundings.

Immediately, the two Sages felt the gravitational pressure on their bodies significantly increase the weight of every part of them, making it much harder to move their limbs and even their mental energy.

"Damn! What's that?" The level 82 Sage screamed as he felt his body stop obeying him. He gradually fell to his knees on the ground.

The level 84 Sage felt his speed significantly slow as he tried to get close to Sarah.

Sarah took advantage, watching her opponent move like an apprentice attacking a master.

She used her sword and activated the Spatial Sword, circulating her powers to attack her opponent's weakness and defeat him more quickly.lights

Kendrick was not under the effects of his sister's ability and did the same as Sarah, acting against his target while activating his techniques, which were basically the same as Minos'.

Sarah had one or two techniques different from her father's, but Kendrick had a set of techniques identical to his father's since he had the same innate ability.

Even though he was level 77, he could easily fight someone at level 80!

However, with Sarah's help in immobilizing this level 82 opponent, Kendrick acted with ease, using Chaotic Gravity to make his target's situation even worse and knocking him out with just one move!

As his head slammed into the ground due to the increasing gravity on him, the level 82 Sage collapsed without even having a chance to scream in pain.

But there were screams of pain at this point in the maze as Sarah sliced through level 84 Sage's skin, showing the many people watching that she wasn't as easy as she seemed.

Her natural power was ridiculously strong even though she didn't have her father's innate ability. Moreover, with the immortal energy she and Kendrick had absorbed over the years, they were naturally stronger than people of the same level.

With only half a dozen moves, Sarah weakened her opponent considerably, making him howl in pain without being able to counterattack.

"Aaaaaagh!"

She wasn't strong enough to defeat the level 84 Sage with a single attack. Still, after a dozen of her moves, the many spectators of this battle saw the fall of the second Sage, who had humiliated himself in front of Sarah and Kendrick.

Kendrick had helped his sister finish off her second opponent before finally collecting the items in the spatial rings of the two now unconscious opponents.

Without resources and wounded, these two would most likely not be able to continue their exams for at least the rest of the day.

Meanwhile, the victors of this battle didn't linger any longer than they should have and soon returned to their goal of finding the end of the maze.

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Meanwhile, the group of siblings watching the maze challenge celebrated Kendrick and Sarah's victory, the two women and Rowan feeling thrilled to see the full abilities of these two.

They were even happier for their older siblings because, unlike the rest of the family, they knew what it was like to grow up with the expectation of achieving their parents' accomplishments while at the same time being considered worthless for having everything without having to work hard.

Many believed they weren't strong because they didn't have to accomplish anything. That bothered them, so of course, it was good to see Kendrick and Sarah prove the opposite.

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At the same time, Minos was pleased with the outcome of his two eldest children's fight, enjoying seeing how confident they were and how they were able to dominate higher-level opponents.

'These two will go far.' He thought to himself with pride as he listened to his wives' cheerful comments.

#### Chapter 2159 Nearing The End Of The Challenge

Later that day, the maze event unfolded, with several couples giving up due to injuries sustained in fights with other competitors or traps along the way.

The Continental Tournament was a strategy event. One had to know how to give up certain "points" in order not to lose the opportunity to gain more victories throughout the competition.

Because of this, some competitors would simply prefer to give up on a difficult test after a few defeats in order to preserve themselves for later competitions.

Thus, two hours into the event, only 56 of the original 100 duos remained in the maze, trying to find their way to the end.

During this time, three groups had reached one of the 50 starting points of the maze event and were eliminated for leaving the maze in the wrong place. In addition to these eliminations, two of the duos had almost reached the end of the maze. Still, their progress had been delayed by the maze shape changes that occurred every 30 minutes.

This change had moved those two groups further away from the exit, thus improving the chances of the remaining competitors in that area.

With these and other preliminary results, the spectators and players were having fun, stopping winning or gaining points as the challenge progressed.

Sarah and Kendrick were still in the maze, working their way to the end, having fought three battles and dealt with six traps in the last two hours.

So far, they had collected four spatial rings and two resources that had previously been available to anyone.

Of the three battles they had fought, they had won two and tied the last, failing to defeat a duo of two level 85 women.

Fortunately, the opposing group had the same plans as them. After realizing that fighting between them would only lead to both sides losing, they each went their separate ways.

And so the two of them continued on through the seemingly endless corridors of this maze!

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"I almost understand how this sentient being works," Sarah said to her brother while one of her hands was on the ground, feeling the terrain where they were, as once again, this 10th-stage plant was changing the walls of roots and leaves of the maze's paths.

Getting a better feel for the position of each moving living wall, Sarah began to realize the entire structure of the labyrinth she was in.

"If I can feel the next change, I think I'll be able to see the right way out of the maze." She said after sensing that the plant that formed this maze had stopped moving.

"So what do we do? Stand still and wait for the next 30 minutes?" Kendrick asked, his clothes and armor smeared with dirt and blood.

He had suffered some injuries himself so far, but he had also caused injuries to enemies, though he hadn't killed anyone.

As much as killing was allowed in the Continental Tournament, it was better to avoid confusion now that the world was in such a delicate moment.

In normal situations, it would be good enough not to kill indiscriminately, but with the Ice Age ravaging the world and the aliens arriving, one had to be doubly careful.

Sarah was also dirty here and there, with small wounds on her body that were slowly healing. They had great regenerative abilities, but since they were conserving resources and hadn't had time to meditate since the start of the maze challenge, they still needed to finish some of their healing.lights

Sarah responded with a negative shake of her head. "No. I need to feel the change in another area. Besides, we don't know where we are. We could be near the end of the maze or at one of the 50 entrances to this place. At any moment, we could encounter more competitors. So we'd better get moving."

He nodded at her before moving off in the direction Sarah had indicated.

...

While the two continued their journey, Minos and his group watched as Sarah led the way, standing on one side of the maze, still far from the exit point.

But not only people from Minos' group were in his area. "Are your children going to win this, Minos?" Elder Merritt asked as he stood next to Minos and Maximillian Flamen.

Maximillian muttered. "There are two pairs that are very close to the maze exit. If they don't make a wrong turn, it will be challenging for their children to succeed them."

Maximillian and Merritt had arrived at the location of Minos' group moments ago, both there to find Emperor Stuart to discuss important matters.

They followed the tournament, but this event was also about negotiating future relations!

Maximilian and Merritt were there for that.

Minos said to them both. "Anything is possible. If I'm not mistaken, Sarah will finish the maze at the next shape change in this area. So if these two are just a little bit wrong, that will be enough."

Merritt looked at Minos, a little annoyed that the young man hadn't remembered the 5 level 99 Demigods from the temple when he chose Henry to advance to level 100.

But after Julian, he was the least angry Demigod with Minos in this organization, and he knew how important this young man would be for the future.

Merritt said. "Let us see if your sons are up to the challenge. But in the meantime, tell me what your plans are for the start of the war. What do you expect to happen when the aliens arrive in the Spiritual World?"

Minos didn't think long before answering. "I imagine that they will attack with great force from the beginning. I see a future in which half of our world's forces will perish in a single day on the battlefields near the North Sea."

Maximillian and Merritt looked at Minos more seriously as they listened.

Minos continued. "The enemies will lose many of their own, but so will we. After this great battle, I believe we'll have a few hours or days without other major battles of the same magnitude. The enemy forces will probably choose places to set up bases in our world before they begin to conquer territory after territory. Eventually, the war will have no focal point, and conflicts will be able to occur literally all over the world. From then on, we'll have an accurate idea of our chances against them. In any case, the first day of the war will be chaotic and bloody. States will definitely fall on the second day of the war due to the death of their main leaders, supporters, and troops."

He looked at Maximilian and said. "I also think some Gods will die on the first day of the war."

Maximilian closed his eyes, having already thought the same as Minos. Even with all that the powers of the Spiritual World had done so far, they were still far behind in terms of technology, but also in terms of the number of high-level warriors.

Even if they had the same number of Gods as the enemy, even for level 100 cultivators, the war would still be chaotic and dangerous. But with lower numbers, it was almost certain that Minos' words would come true.

"Do you think our chances are that bad? What could change that?" Maximilian asked.

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"It is hard to say. Considering the number of Gods alone, I'd say our chances of winning the war are less than 10%. But understand that winning the war doesn't mean surviving. The Spiritual World may win, but we may all die in the war." Minos commented in a deep tone.

Merritt and Maximillian understood very well that even if they won, a lot would be lost one way or the other.

Minos continued. "But we can't be sure of anything until we face them on the battlefield... However, there is an alternative to improve our chances."



"What is that?" Merritt asked. "The Mechanic Empire is definitely a great conqueror of worlds, but it's not the only civilization out there. Surely, there are others like this ruler of The Adamant Land. It must have rivals on the same level or even stronger". Minos replied with a twinkle in his eye.

"Are you thinking of using one of these rivals against the Mechanic Empire to help us?" Maximilian quickly understood what Minos was thinking.

"Yes, that would be ideal. I know it would be tough to achieve, and such a plan would bring danger to the Spiritual World. But if we could have a little more time to worry about a civilization capable of destroying us, that would be good enough." Minos replied.

Merritt thought about it. The strategy of using your enemy's enemy was an old one. It usually resulted in negative consequences, but when it worked, it was quite useful in the short term, giving the weaker party some 'relief' and often resulting in a lesser evil.

"Yes, that would be ideal. I know it would be tough to achieve, and such a plan would bring danger to the Spiritual World. But if we could have a little more time to worry about a civilization capable of destroying us, that would be good enough." Minos replied.

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The level 99 old man said. "How would we reach the enemies of the Mechanic Empire?"

"To do that, we would have to send a group of people to explore the universe. Specifically, such a group would use the wormhole built by our world's own invaders and set out from The Adamant Land in search of answers." Minos said that was the only way to do it.

"That would be dangerous. We would have to give up warriors, and they could take a long time to reach the enemies of The Adamant Land." Maximilian sighed.

Minos nodded in agreement. "That is the great disadvantage of such a plan. But everything we think of has its risks..."

"Sigh, he's right." Merritt agreed. "Do you intend to do this?"

Minos saw Merritt's look and said. "Yes. I have a feeling that the enemy Gods will try to kill me. I'll try to fight back and open up some options for the Spiritual World. Still, if I run out of options, I intend to venture into The Adamant Land to improve my cultivation and find allies for us."

The two experts looked at each other, knowing that any progress Minos made would be of great help. Emperor Stuart was unlikely to make much of a difference on the battlefield against enemy Gods these days. But that could change if he advanced two more levels.

On the other hand, as much as Minos had a lot of potential to help fight enemy robots and 10th-stage experts, he wouldn't be enough to make a big difference on the battlefield by himself.

The two experts agreed that he should pursue such a strategy if he had the opportunity and that he should be the man to create an internal problem for the Mechanic Empire in an attempt to reduce that state's focus on dominating the Spiritual World.

"You should do that when the time comes," Maximilian commented. "If you can reach level 93, or even better, 94, your help would be interesting to us. Here in the Spiritual World, you definitely won't be able to do that without putting yourself at considerable risk, so infiltrating the enemy forces might be the best way to go."

"Sigh... You're the one with the technologies for that, so you'd better do it yourself." Merritt commented.lights

Minos said. "Don't worry, the Spiritual World will strengthen before the enemies arrive. The beginning of the war will be bad, but we may have more time than we thought."

I won't get to level 94 fast enough to help you in the war, but in a year or two in enemy territory, I might be able to incite the enemy of our enemies."

"Let's pray that this happens." Merritt sighed again.

Maximilian heard the word "pray" and asked Minos. "How is your collection of faith power? I feel you've improved your faith powers a bit since we met in your state."

"I am getting better. I'll make my last collection before the war when I'm close to my final retreat."

Maximilian said. "Get ready to use all your faith on the first day of the war. While you may not be able to defeat a God on your own, you will be able to temporarily help us against our main opponents."

You might be able to help us defeat at least one of the enemy Gods, so don't use this power indiscriminately, and be ready for my signal. I'll talk to the other Gods about using their powers against the enemies."

Minos clenched his fists, aware that he could do something with his power of faith but that he would be back to his normal self after a single attack.

"We'll help you get out of the main battlefield right away. But you must join us in the first attack." Maximilian said as he squeezed one of Minos' shoulders.

Merritt couldn't feel the power of Minos' faith like Maximilian could, but he knew how powerful faith could be. Hundreds of millions loved Emperor Stuart, so he did not doubt that the power this young man possessed was impressive.

'Unfortunately, we don't have many people capable of absorbing the power of faith...' Merritt closed his eyes as he thought about how rare cases like Minos' were.

If there were five people capable of gathering faith in this world today, that was a lot!

Even though he was the leader of the Spiritual Church and a God, Maximilian himself had no power of faith since he had only recently appeared in the world and taken the position of the one who could use that power.

By killing the man who was considered the leader of the faith of hundreds of millions, Maximilian had put himself in a situation where he could not absorb the power of faith gathered by the Spiritual Church.

As for the other Gods, only Vico was said to have that power!

The elves, Sky Whales, and dragons were not worshipped in significant numbers to gather such power, so only humans had a chance to use such power in the war that was about to begin.

That was exactly why Maximilian was there to talk to Minos.

"I'll do my best," Minos said when he had finally finished the matter with these two experts and saw the labyrinth his children were in again.