

The Mighty Dragons Are Dead #Chapter 131 - 013: The Bound Birthing Machine - Read The Mighty Dragons Are Dead Chapter 131 - 013: The Bound Birthing Machine

Chapter 131: Chapter 013: The Bound Birthing Machine

As Liszt approached on horseback, he witnessed a rather shocking scene.

Douson was actually riding on the Fierce Earth Dog, which prompted Liszt to grimace disdainfully.

He turned his head and asked, "Teacher Marcus, Douson should only be about half a year old, right?"

"When we found Douson, it hadn't even opened its eyes yet, it was definitely newly born not long ago. Thus, Douson won't be that large; it definitely isn't a year old yet, at most seven months."

"A seven-month-old dog can do this kind of thing?"

Marcus rarely smiled and said, "My lord, dogs are definitely different from humans; for Douson's age, it is indeed a bit early, but it's not uncommon. It can only be said that Douson has developed well, and with the stimulation of the Bloodline Fruit, it should have reached full maturity."

Liszt had raised dogs back in his hometown, but that was when he was a child.

Besides, no one really cared about the rural mutts.

Hearing Marcus's explanation, he also let go of his surprise.

Standing not too far away, he enjoyed an action-packed show.

"My lord, should we take this opportunity to shoot this Female Tyrant Earth Hound dead?" Marcus picked up his bow and arrow, eager to try, at this moment the Female Tyrant Earth Hound was a living target.

"Don't!"

Liszt immediately stopped him.

"Teacher Marcus, figure out a way to capture this Female Tyrant Earth Hound alive and keep it in the castle. Now it seems that Douson has come of age and can reproduce. Perhaps I can obtain a group of Fierce Earth Dogs."

“But the Female Tyrant Earth Hound is already wild and dangerous.”

“Then tie it up, secure it with iron chains, declare the surrounding twenty meters as a forbidden zone and build a Rock wall around it. After it gives birth to a batch of puppies, then take the puppies away... In any case, Fierce Earth Dogs are not abundant on Coral Island, and Douson ultimately needs a female dog.”

“That’s one way to do it.” Marcus nodded, then turned around and told the Retainer Knights, “Bring out the net. Jim, York, take the tree on the left, Philip, Sean, take the one on the right, Zavier, Tracy, take the one at the back... When the Fierce Earth Dog tries to escape, immediately net it!”

The knights immediately approached cautiously and climbed up the trees, each holding one end of the net, ready to cast it.

About twenty minutes later.

The two Fierce Earth Dogs naturally separated.

The Female Tyrant Earth Hound turned to flee at once, but Marcus, who was prepared, immediately ordered, “Ready the net!”

The knights immediately threw the ropes in their hands, and a large net enveloped the Female Tyrant Earth Hound. It was fast, but not faster than the knights who were prepared.

It was directly covered by the large net.

In a panic, it released Magic, with Rock Spikes piercing the ground one after another, but these Rock Spikes only pushed the net up and couldn’t pierce through it. It struggled to run but got increasingly tangled in the net until it was tightly bound and unable to move. Rock Spikes protruded everywhere until, exhausted of its Magic Power, it couldn’t break free.

“Woof woof!”

Douson simply watched from the side, neither pouncing to attack nor walking away. It only barked at the Female Tyrant Earth Hound from time to time, with unclear intent.

“It should have run out of Magic Power, go down and tie it up, first muzzle it,” Marcus tested a few times, concluding.

Very soon, the Female Tyrant Earth Hound was tied up securely, especially its mouth. Even if it regained Magic Power, it couldn’t easily use Magic.

“Woo woo...”

The Female Tyrant Earth Hound, with its mouth and limbs bound, kept growling angrily, but its fate was already sealed—to become Douson’s toy, a breeding machine for Fierce Earth Dogs.

“Woof woof!”

Douson wagged its tail, circling and barking around the Female Tyrant Earth Hound, seemingly comforting it.

“That must be the last Magical Beast, right?” Liszt silently summoned the Smoke Mission, using it to judge the situation, as it was the most direct manifestation.

However, the Smoke Serpent Script showed no change.

“Mission: You have launched an attack, determined to eradicate Thorn Ridge to create a peaceful new environment for Fresh Flower Town. So keep up the momentum and slaughter all the Magical Beasts of Thorn Ridge. Reward: Li Dragon Horse Herd’s tracks.”

He frowned slightly, “Are there more Magical Beasts?”

Having thoroughly combed through Thorn Ridge, with the help of the Eye of Magic, he reasoned he should have found any Magical Beasts within his field of vision.

It seemed that some Magical Beasts had managed to evade the purge while his Eye of Magic was recovering.

“My lord, we’re nearing the seashore, should we go back?” Marcus asked.

Liszt pondered for a moment, then said, “No rush, keep going forward, let’s take a look at the seashore. I heard from Kostor that there is a deepwater port nearby, which is perfect to check out. We can start planning sooner and get a dock built for Fresh Flower Town.”

“As you wish.”

The team continued its journey.

Douson, enticed by beauty, lost interest in hunting, and circled the bound Fierce Earth Dog for the entire trip. Fortunately, the journey was smooth, with only a few wild beasts seen before they reached the seashore. After walking along a difficult rocky path by the sea, they arrived at the location Kostor had mentioned.

It was a hundreds-of-meters-wide rocky beach, with rocky mountains on both the left and right. Only the middle part was laden with rocks of various sizes, which could be cleared out to create a flat area with a little effort.

Kostor had not lied.

A large port could not be built here, but there was no problem constructing a medium or small-sized dock.

After walking around among the rocks, Liszt immediately had a plan in mind: “On our way back, we’ll head straight towards the Cow Farm, find a flat path first, instruct the Lumberjack Team to start clearing trees from this spot as soon as possible, and open up a road to this place. The stones near the dock could be hauled back for road paving.”

“Here will be the starting point for Fresh Flower Town’s future,” he gestured around the rocky beach.

Chapter 132: A Great Step in Exploring the Universe

Because the task had not been completed yet, Liszt returned to the castle to regroup for a day before continuing his journey with Douson and the Retainer Knights toward Thorn Ridge.

He was determined to hunt down the last of the escaped prey completely.

The Female Tyrant Earth Hound was still tied up. To wear down its ferocity, Liszt, synthesizing everyone’s opinions, decided to starve it for three to five days so it couldn’t use magic to harm people. Meanwhile, the Thorn Caravan had been arranged to order cages from North Valley City. Its fate was destined to be spent in a cage for the latter half of its life.

Perhaps one day, when it became accustomed to its new life and was content to follow Douson, it might regain its freedom.

“Douson should be able to handle it. After all, he was almost an Intermediate Magical Beast!” Liszt was very confident in this regard. The Fierce Earth Dog might not be a gregarious Magical Beast, but submission to a stronger being was a consistent trait in Magical Beasts, especially given that they were a pair, one male, and one female.

“Woof woof!”

Douson, who was chasing his tail in the distance, felt a bit dizzy.

Still so young!

“Now that she has become your wife, it’s time to give her a name... She is a Tyrant Earth Hound, and she is your wife, so let’s call her ‘Earth Matron!’” Liszt took naming seriously, “Douson, do you approve of this name? If you do, bark twice.”

“Woof woof!” Douson, still chasing after his tail, indicated approval.

Entering Thorn Ridge once again.

Douson, without Earth Matron to draw attention, regained his majestic presence as the King of Thorn Ridge and continued on his way, constantly seeking out animals to hunt—all were solitary beasts, the ones that had slipped through the net during the previous hunt.

What a pity.

Another three days passed.

Liszt had not found any Magical Beast and felt that his Eye of Magic had become proficient enough to cast it seamlessly, maintaining it for 24 hours a day. Yet, he still saw no signs of magic, as if the Magical Beasts had hidden underground to hibernate.

But the time was late summer and early autumn; hibernation was not possible.

“So, where are the escaped fishes hiding?” Liszt, riding on a Li Dragon Horse, looked towards the bustling Lumberjack Team cutting down trees not far away and felt somewhat perplexed.

Without completing the task, the clues he wanted pertaining to the Li Dragon Horse Herd wouldn’t surface— probably the clues were hidden within the Thorn Forest, but even after sweeping the area twice there were no leads. There were only hopes pinned on completing the mission.

If they couldn’t be found, they simply couldn’t be found.

Eventually, Liszt could only give the order, “Teacher Marcus, you lead the Retainer Knights to continue training in Thorn Ridge, protect the Lumberjack Team well, and if you encounter any Magical Beasts that can be fought, fight; if not, flee.”

“Yes, my lord!”

The Smoke Mission was a troublesome problem.

It dampened the spirits.

However, in these few days, there was some good news: the Crystal Craftsman successfully polished the concave and convex lenses needed, a total of twenty pieces.

Liszt experimented with random combinations and found that a convex lens paired with a concave lens could make a telescope, as could two convex lenses, though the latter resulted in an inverted image.

He naturally chose to combine the convex and concave lenses and instructed the blacksmith at the Smithy and the carpenter at the Carpenter's Shop to jointly craft the telescope tube. The tube was about one meter long, and after the lenses were fitted, the magnification was not very high, but Liszt was very satisfied and named it the "Liszt Telescope."

At night, he aimed the telescope at the moon in the sky.

After fine-tuning the distance between the lenses, the unevenly dark areas on the moon were instantly captured in his eyes. However, what struck Liszt as odd was that the moon he saw was surrounded by a faint halo—Liszt, with superficial knowledge of astronomy, quickly recognized it.

"The atmosphere!"

"This moon actually has an atmosphere!"

"If it has an atmosphere, could it be inhabited by intelligent life?" he suddenly thought. This world had all sorts of wondrous myths about the moon.

Some legends say that the royal family of the Neverfall Empire came from the moon.

Some say the Elf King resides on the moon.

Others claim the moon is the homeland of dragons.

Even more legends suggest that at the summit of Mount Mulagao Ding, the central mountain range of the continent, there is a magic teleportation array that leads to the moon. Whoever could reach the top of Mount Mulagao Ding and activate the magic teleportation array would master the endless wealth on the moon—this legend is somewhat like the myth of Chang'e flying to the moon.

Everyone knows it's not true, but they still yearn for it deep down.

Magic Teleportation Array—said to be a colossal magic researched by ancient magicians that could traverse time and space, it had long been lost to history, only remaining in legends.

Mount Mulagao Ding is the highest mountain range on the continent, unscalable by mortals at tens of thousands of meters high. Even riding a dragon, one could not reach the highest peak; the endless storms at the mountainside, more frightening than the strongest wind system magic, could shred both man and dragon into pieces.

As for the name "Mulagao Ding", it is translated from a foreign language, to be exact, from an ancient language called "Moon Language." The language of the Moon Empire

from long ago is no longer used by any nation. Still, many countries have incorporated or even directly adopted certain words from the Moon Language.

The term Mulagao Ding, when translated, means “Knight of the Moonlight.”

Some interpret Mount Mulagao Ding to signify the knight that guards the Moon Empire.

Others contrive it to mean the knight guarding the magic teleportation array that connects to the moon.

Regardless, “Mount Mulagao Ding can lead to the moon” is a legend known by everyone.

“So, are these legends true or false? To judge this Different World by Earth’s common sense is no longer appropriate. Whether the moon really has ‘people’ is uncertain!” Liszt, who was once a steadfast atheist, had become an agnostic.

This world had no worship of gods but was filled with all sorts of bizarre legends, which was very conducive to the development of agnosticism.

Despite not fully understanding the moon’s content.

During that evening’s banquet, Liszt still loudly announced, “The invention of the Liszt Telescope is a significant step for mankind in exploring the universe. It will lift the veil of the cosmos and reveal it to the eyes of us all.”

He was excited about his discovery and wanted to share the joy with the people.

However, when his subordinates eagerly took turns to view the moon through the telescope, their feedback was somewhat disappointing.

Goltai muttered while looking at the moon, “Is this the moon? It does seem quite beautiful. Is it a round cake? Why are there no dragons or the Elf King?”

Blair said softly while observing the moon, “The moon’s light is too dim, much weaker than the sunlight. Some places seem almost extinguished.”

What he referred to as extinguished were the areas with heavier shadows on the moon, perhaps like the plains or the seas on Earth’s moon. The Liszt Telescope’s magnification was still not enough, managing only to enlarge by thirty-plus times, hence their observation of the moon was not clear, especially with the atmospheric layer in the way.

Isaiah did not look at the moon; he wanted to see the stars, but under the moon’s backdrop, barely any stars were shining.

After viewing the moon, Marcus remained calm, “My lord, why are we looking at the moon?”

Ignorant natives!

Liszt’s originally excited mood had completely dissipated, leaving him with a sense of loneliness as though he was the only sober person among a crowd of drunkards.

Fortunately, he was skilled at adjusting his attitude, and his noble demeanor quickly returned him to tranquility. With a polite smile, he said, “It can not only observe the moon but also distant objects. With this telescope, distant scenes can be captured as if they are before your very eyes, and you can use it to observe magical beasts.”

Marcus’s eyes suddenly sparkled, “Indeed! My lord, you truly are the glorious Son of Glory favored by the knight’s honor. The Liszt Telescope, indeed, is a great invention!”

Chapter 133: Good Afternoon Gao Ertai

The Liszt Telescope comes in two types, long and short tube. The long tube is used for observing the moon, with magnification reaching over thirty times; the short tube is the portable telescope that he intended to create for the Knight Squad, which can be extended with a maximum magnification of around fifteen times.

Twenty concave and convex lenses could only assemble one long tube and three short tubes, with the remaining lenses failing to meet the standard.

He tossed the lenses to Carter, “Mr. Carter, have a look and see which pair of lenses can magnify the image. You can use it to read books when the time comes.”

Carter was old and his eyesight was somewhat poor; giving him a magnifying glass, wouldn’t that be delightful?

One long tube was kept in the castle; three short tubes, of which Liszt carried one with him, Marcus’s Knight Squad received one, and Karl’s Patrol Team got one.

With that, the distribution was complete.

Liszt had originally planned to retain the crystal craftsman Brad with a high salary, but the latter refused without hesitation—Fresh Flower Town was indeed booming, but compared to Coral City, the difference was still vast and could not attract these freemen artisans of good social standing.

The same was true for Isaiah’s family.

Isaiah's family had visited Fresh Flower Town to see him, but when Isaiah urged them to stay, they refused without hesitation—his son even bluntly said, "What a joke, there isn't even a brothel here!"

Goltai's family also visited Fresh Flower Town, stayed for two days, and then left.

Being nobles, their children and grandchildren were living a decent life and had no desire to reside in the countryside. His wife did plan to settle in Fresh Flower Town, but Goltai refused, with a lofty reason that Fresh Flower Town was too barren and he did not want his wife to suffer.

In reality, he was afraid she might discover the existence of Freya—Freya's belly was already swelling.

"Lord Landlord, I heard that you've invented a telescope that can see great distances?" Captain Kostor, upon hearing the news, hurriedly came to the castle. "I wonder if the Fresh Flower Vessel could be equipped with a telescope? We need excellent visibility at sea, and a telescope would be of great help to us."

A very reasonable request.

Liszt was somewhat torn. The telescope suitable for navigation was probably this one long-tube "Liszt Telescope" in the castle, but this was his equipment for exploring the universe.

After thinking for a moment, he said, "Captain Kostor, you go back and train your sailor apprentices first. The lumberjack team will soon clear the path to the dock, and Fresh Flower Town's own dock is about to be established. You can familiarize yourself with the surroundings of the dock first. As for the telescope, there will be one."

Sending Kostor away,

Liszt, with a bit of heartache, took out a crystal and handed it to Thomas, "When the Fresh Flower Town transport team returns, give it to the person in charge. Tell him to ask Brad the crystal craftsman to carve two sets of 3 and 17 lenses." Lenses number 3 and 17 were the types used to assemble the long tube.

To Liszt, the matter of the telescope was more like a playful hobby.

After figuring it out and playing with it for a while, he actually lost interest in telescopes—he could not discern any secrets of the universe's movement from constantly observing the moon and stars.

So,

He took Douson out to inspect the work of the lumberjack team, taking it as an opportunity to relax.

North of the dairy farm, a vast area of thorn bushes, this was a region covered by Thorn Cordyceps. In addition to the regular thorns, the predominant type was the rapid growth variety—including the Rapid Growth Poison Thorn and Rapid Growth Spiky Thorn—whether the Thorn Bug chain task would have a follow-up was uncertain.

The thorny bush stretched northeast to where the lumberjack team was working.

The site was bustling with activity.

Smoke billowed.

Countless serfs were sweating as they cut down large trees. Some wielded axes to chop through trunks, others sawed off branches with saws, some hacked at leaves with machetes, and still, others piled up the trunks and branches, then carried away the leaves to burn on the spot.

The burning of piles of debris served not only to intimidate wild beasts and magical beasts but also to accumulate ash for future use as compost when cultivating wasteland.

Clerks and patrol members constantly weaved through the serfs, frequently scolding and cursing them in order to urge them to work diligently. Goltai, Isaiah, Blair, and Karl each commanded a large group of serfs, maintaining order at the site. Marcus, leading the Knight Squad, patrolled the perimeter seriously.

Upon seeing Liszt's arrival, Goltai hurried over, "Lord Landlord, good afternoon."

"Good afternoon, Teacher Goltai," Liszt greeted, "A quarter of the town's population must be here chopping trees. How long do you think it will take to clear all the trees in Thorn Ridge?"

"If we had enough tools, we would only need twenty days, no, perhaps only two weeks. But we're short on tools, Lord Landlord. Many people are sharing one axe, one saw, one machete. It's terribly inefficient. Even though the serfs are enthusiastic in responding to your call, they're still not able to work to their full potential."

"I've already instructed the Fresh Flower Caravan to purchase tools from various cities. Ironware is too expensive, bone utensils too fragile... I hope my father can plunder a batch of iron ore; otherwise, Coral Island's lack of iron will remain unresolved."

Without metal, without gemstones, even the number of elves was sparse.

One of the reasons nobles were keen on contending for the mainland, rather than peacefully staying on their islands, was oftentimes out of necessity. If they had the foresight of a prophet, perhaps they would develop technology to make up for this shortfall, but they didn't, so plundering resources from the mainland to compensate was their only solution.

Why had the Eagle Kingdom been repeatedly harassed by the Sapphire Kingdom? Because they had the White Maw Iron Dragon, capable of producing a large amount of iron ore.

Iron is perhaps the most utilitarian metal of all.

As such, as soon as the Steel Ridge Kingdom called for warfare, the Sapphire Duke instantly issued the Pioneer Mandate, and the nobles swarmed forth—burn everything, kill everything, loot everything.

Occasionally, Liszt would think, “Why do I always feel that the Duchy of Sapphire is like the pirates of a Different World?”

They took advantage of having established a nation overseas, with a developed fleet, to brazenly attack kingdoms on the mainland, seizing and fleeing. They repeated this script yearly, quite contentedly. Although not very technical, it still succeeded each year, and the Earl had been to the mainland countless times.

Bit by bit, they accumulated such a substantial heritage for Coral Island.

“Lord Landlord, because of the lumbering job, the construction of the town and the roadworks have temporarily ceased. Autumn harvest is approaching, and we may be short on workers in Barley Hamlet and Little Wheat Village.”

“Once we determine the harvesting date, we can assign workers to go back, there's no hurry,” Liszt suddenly thought of something and glanced at Goltai, “Teacher Goltai, how long have you been with me in Fresh Flower Town?”

Goltai was startled, then replied, “Lord Landlord, you were bestowed the Baron of Fresh Flower Town on March 9th, we set off the next day, and we arrived in Fresh Flower Town that same afternoon. Today is September 23rd, which means it has been six months and two weeks.”

“Six and a half months, time flies.”

“But today's Fresh Flower Town is absolutely not the same as it was six months ago; it radiates vigorous vitality everywhere.”

“That's right, I am very satisfied with the development of Fresh Flower Town,” Liszt, riding his Li Dragon Horse, walked slowly through the world unfolding before him, now a

part of him, “The change in thinking pleases me the most, Teacher Goltai. Six months ago, you used to clamor for alcohol all day, now you know to finish work before drinking, even delaying your drink for work.”

Goltai gave an embarrassed smile, “As one grows older, a person tends to slack off. Fortunately, I came to Fresh Flower Town, where I found the confidence and drive of my youth once again.”

“I am glad to see these changes in you.”

Liszt looked into the distance and said, “In a few days, a group of five hundred serfs will arrive, and I need you to prepare a placement plan. It’s not just a matter of arranging for the serfs individually but requires an overall coordination, a blueprint for the future of Fresh Flower Town—as an advisor.”

Upon hearing the word “advisor.”

Goltai’s pupils suddenly widened.

Chapter 134: The New Consultant of Fresh Flower Town

The Duchy of Sapphire follows the system of the Steel Ridge Kingdom.

Knights are led by the Knight Commander, while officials are headed by consultants.

As Liszt’s family tutor, Goltai, after the implementation of the Feudal system, was designated by the Earl to accompany Liszt to Fresh Flower Town, what he sought was the position of consultant.

After all, no matter how nicely one puts it, a family tutor can’t change the fact that he is part of the servitude.

Marcus was the same, also a family tutor, yet still a Retainer Knight in status, belonging to the servant hierarchy. Even Goltai himself was a noble, although the lowest-level Honored Knight, while he was not even a noble, just one of the better-off among the commoners.

“Lord, are you going to appoint me as the consultant of Fresh Flower Town?” Goltai was still a bit incredulous. Having been there for half a year, Liszt had never mentioned the role of a consultant, and he had almost given up hope.

Unexpectedly, fortune fell from the sky, and without warning, he was appointed as a consultant.

“What’s the matter, Teacher Goltai, do you not wish to take up the position?”

“Willing, of course, I’m willing, how could I not be, haha.” Goltai was invigorated, his face abloom with joy, “I am always ready to serve you, my Lord. I will take part hands-on in governing Fresh Flower Town and will definitely live up to the responsibilities of a consultant without any slack.”

Liszt said, “I have been observing your recent work attitude. You are my family tutor, and I trust you. Fresh Flower Town is my only fief, and it is also the foundation for my quest for honor. Its importance goes without saying, and I hope you will take it seriously.”

Goltai put away his bright smile, placed his left hand over his chest, and performed a solemn Knight’s salute, “As you wish!”

“Fresh Flower Town is in your hands now, my consultant.”

“I am honored to serve you, my Lord!”

There was no grand appointment ceremony; Fresh Flower Town was just a small rural town, and thus simply and plainly, a consultant, akin to the head of the town, was chosen.

Strictly speaking, a consultant was only slightly more prestigious than an Administrative Officer, and Goltai’s actual power had not increased much—consultants could appoint town officials, which might sound powerful, but the Castle was just next door, and no official’s appointment could possibly avoid Liszt’s notice.

However, his income had greatly increased.

His former salary of ten copper coins a day had risen to twenty. His income increased, and he could buy lots more fine wine or some furniture for his little family with Freya.

“Congratulations, Consultant Goltai!” Isaiah and the others congratulated Goltai one after another.

Goltai was full of pride, his laughter incessant, “For Baron Liszt, for the favor of Knight’s honor, and for the future of us all, let us together build Fresh Flower Town into a more prosperous and wealthy place!”

A man revived by good news has a spirited glow.

Goltai, now a consultant, threw himself into his work with boundless enthusiasm for the next two days. In addition to managing specific affairs, he did not forget Liszt’s instructions and made a comprehensive plan for the future of Fresh Flower Town. For this, he made a request during the evening banquet.

“My Lord, I’m planning to conduct another census of the town, no, it should be called a town’s resources survey. First, we should calculate the acreage of farmland, properly plan the agricultural structure of Fresh Flower Town, so that, when the five hundred serfs arrive, we can quickly arrange for them to farm. Secondly, we’ll investigate the trade situation of the caravans and organize craftspeople to run their shops rationally.”

Waving his little fork, he spoke passionately without concern for noble etiquette, “The caravans passing through our town are growing in number. The Fresh Flower Caravan and the Thorn Caravan can sell our town’s produce outwards. Our business district will soon flourish, bringing a great many Gold Coins to the Castle!”

“That’s a good line of thinking, Consultant Goltai. Make this plan more detailed and then submit it to me for review.”

“Yes, my Lord.”

Outside the town office.

Kostor was pacing back and forth, occasionally greeted by passing civilians whom he responded to one by one. Now, Kostor was a town celebrity, not because he had been the first captain of Fresh Flower Town’s first vessel, the Fresh Flower Vessel, but because of his tireless quest for knowledge.

He had tried to recruit nearly every young son of the households: “Young man, you’ve got spirit, come learn to sail with me!”

Even the young bachelors were approached: “There are more men than women in Fresh Flower Town, you won’t find a wife here. Better to learn to sail with me; there’s a world full of women out there. One voyage, and you could land a hard-working, big-bottomed woman to bear you many sons.”

Most people just sneered at Kostor’s recruiting efforts.

The “continental mindset” brought by the nobles had given the narrow-minded civilians a natural fear and ignorance of the sea.

So, after countless rejections, Kostor had managed to recruit only ten bachelors and twelve young men to learn sailing with him, becoming Sailor Apprentices. And this was free education; if he charged tuition, probably no one would come, and he’d have to subsidize their lunches from time to time.

If it hadn’t been for the Lord Landlord’s fixed payment for the Teaching Knight Squad’s salaries, he wouldn’t have been able to recruit even one apprentice.

His yearning for the sea stopped Kostor from feeling discouraged; he remained enthusiastic, training these Sailor Apprentices of various ages.

But for the past couple of days, not a single Sailor Apprentice had turned up.

Kostor was becoming frustrated.

Clip-clop-clip-clop.

The sound of horseshoes on the gravel road rang clearly.

He immediately went to meet him; the town's consultant was back: "Consultant Gao Ertai!"

"Ah, Captain Kostor, what can I do for you?" Goltai looked travel-worn, his face turned somewhat purple from the sun's exposure.

"My apprentices have all gone to chop wood, Consultant Gao Ertai, they need to study sailing, not to be diverted to irrelevant tasks like chopping wood."

"Sorry, Kostor, but chopping wood is not irrelevant. It's an order directly from the Lord Landlord, vital for the future development of Fresh Flower Town. Your sailing business, it can wait a few days, especially since you don't need to set out to sea. Consider it a vacation for yourself—I wish I had time for one."

Goltai didn't take Kostor seriously, wanting only to send him away—the town has enough trouble farming, let alone having spare time for sailing.

However, he underestimated Kostor's determination. Once Kostor mentioned that "the Lord Landlord hopes to develop the sailing business," he stuck to Goltai relentlessly, following him everywhere, even if Goltai went home. Pressured, Goltai finally agreed to a compromise.

"I can let you take back the twelve young Sailor Apprentices to continue their training with you, but the adult apprentices must chop wood."

"Agreed!" Kostor responded eagerly, satisfied to have secured the twelve young apprentices.

"One more thing, the youngsters will help at the chopping site, earning two copper coins every two days. You will have to cover this loss."

"Oh my, I don't have the money!"

"Would you have the youngsters earn nothing then? Their parents will have a word with you about that, Kostor."

"The sailing business is for the glory of the Lord Landlord; should the town stand by and watch? The town should pay for this!"

After a fresh bout of stubborn haggling, Goltai finally promised that during the woodcutting campaign, the apprentices' lost wages would be subsidized by the town.

Only then did Kostor board the Fresh Flower Vessel contentedly.

Facing the twelve apprentices, he called out loudly, "At high tide, the Fresh Flower Vessel will sail towards the docks of our future. For the next few days, we will spend our time around the docks!"

Chapter 135: Kostor's Carrot and Stick Approach

"Ready... all ready... tack with the wind!"

"Tighten the braces!"

"Keep downwind, heading downwind!"

"Prepare to lower the sails!"

"Oar room, row on the port side!"

"Raise the fore-and-aft sail!"

The waves gently undulated across the sea as the Fresh Flower Vessel slowly sailed with the current, intermittently stopping, circling, or turning. Captain Kostor's voice, with the effect of a loudspeaker, continuously rang out over the entire ship, issuing various commands. Twelve sailors busied themselves in a frenzy, controlling the large ship.

Considering the size and tonnage of the Fresh Flower Vessel, twelve sailors were simply not enough to operate it; the full complement was thirty sailors.

The tasks meant for thirty people were being carried out by merely twelve youths, all novices at that, so the pressure was imaginable. Consequently, the ship's voyage was intermittent, never able to smoothly head towards the target.

But regardless.

Under the command and instruction of Kostor, the Fresh Flower Vessel still managed to sail north, bumpily along the coastline, towards the dock area. Half a day later, the instructional voyage successfully reached its destination.

This was a rocky beach.

The Fresh Flower Vessel moored briefly in the bay for a lunch break, while also taking the opportunity to train the sailors in swimming lessons.

“The coast is not as people say, with sea monsters eating humans; this is not the habitat of sea monsters! Sea monsters live in the deep sea, and coastal voyages hardly ever encounter them... Of course, with bad luck, even sunbathing on the shore could end with a sea monster crawling over to devour you.”

Kostor tried to dispel the Sailor Apprentices’ fear of deep waters, but his rhetoric was clearly inadequate, making them even more afraid to enter the water.

Swimming at the beach could cause them half a day’s nervousness, let alone this Deepwater Bay.

“Captain, we already know how to swim,” a Sailor Apprentice said softly in defense.

“Is deep water the same as shallow water? Absolutely not, you need to overcome your fear of the azure seawater; it could save your lives at a critical moment!”

“How is that possible? We are on the ship; we would definitely not run into the water for no reason.”

“Idiots! While sailing on the ocean, sea waves often sweep sailors overboard into the sea. If you can’t swim, you won’t even have the time to wait for rescue!”

“But, captain, I am just here to be a Sailor Apprentice, I have no plans to go out to sea.”

“You have no such plans, then why are you learning to sail? Do you think I, Kostor, am easy to fool?!” Kostor suddenly became furious, pointing at the Sailor Apprentice’s nose and bellowing, “I am appointed by Lord Landlord as the captain of the Fresh Flower Vessel, and in the future, I will sail out to trade for the Lord Landlord. You are the first batch of sailors! You might fool me, but do you dare fool the Lord Landlord?”

The Sailor Apprentices nodded timidly in agreement.

They felt as though they had boarded a pirate ship.

Kostor also gave up on trying to persuade them with kind words, and instead threatened them directly, “I have been given full authority by the Lord Landlord to be responsible for all maritime affairs, and the Lord Advisor of Fresh Flower Town must cooperate with me. Remember, anyone who dares to evade or disobey my commands, I will hand you over to Lord Karl’s Patrol Team!”

Hearing the name of the Patrol Team, the youths became even more frightened.

The Lord Landlord was indeed noble and untouchable, but it was said he was the embodiment of kindness, so they were not afraid, only awestruck. However, the Patrol Team had an illustrious reputation for fierceness—Liszt always wanted to build the Patrol Team to be a police station with the motto “police and citizens as one family,” but it was hopeless.

The existence of physical punishments like flogging ensured that fear was inevitable.

Karl was meticulous in enforcing the regulations, repaying the Lord Landlord’s trust by lashing at any commoner who made a mistake.

No mercy was shown with the whip.

Thus, mention of the Patrol Team made people change color with fear.

Seeing the expressions on the boys’ faces, Kostor was quite pleased. Having swung the big stick, he now began to dangle the carrot, “Don’t be afraid of the sea. The sea and the land are the same. We can farm on land, so we can sail on the sea. Going out to sea is the best decision you’ve ever made. Beyond the sea lies endless wealth, and women with huge chests and even bigger butts!”

“Really... are there really women with big butts?” a boy overcame his fear and swallowed hard.

“Of course. I once visited an island that had just ended a war, where women stood in lines, and everyone could take their pick. I chose a woman with the biggest butt...” Kostor said, reminiscing.

“And then what, Captain?”

“Then?”

“Yeah, Captain, what happened next with that big-bottomed woman?”

“Later,” Kostor licked his lips, “I gave her three copper coins when in fact, two would’ve been enough for a comfortable night. But I gave her one extra copper coin. Those towering peaks provided an unparalleled experience. I swear they could bury your head inside and suffocate you!”

Kostor gestured a large circle with his hands.

A very large circle.

So large that it left the boys speechless.

Gulp.

Gulp.

The boys swallowed hard, one after another.

“Alright, break’s over. Time for lessons, lads! If you want a woman with surging waves, then learn well following my instructions. Once you become qualified sailors, you too can spend two copper coins for a marvellous night! Now, jump into the water, swim!”

The boys suddenly overcame their fear.

They rushed into the sea, crying out excitedly.

Kostor took a wooden flask out of his bosom, uncorked it, and savored a sip—he knew what these boys wanted, after all, he’d been young once too.

After a sip of liquor, he returned to the captain’s quarters and carefully took out a one-meter-long cylinder from a chest—this was the telescope that Lord Landlord had sent via a servant yesterday, fitting out the Fresh Flower Vessel with his very own telescope. It was this telescope that informed him of Lord Landlord’s view on sailing!

“He craves the sea more than any Noble!” Kostor felt his future was bright; a Noble who longed for the sea would undoubtedly support his voyage.

It was also for this reason that he had the confidence to go to the administration office and nag Lord Advisor Goltai relentlessly to reap benefits.

Cradling the telescope, he walked onto the deck.

The swaying deck was, to him, steadier than land. He lifted the telescope to his eyes and began to look into the distance, where everything afar seemed to suddenly appear before him.

It was an amazing transformation, incredibly astonishing.

“Only such an exalted Noble as Lord Landlord could craft such a miraculous item!”

He observed the distant sea surface for a while, the thick smoke from Thorn Ridge, a few sea birds walking on the rocky beach, and then the sheer cliffs of the rocky mountains on the shore.

Suddenly.

His brow furrowed slightly as he noticed what appeared to be a cave on a cliff face washed by the sea at the rocky mountains, “A cave? The cliffs here aren’t high, could they have caves? Is that a rock cave? I seemed to have seen a sea bird flying out just now; could there be Sea Swallows?”

Sea Swallows are a type of gull that builds nests on seaside cliffs, and their eggs are highly sought after by Nobles.

To the extent that some Nobles would specifically send Serfs to risk their lives to collect Sea Swallow Eggs.

“Sea Swallow Eggs are an indispensable delicacy on the Noble’s table. If I discover a collective nesting place for Sea Swallows and offer it to Lord Landlord, he will surely be delighted, then reward me handsomely!” he felt the excitement growing, “With that, I’ll have the money to attract more Sailor Apprentices!”

Chapter 136: Simultaneously Releasing Two Rock Spikes

For the sake of the Sea Swallow Eggs.

After Captain Kostor and the other young men completed their swimming lessons, they immediately set sail, steering the Fresh Flower Vessel unsteadily towards the cave. As they approached the cave, which was not far away, they could clearly see its appearance—it was not very big, as the mountain ridge was not high, and the flat entrance of the cave resembled a large mouth.

The inside wasn’t deep either; they could see clearly into the cave with just a glance.

Especially since Captain Kostor was using a telescope, his view was even clearer, “Oh, my God! There are bones!” He saw several decaying human skeletons lying inside, as well as various tattered items, and even the wreckage of a small boat.

“Drop anchor!”

“Launch the canoe!”

He shouted, preparing to disembark in the canoe to get a closer look at what exactly was inside the cave.

The Castle.

The nearby Dragon Kui Fields.

Liszt was inspecting his Dragon Hollyhocks.

“It’s about to be born, Mr. Carter, my ninth Elf Bug,” he said, caressing the soon-to-bloom large flower bud, using the Eye of Magic to see clearly. A pale blue magic power was converging from all around the Dragon Hollyhock’s branches and leaves towards the special flower bud, nurturing the Dragon Kui Elf Bug.

“It is indeed a knight’s glory that watches over us! We all thought it wouldn’t survive, but it has stubbornly held on. My lord, Mr. Goltai says you are the Son of Glory, and I firmly believe that. It’s your glory that has shone upon the Dragon Kui Elf Bug!”

“Perhaps, I am indeed very lucky.”

The title of Son of Glory, like “Descend of the star of literature” from his hometown on Earth, was a descriptive honorific. Liszt didn’t know if he was the Son of Glory or the son of something else, but the Smoke Mission had brought him luck far beyond the average person, which probably qualified as the “knight’s glory that watches over us.”

He didn’t dwell on this point.

He simply ordered, “Make sure to check on it often, and notify me immediately once the Dragon Kui Bug is born.”

“Rest assured, aside from nighttime, a manservant from the Castle will come check on the Dragon Kui every hour,” Carter replied.

“That reminds me, is it time to water the Earth Matron?”

“It was nearly one o’clock in the afternoon when we set off, now it indeed is time for watering,” Carter responded.

“Then let’s head back.”

Returning to the Castle, Liszt led Douson along with the servants to begin the watering.

The Fierce Earth Dog, named Earth Matron, now had a specially made iron cage located about 500 meters from the Castle. Centered on the cage, a foundation was being dug twenty meters around, with plans to build a three-meter-high wall. The top of the wall would have inclined shields installed to prevent Earth Matron from escaping.

However, the Earth Matron hadn’t eaten for three days.

Liszt waited to be present to oversee the situation, instructing the servants to give it a little water to prevent it from dying of thirst.

“Woo!”

Seeing someone approach, the Earth Matron lying on the ground weakly got up, glaring fiercely at Liszt and his party. Its violent temper was clearly unmitigated.

“Woof woof!”

Douson sprinted over, circling the iron cage and wagging his tail enthusiastically, barking at the Earth Matron.

Earth Matron, however, had no affection for Douson, turning its head to glare at Douson and continuing to emit low, threatening growls.

“Hasn’t the feeding device arrived yet?” Liszt glanced at the cage and asked Thomas, who was following behind, “The posts aren’t even in place yet, the work is too slow.”

The feeding device was a special contraption designed for the Earth Matron’s feedings.

After all, the Earth Matron was not like Douson, it could become violent and injure someone at any moment. To prevent this, they kept it caged. But it still needed to be fed – they couldn’t really let it starve. Hence, they designed a set feeding device, which allowed them to feed the Earth Matron from outside the wall using a system of ropes that slid food into the cage.

At the same time, the cage was movable. Once there was a significant accumulation of feces, they would drag the cage, along with the Earth Matron away. After cleaning the ground, they would pull it back into place.

It sounds complicated.

But in reality, it’s quite simple; just a basic application of a few ropes.

In order to design his future army of Fierce Earth Dogs, Liszt put in a lot of effort.

“It doesn’t have any magic power left. The fact is, even Magical Beasts can’t gather magic power when they are starving,” thought Liszt.

A Magical Beast’s magic power is half produced by its body and half absorbed from the outside.

But when starving, not only can the body not produce magic power, it also lacks the strength to absorb it from the surroundings, rendering it completely useless—thus highlighting the importance of nutrition for training.

“Thomas, give it water.”

“Yes, Master,” said Thomas carefully carrying the bucket of water to the side of the Fierce Earth Dog’s iron cage, his movements shaky even though he had done this a few times before.

“Woo-woo!”

The Earth Matron roared at him with increased volume in its deep growl.

Thomas's hands trembled violently, spilling half of the water he scooped up. When he tried to pour the water into the cage, the Earth Matron stuck its head out again, and all the water ended up spilling.

He lowered his head and hurriedly apologized: "I'm sorry, Master."

"Keep feeding it. The Earth Matron can no longer cast magic; it's now equivalent to a wild dog. Remember that," said Liszt.

"Yes, Master."

The second time, with preparation, Thomas finally managed to pour the water into the basin. After the Earth Matron roared for a while and saw that it couldn't scare Thomas, it began to drink.

After the Earth Matron finished drinking, Douson was already anxiously circling outside.

It had acquired a taste for it.

Liszt cleared his throat and said, "Thomas, bring over that iron cage." Two cages were prepared: one for the Earth Matron to live in, and one to hold Douson.

In fear of the Earth Matron escaping, the cages would be connected together before opening their doors.

Since the process had been done once the day before, Douson cooperated and crawled into the smaller cage, which Thomas and other servants pushed to the front of the larger cage's door. The iron door of the cage was pulled out, and the two cages were connected. Douson quickly darted in and pounced on the Earth Matron, starting to violently thrust.

The Earth Matron, having starved for three days, was truly unable to resist.

Half an hour later, it was all over.

The Earth Matron lay in the cage, its dog eyes half-closed, dully looking at the sky divided into sections by the bars, clouds drifting freely in the distance.

On the other hand,

Douson was full of energy, carefree and frolicking in the horse field, getting it on every day, utterly blissful.

Its body grew stronger, a strength that could be felt every day. The muscles were no longer as swollen as they were at first, slowly reverting to the normal physique of a

Fierce Earth Dog, a slightly overweight streamline form. But its current body length and height had clearly surpassed that of a grown tiger.

Its magic power was also on the rise, now able to cast Rock Spike forty-five times a day.

Liszt became increasingly convinced that Douson might indeed have a chance to evolve into an Intermediate Magical Beast. Thus, he improved its diet, almost exclusively feeding it Magical Beast Meat—this was akin to feeding Douson gold coins, as its daily intake surpassed that of seven Liszts combined.

“A diet costing at least one Gold Coin per day, Douson, you must not let me down,” Liszt murmured to himself, then gave an order, “Douson, cast magic!”

“Woof!”

As it ran, Douson let out an instinctive bark and simultaneously cast magic.

Pfft! Pfft!

Two Rock Spikes shot up from the ground in front of it.

“Hm? Two Rock Spikes released at the same time?” Surprised by the sight, Liszt noted that simultaneously casting two spells was equivalent to a brand-new type of magic.

Only Intermediate Magical Beasts are capable of casting multiple spells!

Before Liszt could snap out of his surprise, Butler Carter’s voice came from behind him: “Master, Captain Kostor requests to see you. He says he has found a treasure in a cave near the docks.”