

# **The Mighty Dragons Are Dead**

## **#Chapter 281: 281: Cultivating a Water Mage (Fifth Update) - Read The Mighty Dragons Are Dead Chapter 281: 281: Cultivating a Water Mage (Fifth Update)**

Chapter 281: Cultivating a Water Mage (Fifth Update)

The workshop area had a separate, huge factory district planned for the expansion of the Brewing Workshop.

The Carpenter's Shop, Smithy, Bone Craftsman Shop, and Cooperage organized by officials worked together from dawn to dusk, rushing to make brewing equipment.

Even the Brad family, who ran the Crystal Workshop but could only carve Volcanic Glass all day, received a new task to carve some key equipment positions with Volcanic Glass.

The town was bustling, yet the Castle remained as peaceful as ever.

Only, on the shelves in Liszt's study were additional bottles filled with Fresh Flower Brew, not for drinking, but kept as mementos.

These were the true original liquor of the Fresh Flower Brew.

After completing today's Knight training lesson, Liszt took a bath in the bathroom and then went to the Worm Room. He chatted with Sea Sprite Ake and, by the way, enjoyed the beautiful scenery.

Recently, Sea Sprite Ake had become fascinated by all kinds of books.

Since she couldn't read, Liszt often taught her. It wasn't clear if it was a racial talent, but she learned very quickly and soon remembered a large amount of Serpent Script, allowing her to read independently.

She especially loved to study those Magic Books, and was extremely curious about magic.

At the moment.

The Shell was open.

Minor Elf Jela was soaking in the Seawater, a part of what belonged to Ake. Liszt touched it with his hand, finding it not much different from ordinary seawater, probably

just warmer and lacking the usual chill of seawater. It was hard to imagine that these waters would eventually grow Ake's legs.

"Liszt, you're here."

"Yeah, Ake, are you still reading books?"

"I'm looking at 'Fredo's Fireball Technique.' This Magic Apprentice, Fredo Truth is so funny, he actually rubbed a Fireball Technique from the back of his hand, hee hee, so silly." Ake closed the book, revealing a sweet smile.

Jela, with eyes closed, only opened them upon hearing Liszt speak, glanced at Liszt, and continued soaking in the seawater, enjoying the warmth blissfully. Behind her, nine Elf Bugs of various colors swam in the seashell sea as well.

No guessing needed; it was Jela who had thrown the Elf Bugs in.

"It is pretty funny, but magicians are all humans with some unusual ideas." Liszt poked Jela's belly with his hand, only to have Jela scurry away, "They're in the Shell there, they aren't disturbing your reading, are they?"

"Not at all, Jela and the insect babies are very quiet."

"Only around you are they quiet. Outside, Jela is the top bully of Fresh Flower Town."

Hearing someone speak ill of her, Jela protested, poking her head out of the Seawater and crying out "Wah" to object. But after being glared at by Liszt, she tucked her head back in again and continued to bathe.

After chatting for a while.

Ake suddenly lifted her hand, "Liszt, is this how magic is released?"

"Hmm?"

She spoke while seeming to gather Magic Power, "Imagine a bridge between the spirit and Magic Power, get familiar with them, experience them. I can only get along with Water Attribute Magic Power; they're like many gentle little babies that will heed my call."

Then, something unexpected happened to Liszt.

On her delicate hand, she was truly gathering a ball of water bit by bit. The ball of water slowly twisted, then elongated into the spiral shape of an arrow.

“I’ve read a book about the Water Arrow Spell, and I think the magic principles recorded in the book are very simple. It seems very easy for me to do.”

That crystal-clear Water Arrow looked so vivid and real.

Using the Eye of Magic, Liszt observed that the Magic Power of the Water Arrow originated from the free Magic Power in the air, not from Ake’s own Magic Power.

This was the Magic released by magicians, unexpectedly taking shape in the hands of a Sea Sprite.

“Ake, release the Water Arrow Spell outside the window.”

“Oh.”

Ake obediently pushed with her hand, and the water arrow shot out like a real sharp arrow, flying out of the window and finally disappearing into the horizon, “Hee hee, the water arrow flew out, Li Si Te, have I learned the Water Arrow Spell?”

“You have learned it!”

Liszt’s eyes gleamed, as he had already overestimated as much as possible the role of the sea sprite, feeling that she was a strategic aid to the launch of his age of navigation. But now, it must be revised, for the sea sprite could not only play an important role in navigation, she also had the potential to become a magician.

A Water Mage.

At this moment, an irresistible idea arose in him, to cultivate the Sea Sprite Ake into a Grand Magician of the Water System, or even a Water Mage.

With her talent for self-learning, it seemed that becoming a Water Mage was not an impossibility.

In his excitement, he couldn’t help but reach out and stroke Ake’s deep blue hair, “I will collect all the Magic Books that record Water Magic, you can immerse yourself in studying Water Magic, and in the future strive to become a Sea Sprite Magician.”

“Can Ake be called a Magician?”

“Of course, as long as you work hard.”

“Mm!”

...

One good piece of news followed another.

Fresh Flower Brew was successfully created, the Sea Sprite Ake learned magic, and then, after Liszt had been feeding the little Blizzard Beasts for most of a month, they finally opened their eyes one after another at the end of January.

The first person they saw was Liszt, and that first glance represented recognition of their master.

Perhaps this so-called recognition of master was not to the extent of unwavering loyalty, but it meant the eight little Blizzard Beasts all regarded Liszt as the person closest to them, in the role of a father or mother. With slow training and cultivation, they would, like Douson, follow Liszt's commands.

"What should their names be?" Liszt found himself in a bit of a predicament.

There were eight in a row, all with black fur and more or less the same size, chunky and not easy to distinguish. In fact, Liszt had already forgotten the order in which they were born.

In the end, recalling how he treated Douson, Liszt decided to craft a collar for each of the eight Blizzard Beasts.

Every collar was adorned with a nameplate.

The colors of the nameplates had to be different so that at a glance one could tell which was which and not call them by the wrong names. He also decided to raise the Blizzard Beasts separately; having raised dogs before, he knew all too well the horrors of a litter of puppies. Once they go mad, they could wreak havoc.

Raised separately, trained separately, until all the Blizzard Beasts could obey commands, then brought together to undergo military-style training.

To prepare for the battlefield in the future.

"My lord, all four kennels have been covered with cotton pads, ready for the Blizzard Beasts to move in. The dog collars you ordered to be made have also been delivered from the Tanners' Shop, eight sets in total," Butler Carter walked into the room, reporting.

"Then let's move them today, clean the entertainment room thoroughly, especially the smell must be cleared away, it's too offensive."

"I will instruct Mrs. Morson to handle it." Carter continued, "Then, what names would you like engraved on the nameplates for the eight Blizzard Beasts you wish to make?"

“Wait until I think of them,” Liszt replied.

“Yes, sir.”

As the servants began to carry the eight little Blizzard Beasts one by one into the four kennels set apart in different locations, Liszt waved his hand calling out the Smoke Mission.

“Complete the mission, reward eight Intermediate Magical Beast Blizzard Beasts.”

Seeing the Smoke Serpent Script clearly, Liszt smiled faintly.

Indeed.

Fed with Dragon Breed Milk, the Blizzard Beasts had stabilized their foundations and become Intermediate Magical Beasts!

Chapter 282: Chapter 0282: Full Body Armor Crushes Poisonous Bees (First Update)

“Mission: Due to the Fresh Flower Vessel’s reduced trips to sea, Black Horse Island is in short supply of the necessary wood for construction. Marcus decided to cut down the scattered trees on the island but encountered lethal poisonous bees. Please eliminate the bee nests to prevent more people from being stung to death. Reward: One Elf Bug.”

Smoke Serpent Script gently flowed before his eyes, its content already etched into Liszt’s mind.

“Very good, finally another reward that’s an Elf Bug!”

Since obtaining the Corn Grass Elf Bug, he hadn’t harvested any Elf Bug for two full months. This certainly had to do with the arrival of winter, when most plants stopped growing, but Liszt felt a deep sense of regret. Elf Bugs were an indisposable productive force for the Lord Landlord.

Now, finally, a new mission had appeared, and the reward was an Elf Bug.

“I wonder what kind of Elf Bug it is, the clues for the mission aren’t many... Whatever it is, let’s get rid of the bee nest first!” Liszt was brimming with fighting spirit.

Removing the bee nest wasn’t difficult, considering that knights had full body armor.

During the time when Fresh Flower Town made a killing selling seafood, Liszt had managed to save up for twenty sets of knight equipment. Among them was fine steel armor that covered one from head to toe. Once suited up, no matter what kind of poisonous bee, crazy bee, or killer bee came at him, they would all be swatted to death.

“I just hope not too many serfs die.”

Far away on Black Horse Island, Marcus had the same thought.

After returning from Black Horse Island on the Fresh Flower Vessel, he immediately reported to the Landlord, “My Lord, I regret to inform you that there have been killer bee nests on Black Horse Island which have claimed the lives of sixteen serfs to their stings. I plan to bring back several full body armors during this trip and eradicate the poisonous bees completely!”

He brought back a few dead bodies of the poisonous bees.

Each poisonous bee was the size of a thumb, and there were even larger Queen Bees guarding them.

Even as an Elite Earth Knight, Marcus didn’t dare to approach the beehives lightly. He had to keep his distance and seek the protection of the knight’s full body armor.

“I’ll go with you to Black Horse Island to see for myself what these killer bees look like,” Liszt said in a deep voice. Not only did he want to find the Elf Bug, but he also wanted to check if there was honey in the killer bee nests.

If there was honey in the hives, it would undoubtedly be top-quality honey.

Honey is a top-tier ingredient in noble cuisine, but no one keeps bees. Instead, they send serfs to gather wild honey, and every year a large number of these honey-gathering serfs get stung to death by various bees.

There aren’t many beehives in Fresh Flower Town.

Even if there were, he wouldn’t send serfs out to gather honey; he wasn’t cruel enough to exchange serfs’ lives for delicacies.

Liszt decided to go along.

Marcus had no objections.

But he had other matters to report: “The issue that arose during the tree cutting is not only due to the unexpected bee attacks, but also due to lax management. The serfs were skiving off, going far away to relieve themselves, which led to their deaths from bee stings. My Lord, the port town needs more management personnel!”

“I understand, I’ll arrange for it as soon as possible.”

As an action-oriented Landlord, once a problem arose, he immediately set out to solve it. After a brief period of consideration, he summoned Griffin Haystack and Lasse Steelyard.

Griffin was an orphan and a friend of Liszt's from the Knight Academy; Lasse was of commoner descent, with his family having moved to Fresh Flower Town.

Looking at the two Earth Knights, Liszt asked solemnly, "Lasse, Griffin, can I trust you?"

Griffin replied without hesitation, "Baron, I came to Fresh Flower Town to follow you, and I'm ready to follow your lead at any time!"

"I'm also ready to follow at any time!" Lasse wasn't to be outdone.

"Then, I need to send you to a place for a task – you might not return to Fresh Flower Town for a very long time. Lasse, you have to take your family with you... You probably won't be able to come back to Fresh Flower Town for two or three years. Would you still be willing?"

Lasse, puzzled, asked, "Baron, what duty are you assigning us that would warrant such a long absence, and why must my family join as well?"

"Indeed, it's a duty, it's not dangerous but it's a bit hard work, and it requires confidentiality. As for the nature of the duty, I can't tell you," Liszt looked at them, "but I can assure you that there will be ample rewards for your efforts."

Griffin, upon hearing this, immediately said, "Baron, I am willing!"

Lasse hesitated briefly then nodded in agreement, "Since Lasse has decided to follow the Baron, naturally I will obey the Baron's arrangements!"

Liszt nodded, "Then, from today on, you are officially part of my Knight Squad!"

This was an acceptance of their allegiance. Griffin and Lasse instantly realized, knelt on one knee, and performed the solemn Knight's gesture of fealty and loyalty, "We swear to serve you, my lord!"

"Rise, pack your belongings, and communicate sufficiently with your families. Gather at Fresh Flower Port first thing tomorrow morning."

"Yes, my lord!"

...

The next day.

The Fresh Flower Vessel, riding the wind and waves, arrived at Black Horse Island in the afternoon.

It was only then that Lasse and Griffin learned they had been dispatched to work on a desolate island, and that this Black Horse Island would become the future domain of Lord Landlord.

“From now on, my Knight Squad’s training will be conducted on Black Horse Island. Lasse, Griffin, Teacher Marcus will serve as the captain of the Knight Squad, responsible for the daily training of the Knight Squad. The construction of the port town will also be led by him. Construction needs to be meticulous, and training must be persistent,” Liszt explained.

“Yes, my lord!”

Knights are capable of fighting on horseback as well as serving as officials off horseback.

Without much delay, Liszt, along with three Earth Knights, hurried to the location of the poisonous bees. All four were clad in fine steel full body armor, riding their mounts, even their eyes shielded by iron-wire-mesh visors. With such airtight gear, exterminating the poisonous bees was a breeze.

Leaving Douson and the horses at a distance, Liszt and his men walked towards the bee nest.

“My lord, it’s just ahead,” Marcus pointed to a nearby location, “Do you see that large tree? The hive is on its branches, quite huge and clearly visible.”

“I see it. Let’s go, we’ll aim to kill all the poisonous bees before nightfall.”

The Earth Knights’ pace was swift, and shortly after they arrived at the base of the tree, puzzled as to why those serfs who came to relieve themselves had to run so far.

To take a shortcut and risk their lives, it was truly speechless.

“Bzzzzz!”

The poisonous bees had already spotted the four newcomers.

Without hesitation, they called their comrades and began an offensive attack. The thumb-sized poisonous bees darted around vigorously, but their efforts were futile against steel defenses. The four Earth Knights circulated their Dou Qi and swung their longswords, swatting one after another of the large poisonous bees.



Especially Liszt, being the strongest Elite Earth Knight with fire attribute Dou Qi, which had explosive properties. Every time he executed combat skills, the flames that filled the sky would burn swathes of poisonous bees to death.

The hive was very large, at least one and a half times the height of a man.

Tens of thousands of fearless poisonous bees flew out, swarming toward the four men, but it was in vain, they fell as lifeless bodies under the sword, dropping to the ground.

“My lord, I’ll climb up and chop down the hive!” Griffin, with thunder attribute Dou Qi and a longsword crackling with lightning, though only a Common Earth Knight, possessed an extremely ferocious combat strength.

He used his hands and feet nimbly and climbed the branches with ease.

The poisonous bees surrounded him in layers, but they couldn’t stop his actions. He drew his longsword, aimed at the base of the branch, and began hacking away, breaking the entire branch and causing it to fall to the ground with the hive.

Four Earth Knights.

They surrounded the fallen hive, frantically slaughtering the poisonous bees.

The battle was fierce.

Chapter 283: Natural Adhesive Glue (Second Update)

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The species of poisonous bees was unknown, and nobody cared about exactly what type of poisonous bees they were, as Dou Qi burst forth in spurts and limbs flew chaotically. When the sunset was about to fall below the horizon, almost all the poisonous bees had perished.

Even the beehive was split open, and the hidden bee queen was found and directly pinched to death.

Only a small number of poisonous bees flew away. According to bee behaviors, they would likely linger around here for a few days until they were sure the beehive no longer existed before they would completely leave.

“Teacher Marcus, remember to warn all serfs not to come over to this area,”

“Understood, my lord,”

At this moment, Lasse suddenly shouted, “My lord, it’s honey, there is honey inside this beehive!”

“Is there really honey?” Liszt lifted his visor and looked through the broken face of the beehive that Lasse had pried open. Indeed, he saw golden, glistening honey, exuding a faintly tempting sweet fragrance.

He pried deeper with his hand and discovered that many honeycombs contained white larvae.

These were bee pupae.

They were about as thick as an index finger and as long as a thumb, plump in size.

Seeing these white bee pupae almost made Liszt drool; he had tasted stir-fried bee pupae before, which were savoury, crispy, and delicious. Moreover, bee pupae contained high protein, low fat, various vitamins, and trace elements, making them a very nourishing ingredient. Now, this beehive, a person and a half tall, could yield at least ten pounds of bee pupae.

There was food!

“Lasse, Griffin, lift the beehive and carry it back! The honey and bee pupae inside are all good stuff, I want them,”

“Yes, my lord!”

The two of them said so and began to move the beehive, but they could not lift it, their faces turning beet red with the effort.

“Haven’t you eaten?” Marcus asked incredulously.

An Earth Knight’s strength, although not boundless, was at least several times that of an average adult. Lifting a poisonous beehive that weighed less than five hundred pounds should not have been so strenuous.

At this comment, Lasse’s face turned even redder.

He exerted all his strength, and his Dou Qi ran wildly, finally causing the beehive to wobble.

Griffin, who was lifting with him, suddenly discovered the problem, “Captain Marcus, it seems like the beehive is stuck to the trunk of the tree here, as if glued by something. No wonder we cannot move it.”

“Stuck?” Liszt also went over to inspect the part where the beehive and the tree trunk were connected and indeed saw, as Griffin had said, some white substance tightly bonding the two, which could not be pulled apart, “Could it be the sap secreted by the tree, with such strong adhesive properties?”

Following the white substance upward, it originated from where Lasse had previously cut off a branch, leaving a lot of sap, which had flowed down here and then dried and solidified.

It seemed even stickier than 502 glue.

“Glue... solidified...” Liszt felt that this substance was very unusual and, if utilized, could have a wide range of potential uses.

At that moment, Marcus had already drawn his Fine Steel Longsword and aimed it at the bonded area, striking with his sword.

Clang!

Clang!

Clang!

Three strikes in a row only cracked a small slit into the white material, showing no signs of coming apart.

“

“Chop a few more times with your Dou Qi, Teacher Marcus,” Liszt indicated for Marcus not to stop and to continue swinging his sword to test the strength of the sap’s adhesion.

Marcus did as told.

He surged his Dou Qi, and a cyan light clung to the longsword. Targeting the white substance, he struck fiercely—crack! This strike finally split the white material apart, completely detaching the wasp nest from the tree trunk: “What is this thing so hard that I had to use all my strength to cut it down?”

“It’s the sap that’s flowing down from the tree. Teacher Marcus, Lasse, Griffin, we might have found something even better,” Liszt said, pointing at the tree in front of them with a smile.

The tree was a kind of ordinary mixed tree that Liszt had studied when he landed on Black Horse Island for the second time in search of dragon bones. The trunk was straight, and the branches were high up and not lush, bearing no flowers or fruit, nor did it grow very tall. When he had first arrived before the New Year, the leaves were only slightly yellow, but now they had turned completely yellow.

The conclusion he had reached then was that it was a deciduous tree, quite ordinary, probably suitable for timber use.

He had even planned to cut down all the mixed trees near the pasture to expand the cultivation area of the grass once he had enough hands. Now it seemed fortunate that he hadn't cut them down, for trees that could secrete such a potent glue were clearly gifts from nature.

The sun was setting in the west.

Liszt was in no rush to return, as there were no magical beasts on the island, and hence no dangers. "Griffin, chop at the tree trunk with your sword."

"Yes, my lord!"

With one strike, the tree bark split open.

About a minute passed, and then a white sap started to ooze from the split. Liszt collected some with a stick and then stuck it to the tree trunk, occasionally shaking it to judge the speed of the sap's adhesion. Exposed to the air for about five minutes, the sap began to solidify.

Once solidified, it was nearly indestructible.

"The effect is very strong. Do you see its use?" he asked proudly, with a hint of showing off—this tree's sap was undoubtedly a natural adhesive, and judging by its durability after congealing, it was definitely comparable to rubber, essentially a hybrid of rubber and 502 glue.

The importance of rubber was unquestionable, and the uses of 502 glue were also very significant.

The combination of the advantages of both clearly made a more valuable natural glue.

However, the trio of Marcus didn't quite realize this point so quickly, hence they seemed a bit confused.

Griffin even replied earnestly, "Maybe it can glue two things together? It seems a bit troublesome, my lord. The serfs might end up gluing their axes to the tree trunks when cutting down trees."

"Cutting trees?"

"That, my lord, aren't you planning to cut down all the trees on the island to expand the grassland area?"

"That was the old plan, but now it has changed, we need the pastures, but we need these trees even more!" Liszt stated definitively, "It seems you did not understand what I

just said; the sap of this tree is a good thing, a very good thing. In my view, it's more valuable than gold."

"More valuable than gold?"

"The sap can be used directly as a glue to bond things. For example, when a cooper makes a barrel, with this glue, simply sticking two planks together would make a perfect seal that won't loosen or leak. It would seem a waste to use it just for barreling, it might be suitable for bonding weapons."

Liszt calmed his excitement and continued, "Of course, we first need to determine its properties: its durability, whether it's fire-resistant or water-resistant, how to collect and store it, and so on..."

As he said this.

He suddenly remembered that the Smoke Mission had been completed and that his Elf Bug was due to arrive. While letting Marcus and the others study the properties of the natural glue, he silently summoned the Smoke Mission.

However, he found that the content of the mission hadn't changed, and the task of clearing the wasp nest had not yet been completed.

"It seems that I need to wait until all the wasps have flown away and the danger is completely removed for the task to be considered complete, but this tree and this mission..." Looking at the trunk and thinking about the mission, he felt there might be a connection between the two: "Could it be that my tenth Elf Bug is related to this type of tree?"

He quickly activated his Eye of Magic and began to examine the big tree before him. As his gaze moved to the canopy at the top of the trunk, a flash of magic power flitted across his field of vision.

Chapter 284: Chapter 0284: Rubber Tree Elf Bug (Third Update)

A flash of magic light passed by, a pale yellow that seemed to belong to Earth Attribute magic, right at the crown of the large tree. This tree wasn't very tall, Li Si Te could clearly see its crown, where the magic was emanating from a treetop that had grown a large round bulge. There was no doubt that inside it housed an Elf Bug.

Which meant, this tree, was Cordyceps!

Realizing this, Li Si Te immediately felt a pang of distress. Lasse had cut off a robust branch, and Griffin had slashed a wound into the trunk, they were basically making things difficult for his own Elf Bug.

“Teacher Marcus, Lasse, Griffin, this tree is Cordyceps,” he touched the somewhat rough bark, “My Elf Bug is inside, gestating. I can feel its presence. You must protect it well, and when it’s born, I will come back to make a contract with it.”

“There really is an Elf Bug?” Lasse clicked his tongue in amazement.

Marcus, however, was not surprised at all, knowing Li Si Te’s keen vision: “My lord, rest assured, I will arrange for someone to patrol this tree at all times. Once the Elf Bug is born, I will immediately inform you!”

Griffin spoke with excitement, “Lasse, you just chopped off a branch of the Cordyceps, and I made a cut on it! Our lord really is the Son of Glory, blessed with knightly radiance. Fresh Flower Town has gained another Elf Bug!” It was unclear whether he was excited about the Elf Bug or the fact that he had cut into the Cordyceps.

Regardless.

The three of them, who were initially unclear about natural glue, now paid serious attention because of the gestating Elf Bug.

For them, a plant capable of nurturing an Elf Bug was valuable. In their eyes, Elf Bugs were a symbol of nobility, an embellishment of power.

Li Si Te looked at the Cordyceps Tree in front of him, feeling very pleased: “Although the beehive has claimed the lives of sixteen serfs, leaving me heartbroken, there is gain for every loss. We have acquired a new crop and an Elf Bug thanks to that. I now bestow upon this tree the name ‘Rubber Tree’!”

This Rubber Tree was different from the rubber trees on Earth, it was just borrowing the name.

The impending Elf Bug would then become known as the Rubber Tree Elf Bug.

Night had fallen.

After collecting some rubber samples and carrying the poisonous beehive, they also collected some of the bees’ corpses, and headed back. Upon returning to the port town, they immediately found wooden planks to make a box, and put the beehive into the box.

“Teacher Marcus, the bees’ poison sacs can be collected. By concentrating the bee venom and refining it, we may obtain a potent poison,” Li Si Te suggested.

Speaking of poisons, the Rapid Growth Poison Thorn of Fresh Flower Town was truly toxic. Its prickly thorns would cut the skin and cause ulceration and scarring, but wouldn’t kill a person. However, when refined and tempered on the blade of a weapon, even ordinary beasts would convulse upon being struck, if not entirely incapacitated.

Even when used against magical beasts with magic power, it could deal a serious blow, weakening the magical beast for a short period and causing its recovery abilities to decline significantly for a long time thereafter.

It would have a similar effect on knights as well.

Using poison wasn't a noble deed; it violated the chivalrous values of knights who favored straightforward charges.

But a toxin that merely caused weakness was tolerable; war naturally called for diverse strategies, and one couldn't rely solely on fiery passion. The loser is the villain, and the victor the king; only the victor has the right to display noble virtues. The loser faces death, bankruptcy, or servitude as a serf, anyway, far removed from nobility.

Marcus understood this principle and nodded immediately: "I will have people collect all the bee carcasses, extract the poison sacs and refine the toxins."

"Good."

...

The next morning,

Li Si Te took a boat back to Fresh Flower Town, leaving Marcus and the others to continue overseeing the construction of the port town.

The first thing he did upon returning to the castle was to order the servants to clean up the beehive: "Mrs. Abbie, have your people pick out all the bee pupae from the beehive, and then scrape off the honey... first experiment on small animals to see if it's toxic. If not, it's to be included in my recipes."

"Oh my god, what a huge wasp nest, sir, you can look forward to enjoying delicious bee pupae. When I was a kid, I often dug up wasp nests to find those cute, tasty pupae to cook with. And this honey, look, look, it's just so golden and tempting!"

Mrs. Abbie circled the massive poison bee nest, inspecting it excitedly from every angle.

Since coming to the castle in Fresh Flower Town, under Liszt's deliberate and inadvertent guidance, she had become a top-class chef renowned far and near. Everyone said, "Mrs. Abbie is so skillful and creative," "Mrs. Abbie's dishes are astonishing," "Mrs. Abbie's mind is full of delicious food," which greatly pleased her.

She had thrown herself into the innovation of developing new dishes and there was no stopping her.

As a result, the castle not only hired a serf who was a chef to be her assistant but also employed two new kitchen maids.

The chef was Julia, a serf bought from the Eagle Kingdom, who had no surname.

The two kitchen maids, Oly and Kelsey, were also serfs bought from the Eagle Kingdom, without surnames.

Unlike the Duchy of Sapphire, many serfs in the Eagle Kingdom didn't have surnames. They cultivated the land generation after generation, with little mobility, essentially not needing surnames. For example, Paris and Maggie, the sisters, didn't have surnames; Bording and Huntera, who assisted Frank Dregs in winemaking, also didn't have surnames.

Whereas in the founding history of the Duchy of Sapphire, a large number of serfs were bought, and to facilitate census and strict control of the serfs, all were forced to take surnames.

Noble vocabulary was not allowed to be used, which directly resulted in the surnames of the commoners being a mishmash of lowly words.

Before becoming a noble, Liszt's ancestors' surname was the lowly word "Tile." Only after rising alongside the Tulip Great Elf did the surname change to the noble word "Tulip."

While Mrs. Abbie was busy fussing with the poison bee nest,

Liszt began training the eight Little Blizzard Beasts, following his instructions, new nameplates had already been hung on each of the Blizzard Beasts' necks.

"Storm, Flame, come!"

"Woof woof!"

"Whoo!"

Using jerky as an enticement was the quickest way to strengthen the bond.

The chubby Blizzard Beasts couldn't resist the jerky and quickly pounced on Liszt, licking both his hands and the jerky. Storm had a green nameplate on its neck, and Flame had a red one.

Following the method summarized when training Douson, he practiced with the two Little Blizzard Beasts.

He continued on to the other three dog kennels.



Rock wore a yellow nameplate, Surge had a deep blue nameplate; Thunder had a purple nameplate, Light had a white nameplate; Ice Snow wore a light blue nameplate, and Shadow had a black nameplate.

The names of the eight Blizzard Beasts corresponded to the eight magic attributes of wind, fire, earth, water, thunder, light, ice, and shadow.

It didn't mean much and didn't fit their physical characteristics; it was merely for differentiation.

After running through a round of training, an hour and a half had passed, and Liszt took the milk tea handed over by the butler and drank it down in one go, "The workload is too much, training dogs is such a waste of energy and time!"

He had a premonition that as the Blizzard Beasts grew up, he would probably have no spare time left to write "Dragons Fight in the Wild."

"It looks like it'll really have to be a history book series for my lifetime."

Chapter 285: Chapter 0285: A Series of Loyalties (Fourth Update, 3000 Monthly Votes Plus)

After training the dog,

the sky had completely darkened, and the castle was in the midst of preparing the evening's dishes.

Liszt went upstairs to have a chat with Sea Sprite Ake, a routine he had established. Talking with the innocent and lively Ake was a way to relax his mind.

"Liszt, look, I've copied 'Fredo's Fireball Technique', and now I can also create water arrows on the back of my hand," Sea Sprite Ake said happily.

She conjured a water arrow on the back of her hand and, with a gentle push, the water arrow flew out of the window like a sharp bolt.

Learning magic was like getting a new toy for her, full of nothing but joy: "Look, look, not only can my right hand create water arrows on the back, but my left can do it too, hehe, next I plan to try creating them with my knee. What do you think of that idea?"

Apart from amazement, Liszt didn't know what to say.

It wasn't difficult for a magician to create fireballs with different parts of their body, but it was still technically challenging for Magic Apprentice Fredo Truth to do it with the back of his hand.

After all, Magic Apprentices could not be compared with Magicians, especially in terms of mental control, they were far too weak.

That Sea Sprite Ake could use both hands to create water arrows on the back, and learn it within a few days, was astonishing: “Ake, how did you think of using your knee to create water arrows?”

“The Truth seniors who wrote the magic books said that the most important thing for magicians is to have imagination and creativity. Ake noticed that no one used their knees to cast spells. If Ake succeeds, I can also write a book, umm, it will be called ‘Acherlroides Truth’s Water Arrow Technique’, hehe.”

“Yes, Ake, you already qualify to write a book. It seems you have a profound understanding of the Water Arrow Spell. I will need to find more books on Water Magic for you as soon as possible.”

The inheritance of magicians is rather secretive, and aside from simple basic magic, which has specific magic books for introduction and mutual discussion of new casting methods,

there are no books passing down Advanced Magic.

It’s like the Dou Qi Secret Technique of the knights and the cultivation secrets of the Sky Knights, which are incredibly hard to come by.

The Tulip Family, despite years of hard work, did not possess even a single Dou Qi Secret Technique. Had it not been for the guidance of the Smoke Mission, Liszt would never have obtained “The Eye of Magic”.

“It seems like I need to have a serious talk with Elkerson.” In Liszt’s view, Elkerson was a magician who highly valued enjoyment, and therefore, there was a good chance of obtaining magical inheritance from him, as long as one was willing to pay.

For the sake of Ake’s path as a Water Mage, Liszt gritted his teeth and was willing to bear the cost.

After all, Ake’s strength ensured greater security for sailing. Imagine, with a Water Mage accompanying the journey, there would be no fear of any Sea Monsters. Even if Ake did not have the talent to become an Archmage, advancing to the level of a Grand Magician was still a formidable combat power.

Hearing what Liszt said,

Ake nodded happily: “Thank you, Liszt.”

“Ake, why don’t you call me brother?” In three seconds, Liszt decided to bind the future Water Mage with the bonds of kinship.

Ake tilted her head, pondering seriously: “But Ake is already forty-one years old, and you, Liszt, are only seventeen.”

“You’re a sea sprite, and I’m a human, so you can’t count age like that. I’m already an adult human, and you’re a minor sea sprite, so you should call me brother.”

“Oh, okay, brother.”

“You’re such a good girl, Ake. Here brother has a gift for you—a Black Pearl that you can use to study the Magic Runes and Magic Arrays written about in the magic books.” Liszt took out a fist-sized black pearl and handed it to Sea Sprite Ake.

He had harvested a total of sixteen black pearls from the Tridacna giant clams.

A black pearl the size of a wash basin was still lying quietly in the Gemstone Space, waiting for the right moment to be crafted into a Calming Sea Pearl.

Of the two basketball-sized black pearls, one had already been made into a Calming Sea Pearl, and the other was soon to be made into another one.

“

Three sea-bowl-sized black pearls, unused.

Ten black pearls about the size of a fist, two sold to Levis, two ground up to treat Dragon Hollyhock, one given to Marquis Merlin, one given as payment to Grandini Truth for calculating rewards, and one more given to Ake, leaving three remaining.

Holding the black pearls.

Ake smiled radiantly, “Wow, such beautiful black pearls, I can feel many water attribute magic elements, as gentle as little babies holding hands, just like... just like a natural magic array. Thank you, brother, I will study the black pearls carefully, and learn magic runes and magic arrays!”

“Study hard, I still have a few black pearls, and when the time comes, you can help me make them into magic equipment.”

“Mhm, Ake will work hard!” The sea sprite clenched her little fists, her expression invigorated, a stark contrast to the cautious demeanor she had when they first met, now lively and adorable.

One couldn’t help but reach out and tousle her deep blue hair.

He truly hoped that Ake would make progress quickly so that she could help make the Calming Sea Pearl.

After all, the costs for all the materials requested by Grandini Truth to make a Calming Sea Pearl were astronomical. The last Calming Sea Pearl had cost him a fist-sized black pearl.

Poking Jela, who was stubbornly nestled within her shell.

Liszt left the room.

The castle's banquet commenced.

In Fresh Flower Town, covered with snow and ice, there were not many lights at night, hence work ended relatively early. Only the Brewing Workshop continued to operate through the night.

"Baron, I've heard that Lasse and Griffin have sworn loyalty to you and have been assigned to carry out missions?" Rondo Waterpot suddenly asked before the banquet began.

"Yes."

"Rondo hopes to follow the Baron!"

"I accept your allegiance." Liszt was not surprised by Rondo's request and responded directly. Thereafter came the ceremony of a knight swearing fealty, officially establishing the relationship between the follower and the landlord.

This meant that Rondo's fate was now in Liszt's hands, and in turn, Liszt would bring him greater glory.

With Rondo leading the way,

Rick Trace, Nemo, and others also declared their allegiance to Liszt. Among the officials of Fresh Flower Town, Isaiah, who had not yet followed Liszt, took this opportunity to request to follow as well. Fresh Flower Town was no longer the remote rural town it used to be, and Liszt was no longer the timid second son of the Earl.

Fresh Flower Town was bound to rise alongside Liszt, and everyone understood that not following him now would put them at a disadvantage later, as more people would gather around him.

After all, the early followers would certainly be held in higher esteem by the landlord than the new ones.

Seeing the young people one by one perform the knight's loyalty ceremony, Zambrotta, who was not young anymore, hesitated. He came to Fresh Flower Town seeing the potential in Liszt, hoping to leverage Liszt's rise to reclaim noble glory. However, such hasty allegiance was not what he desired.

As a former Honored Knight, he had his moments of glory and remembered well the distinction between himself and the common folk.

Even stripped of his title and reduced to a commoner, he still held on to his pride. Coupled with his talent for learning and his arrogance, he was reluctant to lower his status easily.

However,

the current situation no longer allowed for his aloofness. Not following today would surely be noted by Liszt: "Since I'm going to follow sooner or later, I might as well be straightforward about it. Liszt is certain to emulate the Earl's glory and become one of the new Nobles, I can't miss this opportunity!"

Making up his mind, he immediately knelt on one knee: "Zambrotta wishes to swear loyalty to the Baron!"

“

Chapter 286: Chapter 0286: The Secret Magic Trade (Fifth Update, 10,000 Coins Reward Celebration 1/2)

This chapter is a bonus update for the "Wasteland Ranger Apocalypse Legend" with a reward of 20,000 Gold Coins.

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All the town officials pledged allegiance, and there were no outsiders left in Fresh Flower Town.

Of course, apart from the unity of the people being stronger than before, there didn't seem to be much change. Whether now or before, as the son of an earl, Liszt's authority had never been shaken.

The atmosphere at the banquet was merry.

As the landlord, he inevitably drank a few extra glasses of Fresh Flower Brew, the specialty of Fresh Flower Town, and felt slightly tipsy. When the banquet ended, he held back Mr. Elkeson, "Mr. Elkeson, please wait a moment."

"Baron, what instructions do you have for me?"

"If I remember correctly, you are skilled in Earth System and Water System magic."

"Indeed, you have a good memory."

"Then, I would like to purchase some spellcasting knowledge of the Water System magic from you." Seeing Mr. Elkeson furrow his brows slightly in hesitation, Liszt added, "It's indeed a bit abrupt and impolite to propose buying magic from a magician, but please believe that I am merely curious about magic, and I will pay an adequate amount of Gold Coins."

Mr. Elkeson pondered for a moment.

He looked around to make sure there were no eavesdroppers nearby before hesitantly speaking, "Baron, as you know, I am not a sanctimonious or obsessive magician, my love for Gold Coins far exceeds my quest for Truth. I am very willing to assist you in obtaining Magic Books and produce Magic Potions, but selling magic could completely ruin my reputation."

"Nothing about our transaction of magic will leak from my side. You also needn't worry about an unidentified magician suddenly appearing. I myself will not learn magic, as I am well aware of the dangers of a knight learning magic."

"Given that, I am willing to sell magic."

"If the price is right, I need all the Water System magic you possess."

"Are you not interested in the other types of magic?" Since selling one type of magic was the same as selling multiple, Mr. Elkeson naturally hoped to sell more, "I am proficient in Earth System and Water System, and I have some knowledge in Wind System, Fire System, and Ice System as well. Currently, I have mastered sixteen types of magic. If you purchase them all, Baron, I could offer a discount."

Originally, Liszt had only intended to purchase Water System magic.

But after hearing what he said, it seemed like a good idea to buy all of them—after all, who knows if they might be useful in the future.

"First, determine the price of the magic. If it's reasonable, I will buy all of it. If the price is too high, I am only willing to buy the Water System magic. Although I am a landlord, I am the head of a large household with limited spare Gold Coins for frivolous spending, as you well know." Liszt started bargaining.

He wasn't prepared to let Mr. Elkeson name an outrageous price, as Coral Island was not home to the only magician.

“The four spells that a Magic Apprentice can master, Water Arrow Spell, Flying Rock Technique, Fireball Technique, Wind Blade Spell, can be learned from Magic Books,” Mr. Elkeson said.

“I mainly have mastery over spells at the magician stage, including Water System’s Water Arrow Barrage, Water Wheel Wall, Water Bullet, Water Whirlpool; Earth System’s Rock Spike, Earth Wall, Rolling Rock, Rock Cannon, Earth Elevation Platform; Fire System’s Great Fireball, Fire Wall, Dancing Fire Snakes; Wind System’s Light Body Skill, Multiple Wind Blades, and Ice System’s Ice Blade; and Rock Grenade at the Grand Magician stage.”

“What’s the price?”

“For the magician stage, one spell costs two Gold Coins. The Grand Magician’s Rock Grenade costs twenty Gold Coins. In total, that is...” he counted on his fingers twice, “fifty Gold Coins in total. This is an absolute bargain, even if I were to exchange spells with fellow magicians, the cost would not be any lower.”

Frankly, the price wasn’t too expensive.

““

Still, Liszt felt a pinch in his heart as he shelled out fifty Gold Coins at once; his liquid assets were not abundant.

After pondering for a moment, he said, “Let’s hold off on the Rock Grenade for now. I’ll buy your fifteen spells for thirty Gold Coins... However, I can promise that as long as you can bring more spells, I will continue to purchase them at today’s prices. You should believe in my potential for growth, buying spells is not difficult for me.”

Elkeson nodded in agreement, slightly disappointed not to have sold the Rock Grenade for twenty Gold Coins, “Of course, Baron, your future is as vast as the sea. Then, I shall return to write the casting methods for the spells, and if you have any questions, feel free to ask me directly.”

Liszt took out thirty Gold Coins and handed them to the other party: “A pleasure doing business with you, Mr. Elkeson.” He was not afraid that the other party would run away with the money as this was Coral Island.

“A pleasure doing business, Baron.”

...

With the motivation of Gold Coins, Elkeson delivered the written casting methods for four Water System spells to the castle the next day and continued to write the remaining spells.

Liszt handed them directly to the Sea Serpent, “Ake, I have found four new spells for you. These are spells that only magicians can grasp, and I don’t know if you can learn them right away. If you can’t master them, then meditate more to strengthen your spiritual power.”

“Mm-hmm, thank you, brother. Ake will definitely work hard to learn and strive to become a Sea Serpent Magician, hehe.”

“By the way, it’s your day to replenish water at the sea, don’t rush to read the spells, let’s go play at the beach for two hours.”

“Yes! Ake indeed needs to change the seawater in her shell, this water isn’t fresh anymore.” Ake stirred the seawater in her shell with her hand, which still looked crystal clear. It was unclear how the Sea Serpent determined whether the water was fresh or not.

At the seaside.

Snowflakes drifted down, as winter had not yet ended, expected to cease snowing in mid-February.

This strange world’s climate and hydrology are vastly different from Earth’s. For example, Liszt recently discovered an important piece of information: in Fresh Flower Town during winter, the lengths of day and night are equal – neither longer days and shorter nights nor vice versa.

This corroborates his previous assumption.

If this world is a planet, then it does not have an axial tilt in its rotation or revolution.

He also reviewed some Knight’s Novels, which seemed to imply that the whole continent experienced winter and summer at the same pace. As for temperature variations, the countries in the southern part of the continent are often depicted in the Knight’s Novels as not having snowy weather; there’s even one novel that talks about the far South of the continent.

It mentions there’s a country called Flame Country, where the weather is steaming hot all year round.

“Does this suggest that the southernmost tip of the continent is close to the planet’s equator? In other words, is it possible that the continent where I am located is just a part of the northern hemisphere of a planet and not the entirety of the world?”

The Sea Serpent Ake was thoroughly enjoying her bath in the sea, occasionally emitting tinkling laughter.



Jela soared above the coast, watching Ake, and every now and then shouting, “Wow.”

Douson lay in the snowy ground, with Storm and Flame crawling all over it. It was unclear whether it realized these two puppies were its offspring, but it tolerated their climbing and biting.

Liszt, on the other hand, continued to ponder astronomical geography.

“If that’s the case, this suggests that the continent’s southernmost point is near the equator, but the northernmost point is far from the North Pole, making it not a very large landmass... Although it feels vast in actual area, the total area of the continent may well exceed the land area of Earth.”

Chapter 287: Chapter 286: Incredible Area (First Update)

The units of measurement in this world are not the same as those on Earth.

As a soul-transmigrating transmigrator, he didn’t bring any items that could be used for comparison to determine whether this was a world of giants or ants.

He could only deduce the breadth of this world based on the proportions of his own body.

According to his research, his height had grown to about 1.87 meters, making him the tallest person in the Tulip Family.

Assuming that he and his Earthly self are the same size.

Coral Island is roughly equivalent to the area of a prefecture-level city in China, with an average area of 10,000 square kilometers; Red Crab Island is comparable to the area of a medium-sized province, with an average area of 100,000 square kilometers; then, the Duchy of Sapphire has more than ten islands the size of Red Crab Island, including the much larger Blue Dragon Island.

All the islands combined have an area of approximately 2 million square kilometers, roughly a fifth the size of China.

The Duchy of Sapphire is just a remote archipelago on the edge of the continent and is likely smaller than other duchies and grand duchies. Its suzerain, the Steel Ridge Kingdom, has seven vassal states, and their combined area already exceeds that of China; and the area of the Steel Ridge Kingdom itself is twice as large as all its vassal states combined.

That is to say, the area of the Steel Ridge Kingdom combined with its vassal states is equivalent to the size of the Asian continent—45 million square kilometers.

The rival of the Steel Ridge Kingdom, the Eagle Kingdom, has a slightly smaller area and one fewer vassal state, with a total area of about 30 million square kilometers; the neighbor of the Steel Ridge Kingdom, the Blast Furnace Fortress Kingdom, is larger and has more vassal states, totaling over 60 million square kilometers in area.

The total area of these three kingdoms, along with some deserted islands nearby, exceeds the sum of Earth's land area—149 million square kilometers.

But these three kingdoms are just tucked away in the northeastern corner of the continent.

The entire continent's area is probably twenty times the size of the three kingdoms combined, after all, the area of any single empire on the continent is larger than several kingdoms put together.

In this land, Liszt clearly knew, there were three existing empires—Neverfall Empire, Blue Dragon Empire, and Kushan Imperial.

Earth's surface area seems to be 500 million square kilometers, this continent's area is almost 3 billion square kilometers, equivalent to the combined surface area of six Earths.

It sounds unbelievable.

But that is indeed the case, the land is so vast that for the Sapphire Duchy, which is located in the northeastern corner of the continent, news from states on the other end of the continent relies not on rumors but legends—legends say that the emperor of the Neverfall Empire has been on the throne for two hundred years, legends say that in the Neverfall Empire there is a Windhowl Valley where storms rage year-round.

A continent of 3 billion square kilometers.

It took Liszt a long time to accept this fact.

However, based on his recent collection of data on day and night duration, seasonal changes, continental temperature variation, and more, there are even more incredible facts awaiting verification.

"If I haven't completely forgotten my high school geography knowledge, the information at hand suggests that this continent is just a small piece of land in the Northern Hemisphere, it hasn't even crossed the equator, nor has it approached the pole?"

Across the equator, the temperature of the continent would gradually decrease, but the hottest countries are at the southernmost tip of the continent, suggesting it hasn't crossed the equator.

Nearing the pole, not to mention the ice and snow, the sun should be hovering around the horizon, but now the sun is just slightly tilted above the head, which means it's still far from the pole.

"The position of the continent may even be between the tropical and temperate zones, not even entering the frigid zone... after all, the sun is always above the head, never very slanted."

He felt.

Based on Earth's geographic location, that would be roughly equivalent to the Southeast Asia region.

"So, if I'm living on a sphere, just how big is this sphere?" With his limited imagination, he was unable to unravel the complex equation of "given the surface area of a sphere, find its volume," so he couldn't compare it to Earth, "Is there another land beyond this continent?"

In the legends of the Duchy of Sapphire, beyond the Sea of Azure Waves lies the Devil's Sea, where devils roam.

Even Dragon Knights cannot cross the Devil's Sea, it seems that besides the continent, the rest of this world is an endless ocean. No one knows what lies beyond the sea, nor is anyone curious. The vast and boundless continent is enough to captivate the gaze of all nobles.

Liszt still remembered that when he once marveled at the endless wealth of the sea, Marcus was quite dismissive, only thinking of making a name for himself on the continent.

Looking back now, the difficulty of developing the sea is immense, let alone crossing the Devil's Sea, even navigating within the Sea of Azure Waves is fraught with danger at every moment.

Ghost Ship, Dulu Miqita...

He suddenly remembered again, "That's right, I almost forgot about "Philip, Descendant of the Sun's Diary", that descendant of the Child of the Sun who shares the same lineage as the old tanner, must have come from another continent, cast away to this place... So there must definitely be new continents, and with them, new 'human' civilizations."

That Drift Bottle, which stores a 36D Ghost for the sole purpose of communication, the craftsmanship in its making and the miraculous use of magic, all show that it comes from a highly developed magic society.

Thinking thus.

He pulled out the Drift Bottle from the Gemstone Space, feeling its special metallic texture and admiring its exquisitely carved patterns, which he had done countless times.

He had also speculated innumerable times, but in the end, he hadn't figured out anything.

"Maybe one day, the Smoke Mission will release another task related to the Child of the Sun, and then I'll be able to make use of this Drift Bottle. Speaking of which, I've collected so much of the old tanner's fresh blood over the past half a year, enough to open the Drift Bottle hundreds of times, right?"

Whenever he had some free time, he would ask the old tanner for some blood.

Then he would have Jessie send many tonics to the old tanner, fearing that he might die from excessive blood loss.

Perhaps it was because regular bleeding was beneficial to his health, or maybe the tonics had an effect, but the old tanner seemed to be getting younger as he lived. Liszt even heard Butler Carter mention that the old tanner had discussed with Jessie whether he should find a wife—maybe with some effort, he could even have a son.

Liszt did not interfere with this.

On the contrary, he hoped that the old tanner could find a wife, and better yet, produce offspring, so that he could collect more blood from the descendants of the Sun and open the Drift Bottle repeatedly.

After fiddling for a moment.

He put away the Drift Bottle.

Liszt casually took out a piece of rubber to study.

The rubber from the Rubber Tree; he planned to meticulously explore and figure out all of its properties. First was its hardness—the rubber, once set, was as hard as the marble used to build castles; second was its fire resistance—flame had no effect on it, it was completely fireproof like stone.

Water-resistant, it did not change when immersed in water and also reacted chemically with practically none of the liquids Liszt could find.

It had an extremely strong adhesive quality, but since it had already set by the time he brought it back, he could only determine that when it was stuck to wood, it was almost fused with the wood as one.

Yet it was very light, almost the same as plastic.

“Based on the data I have now, this variety of rubber could at least serve as an alternative to cement... but it’s completely unusable as cement, considering how little rubber a single Rubber Tree can produce!”

Chapter 288: Chapter 287: A Sudden Grapple and Slam (Second Update)

New models of rubber still required a lot of data analysis, and a method for collecting and preserving rubber also needed to be found.

Although he was a man of action, he was not impetuous, but rather he paid great attention to personal pleasure. Only after satisfying his personal enjoyment would he consider striving for improvement.

“Baron, your Retainer Knight Philip Wool has returned from Tulip Castle and brought back a message—Miss Li Vera has expressed her discontent with the Fresh Flower Soap you sent as a birthday gift,” Butler Carter reported in a serious manner.

Fresh Flower Soap had become Liszt’s standard gift.

He smiled slightly, “I am reminding her that personal hygiene is very important. Fresh Flower Soap is not cheap; she can easily wash with one and toss it away.”

The soap making workshop in Fresh Flower Town gradually expanded its scale, successfully crushing Baron Henderson’s soap business and forcing him to switch to supplying washing powder.

That is to say, Fresh Flower Soap had already taken over the Coral Island market.

Moreover, under the leadership of merchants Sherlock and Abagon, they cooperated with Tulip Castle and Beer Castle respectively, shipping far and wide to other islands, with the market expanding day by day. The exquisite Fresh Flower Soaps easily outcompeted the old-fashioned soaps, thus profits were continuously increasing.

Even in winter, when bathing was less frequent, a net profit of five Gold Coins per day was still achievable.

In the present situation, where the seafood business had completely slumped and Fresh Flower Brew had yet to hit the market, the castle was wholly reliant on the income from Fresh Flower Soap. As for the peanut processing workshop and the small town’s taxes, the revenue was minimal.

What surprised Liszt was that, even in the cold winter, the two public baths could bring in dozens of silver coins in revenue each day. Merchants from other places, as well as

nobles from North Valley City, would rather travel by carriage to Fresh Flower Town just for a hot bath.

Some people would stop over in Fresh Flower Town.

Because there were so many people stopping over, the commercial district specially allocated two two-story wooden houses in the name of castle-owned businesses—one to serve as a hotel, the other as a restaurant, and there were plans to open a pub as well.

The popularity of the small town was growing, which also began to thrive the businesses of the commoners.

Reynard's bakery could sell all kinds of bread every day; the Old Tanner from the Tanners' Shop hired four apprentices to help and pass on the craft; the general store was busy to the point where Harriet's family, including Maggie, had to help in sales. Even those selling eggs, vegetables, and wild fruits always managed to empty their baskets.

More and more merchant caravans came to do business in Fresh Flower Town, and the purses of the more than two thousand serfs in the territory were bulging, with their desire to spend growing.

Even the comedy troupe from North Valley City would often come to perform in Fresh Flower Town and receive quite a few tips.

At least when Liszt watched the performance, he would always toss up a few silver coins—he purely spent money to hire the comedy troupe for a performance to enrich the leisure life of the town's residents.

He even specifically ordered the square in the small town to have several gigantic snowmen built.

Those huge snowmen, as tall as a three-story wooden house, could be clearly seen from inside the castle, and the town's children loved to run around them.

The snowmen had a name, called Snow Treasure.

"What are you doing, Paris?" When Liszt walked out of the castle, he saw the female mercenary also building a snowman, seemingly trying to replicate the snowman in the town square.

"The castle is too monotonous; it should have a Snow Treasure."

"Have you completed your Serpent Script teaching lesson for today?"

“Today is Sunday, according to the rules you made, we can take a day off every Sunday,” Paris earnestly continued piling up the snowman, although it looked quite ugly.

“Since you’re idle with nothing to do, come and have a fight with me.”

“Can we not fight? Without transforming, I’m no match for you at all, Baron. It’s meaningless for you to fight with me,” Paris responded.

“That’s not appropriate to say. I’m now prepared to use a Fine Steel Longsword and not restrain your Light and Shadow Tug anymore, earnestly depending on basic strength to refine my combat prowess,” Liszt stated.

Paris stood up, “As you wish!”

In the open snowy field.

Liszt, holding a Fine Steel Longsword, didn’t use the Eye of Magic, and fought earnestly against Paris. The effect of Light and Shadow Tug was quite evident. Without the boost from the Crimson Blood Sword, he found himself floundering at times. But the benefit of long-term medicine use became apparent, even without the Crimson Blood Sword, he still had ample Dou Qi to rectify mistakes.

Clang!

The Fine Steel Longsword collided with Paris’s Greatsword, sparking flames.

The great strength bestowed upon Paris by the Black Dragon Childe was dissolved by Liszt’s Dou Qi, and this collision resulted in a draw. The subsequent clashes still did not determine who had the upper hand. Without using Dou Qi Secret Techniques and Gemstone Weapons, Liszt was on par with Paris, who did not transform, with their combat power being almost at the same level.

Liszt was panting heavily.

He was not so talented that he could rapidly break through in a single battle and defeat an opponent of the same level.

Paris across from him was also gasping for air, her full chest heaving, and her hands holding the greatsword began to tremble, “Again!”

Clang!

The Fine Steel Longsword clashed with the greatsword once more.

This time, Liszt’s hand holding the Fine Steel Longsword suddenly emitted a slight cracking sound, and in the next moment, half of the blade spun and flew away.

Paris raised her eyebrow upon seeing this and charged without hesitation.

She harbored the thought of seizing the moment to crush Liszt in one fell swoop.

“My sword is actually not as sturdy as Paris’s greatsword, this is bad!” Liszt thought anxiously, as he certainly did not want to lose to Paris.

In the recent live combat drills, he had been utterly dominating Paris and had grown accustomed to victory.

However, having been bullied for so long, Paris naturally knew that her chance was rare, and this was the moment to turn the tables on Liszt.

“Hyah!”

The greatsword whistled fiercely, forcing Liszt, who was holding onto half a broken sword, to continuously retreat. Facing such a dangerous situation, Liszt slowly calmed down, his mind cleared and he furiously thought about how to respond.

Suddenly!

He thought of a plan.

As Paris raised the greatsword once more, preparing to swing, he did not back down but moved forward, like a nimble leopard, rushing towards the wide-open Paris. His hands clasped around her waist and he forcefully executed a bear hug takedown. Knightly combat almost never saw such close-quarters fighting.

Paris was too slow to react, and Liszt managed to take the initiative and get close. By the time she thought to counterattack, she was already falling to the ground with Liszt.

Due to inertia, the two rolled like tumbling gourds.

To prevent Paris from retaliating, Liszt held on very tight, forcing Paris to be unable to twist her body, and her greatsword was thrown away as well.

After five or six rolls, they stopped.

The fight also came to a stalemate, with Liszt holding Paris, unable to attack further, and Paris unable to strike back, with neither side able to do anything to the other.

However.

Just as Liszt felt the body he was holding soften, he suddenly realized he was being pressed down by Paris. Her full chest was right against his head, a large area of roundness and elasticity pressing continuously against his face, almost suffocating him.



“You... can let go of me now.”

Paris’s voice was unusually soft.

Liszt, not the least bit embarrassed, maintained his original posture, “How about a draw?”

“Whatever you want.”

“Okay.”

He then let go.

Paris propped herself up with her arms and rolled off him.

The air became fresh again, and Liszt took deep breaths. Looking at the blushing Paris, who seemed to want to stand up but lacked the strength, he said, “If my Fine Steel Longsword hadn’t suddenly broken, this live duel would have ended in a more composed draw, with no need for such a disgraceful struggle.”

Chapter 289: Chapter 288: Douson’s New Magic (Third Update, 100k Recommendation Tickets Added)

Brushing the snow off his body, Liszt had recovered his usual elegance. Despite a lingering hint of having been suffocated on his face, his gaze was exceptionally clear.

A vigorous battle was enough to dispel the restlessness stemming from physiological urges.

He picked up the greatsword that Paris had dropped on the ground and found that, despite many collisions, the blade had not worn at all: “Your greatsword, the craftsmanship is exquisite. We’ve fought over a dozen times, and I’ve never seen it damaged; it must be more than just fine steel.”

Paris took back her greatsword, with traces of flush still on her beautiful face and the sound of her slightly panting breath exuding a uniquely feminine laziness.

Her eyes sparkled brightly: “This greatsword comes from the collection of a viscount in the Maple Leaf Duchy. I’m not sure about the level of its craftsmanship, but it caught my eye, so I took it.” After all, as a female thief, she spoke of pilfering as if it were only natural.

“Hmm.”

Liszt noticed the sweat on her face and that the thin undershirt inside her leather armor was also damp with sweat. So, he said, "The fight's over, go back and take a bath and change your clothes. Don't catch a cold in this weather... I need to change as well, let's go."

As soon as he had turned around, he heard Paris call out, "Baron."

"What is it?"

Liszt turned back to look at her.

Paris sheathed her greatsword behind her back and flashed a brilliant smile, her voice as sweet as syrup: "Thanks for your concern, you're a good person."

Pfft!

Liszt received his second 'nice guy' card.

Of course, these were real nice guy cards, representing a genuinely nice person. He waved his hand and, without looking back, walked away nonchalantly. He left Paris standing there, biting her lip, her eyes conveying an alluring gaze as she watched his figure for a while before following.

...

In the castle's bathhouse.

He was soaking in the indoor hot spring while casually calling forth the Smoke Mission.

He discovered that the Serpent Script transformed by the Smoke Serpent Script had changed: "Mission completed, a Rubber Tree Elf Bug is awarded."

The killer bees had flown away for good, the danger declared over.

Then.

Another transformation occurred, and a new mission appeared.

"Mission: Douson has been feeling itchy lately. It senses that its magic power is ready to burst forth and seeks release but doesn't know how to do so. Releasing Rock Spikes doesn't relieve the urge, and as its master, it's your duty to solve this problem for Douson. Reward: a new magic for Douson."

"Hm!"

Liszt's eyebrows twitched.

He instantly realized that Douson was beginning to comprehend a second kind of magic. The previous Rock Spikes, or Multiple Stone Spikes, could only be considered a single type of magic, just like the Purple Sand Crocodile that mastered Water Arrow Barrage would surely release the sole Water Arrow Spell as a precursor skill.

“Douson’s second magic, does it require my help? But I have no research on Earth System Magic... The handful of Earth System Magic spells that Elkerson sent could be used for reference, perhaps. Earth Wall? Rolling Rock? Earth Elevation Platform? Or the Rock Grenade I didn’t purchase?”

After bathing, he immediately pulled out the thick vellum where the spells of these Earth System Magic were recorded and memorized their theories in detail.

He prepared to assist Douson in verifying each one to determine which it would comprehend.

“If it’s an Earth Wall, have the serfs come and pile up some walls; if it’s Rolling Rock, have the serfs push stones to roll on the ground, or they could simply roll snowballs; if it’s Earth Elevation Platform, they can also pile up snow for Douson to grasp the concept.”

It was impossible for Douson to understand the principles behind spells; he could only follow its instincts and offer a spark of inspiration.

Having planned everything, he immediately sprang into action.

The simplest task was to roll a snowball, something even the servants in the castle could do—Tom, Thomas, Jessie, Parker, Jim, and John took turns pushing the snowball across the meadow, making it roll continuously.

Liszt led Douson, incessantly urging it to cast magic.

But no matter how grand the scene of rolling snowballs was, Douson could still only cast Rock Spike. After half an hour of back and forth effort, there was no sign of a new magic breakthrough.

“The plan failed, switch to the Earth Elevation Platform,” Liszt ordered his servants to start piling the snow to construct a series of platforms.

The Earth Elevation Platform magic involved using Earth System Magic Power to raise and lower the ground.

Whether it was because the imitation wasn’t accurate enough, or because this wasn’t the magic Douson was meant to comprehend, the servants, sweating profusely from the effort, watched as Douson continued to cast only Rock Spike.

“The plan failed again, switch to Earth Wall!”

Earth Wall and Earth Elevation Platform were similar in nature; they involved raising and lowering the ground to form a wall made half of rock and half of mud, capable of blocking some attacks. Casting this spell was quite a drain on one’s magic power, and compared to Rock Spike, significantly more challenging. Serfs toiled to dig several walls—still, it didn’t trigger any reaction from Douson.

A day went by, and Douson hadn’t comprehended anything.

On the second day, Liszt repeated the process, but Douson still had no breakthrough. Sometimes it seemed like Douson was on the verge of casting a new spell, but after struggling for a long time, it would still only produce a Rock Spike. Without inspiration, it always failed at the last hurdle.

Just as he pondered how to help Douson grasp a new magic,

Jela somehow got out. She didn’t continue soaking in the Sea Sprite Ake’s shell but instead started crying out “woo wa,” “woo wa,” picking up snow from the ground, forming it into small snowballs, and hurling them at Douson.

Feeling slighted by Liszt’s excessive closeness to Douson in the past two days, she was quite displeased.

So the snowballs served as her weapon of choice.

Douson was hit by the little snowballs but showed no reaction; it simply didn’t care about Jela’s feeble combat ability. It was precisely this disregard that suddenly enraged Jela. Forgetting Liszt’s ban, she raised her hand and scattered seeds, with thorns quickly sprouting among Douson’s fur.

In just a moment, they wrapped Douson into a bundle.

Liszt didn’t intervene; he felt somewhat frustrated by the notion of “sparing the rod, spoiling the child,” having taught Douson for three days without it grasping any magic. He found it foolish.

So the arrogant Jela started her onslaught, the rapidly growing thorns painfully pricking Douson, causing it to howl in pain. Expecting Liszt to help stop Jela, but seeing him unconcerned, Douson couldn’t endure any longer and leapt up in pursuit of her.

But Jela could fly, and however high it jumped, it couldn’t bite her.

Seeing there was no solution, Douson became extremely agitated, its dog eyes nearly bloodshot, Rock Spikes thrusting chaotically. Liszt thought the lesson was almost sufficient and was about to stop Jela from continuing her ravage.

Suddenly, Douson opened its dog mouth, and a surge of magic power shot out, condensing into a rock mass in the air and whistling straight toward Jela.

The triumphant Jela, terrified by the flying rock, shuddered violently and fell straight out of midair.

The rock grazed over its head and violently exploded mid-air, flinging stones and kicking up a spray of snowflakes. This was evidently a new spell... Douson had indeed cast a new magic; though it missed, it furiously lunged forward again, mouth open, ready to tear Jela apart on the ground.

“Stop, Douson!”

Liszt hurriedly commanded, for Jela was his treasure.

Deep-seated obedience halted Douson instantaneously, its gaze fixed on the Jela just an arm’s length away, growling fiercely.

Liszt quickly rushed over, picked up Jela, and assured himself that Jela wasn’t hurt before he breathed a sigh of relief, then turned to look at the still menacingly growling Douson.

He smiled.

Chapter 290: Chapter 0289: The Moving Grenade Launcher (Fourth Update, 10,000 Coins Reward Celebration 2/2)

On his palm.

“Wuu wah.” Jela whined pitifully, trying to gain Liszt’s sympathy.

But Liszt’s gaze was all on Douson, as he had a servant come over to help tear off the thorns from Douson’s body. His mood was quite uplifted; in the dangerous situation just moments ago, Douson had successfully released a brand new type of magic. It actually formed rocks in the air that could explode upon flying.

“Could this be the Rock Grenade that Mr. Elkeson possesses, which only a Grand Magician can master?”

Mr. Elkeson had the spell model for the Rock Grenade, but he himself could not cast spells, requiring the mental control of a Grand Magician to release magic of this level.

The new magic of Douson was very likely a more advanced type of magic.

“Woof woof!”

Douson barked at Liszt.

It was probably accusing Liszt of shielding the mischievous Thorn Minor Elf Jela, but Liszt wasn't going to punish Jela. Instead, he ordered Jela to immediately return to the Worm Room and not to come out. Then, he took out a few pieces of dried meat and tossed them to Douson as a comfort and reward for learning the new magic.

Once Douson finished the dried meat, he immediately gave the command, "Douson, cast the magic!"

Douson opened its mouth.

A Rock Spike burst out from the ground in the distance.

"Not that one—it's the new magic you just learned. Come on, aim here and release it!" Liszt pointed to mid-air.

Douson looked confused for a good while before spitting out magic power, whoosh, a rock about the size of a basin rapidly formed and exploded shortly after.

He had already sent for Mr. Elkeson.

"Mr. Elkeson, what do you think of the new magic Douson has mastered? Which Earth System magic is it?"

Elkeson exclaimed in surprise, "This is a Rock Grenade, a very powerful Earth System Magic. Douson truly deserves to have completed the bloodline metamorphosis of an Intermediate Magical Beast. It has successfully mastered the Rock Grenade that can only be learned by a Grand Magician! However, its Rock Grenade is a bit weak. I saw a Grand Magician cast it once; the rock formed was as big as a water jar."

'Weak' was probably because Douson was still unskilled.

Once it mastered it with skill, the Rock Grenade could be greatly improved.

Now, Douson finally had an attack that could target the sky; it would no longer be passively getting hit by the Sky Knights and could instead take the initiative to attack.

Just think—a briefly airborne Sky Knight jumps up to attack, and Douson fires directly. A few Rock Grenades could certainly repel the attack of the Sky Knights.

"Well done, Douson, starting today we have a new training program. Follow my command—Douson, Rock Grenade!"

Douson looked dumbfounded.

It took a long time before it spit out a Rock Grenade.

It had yet to form a conditioned reflex to the command for the Rock Grenade; that would take time.

But, regardless, Douson now truly had the fighting power of an Intermediate Magical Beast and could contend with the Sky Knights.

Riding on Douson, Liszt was spirited, his heart filled with boundless pride, “Now I can strut around on Coral Island; surely no one will raise objections.”

He even thought.

With the combat power of Douson and the potential future of the eight Little Blizzard Beasts, why would he need a Knight Squad? He could directly lead an army of Blizzard Beasts into battle—of course, the lands couldn’t do without the support of the Knight Class, after all, Blizzard Beasts had huge appetites, and without the development of the lands, they couldn’t be sustained.

Just the feeding and drinking for nine Blizzard Beasts cost over a hundred Gold Coins a month.

“Besides, on the battlefield, a Knight Squad would also be needed to take care of the Blizzard Beasts, guiding them to participate in the battles. Relying solely on my command, the scene would look very ugly... However, I should probably be able to join the Earl in battle with this year’s Pioneer Mandate,” he contemplated.

The desire to achieve merits was already stirring within him.

Black Dragon Childe Paris provided close protection while Douson was the main damage dealer, and with the assistance of a Knight Squad on the side, as well as the care of the Earl and Levis, who incidentally took over the logistical defense work, they should be able to earn enough merits with minimal risk.

Bit by bit, by the age of twenty,

he should be able to rely on his military achievements to be granted the title of Viscount and turn Black Horse Island into his own fiefdom.

With his own island and the help of Smoke Mission, combined with the knowledge and vision of a transmigrator, he couldn’t say how brilliant the future would be, but he was sure to ride a dragon!

...

“Task completed, reward: new magic for Douson – Rock Grenade.”

“Task: Carpenter Karasko has fallen deep in thought. He has helped the Brewing Workshop make many novel wooden tools, which have brought him too much inspiration, and made him realize that he does not enjoy making tables and chairs every day; he yearns to create, please give him some guidance. Reward: Mutation of the Rubber Tree Elf Bug.”

Teach Douson the new magic.

The task was immediately completed.

But the newly released task surprised Liszt, “Does Carpenter Karasko aspire to be a Lu Ban? I’ll give him a few creative ideas later; I can’t do the Wooden Ox or Zhuge Repeating Crossbow, but I can still suggest rocking chairs, drawers, unicycles, and curved ploughs... but what does the mutation of the Rubber Tree Elf Bug mean?”

A direct mutation into a Minor Elf?

Liszt felt it was unlikely; he had never heard of a plant directly giving birth to a Minor Elf.

But apart from mutating into a Minor Elf directly, what other kinds of mutations could there be? He pondered for a long time without any clues and decided not to think about it anymore.

Complete the task first.

“Karasko, right? I admire craftsmen with creativity the most,” Liszt immediately ordered someone to look up information on Carpenter Karasko and quickly received feedback.

Karasko was a serf bought from the Eagle Kingdom, currently working in the Carpenter’s Shop.

He was not an exceptionally skilled craftsman and was considered an “oddity” in the Carpenter’s Shop. Other carpenters would take care of their own lives after work, but he had almost no life outside of work, spending all day staring blankly at wood. Sometimes he would even pick up wood and randomly craft strange things.

For this, the town officials would scold him whenever they inspected the Carpenter’s Shop.

“It seems that the limitations of the era have confined his thoughts, not giving him a proper environment to let his imagination fly,” Liszt thought to himself.

He quickly took his Retainer Knights and hurried to the Carpenter’s Shop, wanting to personally inspect Karasko’s carpentry work.

Inside the Carpenter’s Shop, sawdust was flying everywhere.



After the serfs gave their respects and were scolded by the Steward to continue their work, Liszt went straight to Karasko: "Where are your woodworking creations that you've done in your spare time? Show them to me."

"L-Lord Landlord..." Karasko was half nervous and half not fluent in the language, stuttering through some Serpent Script.

"Don't be nervous, Karasko," Liszt said gently.

In the town, he always presented himself as noble, gentle, and merciful. Those roles of playing the bad guy were left to other officials.

Feeling the kindness of Lord Landlord, Karasko finally relaxed and laid out his spare time woodworking creations one by one.

Stools with five legs, chairs with backs on all sides, tables with triangular tops... The only thing that remotely looked decent were several teacups shaped like sea bowls.

This wasn't creativity; it was a missing screw in the brain.

Liszt finally understood why the inspecting officials scolded Karasko; if not for the Smoke Mission, he too would have started scolding. How did he come up with chairs with backs on all sides? How was anyone supposed to sit in them, as a baby crib? A triangular tabletop, surely not afraid of someone being impaled?

But since there was the Smoke Mission,

he encouraged him with a smile, "Karasko, I can see you have lots of ideas."