

The Mighty Dragons Are Dead

Chapter 371 : 0380: The Clash of the Knight Torrent (Second Update)

Nameless Castle, located on a hillside surrounding Mane City, was at some distance from the city. According to Baron Moray's plan, if they could quietly gather inside the city during the Black Knight Order's attack on Nameless Castle and then charge with all their might in a concerted effort with the castle's defenses,

perhaps there really was a chance to break through the Black Knight Order.

The reason knights were so powerful lay in the fact that when they charged, all the knights' Dou Qi would merge into a single force, releasing a tremendous power of attack.

It was almost invincible.

This was why knights could rule the world.

Of course, with Douson as his reliance, Liszt wasn't worried in the least about Baron Moray's stealth attack plan—because perhaps before they even finished gathering, Douson, who was capable of instant cast magic, might have already taken down Nameless Castle.

However,

now that Paris had discovered the enemy's plan, Liszt quickly decided to turn the tables. He feigned an attack on the castle but was actually using a telescope to observe Baron Moray's stealth attack in advance. Taking advantage of the moment before the enemy could launch their charge, the Black Knight Order would make the first move.

Face the battle head-on, sharpening sword blades!

Pursue the maximum casualty!

To prevent any knights from taking the chance to flee, they might have to pursue and kill.

...

The night passed in peace, and the knights on watch detected no nocturnal attack from the enemy.

By the next day before dawn, fires were lit for cooking, and as the sky showed the first light of dawn, the Black Knight Order had already finished gathering. Liszt, clad in fine steel armor, drew the Crimson Blood Sword, and pointed to the sky, "Let's go!"

A rumble!

The horses, adorned in armor and carrying knights, surged like a flood of tanks.

They raced towards Nameless Castle, crushing the earth beneath them and kicking up billowing clouds of dust that blotted out the sun. Such a commotion was naturally discovered by the time they approached the hillside.

Through the telescope, Liszt also saw the reaction of Nameless Castle—closing the gates, shuttering windows, and the knights in armor becoming archers, standing behind the crenelations of the castle, aiming at the Black Knight Order.

This was a stance for a staunch defense.

With the defensive advantage of the castle, it was very difficult for knights without siege equipment to quickly take down a castle, even a nameless one.

However, after activating his Eye of Magic, Liszt clearly saw that the magic power in these archers was faint; they were not Earth Knights after all.

Just a group of Apprentice Knights.

"The Elite Earth Knights aren't defending, but instead letting Apprentice Knights hold the defense. Arrows without Dou Qi attachments are no threat to Earth Knights... It looks like Baron Moray intends to deceive me, and he himself is quite decisive and has already begun to gather from underground passages for a stealth attack against me, huh?"

Liszt was a bit surprised; he had expected the other side to at least resist for a while, to gauge the difference in combat strength, and to pretend to defend for some time, repulse a few attacks, and then arrange a stealth attack.

Looking at the situation now, the other side had no plans of this sort and had directly initiated a stealth attack: "If it were an average person, they might indeed be caught off guard."

After all, who would have thought that the attack would start without even a probe.

Unfortunately for them, Liszt was no average person, and he immediately issued a command, "Archers, fire a feint attack!"

The knights proficient in archery immediately stepped forward, and under the leadership of Captain Layden, began a suppressive shooting around the castle. Earth Knights could now attach Dou Qi to their arrows, making them quite potent, at least chipping off a large chunk of stone with each hit at the castle. However, since it was just a feint, the speed, strength, and frequency of their shots were low.

On the battlements of Nameless Castle, the Apprentice Knight archers were quietly retaliating with even less force, posing no threat.

Liszt sat astride his Li Dragon Horse, quietly enjoying this pretense of an attack and defense, watching the arrows hit the outer walls of the castle, shattering stone after stone, and felt particularly at ease.

Douson was panting.

Stimulated by the scene of battle or not, it let out a couple of noises towards Liszt.

Liszt patted its large head, "Easy, Douson, no rush tearing down the castle." On the other side.

Marcus had been holding the telescope, observing every move within Mane City. Thanks to Paris providing the direction at the end of the passage, he was able to easily monitor the movements inside Mane City.

"My lord, I've spotted knights gathering inside Mane City!"

"Keep me updated on the movements of Mane City," Liszt instructed before turning to address the other Knight Squad captains, "Maintain formation, and be ready to charge at any moment!"

"Yes, my lord!"

Liszt wasn't kept waiting.

Moments later, Marcus exclaimed, "My lord, knights are charging out from Mane City, heading straight toward us—nearly a hundred of them!"

A hundred knights, that was almost all of the Earth Knights from the Nameless Castle.

Liszt instantly raised his Knight's Spear, crying out, "All troops, attack! Follow me in the charge!" No need for further words, the Black Knight Order, already in formation, roared down the hillside.

He himself was also in the charging ranks of the knights. According to the original plan, he did not intend to join the charge but only to command Douson to support the knightly force, using Douson's magic to hinder the opponents. However, the atmosphere of the battlefield affected his mood at that moment.

Fired up, he joined the charge of the Knight Order along with Douson.

When a warhorse surged forward at a speed of sixty kilometers per hour, one's body rose and fell on horseback, and their Dou Qi circulated as swiftly as blood. The Knight's Spear clutched in his hand had become an extension of his body, and Liszt unleashed the ferocious Dou Qi of an Elite Earth Knight.

The Black Knight Order charged down from the hillside just as the attacking Knight Legion was also beginning their charge.

The ones caught off guard were no longer the ambushed Black Knight Order but the counter-ambushed knights of Mane City. Nevertheless, the charge had commenced; nobody could stop, and the expressions under their visors remained unseen. Two torrents racing at high speed were about to collide.

Countless glows of Dou Qi burst forth, mingling and entwining, converging into one force that drew all knights in, fusing into a single entity.

Within this entity, Liszt became an arrowhead, his wild Fire Attribute Dou Qi spreading all around him as if he bathed in flames.

Surrounded by the flames, he still retained a clear mind, cautiously judging the distance at which the two Knight Orders would soon collide.

Once the opponents entered that range.

He suddenly bellowed, "Douson, Multiple Stone Spikes! Don't stop!"

Sputter!

Sputter!

Sputter!

Douson opened his mouth and spat continuous magic, countless Rock Spikes, as if guided by sight, bursting forth precisely from below each knight.

Evading a lone Rock Spike might not be difficult for a prepared Earth Knight on flat ground, but this was during a charge.

"Ahh!"

"Ahh!"

Immediately, several fast-charging knights, with their warhorses impaled by the Rock Spikes piercing through, took a heavy fall. The knights following closely behind, unable to dodge in the blink of an eye, could only trample over their fallen comrades to continue the charge.

The relentless barrage of Rock Spikes, causing only minor damage, significantly disrupted the charging formation of the Knight Legion.

Without giving them any chance to realign, the Black Knight Order, led by Liszt, charged fiercely.

His Knight's Spear, filled with raging Fire Attribute Dou Qi, thrust harshly, and an Earth Knight who was too slow to dodge, before he could even raise his shield, was brutally pierced in the chest by Liszt.

The Fine Steel Armor only slowed the strike for a fraction of a second before being instantly penetrated. The long spear brutally skewered the knight's body, lifting him into the air and hurling him away.

A mere flick.

And Liszt had claimed the first head on the battlefield.

Chapter 372 : 0369: Raising the White Flag (Third Update, 10,000 Coins Reward Celebration 3/5)

First kill!

No rewards.

The Li Dragon Horse leapt high, jumping over the enemy horse that had fallen to the ground and charged towards another warhorse. Carried by his Dou Qi, Liszt struck and killed instantly. His spear, not breaking, continued to thrust towards another Earth Knight.

This Earth Knight seemed to have quick reflexes, forcibly twisting his body to dodge the spear and avoiding being impaled. He was merely grazed by the shaft of the spear and fell from his horse. But dead or fallen, the result was the same, and there was no need for Liszt to switch to the Crimson Blood Sword for the coup de grace.

Douson had already charged over and crushed the Earth Knight's head with his paw.

Douson, being an Intermediate Magical Beast, now weighed over two tons. The force of his dog paw was comparable to a millstone, crushing everything including the helmet into pieces.

Liszt did not concern himself with the knight whose head had been crushed by Douson; he continued his charge while simultaneously scanning his surroundings with his peripheral vision.

The Black Knight Order had caught the Mane City Knight Legion completely off guard, and the chaos wrought by Douson's magic only plunged them further into disarray, allowing the Black Knight Order to complete their encirclement. Countless Knight's Spears thrust into the panicked enemy ranks.

The flustered Mane City Knight Legion not only trampled their own men but failed to demonstrate their charge's strength as well. Their collective Dou Qi had already dispersed in the mayhem, each fighting for their own.

So their Knight's Spears failed to impale even a single knight from the Black Knight Order.

The situation was one-sided.

Filled with pride, Liszt searched for a third Earth Knight to assassinate. With the support of Douson and the Rock Spikes constantly disrupting the enemy formation, he faced no real resistance. Moreover, he was an Elite Earth Knight enhanced by potions, his body surging with Dou Qi, frequently unleashing "Flaming Wave".

In just a brief encounter, a third of their hundred-strong knight legion had fallen.

At this time, the Divine Archers besieging Nameless Castle also joined in, shooting arrows from the periphery of the charging knights. Their accurate arrows continually reaped lives.

Douson.

Archers.

Charging knights.

Under this triple assault, the Mane City Knight Legion was instantly on the brink of annihilation, unable to even flee. They were relentlessly charged by the Black Knight Order, who after impaling their foes, immediately wheeled their horses around for a second charge, followed by a third. They reaped heads as though cutting down wheat.

Liszt was the wildest of the group, as he remembered he still had a Smoke Mission to complete—to personally slay an enemy of the same rank, an Elite Earth Knight.

He wasn't certain if the first one he killed was an Elite Earth Knight, so he had to act fast to kill more Earth Knights.

He was bound to encounter an Elite Earth Knight eventually.

Reaping wildly, after his Knight's Spear broke from consecutive kills, he immediately switched to the Crimson Blood Sword and killed another. After three charges, he found no more enemies around him. Unsatisfied, he drew his bow from behind and began to reap the fallen, not yet dead Earth Knights on the ground, and indeed he collected a few more heads.

At this moment.

There were no standing knights left from Mane City on the battlefield, and the Black Knight Order continued their charges, completing a spectacular massacre—Douson's contribution was indispensable. His formidable Intermediate Magical Beast combat strength was fully displayed, especially in his effective disruption of the enemy's charging formation.

Compared to human magicians who need time to prepare their spells, magical beasts release magic instantly with a mere breath.

After all, a significant portion of a magical beast's source of magic power comes from within itself, whereas magicians must gather it from the air. The speed of their spellcasting is not on the same level. Even a Grand Magician well-versed in Earth System magic would struggle to disrupt a charging formation so smoothly.

"I surrender!"

A Earth Knight lying in a pool of his own blood on the ground began to wail in pain.

Because he realized that Liszt had already aimed his bow at him—under normal circumstances, knights can choose to surrender and then let their family or landlord pay for their ransom. If no one redeems them, they become serfs, working for the person who captured them to repay the debt.

Nobles adhere to this rule; they rarely kill captives, as ransoming captives requires a large sum of money, which is more profitable than killing.

However.

Liszt's arrows still pierced through the throat beneath the knight's helmet, because the Grand Duke's fury was fierce, and he directly commanded that there be no captives, that the traitors be unforgiven—the most crucial point was that these knights were not Expedition Knights; once captured, their lands and wealth would be taken by the Grand Duke.

There simply was no money for their redemption.

"Huff."

Confirming that there were no living knights left, Liszt finally put down the bow and arrows in his hands, his gaze coldly sweeping over the blood-soaked battlefield.

A full hundred or more Earth Knights lay in pools of blood.

The wails of horses and the stench of blood in the air intertwined, painting the brutality of war.

It was Liszt's first charge, his first kill, his first victory; he didn't know what he was feeling inside. Raised under the red flag, he had never killed a man, let alone a chicken. But after crossing into this world, since his first hunt of a Magical Beast, he finally began to hunt his own kind.

As the adrenaline slowly faded, he felt the urge to vomit.

But he knew he could not vomit, as his image of bravely killing the enemy would instantly collapse; as a noble, as a knight, his display of being fearless in combat could not falter.

"Commander, all enemy knights have been slain!" Captain Layden rode over on horseback, his body smeared with plenty of blood, but none of it was his own.

"What are our casualties?"

"No one is dead, only two knights are severely injured and have lost their ability to fight."

"Leave the severely injured knights in the care of the retainers, send out two squads of knights to guard the tunnels exit in Mane City!" Liszt, resisting the urge to vomit, commanded coldly, "Everyone else, follow me to lay siege to the castle!"

The Li Dragon Horse began to gallop once more, the sun blazing down, the warm wind blowing on his face, allowing him a slight escape from the effects of killing.

He needed a release!

Perhaps because his attention had been redirected back to the war, he no longer thought about the human limbs on the ground, or the blood of his own kind on his hands; he just wanted to take down Nameless Castle—in fact, ever since he had killed a rat, he had completely immersed himself in the moral dilemmas of this world.

War, it was the destiny of a knight!

Blood, it was the noble's wine!

...

Seeing the Knight Legion of Mane City wiped out in their failed sneak attack, the defenders of Nameless Castle were completely panicked, with only a few dozen Earth Knights daring to show their heads.

However, just when Liszt, with Douson in tow, was about to dismantle Nameless Castle, a window of the castle opened, and a white flag was extended outwards.

White stood for purity, purity meant having nothing, having nothing signified a total loss, a total loss... and thus, surrender.

This was the flag of surrender.

Soon, the castle gate opened, and the knights, having taken off their armor, walked out dejectedly, one of them shouting, "Howard Woodstick, representing all the nobles of Mane City, surrenders to the noble conqueror!" Then, the group of knights knelt on one knee, indicating their submission.

This left Liszt, who was ready to vent his frustration by demolishing the building, momentarily stunned.

According to the Grand Duke's orders, no captives were to be accepted, so he killed every enemy knight with a coup de grâce after the charge. But those knights who came out to surrender, unarmed and unarmored, put him in a difficult position.

To kill?

Or not to kill?

Chapter 373 : 0370: Dividing the Spoils of War (First Update)

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Seeing Liszt seemed hesitant, Captain Layden approached and reminded in a low voice, "Commander, the Grand Duke's order is to accept no captives."

As long as the Grand Duke's dragon was not dead, he remained the sole authority of the Duchy of Sapphire.

Liszt, of course, would not have a "conscience" attack and release these men. From the very moment they resolved to resist, it became an outcome of life or death—traitors are unforgivable. It was their fault for following the wrong landlord and for failing to turn back in time.

His gaze swept over the group of people kneeling on one knee.

He spoke slowly, "Captain Layden, give each of them a chance to write a final letter, surrender the Elf Bug, and then let them end their own lives. Cobalt, Nash, take control of the castle, clear any threats, and we will rest here for a day. Marcus, you lead the Knight Squad to patrol the surroundings with me."

He no longer concerned himself with the fate of these surrendering knights and how they would end their own lives.

Liszt headed straight for the barley fields on the other side of the castle. According to the rat's intel, an Elf Bug was gestating in the barley field—he planned to secretly contract this Elf Bug as his personal spoils of war. Since no one else knew about this Elf Bug, swallowing it posed no problem.

The barley field was easy to find. Casting the Eye of Magic and scanning the area, he quickly found the Cordyceps being protected within.

Within the huge barley ears, Magic Radiance abounded. The Barley Bug had not yet been born, but it should be soon, probably within the next day or two.

Finding the Elf Bug but unable to take it away immediately was frustrating for Liszt.

He was also eager to get to Bull Hair City to meet up with the Earl, to jointly raid Count Sned's Knight Order, and to seize glory. There was no time to linger here.

However, since he was not planning to leave today, it was still possible to wait.

He thought, "If by tomorrow morning, the Barley Bug has matured, I will contract it immediately; if it has not by then... then I will leave Marcus to station here temporarily to care for the wounded until the Barley Bug matures, then dig up the Cordyceps and bring it with us."

Digging up the Cordyceps would be troublesome and might harm the Cordyceps itself. The best approach would be to award it to a subordinate for contracting, and then have the Elf Bug relocate the Cordyceps itself.

Elf Bugs could be given as rewards to followers.

But typically, no landlord wanted to do this.

Because Elf Bugs only have two chances for contracting. After a landlord has contracted once and then released it, the Elf Bug could only be contracted one more time, which would significantly decrease its value.

The Elf Bugs sold in the market are all wild ones that have not been contracted before.

This Barley Bug clearly met the criteria for an award—but Liszt was not willing to award it to a subordinate. He would rather give his subordinates a large amount of Gold Coins to buy an Elf Bug than let go of one he had encountered himself.

"Philip, you lead two retainers to keep watch here, and pay close attention to the birth of the Barley Bug."

"Yes, my lord."

Having inspected the Cordyceps, Liszt quickly led the Knight Squad back to the castle, which by then had already been adorned with the Black Tulip Banner.

Captain Layden greeted him, "Commander, all knights from Mane City have committed suicide. A batch of civilians from Mane City have come to drag the bodies away for burial. We've started tallying the castle's stores; there's plenty of food and water, but no Elf Bug."

"No?"

"Yes, these knights had received word in advance and transferred the Elf Bugs to their own wives and children early on. And their wives and children—we did not inquire, as the Elf Bugs can no longer be contracted a third time."

Liszt nodded.

These knights had obviously prepared early. It's unclear how many promises the Marquis of Bull had made to persuade them to take the risk of opposing the Duchy of Sapphire and die defending Iron Hoof Island. Normally, other than the die-hard followers of the Marquis of Bull, the nobles should have surrendered early and welcomed the royal forces.

...

After all, the Grand Duke has a dragon.

Perhaps, just as the rat's message indicated, significant landlords like Count Sned had their offspring by Marquis of Bull's side; their wealth was likely already transferred to Iron Hoof City. They could only pledge allegiance and dared not betray the Marquis of Bull—betrayal would leave them with nothing.

One could only pin their hopes on an unending stream of glory after "the matter" was accomplished.

Liszt didn't know how these knights thought, nor did he want to. He came here for the sole purpose of achieving merits. Landlords like Count Sned's determined resistance provided an excellent opportunity to vie for glory.

He had already dispatched two Earth Knights at breakneck pace to Bull Hair City, to report to Earl Li Weiliam the intelligence he had gathered—that magicians were secretly communicating with Count Sned, discussing a significant matter, and promising Count Sned's promotion to Marquis after its successful conclusion.

As for what this grand matter was, that was still unclear.

He would let the Earl worry about that.

Walking into the Nameless Castle with Captain Layden, he was immediately assaulted by a mix of excrement and urine, making him feel nauseated. The castle must have housed too many people, resulting in the unbearable stench. It was like a massive castle-sized toilet.

"Have someone immediately clean the third floor where I'll be staying!"

...

The third floor was continuously washed with water to cleanse the filth from the corridors and rooms.

While the faint odor couldn't be dispelled completely, it was tolerable enough to reside in questionably, and Liszt sat behind a desk that once belonged to some noble.

He listened to reports about the spoils of war from Captain Layden and others.

As a small city, Mane City did not boast a vast treasure, especially since the elves had long been moved away. After some consideration, he issued an order, "Divide the gold coins equally; remember, let every knight keep their own mouth shut and hide their share of the gold coins well."

This act of privately dividing the spoils of war was in defiance of the Grand Duke's orders.

However, Earl Li Weiliam had previously mentioned that the plundering of spoils should be "restrained," but it wasn't strictly forbidden—such actions couldn't be stopped. Why would knights exert themselves in a war without benefits? After all, they were responsible for their own equipment, logistics, including their own lives.

Nobody would believe that after handing over the spoils to the Grand Duke, they would get their fair share—the Grand Duke was sure to favor the Blue Blood Alliance.

Captain Layden replied with a smile, "Sir Commander, all knights understand; when they benefit, they'll keep their mouths tightly shut."

Liszt nodded, "Replace the weapons we lost from Mane City's stores, and replenish our food supplies from here... Oh, and call Marcus for me."

Marcus arrived promptly.

Liszt gestured for him to close the door before he spoke, "Teacher Marcus, I have a task for you. Go to Mane City and search for craftsmen. Ordinary craftsmen aside, we must find craftsmen of high calibre, especially those not available in Fresh Flower Town, such as Paper Craftsmen, Salt Makers, and the like."

Marcus asked, "Sir, can we take these craftsmen with us?"

"Tell them, once Iron Hoof Island falls, everyone will bear the Grand Duke's wrath for their treachery. Fresh Flower Town, however, can offer them better sanctuary... And as for taking them away, with the sea so vast, we'll always be able to get them on a ship."

Taking a large amount of goods off the island without going through a port was challenging.

But taking away a few craftsmen, including their families, wasn't very difficult.

Marcus accepted the task, "As you wish!"

Chapter 374 : 0371: Little Minor Elf Swift Shadow Bow (Second Update)

Sitting in the study and looking out to the environment different from Fresh Flower Town, Liszt again found himself entwined in a moment of repulsion at the idea of "killing."

In the end, he used his reason to overcome his chaotic emotions, focused his mind, and summoned the Smoke Mission.

"The task: for completing the mission, you will be rewarded with a Low-Level Dragon Beast Landwalker Bird."

Clearly.

Among the Earth Knights that Liszt had killed, there was an Elite Earth Knight, so the task was deemed complete. However, he was a bit puzzled, "What is a Landwalker Bird? It feels like it's some low-level dragon beast similar to an ostrich?"

Whether it was like an ostrich or not.

A Low-Level Dragon Beast was a highly valuable prize, "I wonder how this Landwalker Bird will become my reward."

He only planned to stay in this castle for one day.

However, after a search of the surroundings, there was no trace of the Landwalker Bird to be found, but Liszt was not in a hurry. As long as it was a reward from a Smoke Mission, the right opportunity would always appear to tug at the Threads of Destiny and intersect with the Landwalker Bird. He began checking the new tasks, and his eyes lit up after reading the content.

"Task: The first battle is won, the loser will pay with everything, and the victor will take it all. Complete a thorough search of the castle in front of you, and all that is obtained will belong to the spoils of war, including the treasures in the underground vault. Reward: a Little Elf Soldier."

"A Little Elf Soldier?"

This was a weapon whose name sounded interesting but was actually very cruel in practice, as it required the killing of a minor elf and soaking in its blood to create a Little Elf Soldier. After absorbing the Magic Power in the elf blood, the Little Elf Soldier would undergo special property changes.

In terms of value, a Little Elf Soldier might sell for 1 Dragon Coin, which is tens of thousands of Gold Coins.

But the act of turning an elf, such a beautiful creature, into a weapon was extremely cruel.

Liszt would never do such a thing, but he wouldn't give up on a Little Elf Soldier that had already been made, "Scouring the castle, the spoils of war are not all mine; they must be stored and handed over to the Grand Duke... It doesn't hinder me from taking away the most valuable things. It seems that the Little Elf Soldier is in the underground vault."

He immediately called Captain Layden, "Did you find an underground vault while you were cataloging the castle?"

Captain Layden shook his head, "We only found a storage room filled with flour and jerky; we didn't find any underground vault."

"I suspect there is an underground vault in this castle; have your men search carefully and notify me immediately upon finding it." Having subordinates to direct, Liszt didn't need to search on his own.

Soon.

Captain Layden excitedly reported back, "Commander, your guess was incredibly accurate. We indeed found the underground vault!"

The vault was right next to the entrance of the underground passage, disguised as a wooden wall. However, once the wooden wall was dismantled,

behind it was a sturdy stone door with a special secret lock, and the knights were looking for the key.

"Sir, we haven't found the key yet."

"No need to search anymore, break it open!" Liszt doubted if these knights had brains at all. They were all Earth Knights with Dou Qi, and it wasn't their own castle to worry about, so they should just forcefully dismantle it.

With Liszt's reminder, two Earth Knights immediately brought several broken Knight Spears, infused them with Dou Qi, and began frantically dismantling the stone door. Even the most robust stone door would crumble under the relentless assault of Earth Knights. A dark passage leading deep underground was quickly revealed.

Liszt had someone bring torches and shone them down the passage, where rough stone walls were visible all around.

There didn't seem to be any signs of traps, and with the castle's rough construction work, it didn't look likely to have any. An Earth Knight was sent in as the vanguard, with Liszt closely following.

The passage turned out to be much shorter than expected; after turning a corner, they arrived directly at the underground vault, which wasn't very large—just a small storage room.

On the walls of the storage room, several rows of holes had been chiseled out, holding eight wooden chests.

"Open a chest and take a look," Liszt commanded.

An Earth Knight promptly pulled out a wooden chest, smashed the lock with a Knight Spear, and lifted the lid. Instantly, silver coins glittered dazzlingly under the torchlight—one after another—a chest full of silver coins appeared. Judging by the number, there were at least a few thousand silver coins.

Equivalent to several dozen Gold Coins.

"Storing silver coins in chests?" Liszt was somewhat speechless. Normally, chests hidden in secret rooms should contain gold.

However, the Earth Knight was very excited, "Commander, can we divide up these silver coins?"

"As long as you can carry them away, I don't mind if you divide them up."

"Thank you, Captain, for your generosity. It's truly admirable," the Earth Knight wished he could immediately grab a handful of silver coins and stuff them into his clothes.

But he restrained himself, pulled out the second chest, and opened it again.

It was still a chest full of silver coins.

Four chests in a row, all filled with silver coins, it was unclear what sickness afflicted the castle's owner that they didn't exchange them for gold coins, which might not have even filled half a chest. Instead, they used silver coins to fill four chests. If it had been gold coins, each knight could easily walk away with a few and be done.

Now, they had to fill their pouches with silver coins to be able to carry them away.

There were four chests left on the wall.

They didn't contain silver coins, nor gold coins, nor copper coins, but armors.

"Captain, this set of armor is very light, it must not be ordinary fine steel armor!" The Earth Knight passed the armor to Liszt.

Liszt felt it, the armor indeed was very light and thin, yet its hardness was not at all inferior to the fine steel armor he wore.

This made his eyes twinkle: "It's Mithril Armor!"

"Congratulations, Captain!" The Earth Knight immediately started flattering. Without a doubt, as they had divided the gold and silver coins, Liszt should receive the better spoils of war, and this set of Mithril Armor was definitely not bad.

Out of the four chests, there were three sets of Mithril Armor.

Liszt was very satisfied. One set of Mithril Armor was worth at least the equivalent of seven or eight sets of fine steel armor, which he unhesitatingly accepted with a smile.

The last chest.

It only contained one bow, with emerald green limbs and silver-white strings, clearly in the style of the popular cavalry straight pull bow from the Duchy of Sapphire—somewhat similar to the English Longbow.

The length was about one meter one, and the limbs' arc wasn't very large; it didn't have the curved ends of a recurve bow.

Strictly speaking, this kind of straight pull bow was not exactly Liszt's favorite; he knew that the development of bows would eventually yield to recurve and compound bows. But the straight pull bow was simpler to construct and less likely to lose its internal stress, making it easier to maintain and tame.

Picking up the longbow, he pulled the strings, which were very stiff.

Without using Dou Qi, Liszt could hardly pull it, but he quickly circulated the Dou Qi within his body, drew the longbow open, and then released it.

"Twang!"

The power that the strings and limbs generated upon returning to their original state could be felt through the vibration of the air.

"A very strong bow!" After trying it, he felt that he should discard his old hardwood cavalry bow, as this emerald green longbow was worthy of his superb archery skills.

Moreover, he had already guessed that this longbow was the Little Minor Elf awarded for completing the Smoke Mission.

Holding the bow, he said, "This bow and these three sets of Mithril Armor belong to me, the silver coins are yours to divide."

"Yes, sir!"

...

Back in the study, he carefully examined the emerald green longbow in his hand and discovered that there was fine Serpent Script carved into the limbs, which he inspected under the light from the window.

The Serpent Script was clearly written as "Little Minor Elf · Swift Shadow Bow"—this was the standard naming convention for Little Elf Soldiers, "Little Minor Elf" indicated it was soaked in the blood of Little Elf Soldiers, "Swift Shadow Bow" was its true name.

He took out an arrow.

Circulating his Dou Qi, he drew the Swift Shadow Bow. Liszt didn't use "Multi-Arrow", relying only on the bow's innate power, he released the string.

Whoosh!

The sound of cleaving air rose.

The arrow shot forth like a ray of light, instantly hitting a large tree not far from the castle, with the shaft burying itself in the trunk.

With a smile at the corners of his mouth, Liszt was satisfied with the power of the bow and arrow: "Worthy of being called the Swift Shadow Bow, the speed

of drawing the bow could be called swift, and the speed of the arrow could be described as a shadow. This is probably the special property change it obtained from the magic power in the Little Minor Elf's blood... This Little Elf Soldier is more precious than my Crimson Blood Sword!"

Chapter 375 : 0372: The Armor is a Bit Tight Around the Chest (Third Update, 10,000 Coins Reward Celebration 4/5)

Liszt decided to replace his hardwood cavalry bow with the Swift Shadow Bow, but for a short while, he still needed to bring along the cavalry bow, since he needed time to familiarize himself with the effects of the Swift Shadow Bow.

The characteristic change of this Little Elf Soldier's bow is summed up in one word—speed.

Fast shooting speed, fast arrow speed, so his mastery of "Double Heavy Arrow" had to be realized through the Swift Shadow Bow, which required numerous practices.

He immediately started to try on the three sets of mithril armor.

Picking out a set that fit relatively well, he replaced his fine steel armor with it.

As for the other two sets, he gave the larger set directly to Marcus. As his knight instructor, Liszt naturally showed favoritism toward him. Overwhelmed with excitement, Marcus received the mithril armor, slapping out a few flatteries and declaring his undying loyalty.

The other knights, filled with envy and jealousy toward Marcus, held back their snide remarks, because according to the continent's national system, Marcus was essentially Liszt's Chief Knight.

It was only natural for the Chief Knight to receive better rewards.

As for the slightly smaller set, Liszt directly rewarded it to Paris, "With this mithril armor on, most attacks can be blocked, and your safety will be further assured. Moreover, the mithril armor is very light, it won't affect your movement too much."

"Thank you, Baron," said Paris with a smile as she accepted the armor.

She quickly returned to her room to change into the mithril armor.

The armor masked her figure but added a touch of heroism.

"How do you feel?" Liszt asked.

"It fits okay, but the chest area is a bit tight, making it uncomfortable to breathe." Paris adjusted the armor at her chest with a frown.

Liszt obviously understood the reason, "This is men's armor. Make do with it for now, and when we return to Fresh Flower Town, we'll have the tailor and blacksmith modify it. If we loosen the seam line around the chest area, it shouldn't constrain you anymore." Having a large chest can be troublesome too.

Seemingly aware that this topic was somewhat awkward, Paris changed the subject, "I still don't like wearing armor, leather armor is more suited to my fighting style."

Liszt calmly responded, "Then you hand over the mithril armor to me after we get back, to arm my Knight Squad. I will have someone make you a leather armor set from the skin of the Six-Headed King Serpent."

"Baron, wouldn't that be too precious?" asked Paris.

"Equipment is meant to be used. If it can protect your safety, then its existence is valuable," Liszt said with a gentle smile. "Don't forget, you are the personal guard I hired; should I run into any danger, I will be relying on you to save me."

Paris's eyes sparkled, "I will not let the Baron encounter danger!"

"I believe you."

They exchanged glances.

Liszt's expression remained calm, but a flush of crimson crept onto Paris's face. She coughed and then said, "Then, I'll go back to my room to rest for now." She probably didn't notice her voice was much softer than usual.

Liszt watched Paris leave.

He exhaled a deep breath and glanced at the four walls of his study, complaining, "How barbaric to have a study without any books!"

...

The Black Knight Order rested in Nameless Castle, feasting and drinking their fill.

There were enough provisions and dried meat to not only meet the knight's needs but also to recover the consumption from the past few days. Knightly wars often meant that the victors plundered everything. However, this time with the Grand Duke's decree, spoils of war could not be privately divided, so they could only secretly take some gold and silver, and eat and drink their fill before taking some provisions away.

The remaining supplies were sealed and handed over to the Grand Duke's Knight Order for management.

After the war, there were rewards for contributions, and perhaps he could get a share.

He took a nap at noon.

He then began his daily essential routine of taking medicine, while also speeding up his practice of "Breath Decay", the benefits of this Dou Qi Secret

Technique were already evident to him. The dispersal of Dou Qi in his body slowed down, and the effects of the medicine were enhanced, making him utterly immersed and unable to extricate himself.

In the evening, when he was preparing to familiarize himself with the Swift Shadow Bow, his Retainer Knight Philip brought good news, "Baron, the Barley Bug has hatched!"

Without any hesitation.

He immediately led the Fresh Flower Town Knight Squad, along with Douson, towards the barley field.

Upon reaching the barley field, he saw a chaotic scene, where a few Retainer Knights he had stationed there were engaging in battle against a beast resembling a mix between an ostrich and a grand duke rooster. Upon seeing Liszt and his company, the bird-like creature didn't dare to linger and immediately turned tail to flee.

However, it seemed to be attracted to something, as it just ran to the nearby bushes and continued to stare at the barley field.

When Liszt reached the vicinity of the Cordyceps, he did not immediately bond with the Barley Bug, but observed the strange bird pacing along the edge of the bushes.

A thought flashed through his mind, "Is this the low-level Dragon Beast, Landwalker Bird, rewarded to me by the Smoke Mission?"

In terms of its appearance, it hadn't surpassed Liszt's imagination; it was larger than an ostrich, with a body as plump as a grand duke rooster's, and colorful feathers that made it look rather magnificent.

It had a slender neck, a dinosaur-like head, and a large triangular beak with serrated edges as if filled with teeth.

It had sturdy legs covered with thick feathers and quite long; they were estimated at least one meter in length. The Landwalker Bird's total height was roughly two and a half meters, of which the body was only half a meter long, the legs one meter, and the neck and head another meter. This gave it a somewhat bizarre appearance.

"Now, how should I capture it?"

The thought flashed by.

He asked the Retainer Knight, "What happened just now, and what's the deal with this bird?"

"Baron, we were guarding the Barley Bug. Right after it hatched, this bird came out of nowhere trying to eat the Barley Bug. Its beak is very sharp, and it moves incredibly fast; we were almost no match for it," Xavier replied somewhat awkwardly.

It was indeed a bit shameful to admit that several of them could not beat one bird—because the Landwalker Bird had not used magic, they hadn't treated it as a Magical Beast. Otherwise, they would have fled without a trace long ago since Apprentice Knights were no match for Magical Beasts.

But after listening to Xavier's answer.

Liszt was still puzzled, "Were you able to defeat it?"

The Landwalker Bird was a low-level Dragon Beast; based on its capabilities, even if it could not defeat an Intermediate Magical Beast, it should not be much weaker.

Xavier scratched his head, "Baron, this bird is indeed formidable, like a gigantic grand duke rooster, but besides pecking people with its beak, it doesn't have much attacking power."

A low-level Dragon Beast that can only peck people was incomprehensible.

Since the Landwalker Bird had not run away, Liszt calmed down the eager Douson and proceeded to bond with the Barley Bug first. Jade Powder and the Jade Box were his essential items when going out. He sprinkled a bit of Jade Powder, stretched out his finger, and soon the Barley Bug bit his finger, sealing the bond.

"Little guy, come on, take back your Cordyceps."

The Barley Bug obediently opened its mouth, and the Cordyceps shrank instantly like a film rewinding, turning into a grain of barley, popping out of the soil and flying into the Barley Bug's mouth, disappearing from view.

After placing the exhausted Barley Bug into the Jade Box and handing it to the Retainer Knight, Liszt's gaze formally shifted to the still-lingering Landwalker Bird.

"No magic released, attack so weak it can't even kill an Apprentice Knight, this... could it be a juvenile?"

Chapter 376 : 0373: Capturing the Landwalker Bird (First Update)

Since it was a fledgling, things should have been easy, with Douson's magic "Rock Wall," it would've been completely possible to block the path, and then they could capture it as if catching a turtle in a jar.

However, Liszt did not choose to do so.

Seeing the Landwalker Bird still lingering, unwilling to leave, he suddenly realized that the bird must be seeking something, "It appeared because of the breeding of the Barley Bugs, does this mean it feeds on Elf Bugs? That's somewhat unacceptable, although Elf Bugs aren't as valuable as low-level Dragon Beasts, raising them is simply horrifying."

Using Elf Bugs as food, even feeding dragons seemed tremendously extravagant, let alone a low-level Dragon Beast.

Furthermore, given the scarce production of Elf Bugs, the fact that the Landwalker Bird had grown so large and was still alive was truly unbelievable—he deduced that the Landwalker Bird was merely interested in the Elf Bugs.

"Perhaps I can lure it with something else?" Thinking so, he had someone bring dried meat and threw it over.

The Landwalker Bird startled by the dried meat hid in the bushes, but soon came out again, approached the dried meat cautiously, pecked at it, but did not eat.

"Doesn't eat meat?"

Liszt had someone throw bread and fruits and found indeed the Landwalker Bird ate a little, but with little interest, still looking longingly at the Elf Bugs held in the hands of the Retainer Knights.

"My lord, this odd bird probably wants to eat the Barley Bugs," Marcus stated bluntly, "Just shoot it down, keeping it is a destruction to the Elf Bugs."

"Don't be hasty, let me try again," Liszt disagreed.

He did not believe the Landwalker Bird rewarded by the Smoke Mission was there to eradicate the abundant Elf Bugs on his territory. After pondering, he decided to test the effect of Jade, maybe this low-level Dragon Beast would like to eat Jade too. He threw a piece of Jade near the feet of the Landwalker Bird.

The Landwalker Bird pecked at the Jade, indifferent.

The dried meat didn't work, bread and fruits didn't work, and neither did Jade, Liszt frowned instantly, "Could this bird really want to eat Elf Bugs?"

"My lord, shoot it!" Marcus proposed again.

Douson also barked "Woof Woof", showing its impatience as well.

But Liszt still chose to try luring it, after all, it was his reward, and it had to be treated "gently." However, half an hour later, the assortment of items thrown in front of the Landwalker Bird remained untouched, still failing to lure it. At this point, he could no longer remain gentle.

With a cold face, he directly gave the command, "Douson, Rock Wall!"

Boom!

Douson charged forward and spat out magic, a ten-meter long Rock Wall precisely cast behind the Landwalker Bird.

"Geda!"

The Landwalker Bird squawked and took off running, its movements light and agile, it bypassed the Rock Wall on the left side. Yet before it could escape, Douson released another Rock Wall—this Intermediate Magical Beast, under Liszt's training, had greatly improved intelligence and knew how to utilize magic, cooperating in the hunt.

However.

Everyone had underestimated the speed and agility of the Landwalker Bird, this low-level Dragon Beast that resembled a long-necked Grand Duke chicken, could leap high on the spot like a flea, and whenever the path was blocked by a Rock Wall, it would leap high over it. After all the hassle, they couldn't even touch a feather.

The Knight Squad had already circled around the bushes, trying to enclose it, but they failed to do so, and even when Liszt commanded to shoot with arrows, they still missed it.

Busy and sweating, the Landwalker Bird remained unharmed, hopping and jumping chaotically.

"My lord, there's something wrong with this bird, it is no ordinary beast," after several failed attempts at shooting arrows, Marcus said with a dark face.

Liszt waved his hand, no longer wasting energy, and declared the plan to encircle the Landwalker Bird a failure, "Indeed, it's extraordinary, since we can't block it, let's all stop."

Fortunately, the Landwalker Bird seemed to be toying with them. It could have taken the chance to flee, but it stubbornly didn't, as if it was playing a game of hide and seek with them. One could imagine that the allure of the Barley Bug was very strong, otherwise it wouldn't have risked staying here.

The knights stopped, and Douson also lay on the ground, panting with his tongue out. It had chased the most ferociously, but no matter how many barriers the Rock Wall placed, it just couldn't catch up to the Landwalker Bird.

All it could do was pant with its tongue out in an awkward yet dignified manner, pretending that the heat was affecting its performance.

As they stopped their pursuit, so did the Landwalker Bird. It hopped onto a Rock Wall, looking at Liszt and the others dryly, as well as the Jade Box in their hands filled with Barley Bugs.

The best method now was to use the Barley Bug as bait to lure the Landwalker Bird into a trap.

But Liszt couldn't bear to do it—given the speed and agility of the Landwalker Bird, if it ate the bait but still got away, that would be quite embarrassing. Moreover, to lose a Barley Bug for an unclear and undecided usefulness of the Landwalker Bird, he found it hard to judge whether it was worth it or not.

Suddenly, an idea flashed through his mind, and he thought of a new plan.

He had Marcus fetch some rope and make a few hunter's nooses, casually tossing them on the ground. Then, he picked up the Jade Box, opened the lid,

and shook it in his hand to draw the Landwalker Bird's attention. The yellow-orange Barley Bug immediately attracted the Landwalker Bird's cries of "Karlo," "Karlo."

Liszt quickly closed the lid.

He turned around, took out the Barley Bug and placed it in another Jade Box, discreetly passing it to Marcus.

Then he turned back, holding the empty Jade Box, and placed the Jade Box in the center of the rope trap area. Then he slowly retreated to a position ten meters away, where he and Marcus and the others each held a rope, waiting quietly.

"Karlo!"

The Landwalker Bird clearly didn't understand what the ropes on the ground were, its intellect hadn't evolved to that point yet.

So after anxiously pacing back and forth, unable to resist the craving for the Barley Bug, it hesitantly approached the Jade Box, retreated halfway, and then finally couldn't help but dash toward the Jade Box.

When it stepped into the trap,

Liszt shouted fiercely, "Pull!"

Several Earth Knights pulled their ropes, most of them coming up empty, but Griffin's rope successfully entangled the Landwalker Bird's claws, instantly tightening. This sudden turn of events shocked the Landwalker Bird, and as it desperately tried to flee, the rope yanked it forcefully, causing it to tumble to the ground.

At that moment, Douson, like a black... brick, ferociously pounced on it, pinning it down the moment it managed to rise, its bulky body preventing the Landwalker Bird from moving.

"Douson, no biting!" Liszt hastily commanded.

He didn't want the reward they had worked so hard for to be killed by Douson's bite. Douson instinctively obeyed the command, not biting down, but rather holding down the struggling Landwalker Bird, his heavy body making it unable to move.

Then the Knight Squad members rushed over, each using the rope to tie the head, the legs, the wings, binding the Landwalker Bird tightly.

They had successfully caught a Low-Level Dragon Beast.

"It's so plump!" Charles Trap said while tying, touching the Landwalker Bird's belly and clicking his tongue in awe, "My lord, this bird is enough to feed us for several days!"

Liszt, stroking the dinosaur-like head of the Landwalker Bird, was very satisfied with this hunt, "Eating it is out of the question, I want to tame it to be my mount!"

During the encirclement, the Landwalker Bird had shown the qualities of an excellent mount.

Chapter 377 : 0374: The Temptation of Magic Potion (Second Update)

The capture of the Landwalker Bird was successful, and as dusk approached, Liszt dismissed the curious members of the Knight Order and began to ponder how to tame the Landwalker Bird.

This was not a horse that, upon defeating it, one could simply ride it.

It was a low-level Dragon Beast, perhaps not yet mature, but its magic power was already abundant. Through the Eye of Magic, Liszt could see the blue magic radiance, indicating that it was a Wind System low-level Dragon Beast.

Wind System Magical Beasts were generally known for their incredibly fast running speeds, a fact that the Landwalker Bird's performance had proven.

"It can't yet cast magic; otherwise, the capture would have been much more difficult."

"But how to tame it? Without the emotional bond and conditioned reflexes forged from rearing it from a young age, it's impossible to tame it quickly like I did with the Earth Matron. Especially considering its current state of hostility towards me, it's even harder to subdue," Liszt mused as he stood in a pen, observing the Landwalker Bird huddled in a corner.

The Landwalker Bird had been unbound, but was confined in a warehouse converted into a pen within the castle.

At first, when Liszt entered, the Landwalker Bird had tried to attack him, but after a few punches imbued with Dou Qi from Liszt, it shrank back into its corner and dared not meet Liszt's gaze directly.

This allowed Liszt to study it in peace.

Using the Eye of Magic, he observed the magic power within the beast's body to see what differed from typical Magical Beasts: "There's no doubt that this peculiar bird is the low-level Dragon Beast Landwalker Bird, the reward from the Smoke Mission. It seems to be in its fledgling stage, with magic power that appears somewhat stagnant and incoherent."

When it came to researching Magical Beasts, Liszt dared to consider himself the foremost expert on Coral Island.

After all, he spent all day studying the Blizzard Beasts.

He had an entire set of experiential notes on Douson's transformations, and now he also had extensive notes on the Eight Tiny Ones, understanding clearly the changes in the magic power within Magical Beasts. He also had a

mass of observations and records on Elves' magic power, and even that of Sea Serpents.

Therefore, he quickly identified some traits in the Landwalker Bird's magic power that were different from typical Magical Beasts.

"Its magic power seems to fall somewhere between that of Magical Beasts and Elves. Analyzing the rate of dissipation, its magic power decays much slower than that of Magical Beasts. Could this situation be judged by the degree of solidity of the magic power itself?" Liszt speculated internally.

He had summarized the properties of magic power from different species.

The magic power of Dragons was undoubtedly the most wondrous, able to be inscribed for a long time without dissipating. The Fire Dragon on Black Horse Island, despite being dead for who knows how many years, still had magic power that could manifest as a Magic Little Fire Dragon.

The degree of solidity was very high, nearly perpetual.

The magic power of Elves was undeniably second only to that of Dragons. Through the Cordyceps, they released magic power that constantly affected the surrounding flora. Although it couldn't be inscribed for the long term, it could slowly imbue the environment. While different from the Dragons' magic power in terms of solidification, the effect was similar.

The magic power of Magical Beasts was definitely a bit inferior, solely leading to the activation of magic spells.

By comparison, human Dou Qi was the most pathetic, as it was constantly dissipating, virtually impossible to stop - despite this, the utilization of Dou Qi by humans could not be said to be poor because it held endless possibilities for executing various Combat Skills.

Dragons were like the epitome of solidified magic power, even representing certain rules.

Humans were naturally devoid of magic power and incapable of storing it for extended periods, yet they had an endless array of cultivation methods to refine magic power (as Dou Qi is a form of magic power).

It was as though they were two extremes.

Liszt even had a bold guess, "The infinitely variable Dou Qi, when combined with the most wondrous magic power, might spark an extraordinarily delightful chemical reaction? Perhaps this is why Dragon Knights are invincible in the world?"

There wasn't too much theoretical evidence to support his conjecture.

The existence of Dragon Knights was a phenomenon currently inexplicable.

He shelved his thoughts and focused on the magic power of the Landwalker Bird: "It seems that magic power has reached a critical point, which reminds me of when Douson evolved, stimulated by the Bloodline Fruit... Could it be that this Landwalker Bird is also on the verge of metamorphosis? Does it hope to use the Elf Bug's magic power as a breakthrough?"

The more he thought about it, the more likely it seemed.

Otherwise, there was no explaining why the Landwalker Bird, even while surrounded, kept a longing gaze fixed on the Elf Bug.

"What a pity, I won't use Elf Bugs to feed the Landwalker Bird." Every Elf Bug not only represents its underlying value but also embodies beauty.

He thought of Jela and wondered if the Thorn Minor Elf, after losing his restraint, might rebel within the castle.

"If I can't use Elf Bugs, how can I stimulate the metamorphosis of the Landwalker Bird?" Liszt stroked the Space Gem and pulled out a vial of Thorn

Magic Potion, "Could a magic potion have the same effect? The stimulation of external magic power should be able to replace the magic of an Elf. It's worth a try."

In fact, there was no need for further conjecture.

As soon as he took out the Thorn Magic Potion, the Landwalker Bird reacted, its body tensed up, and its eyes fixated on the crystal tube in Liszt's hands.

"Cluck!"

"You want this?"

"Cluck!"

"Let me ride you, and I'll give it to you."

"Cluck!" The Landwalker Bird dodged Liszt's approach, but its gaze remained on the Thorn Magic Potion.

Liszt thought for a moment, took out a small Jade Box, poured out a bit of the Thorn Magic Potion, and offered it to the Landwalker Bird. The bird looked at Liszt's outstretched hand, pecked quickly, snatched the Jade Box away, then threw back its head and drank the tiny bit of magic potion that was less than the size of a fingernail cap.

After drinking it, it extended its tongue and licked the Jade Box until it was nearly broken before reluctantly tossing it aside and calling out to Liszt again, "Cluck!"

"Want more? If you want more, let me ride!"

After several temptations, the Landwalker Bird, succumbing to allure, finally allowed Liszt to seize the opportunity and mount it. Its broad, plump body was very suitable for riding, and its thick feathers were extremely soft, especially the patch on its neck and back, which was just like a natural saddle.

The Landwalker Bird, upon being ridden by Liszt, immediately wanted to lash out.

However, the next moment, it quickly steadied itself and allowed to be ridden because Liszt already had the remaining half-tube of Thorn Magic Potion close to its mouth.

The allure of the Thorn Magic Potion was irresistible to it. It grabbed the crystal tube, tipped it back to drink the potion, then cleaned the tube thoroughly, contentedly calling, "Cluck!"

It temporarily forgot that it still bore a person on its back.

"Good, just like that. Ride, and you get a potion. Got it?" Liszt smiled smugly, taming a low-level Dragon Beast was just that simple.

Unlike a simple beast or Magical Beast, the Landwalker Bird exhibited higher intelligence, which precisely made it very susceptible to temptation.

Riding meant a magic potion.

If you want the potion, you have to be ridden.

Simple logic quickly imprinted on its clever mind.

Riding the Landwalker Bird around the enclosure a few times, once he found that it had adapted to being ridden, Liszt shouted outside, "Thomas, open the door to the enclosure."

The door was opened.

The Landwalker Bird burst out in a flash, shaking Liszt on its back, showing signs of a wild outburst. Liszt hastily took out a new vial of Thorn Magic Potion and instantly stabilized the Landwalker Bird. He then used the potion to guide it to change direction and head back toward the enclosure.

Finally, after another vial of Thorn Magic Potion was used up, the Landwalker Bird obediently entered the enclosure.

"Successfully tamed!"

Liszt left the enclosure smiling, looking at the reluctant Landwalker Bird and feeling good: "Success in acquiring a low-level Dragon Beast as a mount, a few more training sessions, and it should be completely tamed... The only issue is having to use magic potions to tame it, which is a bit costly."

Chapter 378 : 0375: The Chronicles of Loki's Taming (Third Update, 10,000 Coins Reward Celebration 5/5)

Having captured the Landwalker Bird, Liszt prepared to give it a name.

"Should I name it South Little Bird based on its species, or Saber because of the tuft of hair on its head?" he pondered, stroking his chin, "Or perhaps, based on its cry 'Kuo-da', name it Kentaji or Kedaya? Following the naming logic of Douson and Juan Fu, it could be Sordang."

However, Liszt didn't like the name Sordang.

"Looking at its frail appearance, I might as well call it Weak Chicken... No, that would be a disgrace to my mount. Extending from there, let's call it Loki."

The name Loki was thus settled for the Landwalker Bird.

In fact, he had also thought of using "Rainbow" as the name for the Landwalker Bird, because of its brightly colored, multi-hued feathers. But Rainbow wouldn't reflect the characteristics of the Landwalker Bird; this low-level Dragon Beast could run and jump, and it was a perfect mount, except for its inability to fly.

Of course, a name is just an identifier and need not be too demanding.

Moonlight streamed through the window, and Liszt felt that, no matter the outcome of the war, at least the cost had already been recouped.

A Landwalker Bird, a Barley Bug, and a Little Elf Soldier.

Plus three sets of Mithril Armor.

"Next, assisting the Earl in killing Sned will yield even greater rewards; I wonder if it will be an Advanced Dou Qi Manual suitable for me!"

He summoned the Smoke Mission.

After searching the castle's underground storeroom, the previous mission was already completed: "Complete the mission, reward: one Little Elf · Swift Shadow Bow."

The new mission was a bit more difficult.

"Mission: Mane City has been taken, and the obstructions around Bull Hair City have been removed. The climax of the campaign is approaching. Please head to Bull Hair City to assist Li Weiliam Tulip, encircle and slay Earl Sned of Bull Hair City. Reward: Advanced Dou Qi Manual."

An Advanced Dou Qi Manual refers to a Dou Qi manuscript for training Sky Knights because their level of Dou Qi is Advanced.

Currently, there is only one Advanced Dou Qi Manual on Coral Island, which is the "Giant Wave Breaks the Tide" practiced by the Earl. This Dou Qi Manuscript is of the Water Attribute and is not suitable for Liszt.

"I hope I will be rewarded with a High-level Fire Attribute Dou Qi Manual."

After practicing "Breath Decay" for two hours and drinking a cup of fresh Dragon Breed Milk from his Gemstone Space, he finally went to bed.

The next day, he woke up as soon as dawn broke.

After washing up, he set out with his troops. This time, he did not ride the Li Dragon Horse but rode the Landwalker Bird instead, continually taming it and bonding with it along the way.

"Loki, to the left!" With Thorn Magic Potion as a guide, Liszt quickly established a set of simple commands.

Loki was quite intelligent and cooperated very well; the only downside was the cost. A morning's ride had already used up two Thorn Magic Potions, plus two from the previous evening. Having not yet tamed for a full day, four potions had vanished, amounting to a dozen Gold Coins thrown away.

Training in commands wasn't enough; he also had to train physical signals to complete the control over it.

"I hope Loki will soon break through the shackles of magic power and reach a new level, no longer needing magic potions to assist... Otherwise, squandering magic potions like this, even an Earl couldn't sustain it," he said, using his Eye of Magic to observe the increasingly rich magic power within Loki, feeling that it would break through in just a few days.

Perhaps by then, Loki could even spit magic.

As for the number of magic spells that a low-level Dragon Beast knew, he wasn't very clear. Information about Dragon Beasts was even scarcer than that about Dragons.

"Loki, run!"

"Loki, jump!"

"Loki, stop!"

The command training was very successful, and Loki performed eagerly to get the Thorn Magic Potion. Its abilities were gradually revealed to Liszt.

The speed at which it ran far surpassed that of the Li Dragon Horse. The sprinting speed of an ordinary warhorse is about 60 kilometers per hour, while a Li Dragon Horse can reach a sprinting speed of 100 kilometers per hour. The Landwalker Bird, however, can nearly double the Li Dragon Horse's speed, reaching up to 200 kilometers per hour.

But while a Li Dragon Horse can maintain a high-speed run for nearly one to two hours, the Landwalker Bird barely lasts ten minutes in a sprint.

The normal running speed is maintained at 60 kilometers per hour.

When running and jumping, it can reach a vertical height of four and a half meters and a horizontal distance of forty-one meters. When jumping from a standstill, it can reach a vertical height of three meters and a horizontal distance of fourteen meters. This level of leap is equal to that of a jumping machine, resembling the bearing of a Sky Knight — who can briefly take flight.

And these data are from the Landwalker Bird in its youth; once it matures, these numbers will surely improve.

Most importantly, it will soon be able to learn magic.

A low-level Dragon Beast of the Wind Attribute, it is uncertain what kind of Wind System Magic it will learn, hopefully not the Wind Blade like the Wind Blade Wolf.

"My lord, there's a small town ahead; according to the map, it should be Westwind Town. Shall we stop and rest for a moment? It's already noon," Captain Layden ran over and asked.

"Then let's take a break."

...

"What kind of Magical Beast is this? As a mount, it's very dominant."

Paris approached Liszt, who was feeding the Landwalker Bird.

Having drunk its fill of magic potions, the Landwalker Bird now voraciously ate fruits and bread to replenish its energy. It is a herbivore, but its favorite food is actually cooked bread. After being ridden by Liszt all morning, it no longer shied away from his touch and leisurely ate the bread.

Strictly speaking, its head did not resemble that of a bird. It was more similar to the heads of small dinosaurs Liszt had seen on the program "Exploration," as well as those ancient dinosaurs covered in feathers and resembling birds. However, the Landwalker Bird had very long legs and neck, while its tail was as short as a chicken's.

"A type of bird Magical Beast that cannot fly, I call it Loki," Liszt said.

He did not reveal the fact that the Landwalker Bird was a Dragon Beast.

Even Dragon Breed Beasts are a rare species, let alone Dragon Breed Magic Beasts. Once the Dragon Beast lineage of the Landwalker Bird was exposed, it would definitely cause a scramble.

"Douson and Loki, Baron, you already have two Magical Beast mounts, one of which is an Intermediate Magical Beast."

"In the future, there will be even more Magical Beast mounts. In fact, my greatest aspiration is to ride a dragon."

"Everyone in the world wants to ride dragons. It seems that in the Duchy of Sapphire, no one has yet succeeded in dragon riding."

"To be precise, in the 152 years since the founding of the country, only the First Grand Duke has ridden a dragon," Liszt said with a smile, appearing very confident. "I hope I will be the second person to ride a dragon!"

Paris wished him well, "May the glory of the knight shine upon you, Baron, and may you soon realize your dream."

...

After resting in Westwind Town for an afternoon, they continued on their way.

Liszt also continued to train the Landwalker Bird, which, having eaten and drunk its fill, began to get lazy and ignored his commands.

But as soon as he took out another Thorn Magic Potion, the Landwalker Bird quickly got back into shape, obeying his every command.

Thus, they sprinted all the way, reaching near Bull Hair City at dusk, and located the camping site of the Red Knights led by the Earl.

Not far from Celery Fort, it guarded the flat road that connected Celery Fort to the outside world.

Chapter 379 : 376: The Battle Strength of the Grand Magician (Fourth Update, 130,000 Recommendation Tickets Bonus)

"So, after a charge, you crushed the knights of Mane City, annihilated all the Earth Knights, and then the knights left inside the castle surrendered, allowing you to easily take the castle?"

The Earl was somewhat surprised by Liszt's speed.

It had only been two days, and already Liszt had completed the purge of Mane City and captured it. Meanwhile, there had been no word back from Jonas, who had gone to Little River City, or from Trick, who had gone to Green Shade City.

"I have Douson. Father, you should be aware of the combat power of an Intermediate Magical Beast. A swath of Rock Spikes completely disrupted the enemy's charge formation, and then they were shattered by my Black Knight Order in one strike." Because they were speaking in private, he didn't use the formal title "Earl".

"Douson is growing fast. It's only over a year old and can already show its ferocity on the battlefield... With Douson, the battle became much easier to

fight. Currently, Sned is hiding in Celery Fort, no matter how I provoke him, he refuses to show himself, which is perfect for allowing Douson to demonstrate its talent in dismantling castles."

"Bringing down a Nameless Castle is simple, but taking down Celery Fort might prove a bit challenging; however, damaging the castle's structure is still doable."

"Damaging the structure is enough. Sned will definitely not just watch his castle being ruined. When he makes his move, I will take his head off."

As a Sky Knight of the Sword Saint Level, Li Weiliam was fully confident in dealing with a regular Sky Knight.

Liszt smiled and said, "I look forward to that moment."

The Earl of Coral Island felt somewhat nostalgic: "Before we realize it, we three of us, father and sons, have already been fighting side by side on the battlefield. In a few more years, Lidun will also be ready for battle... You performed well this time, I will note your achievements. Accumulating a few more military exploits should be enough to make you a Viscount."

Obviously, capturing a minor city alone was not enough to become a Viscount.

But now there was still Bull Hair City to be conquered, and gaining a share of the military exploits there, followed by contributing in other city sieges, could potentially make him a Viscount in one go without waiting for the next Pioneer Mandate war.

He suddenly thought of a question: "Father, I had knights send you a message — the major issue that Sned was discussing with the magician, have you found out what it is?"

Initially, that free rat, whose brother heard Sned and the magician engaged in a secret conversation, was waiting for a major event to happen.

That weighed heavily on Liszt's mind.

The Earl furrowed his brows: "I've already dispatched people to contact Marquis Glendenton. He replied, assuring me that he will keep communication open with the First Prince and the Second Prince to ensure that nothing unexpected happens in the war situation. As for what that major event is, we still don't know, but if it's real, it might have something to do with the Goat Assembly."

In fact, there was another possibility related to dragons, but neither father nor son mentioned it.

"Has the Wrath Knight Order of the Marquis of Bull conquered Bull Tail City?"

"Of course not. Marquis Wallace has already rushed over, and the First Prince has also sent your uncle. With the Pineapple Green Family's Knight Order and the Long Taro Family's Knight Order, holding off Marquis Wallace's Wrath Knight Order isn't difficult. However, I've heard that a Grand Magician has joined the battle, leading to a stalemate."

"Can a Grand Magician really sway the outcome of a knight's charge?" Liszt asked, his concept of a Grand Magician still not entirely clear.

He only knew that a Grand Magician was very skilled in magic, even daring to have designs on dragons—the Grand Magicians of the Maple Leaf Grand Duchy were targeting Light Dragons, resulting in the likes of Paris and other Black Dragon Children; the Grand Magicians of the Duchy of Sapphire were targeting Sapphire Dragons, which led to the revolt of the Marquis.

Truly deserving of the title of Evil Magician.

But by conventional wisdom, magicians should not be able to contend with knights; a charging knight could easily crush a magician.

The Earl considered for a moment before speaking slowly: "The reason knights dominate is not because they are necessarily stronger than magicians; it's just that Dou Qi cultivation is more universal. As long as one has sufficient nutrition from a young age, even those with poor talent can cultivate Dou Qi. Magic, however, requires aptitude."

An ordinary person.

Eating abundantly since childhood, coupled with ordinary methods of Dou Qi cultivation, one can inevitably practice low-level Dou Qi. Constantly consuming magical beast meat, one can inevitably practice intermediate Dou Qi. And with continuous infusion of magic potions, anyone who is not too foolish will be able to cultivate advanced Dou Qi.

In other words, ordinary Sky Knights can be mass-trained, provided there are sufficient resources.

Liszt's uncle, Mesiro, is an excellent example of this.

Marquis Merlin only has one son, Mesiro, so the Long Taro Family's resources were all poured into him, allowing him to successfully cultivate from a good-for-nothing to an ordinary-level Sky Knight.

Going further, it's not about stacking resources, or rather, even devoting the power of an entire nation would not be sufficient to afford the resources needed for the next step in cultivation.

"Out of a hundred people, ninety-nine can practice Dou Qi by eating meat, and among them, twenty might become Earth Knights by eating more meat. However, out of a hundred, probably only ten can be selected as magic apprentices, sense magic, and it's possible none of them will become magicians."

This significant proportion difference leads to knights ruling the world, rather than magicians.

The Earl shifted the topic, "Those who can become magicians are often geniuses. They are indispensable in making magic equipment, and in making magic potions. As for combat... in a fair one-on-one duel, I can defeat any Grand Magician, but in reality, Grand Magicians don't duel with knights."

He gave an example, "The Wrath Knight Order launched a surprise attack on the Second Prince's Knight Order. Clearly, it was backed by a Grand Magician from the Goat Assembly, just as you take Douson and use magic to break the charging formation of knights."

"Since Grand Magicians are so strong, why is it rare to see magicians accompany knight orders into battle?"

"A Grand Magician's magic can only be used for surprise attacks. While casting, magic needs to gather free-floating magic power from the air, but when knights charge, their Dou Qi gathers together, affecting all the surrounding magic power, preventing the magician from gathering enough magic power to cast spells."

This is the advantage of Douson; it can draw magic power from within itself to cast spells.

If magicians join the battlefield, as soon as knights begin to charge, it's as good as over for them. However, on the other hand, if a magician finds an opportunity to cast spells, it can result in heavy casualties among the knights. The elite Blueblood Knight Order led by the Second Prince might have been attacked by a magician this way.

"So,"

The Earl emphasized, "Don't underestimate magicians; they always cause trouble."

"I understand," Liszt nodded. "Father, could there be a Grand Magician hiding in Celery Fort? Sned insists on a stubborn defense; I think he must have something to rely on."

"It's possible, but it's no longer important. As long as this Grand Magician dares to show his face, my longsword will make him regret participating in a knight's war!"

...

The conversation between father and son was pleasant. After discussing warfare, the Earl also shared some experiences about cultivation with Liszt.

Now, the Earl increasingly saw Liszt not as a child, but as an adult capable of discussing matters with.

Liszt felt this atmosphere was good; it didn't make him uncomfortable—regardless of anything, he always had a complex, since he wasn't the true son of the Earl.

However, the harmonious atmosphere did not last long.

A knight who had rushed over with urgent speed brought some bad news.

The Grey Knight Order led by Jonas suffered tenacious resistance from the enemy forces. Despite heavy casualties, they still hadn't taken Little River City's castle.

Chapter 380 : 0377: Douson Disassembles the Tower While the Owner Shoots Arrows (Fifth Update, 140,000 Recommendation Votes Bonus)

News from Viscount Jonas interrupted the Earl's plans to besiege Celery Fort.

When besieging a castle, knights were needed in multiples of the defending army, gathering sufficient Dou Qi to augment the knights' combat power and destroy the fortress.

Especially for large castles with names, their defenses were so sturdy that they were even harder to conquer.

His original intention had been to coordinate with Douson's dismantling ability, focusing five Knight Orders to attack Celery Fort together, suppressing the guard knights inside the castle so that Douson could unleash magic freely.

Now.

The situation had become quite severe.

Viscount Jonas's Grey Knight Order had suffered heavy casualties and no longer had the strength to attack the castle at Little River City; on the other hand, Viscount Trik's Green Knight Order also encountered trouble, unable to initiate an attack on the tall and solid fortress of Green Shade City; Levis's Yellow Knight Order was aiding Viscount Trik, joining forces for the assault and could spare no attention elsewhere.

The Earl had to restrain the Knight Order at Celery Fort.

Therefore, the task of support could only fall on Liszt.

Without any hesitation, the Earl directly commanded, "Take Douson and go to Little River City to support the Grey Knight Order. After taking down the castle, head to Green Shade City to assist the Green Knight Order. Liszt, you are my son, blessed by the glory of the knights. This battle, go earn sufficient honor!"

After having been baptized by victories, Liszt no longer feared but was left with only excitement.

He longed to earn a title through military achievements. One Mane City was obviously not enough. Now, with the addition of Little River City and Green

Shade City, and later on a share of the military achievements of Bull Hair City, it would be nearly enough.

"Yes, my lord father, I shall win even more glory!"

He set out.

In the rising sun, he hastened toward Little River City.

Along the way, Liszt was still busy taming the Landwalker Bird. This low-level Dragon Beast had been observed by the Earl, who did not know its breed or level. He simply treated it as a low-level Magical Beast that had yet to cast magic, sourly commenting, "Truly, the glory of the knights favors you."

The lament of a Sword Saint unable to find a Magical Beast mount while his own son rode one and led another.

Indeed, it was quite bitter for him.

They rushed on their journey.

By noon, they arrived at Little River City to meet with the Grey Knight Order, who were regrouping. Viscount Jonas, with his left arm and wrist bandaged, welcomed Liszt: "Baron Liszt, thank you for your generous support. How goes the battle at Mane City?"

"I have already eliminated the Knight Order of Mane City and was meeting up with the Earl at Bull Hair City when I received your call for aid. The Earl sent me to support you."

"You've already eradicated Mane City's Knight Order?" Viscount Jonas was surprised.

Liszt smiled faintly, "Of course, it was quite easy."

"Easy..." Viscount Jonas really wanted to say not to boast in front of him, but then he thought of Douson and couldn't find the words. Instead, he changed

the subject, "So, Baron Liszt, what's the plan now? My Grey Knight Order has lost more than half of its knights, making it difficult to organize an effective charge."

"What are the losses at Little River City's castle?"

"Originally, there were about 150 knights. We have decimated about fifty, leaving a hundred still hiding in the castle, refusing to come out."

"Then let's demolish their castle!"

Douson had only shown his prowess during the charge, with his demolishing abilities yet to be tested. However, following the previous battle, Liszt was now quite bold: "Viscount Jonas, have your Grey Knight Order merge with my Black Knight Order, suppressing the castle thoroughly. Let me direct Douson to take down the castle."

"Can Douson really do that?"

"No problem."

"Good!" Viscount Jonas was a decisive man—his Grey Knight Order had suffered terrible losses, turning this battle into a loss-making endeavor. All he wanted now was to quickly turn the tide and, in the upcoming battles, claim some military honors to make up for the losses.

After reorganizing.

At three in the afternoon, as the sun slanted into the front of the castle, Liszt had already switched to his Li Dragon Horse, leading the Black Knight Order and Viscount Jonas in a charge toward the castle.

Earth Knights generally practiced archery, but not many trained in techniques like "Multi-Arrow".

So when the Knight Order circled the castle shooting, the scale was staggering. Arrows infused with Dou Qi were like small bombs, always

chipping away at the castle's stone walls. And the Divine Archers, who were proficient in archery, kept riding and shooting on the move, specifically targeting the castle's bowmen to suppress counterattacks.

Liszt himself was a Divine Archer.

But he did not shoot; instead, he held up his shield and commanded Douson to approach the castle: "Douson, Rock Grenades!"

Boom!

Douson opened his mouth and spat out a spell, conjuring huge rocks in the air that smashed down on the castle ferociously.

Clang!

The second-floor walls of the castle cracked like a shattered phone screen, but the walls, grouted with sticky rice juice, remained steadfast, not something that could be brought down by a single rock grenade.

Liszt did not expect to succeed with a single shot.

He continuously directed Douson to launch Rock Grenades at the same section of the castle wall, occasionally releasing Rock Spikes to damage the corners of the castle. Rock Spikes had to burst from the ground, so the damage to the corners was limited, but the relentless erosion and shaking soon made the castle sway.

After more than a dozen assaults with Rock Grenades, Douson was panting from exhaustion, but the segment of the wall at Nameless Castle finally collapsed.

A huge breach was revealed.

Seeing this, Viscount Jonas threw the Knight's Spear in his hand, thrusting fiercely at the breach.

The formidable strength of the veteran Elite Earth Knight was fully displayed in that moment, as a single spear pierced through two Earth Knights who were trying to block the gap, nailing them to the inside of the castle.

"Charge!"

"Storm the breach!"

Liszt swapped out his Fine Steel Shield and tossed the Knight's Spear one-handed, impaling an Earth Knight who popped his head out. He then drew the Crimson Blood Sword, sword pointing toward the breach in the castle.

The Black Knight Order and the remnants of the Green Knight Order, like sharks smelling blood, sprinted madly, leaping high from their horses and crashing into the large breach. The Knight's Spear was no longer viable, but One-Handed and Two-Handed Swords could still be used within the confines of the castle—after the charge, it was time for combat with swords.

Each Knight trained in two routines—charge and sword combat.

Liszt was particularly skilled in sword combat.

Because he knew that his advancement to Sky Knight would be swift and that once promoted, there was no need to lead Knight Orders in charges; solo combat would suffice.

The second stage of a Sky Knight, called Sword Saint, originated from this concept.

To become sanctified by the sword!

At this moment, Liszt was rehearsing in advance, pacing with Douson outside the castle, not participating in the siege. At such times, fighting in the cramped spaces inside the castle invariably led to injuries, which he did not like. When he was not overwhelmingly powerful, it was more his style to stay outside and support with arrows.

"In the last battle, I led the charge, and everyone remembered my bravery. Now, with my bow and arrows, it's more like I'm passing the sure victory to my subordinates."

He took up his Swift Shadow Bow.

Liszt attached a single arrow, aimed at the fiercely contested breach, forcefully pulled back the bowstring, infused it with Dou Qi, and released his fingers.

Thwip!

A soft whooshing sound occurred, and under the special effect of the Swift Shadow Bow, the arrow turned into an invisible ray, accurately piercing the neck of a ferociously sword-wielding Earth Knight—just a moment ago, he had lifted his head, revealing a tiny gap between his helmet and armor.

That tiny gap cost him his life.