

THE MIGHTY DRAGONS ARE DEAD

Chapter 401 - 0398: Research Notes on Dragons (Fourth Update, 1000 Monthly Tickets Extra)

...

Seventeen books in total, sixteen of which are erotic novels of the same type as "A Night with Miss Havana in the Piano Room," each cover opened to reveal, still, no Dou Qi Secret Techniques.

"Who would have thought the Marquis of Bull would be such a person."

Liszt's face fell as he pinned all his hopes on the last book, which had no title. Its cover was yellow, adorned only with a circular disc pattern.

The disc was outlined in black lines, divided into three concentric circles: inner, middle, and outer.

The inner circle had a rice character-like division: at the tip of each line extended a symbol, all of which were connected to form the inner circle. Based on his experience, Liszt guessed that these eight symbols represented the eight magic attributes: wind, fire, water, earth, lightning, light, ice, and darkness.

This was a book about magic power—possibly a book of magic.

The middle circle was simple, with wedge-shaped symbols arranged in succession to form the circle. The wedge-shaped symbols were both repeated and unique, not resembling any known script, so Liszt couldn't understand their meaning.

The outer circle was interesting and quite complex.

It was composed of dragons, twistedly interlinked, forming a large circle.

The entire disc was hand-drawn with ink, meticulously and precisely, especially the circles which were exceptionally round. It was evident that the person who drew this disc, or rather wrote this book, was definitely a magician. Only a magician would have the patience and energy to study all kinds of strange symbols.

He flipped open the pages.

The title page was an article, not in the familiar Serpent Script, but in Wind Language.

Serpent Script consists of lines that entangle like small snakes, while Wind Language is characterized by continuously curling closed lines. Fresh Flower Town had long conducted Wind Language education, and by now, Liszt was able to read the basics of Wind Language.

The title of the article on the title page read—To the respected Prince Alonso Xiankelai.

"Alonso Xiankelai?" Liszt raised an eyebrow. He hadn't heard this name before, nor did he know from which noble family the surname Xiankelai came.

But the title "Your Highness" was reserved exclusively for members of the royal family and children of dukes.

"Not a surname from Eagle Kingdom's royal family, could it be a prince from one of the Eagle Kingdom's vassal states?"

He didn't dwell on the surname and continued to read.

"When I look up at the night sky, what comes to mind are the words once spoken by the great Karvasi Truth Mage—'Don't look down at ants; look up at dragons. Conquering ants is something even a child can do; conquering dragons means you have transcended the mundane.'"

"Magicians are unable to bond with dragons and harness their magical power, but conquering dragons has always been our aspiration. In the distant era of the Moon Empire, the great Ancient Magicians slaughtered eight Elemental Dragons and used their blood to inscribe the 'Dragon Disc' Magic Array, attempting to probe the truth of the world."

"That tumultuous experiment resonates in the heart of every magician; whenever I think of such an incredible and magnificent act, I feel it is only right for humanity to rule the world."

"Admittedly, now is the era where knights have taken over the reins of power from magicians and now rule the world, Your Highness, you are a genius knight. But apart from Dragon Knights, it is still us magicians who have the most knowledge about dragons. I once worked in the Mage Tower of the great Lafeite Truth Mage, and saw vast volumes of books all about dragons."

"I have read numerous books on dragons and also conducted close-range studies of the Earth Dragons, the Evil Dragons of the Rupture Mountains. These incredible creatures are

truly the essence of magical power—aside from elves, there is no other creature that can match their radiance."

"Therefore,"

"Please allow me to explain to you the Silver Moon Assembly's progress in dragon research, hoping it will benefit you in becoming a Dragon Knight—Saithwen Truth."

That was all there was on the title page.

...

...

More precisely, this was a letter written in the form of a book.

In the subsequent pages, the magician named Sethwen Truth recorded a substantial amount of research work from the Silver Moon Gathering, all revolving around dragons. It was quite evident that this magician was skilled at organizing the text, dividing everything into four major chapters for discussion.

The first chapter was about the study of dragon habitats, noting down some rumors about the birth of dragons, as well as stories related to dragon knights riding dragons and dragon slayers slaying dragons. The content was fairly mixed, with many unconfirmed rumors. Besides the dragons raised by the kingdom, how dragon knights discover wild dragons remains a mystery.

The second chapter focused on the diet of dragons, documenting what each dragon species favored and how food is transformed into minerals and excreted. It also described the impact of different foods on the minerals dragons excrete, as well as their excretion habits and frequency.

The third chapter dealt with dragon reproduction, exploring how dragon might, dragon breath, dragon scales, dragon dung, and dragon saliva can be transformed into metals, gemstones, and the like.

The data recorded in the aforementioned three chapters weren't extensive, consisting more of speculation and excerpts from research notes of magicians from various countries and eras.

The fourth chapter concerned dragon bloodline infection.

This chapter contained the bulk of information, with records of four advanced dragon beasts, seven intermediate dragon beasts, and twenty-six low-level dragon beasts, as well as over fifty types of dragon breed beasts.

There was a notable absence of research on super dragonkin magical beasts, that is, sub-dragons—the magicians of the Silver Moon Gathering were skeptical of the existence of sub-dragons.

Dragons are also known as flying dragons.

Super dragonkin magical beasts are also known as sub-dragons.

Advanced, intermediate, and low-level dragonkin magical beasts are also referred to as dragon beasts.

And then there are dragon breed beasts.

The hierarchy of dragon bloodlines, as proposed in the book, brought forth an intriguing notion. The magicians of the Silver Moon Gathering surmised that dragons infecting beasts and magical beasts was akin to a reproductive desire—dragons are genderless and, when excited, would release the magic power within their bloodline, infecting beasts and magical beasts to create dragon breeds.

"So, dragon beasts and dragon breed beasts come about in this manner? Genderless dragons, depending on their level of excitement, decide whether to infect beasts?"

Liszt thought of the dragon breed cows on the dairy farm: "So, that means when the Formless Dragon was given delicious beef to eat, coupled with the irresistible scent of Smoked Grass, it got excited. Then it released the magic power in its bloodline, infecting the cows at the dairy farm!"

He found this explanation quite plausible.

Otherwise, it would be hard to explain why, despite dragons roaming everywhere, dragon breed beasts and dragon beasts were still quite rare—bloodline infection must have specific conditions, and heightened emotions could be one of them.

He closed the book.

Liszt carefully put it away.

Although it wasn't the Dou Qi secret techniques, dragon slaying manuals, or any anticipated content about stealing dragon magic power experiments that he had imagined, it still had instructional value, deepening his understanding of dragons.

...

In the pouring rain, the earl arrived at Bull Horn City without any issues.

Stay updated via NovelBin.Côm

After resting for a night, on the morning of July 16th, the heavy rain had become a drizzle, and the ships from Coral Island began their return journey.

Without holding an umbrella, Liszt stood at the bow of the ship, watching the coastline of Bull Horn City gradually disappearing into the misty haze, feeling stirred: "I can finally go home, Fresh Flower Town, my elves, and Ach..."

...

Enhance your reading experience by removing ads for as low as \$1!

Chapter 402 - 0399: Distribution of Merits from the Iron Hoof Island Campaign (First Update)

The journey from Iron Hoof Island to Coral Island takes four days, time enough for the knights of Coral Island to conclude the distribution of military merits.

Liszt was also distributing the military merits of his knight order.

Following the principle of reward based on contribution, he was the one with the most merits in this battle; even the Earl thought that Liszt's merits were about to catch up with his own—without any surprises, the Earl was the one with the greatest merits in every battle that Coral Island participated in, not only because of his strength, but also because of the bonus of his lordship status.

"The Grand Princess presides over the military merit meeting, with the principle being mainly to distribute materials, trying to minimize the enfeoffment of titles. Because the First Prince spoke on your behalf, you will be able to receive a Viscount title, making you the only noble to be promoted to Viscount this battle."

Liszt was somewhat surprised, "Am I the only one?"

It felt a bit too high-profile, but what he was enjoying was the thrill of being uniquely distinguished.

"Many Sky Knights have merits surpassing yours, but they are either Marquises, Earls, or already Viscounts... It's completely impossible for them to be promoted from Viscount to Earl based on the merits of this battle... Among the Barons, you have the greatest merits, so your promotion to Viscount is only natural."

"Then, Father, what kind of price do I have to pay?"

"After you receive the Viscount title, you will have almost no share in the distribution of materials, so you need to provide additional subsidies to the knights who fought alongside you."

"I understand," Liszt nodded, it was only to be expected. A Viscount's title already belonged in the middle ranks of the nobility, an identity that no amount of gold coins could buy. A fully owned island or city was definitely a heritage that a family could pass down for hundreds of years.

In other words, he had to pay out of his own pocket to compensate the knights who had made achievements.

The compensation he calculated for military merits afterward relieved him because, in every aspect, he had secured the majority of the merits. Without Douson, the Black Knight Order definitely would not have achieved glorious merits, which meant the compensation standards weren't high.

"Altogether, it's about six thousand gold coins. Subtracting the spoils that have already been privately dealt with, I probably have to pay four thousand gold coins."

Four thousand gold coins was within an acceptable range, just a little more than half a year's profit share from Fresh Flower Brew.

Indeed, the Swift Shadow Bow he received was worth about three or four thousand gold coins. All in all, although he didn't gain the right to loot spoils of war, obtaining the Viscount title was enough to make him satisfied.

Suddenly, he thought, "Now that I've been promoted to Viscount, can any of my followers be promoted?"

After thinking about it.

It seemed that nobody had achieved remarkable merits, and since this was their first battle, it was inappropriate to promote too quickly. At most, he could consider Marcus Wheel and Charles Trap as candidates for observation, waiting to see how they performed in the next battle.

However, whenever he thought about his followers achieving merits and the need to distribute land, he always had an unease: "The enfeoffment system... I feel great obtaining land ownership, but it's very upsetting to give it to others. Should I make some small changes to the structure of the enfeoffment system?"

With the size of Black Horse Island, in normal circumstances, enfeoffing two or three Barons and a dozen Honored Knights would be quite reasonable.

But he didn't want to enfeoff any land at all: "Perhaps, I can take reference from the enfeoffment systems of ancient China, with nominal enfeoffment and remote enfeoffment?"

Nominal enfeoffment was similar to the life peerages in this world, but life peerages are not hereditary, whereas nominal enfeoffment can be inherited. There would be no fief or land, just enjoying the stipend paid by the court.

Remote enfeoffment involved the court designating a certain area as the fief or assigning a certain official position as a status; however, the person does not administer the fief or actually execute the official duties, but merely holds the title in name only.

Whether it's an honorary title or a remote fiefdom, both are meant to confer ample honor, but in reality, no actual land grants are made, as all land still belongs to the royal court. This system cannot be said to be advanced, but in the feudal era, it had a very good effect on strengthening centralized power and was conducive to national unity.

While Europe remained perpetually fragmented, China managed to maintain unity, which was not without institutional reasons.

Soon, he lowered his profile, "Now is not the time to deal with the feudal system. I am but a minor noble, and keeping a low profile while developing is the way to go. First, let's adapt to the feudal system. Perhaps my followers, seeing that the development of my lands is unsatisfactory, will actively seek to change the status quo?"

With the perspective and intelligence of a modern person, and the assistance of the Smoke Mission, Liszt would undoubtedly unlock the maximum value of the land in his hands.

In the hands of his followers, it would probably still revert to the simple farming ways of the average noble, where natural disasters could lead to bankruptcy in an instant. If it were other landlords and their followers, there would be no issue with this sort of feudal arrangement, as it was how everyone lived.

But in Fresh Flower Town, on Black Horse Island, when the followers saw Liszt's lands becoming more and more prosperous, they would definitely have many thoughts.

"By that time, with just a little guidance from me, I'm afraid they will proactively integrate into the new system without me having to suggest it."

...

Calculating the achievements of battle made the voyage less tedious; Liszt discussed the matter of military exploits with his fellow knight followers almost daily, ensuring that everyone's grievances were satisfactorily addressed.

Meanwhile, he would also have a drink with his father and brother, discussing the direction of the family.

"The Grand Duke hasn't mentioned what happened between him and the Sapphire Dragon, but there have definitely been changes with both the Sapphire Dragon and the Grand Duke... It's unknown whether he has become a Dragon Knight, a Dragon Domain Landlord, or some other entity... His rage has not subsided."

Li Weiliam briefly recounted the meeting at Juniper Castle for his two sons to consider.

He continued, "The Grand Duke's clear-out of Iron Hoof Island has a very specific objective; he wants to take possession of Iron Hoof Island. Then, using Iron Hoof Island as a reward, he plans to grant the title to three more Earls; Iron Hoof Island could barely accommodate three Earls living together."

Iron Hoof Island, owned by the Marquis of Bull, is the second-largest island after Blue Dragon Island, almost three times the size of Red Crab Island of the Long Taro Family.

If Red Crab Island can accommodate one Earl, then naturally, Iron Hoof Island can accommodate three.

"Does that mean, Father, that you have a chance to vie for an Earldom?" Levis's eyes blazed with excitement, "With three Earl candidates, the odds are good! Then, our Tulip Family will become an Earl's family!"

Your next journey awaits at NovelBin.CôM

"It's not three candidates; it's five candidates," Li Weiliam said excitedly, restraining himself from showing it, "Two more large cities will be carved out from Blue Dragon Island to grant to two more Earls, joining the Blue Blood Alliance."

The Earls of the Blue Blood Alliance certainly won't have as comfortable lives as Feudal Earls, but an Earl is still an Earl, with benefits far greater than those of a Count.

Liszt wasn't enticed by the Earldom; he furrowed his brow, "Does this mean that the Grand Duke is preparing to launch an even fiercer war?"

"Correct. As soon as Steel Ridge Kingdom goes to war with Eagle Kingdom, the Grand Duke will immediately issue Pioneer Mandates, actively expanding resources to replenish the national deficit caused by the Marquis of Bull."

"A policy of aggressive militarism... Can the Duchy of Sapphire sustain such frequent warfare?" Liszt asked calmly, "The battle for Iron Hoof Island has already taken a significant toll on the Coral Island Knights, more than the losses in previous Pioneer Mandates; we need time to recover."

Li Weiliam smiled slightly, not concerned about Liszt's worry, "The Grand Duke is preparing to open up the integration of war captives; in the future, we'll be able to recruit prisoners of war from the Eagle Kingdom into our Knight Order."

Enhance your reading experience by removing ads for as low as \$1!

Chapter 403 - 400: Return to Coral Island (Second Update)

As a Grand Duchy that started from the serf trade, besides the original followers, most of the civilians and the knights born from civilians in the Duchy of Sapphire actually originate from the serfs who were once plundered or purchased.

With generations living through it, these descendants of serfs have come to identify with the identity of the Duchy of Sapphire.

However, to continue to strengthen this sense of identification, the reigning Grand Dukes have refused to accept prisoners of war—the loyalty and identity recognition of captured knights are obstacles. Moreover, the lack of knights among the domestic nobles means that once the gates are opened, a large influx of prisoner knights would lead to a loss of national identity.

Without this sense of identification, a nation is no longer a nation; noble rebellions could occur at any time.

Just like Liszt, who grew up on Coral Island, it was estimated that there were just over a thousand Earth Knights; each time a Pioneer Mandate mobilized the Earth Knights, only about five or six hundred would be involved.

In the battle against Iron Hoof Island, the mobilization of Earth Knights reached a peak of seven hundred, which was the limit. However, casualties among the Earth Knights amounted to two hundred, especially the Grey Knight Order led by Viscount Jonas, which suffered more than half in losses—fortunately, the Earth Knights were remarkably resilient and survived serious injuries, or the losses would have been even greater.

Once the release of the prisoners was allowed, one can imagine how many foreign Earth Knights the Earls would recruit to replenish their forces.

The treatment of foreign Earth Knights would definitely be far lesser than that of local ones, but as long as they could be assured not to revolt, recruiting the foreign Earth Knights would quickly become mainstream. Once Coral Island was filled with foreign knights, it goes without saying that thoughts would quickly change.

The knights might continue their loyalty to the Tulip Family, but they would have no good feelings towards the Sapphire Family that waged the wars.

The sense of national identity would rapidly collapse.

As one of the major nobles, Li Weiliang was not blind to this situation, yet he still readily accepted it. The reason was simple; as long as his power as a noble remained intact, the loss of national identity mattered little to him. The one truly shaken would only be the authority of the Sapphire Family.

Liszt couldn't help but ask, "Why would the Grand Duke make such a decision?"

"Because the Grand Duke doesn't care," he replied confidently. "He's convinced he can suppress any situation. You can judge this from the Dragon Might emanating from him... In fact, I suspect that the Grand Duke may have already completed the most crucial dragon riding process, using the Marquis of Bull's assassination attempt on the dragon as an opportunity."

The Earl paused, "He may have already become a Dragon Knight, and he's dissatisfied with the Grand Duchy's seclusion."

Speaking of Dragon Knights, the Earl gazed outside the cabin, lost in thought.

Levis added, "Moreover, the internal instability requires that the Grand Duke strengthen morale through war and warn other nations not to think that the Grand Duchy of Sapphire is in decline."

My father and brother make a reasonable analysis.

Liszt said no more, but he always felt that the Grand Duke was like trying to quench thirst with poison.

After returning to his room, he quietly reflected for a moment, "If the Grand Duke's aim to boost morale is beneficial to me, I can use the opportunity to earn more military exploits and expand my own power; if the Grand Duke is quenching thirst with poison, by the time the country collapses, I would probably already have the power to protect myself, so it still won't affect me."

Even more so, he thought.

If the country doesn't unravel, how can I seize the opportunity to rise?

And how can I grab the "Dragon Knight's Dou Qi Secret Manual"?

...

The morning of July 21st.

After four days of drifting, the fleet formally returned to Coral Island.

Knowing that the Knight Order that went off to battle had come back, Tulip Castle buzzed with excitement, which had been missing for a long time.

Lady Marie, along with Lidun, the castle's butler, and servants, received them on the castle hillside road. Lady Penelope and Li Vera set out from the small castle in Coral City to wait on the road as well. The nobles from Coral City, hearing the news, also rushed over in a frenzy.

The sky had just cleared after the rain. There were still some puddles on the stone-paved road, but that did little to damper the welcoming crowd's enthusiasm.

The cheers could be heard from afar.

Liszt rode on a Landwalker Bird, clothed in a simple undershirt with a leather armor on top, the Sky-Cleaving Greatsword hanging at his waist, and the Swift Shadow Bow on his back. It was difficult to find the right words to describe his appearance other than handsome and dashing—always mindful of his appearance, he took great care to groom himself regularly, even on board the ship.

Maintaining cleanliness and dryness every day not only made him appear sharp to others but also boosted his confidence significantly. Continue reading at [NovelBin.Cô](#)m

Douson's wounds had healed, and returning to the familiar Coral Island, it was in good spirits, darting around the Knight Squad, now shooting forward, now looping back.

However, Loki seemed listless; it might have been a bit seasick. Fortunately, the robust recovery abilities of low-level Dragon Beasts allowed it to maintain its basic riding capabilities.

"This is the treatment for a hero's return. I used to stand in the welcoming ranks, but now I have grown fond of this triumphant feeling," Levis said, also buoyant in spirit, riding alongside Liszt. "Seeing the homeland safe, a sense of accomplishment fills my chest. Perhaps this is the knight's mission."

These were heartfelt words. Knights fought for their territory, while the denizens supported the knights, each with their own life and path, complementing one another.

Liszt nodded, "I hope we can see the cheering welcome teams time and time again."

"We will!"

The knights walked on the road where Tulip Castle and Coral City diverged. Most would continue towards Coral City, disband on the spot, and each return to their own home. Nobles like Liszt with titles would head to Tulip Castle to enjoy the first feast upon their return.

The Earl, at the front of the procession, dismounted as soon as he saw Lady Penelope, and briskly walked up to give her a deep bow, "Mother, I've caused you worry!"

"My son, Li Weiliam Tulip, I knew you would triumph with every return!"

Levis and Liszt also dismounted and quickly approached Lady Penelope, "Grandmother."

"Strong lads of the Tulip Family, seeing you return safely, I can once again settle the anxious heart back into my stomach," Lady Penelope said, embracing them with relief. "Despite braving the elements and enduring hardship outside, you clearly took good care of yourselves; still as hearty as ever."

The family members exchanged greetings and expressed their concern for each other.

Even though he had integrated into this world, into the Tulip Family, Liszt still felt uncomfortable, but he restrained his emotions well and was fully invested in the moment.

After the greetings, the group reassembled and continued walking towards Tulip Castle.

Liszt sent Retainer Knights to Fresh Flower Town to send messages of safety and planned to return in the afternoon, without spending the night in Tulip Castle—he was really missing Fresh Flower Town and couldn't wait to rush back to the land that truly belonged to him.

"Baron, I'd like to return to Fresh Flower Town first, I miss my sister dearly," Paris said to Liszt, riding on her Li Dragon Horse.

Liszt did not refuse, "You may."

Back on Coral Island, he no longer needed Paris's close protection.

...

Luncheon.

After mourning the fallen knights, the atmosphere quickly heated up; knights were accustomed to departures with each campaign, and those who returned alive inevitably chose to celebrate wholeheartedly.

The banquet was in high spirits when Levis suddenly stood up and clapped his hands, "Ladies and Gentlemen, I need to announce this—the Iron Hoof Island campaign was a

glorious victory, and on Coral Island, a new Viscount will be born—my brother, Liszt Tulip!"

The applause thundered.

Liszt nodded in acknowledgment to those around him.

Once the applause died down, Levis smiled and continued, "Three days from now, a title-conferring ceremony will be held at Tulip Castle. Let's all witness Liszt's glorious moment together!"

Everyone raised their glasses, "To Viscount Liszt, cheers!"

"To Liszt, cheers!"

"To Viscount, cheers!"

"My glory, I wish to share with you all." Raising his glass, Liszt saw all the nobles around him raising their glasses in his honor, and he swirled his glass in front of him with a smile.

Then he tilted his head back and drained the spicy Fresh Flower Brew.

The liquor flowed down his throat, exhilarating and liberating.

Enhance your reading experience by removing ads for as low as \$1!

Chapter 404 - 0401: My Fresh Flower Town (Third Update, 1200 Monthly Votes Additional)

"Prepare to receive your honor at the ennoblement ceremony in three days,"

"I understand, Father,"

After the luncheon, Liszt did not delay and left Tulip Castle for Fresh Flower Town straight away. He had drunk quite a bit and felt slightly tipsy, yet he could still maintain clarity.

The landwalker bird Loki had recovered well; its soft feathers and broad back provided a comfortable seat for Liszt.

He exhaled a breath of turbid air and summoned the Smoke Mission—strangely enough, while he was rapidly moving on the back of the landwalker bird, the swirling Smoke Serpent Script remained fixed in front of him.

"Complete the mission, and you shall be rewarded with the revival of decaying dragon bones,"

Upon seeing the reward content, he unconsciously furrowed his brow.

It took a while before his eyes widened, staring at the now-changed Smoke Serpent Script for a new mission, "Mission: Sea Sprite Ake Loides has accumulated a large number of unresolved magic-related questions which are crucial to her understanding of magic and the enhancement of her own magic power level. Please solve them. Reward: One Water System Grand Mage."

His eyes were on the Serpent Script.

Yet his mind was on the previous mission reward, "Revival of decaying dragon bones?"

He wondered if it was the alcohol that dulled his mind, because it took considerable effort to get his thoughts spinning, "Dragon bones? Revival? Decaying? Is it talking about those five Fire Dragon bones at the Burial Ground on Black Horse Island?"

The five decaying dragon bones at the Burial Ground had long been exposed to wind and sun.

Liszt knew they were anything but ordinary, but he had always been unclear about their particular significance. Now it seemed that these five dragon bones were finally about to undergo some change.

"What does revival imply?"

He pondered the reward for the Smoke Mission, a bit puzzled. Taking the literal meaning, it should mean a revival as in "spring returns to the earth and all things come back to life": "Do the reviving decaying dragon bones mean that these bones will come back to life, like withered trees springing back to life?" Read latest chapters on NovelBin.Côm

"Does this type of dragon bone revival merely concern the bones coming back to life, or..." he suddenly entertained a bold thought, "could the Fire Dragon that died countless years ago also gradually come back to life along with the revival of the bones? Can dragons resurrect from the dead?"

He had never heard of such a possibility.

Liszt entertained another idea, "Or perhaps it's not about the Fire Dragon coming back to life; maybe a new Fire Dragon is being nurtured, relying on the residual magic power within the decaying dragon bones?"

He remembered a legend.

Elderly dragons would leave their homes at the end of their lives and fly to the legendary Valley of Dragons to slumber: "Maybe mature dragons return to the Valley of Dragons because they seek a place to prepare for their resurrection from death?"

As dragons do not have genders and do not give birth, their origin has always been a mystery.

This led Liszt to speculate—resurrection and cyclical rebirth.

After much contemplation, he couldn't come up with a better outcome.

He then restrained himself from fantasizing too much, "It's just the revival of five bones; don't rashly link it to dragons... Perhaps the Smoke Mission is simply hinting that the Fire Dragon bones can be used for shipbuilding... I haven't had a chance to ask Virginia if she knows the Dragonbone Stabilizer Technique."

No more thoughts about dragons.

The five Fire Dragon bones needed his inspection upon his return.

His attention shifted back to the new Smoke Mission.

The mission hinted that Ake had accumulated a plethora of magical questions in need of resolution, followed by a reward of a Water System Grand Mage—this was easy to understand: Ake was about to advance to the rank of a Grand Mage in the Water System.

"Not bad, she has not disappointed me. Ake has become a Grand Magician in less than half a year; her talent is terrifying... In a few more years, she may indeed have a shot at challenging the title of Water Mage,"

The sun baked the earth.

The Landwalker bird kicked up gusts of wind as it ran, keeping Liszt cool and gradually sobering him up with the continuous dissipation of Dou Qi, as his brain became refreshed and alert once again.

As the sun neared setting, Thorn Ridge, densely planted with Rapid Growth Iron Thorns, came into view. And on the gravel-paved main road, there was already a welcoming party waiting for him. The moment Liszt spotted the group, they too noticed Liszt and his entourage.

Suddenly, cheers erupted.

Even though they were still hundreds of meters away, one could clearly hear the shouts of "Viscount, Lord!"

The messaging Retainer Knight had already spread the news of Liszt's imminent promotion to Viscount. It was easy to imagine how excited and effervescent the town officials, led by Goltai, would be. Everyone knew Liszt's future was bright, but no one expected him to become a Viscount within a year.

Clip-clop, clip-clop.

The sound of horse hooves thundered past as the troop entered the main road of Thorn Ridge.

The welcoming party was indeed led by officials including Goltai, along with a large number of the town's residents, crowded at the roadside, craning their necks in anticipation to catch a glimpse of the great Lord Landlord.

"Oh, the knight's glory has been bestowed upon us, unbelievable!" Goltai exclaimed in his characteristic exaggerated tone, shouting loudly, "Great Lord, Viscount Liszt! Goltai offers you the highest regards!"

The other town officials standing behind him greeted Liszt with various welcomings and flattery upon his return.

The residual glow of the setting sun fell on Liszt's face, making his already handsome and extraordinary presence even more tall and impressive. In a warm voice, he said, "I accept your regards, let's head back to the castle first."

"Yes, my Lord!"

Thus, the group surrounded Liszt and walked towards the castle with him as the center of attention. Loki was also the focus—its colorful feathers and large yet slightly odd stature amazed the ordinary folk—in a world where Magical Beasts roamed, people's aesthetics were not limited to cats and dogs.

The stranger and more powerful the creature, the more it was pursued with human frenzy.

"That's our Lord Landlord, even such a terrifying big bird is his mount!" the townspeople running behind the group commented, whispering to each other as they ran.

"It might be an Intermediate Magical Beast, you know. The Lord Landlord's Douson is an Intermediate Magical Beast, and he's also slain the Intermediate Sea Monster, the Six-Headed King Serpent."

The townspeople running alongside nodded in agreement, finding it plausible, "Exactly, if it wasn't Intermediate, the Lord Landlord wouldn't be interested!"

"The Lord Landlord has become a Viscount, do you think North Valley City will be given to the Lord Landlord?"

"Don't know, maybe the Lord Landlord can get an island like that Viscount from Beer Island."

"Ah, when the Lord Landlord first came to Fresh Flower Town last year, I said he was a born Noble and would eventually achieve countless honors!"

Amidst these whispers—

Liszt did not overhear, as the officials around him, eager to offer their flattery, were completely unaware that he was not in the mood to hear their compliments right now.

All he wanted was to get back to the castle and enjoy a cup of fresh milk tea brewed by Mrs. Morson.

"Mrs. Morson must already be brewing the milk tea. She knows my favorite is the one made with Dragon Breed Milk, and even if she forgets, Mr. Carter will remind her!"

After a year of living together, servants like Carter and Morson felt like family.

Before Liszt even set foot on Douson Avenue, he suddenly raised his head to look forward. Accompanied by a "Wow" cry, the familiar Thorn Minor Elf Jela flew over undulating high and low. It seemed elated to see Liszt and landed directly on his head.

Elves are creatures full of emotion, and the contract made Jela and him all the more intimate.

"Little one, have you torn down the castle yet?" Liszt called Jela to his palm and continued to ride the Landwalker bird towards the castle.

"Wow!"

In an unguarded moment, Jela suddenly raised its hand, and a pale green light emitted, sprinkling over Loki's head.

Enhance your reading experience by removing ads for as low as **\$1!**

Chapter 405 - 402: Rebellion of the Blizzard Beast (First Update)

"Jela, stop!"

Liszt reprimanded the still mischievous Jela, and before the thorns had time to grow, he plucked the green thorn sprout from Loki's head.

The green light on top of the head flickered and vanished in an instant.

Loki, not understanding the reason, let out a meaningless cry: "Lok-da!"

And continued to walk.

Douson Avenue had been renovated to be even smoother, with apple orchards growing lush on both sides of the road, bearing no fruit this year since they were recently transplanted. But the Apple Tree Cordyceps was covered with green apples, clearly having grown at least twice its size.

Its branches and leaves spread out, providing a cool shade.

Under the tree, tables, benches, and rocking chairs were neatly arranged.

"Wow!"

"Wow!"

Jela flew up to the apple tree, clutching a green apple and swinging it; the apple didn't touch the ground, but it clearly had become Jela's plaything, as she liked to swing on it.

They soon arrived at the castle entrance.

Butler Carter was there with all the castle servants, lined up on either side of the door by gender, looking at the tall and handsome Liszt as he leapt down from the back of the Landwalker bird. Carter stepped forward immediately and with a familiar, deep, steely voice said, "My lord, welcome home."

Mrs. Morson also represented the maids, smiling as she said, "My lord, welcome home."

"Yes, home at last."

He had intended to express his triumphant emotions further, but a burst of barking interrupted the mood of the scene. Eight glossy black dogs swarmed over, rushing towards Douson and Liszt: "Woof woof!"

Read the latest on NovelBin.Côm

It was the Eight Tiny Ones.

In just over a month's time without seeing them, the eight Blizzard Beasts had grown a lot, now larger than big wolf dogs.

"Woof woof!" Douson, perhaps because the separation had been a bit long, wasn't too fond of his sons' approach and barked a few times to chase them away.

On the other side, belatedly, came the Earth Matron, calling out to Douson: "Woof woof!"

Douson immediately rushed over enthusiastically, mingling with the Earth Matron, wagging its tail excitedly. Now, both the Earth Matron and the Eight Tiny Ones could move freely.

"Storm, Flame, Rock, Surge, Thunder, Light, Ice Snow, Shadow, line up!" Liszt ordered sternly.

However, the Eight Tiny Ones were too busy frolicking to pay any heed to his command.

They even started growling at the Landwalker bird Loki, attempting to attack the long-legged, long-necked, fat bird. Loki hopped around, dodging the Eight Tiny Ones' harassment.

"Lok-da!"

"Lok-da!"

The scene turned into a chaos of chickens flying and dogs leaping, an unruly mess, and the sense of triumph that had just been conjured was utterly destroyed. The servants rushed to control the Eight Tiny Ones, but with so many people and excitement today, the Eight Tiny Ones were overstimulated and impossible to restrain.

Even one of them, Surge, opened its mouth to release a Rock Spike, attacking Loki.

Loki was adept at running but not at fighting, so he could only passively take the hits: "Lok-da!"

At the critical moment.

Liszt shouted with a grim face: "Douson!"

Douson instantly left the Earth Matron and charged over, "Woof woof!"

"Get these eight crazy dogs down for me!" Liszt made a subduing gesture, paired with a command, which immediately made Douson understand what it needed to do.

Turning around and pouncing fiercely, Surge, the one who barked the loudest, was slapped by Douson and rolled over, stopping to lie on the ground, whining and whimpering, not daring to move.

After subduing Surge, Douson continued to violently subdue Rock, Light, and Ice Snow, finally getting the eight tiny ones to behave, all lying on the ground, not daring to move—they still had obedience towards Douson due to their blood relation and the fear of a stronger being among their own kind.

"Someone take these eight crazy dogs, and Earth Matron too, tie them all up, and leash them to their respective kennels," Liszt was somewhat angry, "No training for over a month and it's complete chaos. It looks like the castle has been tormented by them during this period, Mr. Carter, has anyone been injured because of them?"

After all, they are magical beasts, which become very hard to control once they go wild.

When Liszt had set out on his campaign, he thought his training had been very effective, and that the eight tiny ones would listen to the servants who fed them, but now it seemed this was not the case.

Mr. Carter sighed, "Today is the day your lordship returns in triumph, and I had not intended to report these matters. In fact, in the second week after you left on your campaign, the eight Little Blizzard Beasts started to become restless. Over the following two weeks, they successively learned to release Rock Spikes, making them very hard to manage."

So these eight Blizzard Beasts were locked up in their kennels, no longer allowed out.

However, a few days ago, they successfully escaped from prison and started ravaging the area, taking the castle as their center, and even rushed into the residential area of the town yesterday, injuring several people.

"Stableman Barton was stabbed in the leg by a Rock Spike, and although his life was saved, he has been left with a permanent disability in that leg. Several members of the town's Patrol Team were also injured and became disabled. If it weren't for the magician Lady Chris Truth's intervention, there might have been even more casualties."

"My oversight," Liszt breathed out a cloud of murky air, "See to it that compensation for Barton and the injured patrol members is generous. Do not be stingy about the damage the Blizzard Beasts have caused outside the castle; draw up a list of all the losses and have the castle compensate for them directly. Also, build a separate shack for Loki."

"Yes, my lord."

He then turned and said to Goltai and other officials, "I am quite fatigued today. The banquet will proceed as normal, no official business will be discussed. Tidy up the affairs of Fresh Flower Town and report them to me in detail tomorrow... Also, prepare to gather four thousand Gold Coins, which I urgently need."

Three days later would be the day he was promoted to Viscount.

Starting with Viscount, he would officially join the ranks of the middle Nobles. At that point, the finances between the Castle and the estate needed to be gradually separated to prevent confusion in the accounts—because a Viscount has the power to grant Nobility, which is tantamount to establishing a simple bureaucratic system.

Goltai replied, "As you wish, Baron!"

"Then you may all disperse. I will join all of you to drink and chat about the Iron Hoof Island campaign during the banquet," Liszt dismissed the crowd directly, preparing to set aside all vexing matters and rest for a while.

Only after confirming that all the Blizzard Beasts were locked up in their kennels and Loki had adapted to the new environment did he enter the Castle.

Mrs. Morson brought him brewed milk tea and handed it to him.

He drank it all in one gulp.

The familiar taste, the familiar feeling, quickly smoothed over his irritation from the rebellion of the eight tiny ones. He had intended to hide in the study, using deep thought to adjust back to life in Fresh Flower Town. However, he quickly remembered that he had not yet visited Sea Sprite Ake to complete the task.

So he got on Loki and rushed to the seaside.

The Sea View Villa had been taken care of in his absence; he entered the room and blew the horn.

There was no response for a long time.

Ake was probably not nearby and might have gone to other places, "I'll come back in the evening."

...

Unable to find Ake, Liszt went directly to the Magic Workshop; he had run out of Magic Potions and needed to replenish them now, or else he would interrupt the potion-taking process.

Even though stopping for a while wouldn't cause too much of a problem, he still hoped his path of cultivation could be as perfect as possible.

"Baron, congratulations on your victorious return," The host of the Magic Workshop, Lady Chris Truth, had grown accustomed to life in Fresh Flower Town, and the delicious and plentiful food had made her gain a bit of weight.

Liszt smiled slightly, "It was only a battle that was destined to be won."

Enhance your reading experience by removing ads for as low as \$1!

Chapter 406 - 0403: Appearance of the Dragonbone Stabilizer Technique (Second Update)

After retrieving the recently stockpiled magic potions from the magic workshop, Liszt returned, ready to continue ingesting drugs.

The castle's kitchen was busy preparing for a banquet, and Butler Carter was ready to report on recent work, but Liszt declined, "We'll talk about it tomorrow, I don't want to discuss work today."

He wasn't a workaholic; after fighting for over a month, he just wanted to relax.

"Please have Mrs. Morson make me another cup of milk tea, I want to rest in the study for a while. If the saltpeter powder from last year can still be used, make some frozen fruit juice; if not, take some crushed ice from the ice cellar."

"Yes, my lord."

A moment later, the milk tea was served, but the frozen fruit juice would take some time to prepare.

Suddenly, Liszt asked, "Is Mr. Elkeson in Fresh Flower Town?"

"Mr. Elkeson visited a week ago; if needed, I can notify the caravan to relay the news of your return," replied Butler Carter.

"Please do so."

"Very well."

Once the frozen fruit juice also arrived, Liszt closed the door of the study, savoring the frozen fruit juice to fight off the heat. It was now July, the hottest month of the year, and life would be unbearable without ice. He sat in a rocking chair, swaying back and forth, letting his thoughts drift.

But soon, he became bored.

He decided to take out a soul storage vessel shaped like a teapot from the gemstone space: "Virginia Truth has been awake for a long time; I've been busy with the war and haven't had the chance to talk to her again."

Now that he had free time, it was the perfect opportunity to chat and have Virginia contribute the Dragonbone Stabilizer Technique.

He tipped the teapot, and a stream of smoke formed into light was poured out, quickly taking on the shape of a human's upper body, indeed the previously seen Virginia Truth, the specter with the majestic 36D.

"We meet again, Virginia. Should I address you as Miss Virginia, or perhaps as Your Excellency?" Liszt said, watching as clarity returned to Virginia's eyes.

"It's as if I was in a very long dream... Sir, since you already know my identity, I am a magician from the Magic Goat Family, Virginia Truth, dead from an accident." Virginia gave a slight bow and then looked at her body, "Was I previously sealed in a Dragonbone Stabilizer?"

"Yes, I salvaged you from a sunken Dragon Beast Sailboat," Liszt said.

Virginia nodded, calmly replying, "I remember now; it was Curtis Truth who killed me... My memory was lost thereafter, but I believe I was stripped of my soul by the evil hands of Curtis Truth and sealed within a Dragonbone Stabilizer... Thank you for freeing me from perdition, sir."

Liszt smiled, "I am Liszt Tulip, Baron of Fresh Flower Town, soon to become Viscount Black Horse Island."

"Viscount Liszt... How is the Magic Goat Family doing? Have you heard of my sister, Curtis Truth? She should have unified the Goat Assembly by now... Is Prince Annuette Sapphire well?" Virginia asked tentatively, probably thinking she hadn't been dead for long.

He cleared his throat.

Liszt felt a bit reluctant to tell this poor lady about her plight but knew there was no point in lying, so he still said, "The Magic Goat Family, about a hundred years ago, was

exterminated by the third-generation Sapphire Duke for their involvement in a court coup."

"What?"

The magician composed of smoke and light trembled, her radiance flickering on and off.

Just when Liszt thought she was about to faint again and retreat back into the soul storage vessel, her body finally stabilized, although her tone was still one of shock and disbelief, "Over a hundred years ago? Viscount Liszt, are you deceiving me?"

"I have no need to deceive you. You are merely a remnant soul residing in my soul storage vessel. In fact, I have little curiosity about events from over a century ago. The Magic Goat Family is like a ship that sank into the sea, which might have remained unknown if it hadn't suddenly been stumbled upon."

"Over a hundred years... forgotten... this..." Virginia took several sharp breaths, even in her soul state, the violent rise and fall of her chest was clearly visible, "I apologize, Viscount Liszt, I... I've lost my composure. I didn't realize I had been asleep for a century."

"It's alright."

"Could you tell me, if you know, what exactly happened to the Magic Goat Family?"

Such a request was not excessive, and Virginia in her soul state was a good confidant to talk to about the past. Once they were better acquainted, he could glean the Dragonbone Stabilizer Technique from her, "To aid Prince Annute, your sister Curtis, along with Marquis Cohen, decided to seize the lifespan of the Dragonstone Dragon."

"They wanted to make Prince Annute the Dragon Domain Landlord?"

"Yes, but their plan fell short. The second-generation Grand Duke discovered their plot and personally put an end to the Magic Goat Family. The Grand Duke himself was injured in battle and abdicated in favor of the third-generation Grand Duke, Andite... By the way, is Andite Annute's older or younger brother?"

"Younger."

"The third-generation Grand Duke exiled Annute's soul, and your sister Curtis probably escaped. Instead of seeking revenge, she delved into lich experiments, ultimately transforming herself into a lich and sacrificing a vast number of magicians and civilians to turn the Goat Vessel into a Ghost Ship bound for the Exiled Lands."

"Lich... Ghost Ship... Exiled Lands..." Virginia murmured to herself, "She really was a terrifying woman, dragging the entire family into a grave for her own love."

"This is just some basic information I know. Now, as Curtis's sister, could you tell me about the circumstances of that era?"

Virginia nodded, her gaze sinking into reminiscence.

After a long pause, she began to recount the story of the Grand Duchy of Sapphire from over a hundred years ago—a flourishing era when the Duchy of Sapphire was vigorously developing its sea trade, and the Magic Goat Family was following the trend.

After the Sapphire Family developed the Three-Masted Ship Technique, the Magic Goat Family went on to invent the Dragonbone Stabilizer Technique and founded the Goat Assembly, an organization of magicians. The initial purpose of the Goat Assembly was to nurture magicians for the family and to participate in the construction of Dragon Beast Sailboats.

"My father was Cohen Magic Goat, a marquis of the Grand Duchy. Curtis was my cousin; she grew up with me and was the pride of our family with her magical talent—she became a Grand Magician at the age of sixteen... Her romance with Prince Annette was blessed by everyone."

Virginia's voice was somber and fleeting, "As for me, I was just an inconspicuous member of the family, arranged marriages and shipbuilding were probably all there was in my life... I had never left the City of Thousand Sails, where I grew up, lived, and worked. Studying magic was the happiest time for me, until one day, Curtis came."

"She ordered all of us to stop our work and assist her in some cruel experiments and to secretly research the Sapphire Dragon... We didn't want to, and my teacher ousted her from the Goat Assembly... Then she massacred those of us who did not comply, and I could never imagine she would turn on me."

And then.

Virginia's story came to an end—she died.

"So, you know the Dragonbone Stabilizer Technique?" Liszt asked.

"Yes."

Enhance your reading experience by removing ads for as low as **\$1!**

Chapter 407 - 0404: Private Magic Advisor (Third Update, 1400 Monthly Votes Additional)

"So..."

Liszt hesitated for a moment. He originally planned to slowly familiarize himself before inquiring about the Dragonbone Stabilizer Technique, but then he felt there was no need for such complexities when dealing with merely a remnant soul in his possession.

Thus,

he paused and directly asked, "Could you hand over the Dragonbone Stabilizer Technique to me?"

Virginia was taken aback for a moment, "I can... However, Viscount Liszt, hasn't the Dragonbone Stabilizer Technique been disseminated in over a hundred years? I remember at that time my family had already conducted a technology exchange with the Sapphire Family. We acquired the technology to build three-masted sailboats, while the Sapphire Family received the Dragonbone Stabilizer Technique."

"There was a technology exchange?" Liszt was slightly surprised by her readiness, "I'm not very clear on the shipbuilding technology possessed by the Sapphire Family, but I hope to build my own technological reserves and eventually construct Dragon Beast Sailboats. Thank you for giving the Dragonbone Stabilizer Technique to me."

"It's nothing, I should thank you for releasing me from my downfall, allowing me a moment of freedom... It's just a pity, things have changed, the Magic Goat Family has been gone for over a hundred years."

"What do you plan to do next?"

"I... don't know."

The atmosphere grew a bit silent, and the mage made of smoky light, with a lifelike expression, revealed her perplexity.

To the memories she possessed, she had just been killed by Curtis, her thoughts still stuck in an era from over a hundred years ago; but the reality was that the Magic Goat Family had vanished into thin air, and she became an isolated remnant soul. In this world, not a single person she knew existed anymore.

The stark contrast left her confused and at a loss.

Liszt also didn't know how to comfort her, so he asked, "What does it feel like to live inside a Soul Storage Vessel?" He prepared to defuse the awkward atmosphere with a research-oriented attitude.

He was also curious to understand what it was like for Virginia to exist in a state of soul.

The independent existence of the soul, to Liszt before his crossing, seemed utterly impossible, but now he had to accept this reality and expand his own knowledge reserves.

The physical laws of this world were very different from those of Earth.

Virginia, snapping out of her daze, thought for a moment and replied, "It's like entering sleep, feeling as though many dreams keep emerging, but once I come out, I can't remember any of it."

Liszt couldn't fully grasp that state but had a basic understanding.

It was probably similar to entering a state akin to "hibernation."

He then asked, "So with your current soul state, how long can you stay outside?"

"I could stay a bit longer, I don't feel tired yet."

"Let's do this: for now, you can serve as my private magical advisor. I'll keep you by my side, and when there's a chance, you can look at the outside world... You have plenty of time to ponder over your next steps in life. After all, you may exist in this way for a very long time."

"I understand," Virginia didn't refuse, "Thank you, Viscount Liszt."

Liszt smiled faintly and asked, "Then in this state, can you touch objects that exist in reality? Like this book, can you turn its pages?"

Virginia was then floating above the desk, bending down to gaze at the knight's novel named "Mad Sword Saint Shamate Sunflower."

She slowly reached out to touch the book.

However, her hand could not truly make contact with the physical object: "I... I seem unable to do it."

"Using your spiritual power?" Liszt suggested, remembering that specters could attack people, which meant they must have the ability to make contact with physical entities.

Moreover, both Lich Curtis Truth and Lich Andy Sapphire, who were in a similar soul form, could manipulate physical objects.

He didn't know how Virginia's current state differed from that of a lich, nor why her soul could exist while the souls of other deceased could not. These were research topics for his future, and if he had the time, energy, and strength, he would seek to understand it all.

Following Liszt's advice, Virginia began to try to flip through the book using her spiritual power.

Magicians would all train their spiritual power. Perhaps they wouldn't necessarily have a significant advantage over knights since knights also practiced daily to control Dou Qi with their thoughts, but compared to ordinary people, a magician's spiritual power was extremely strong.

At first,

Virginia stared for quite a while without any movement from the knight's novel. But, as Virginia began to shimmer with light, the book fluttered from beginning to end like it was caught in a gust of wind, and the other knight's novels on the table also started flipping through their pages.

However, this force only lasted for less than ten seconds before disappearing, and everything returned to calm.

Virginia looked exhausted, gasping for breath, "Viscount Liszt, I feel very tired. I can barely hold on."

"Your mental control needs training. Once you've practiced, you should be able to use your thoughts to move some objects." Liszt evaluated, then added, "Since you're tired, go rest in the soul storage vessel... By the way, can you come out of the soul storage vessel by yourself?"

"I don't think so. After I go in, I feel like I fall asleep, and I can't do anything."

"Hmm."

Watching Virginia turn back into a wisp of smoke and retreat into the soul storage vessel, Liszt was very satisfied with the effect of this special magic equipment, especially the part where the soul couldn't leave on its own.

He stored it in the gemstone space.

The banquet then began.

...

The atmosphere at the banquet was quite lively.

In the dining room on the first floor, town officials, members of the knight squad, Paris, and Chris were all present. Like at Tulip Castle, they began with a moment of mourning for the two fallen Earth Knights, before moving to mingling and boasting with each other.

The participating members of the knight squad were all eager to brag about their performances on the battlefield, claiming all sorts of feats like skewering four enemies with one spear thrust, killing an elite Earth with a turnaround spear, breaking a long spear with a great sword to take a head, or shooting down an enemy's throat amidst chaos.

Of course, while boasting about themselves, the Earth Knights did not forget to butter up their superior, lauding Liszt's battlefield prowess.

"The lord is invincible!"

"With the lord riding on a landwalker bird and leading the Blizzard Beast, no one dared to face him in the charge."

"He was like a beam of light, guiding us forward!"

Liszt sipped his beer with a detached air, not saying much; he never enjoyed being overly active at parties. At Tulip Castle, many nobles were constantly toasting, making it hard not to respond. Here, he was the only landlord, and everyone else was a follower – so he could minimize the number of times he drank.

Or, like most leaders, he could take just a light sip.

The banquet lasted until eleven o'clock at night. After the guests dispersed, Liszt informed Butler Carter, then left the castle and headed towards the sea.

He was prepared to find the Sea Sprite Ake, help her with her magic problems, complete the Smoke Mission, and receive the reward.

Enhance your reading experience by removing ads for as low as \$1!

Chapter 408 - 0405: The Feasibility of Raising Magical Beasts (First Update)

The sea view villa was equipped with crystal lamps, which Liszt had installed for the convenience of the sea sprite Ake to read books.

When he arrived at the sea view villa and pushed open the door, he clearly smelled a faint fragrance in the room, which was the familiar body scent of Ake.

However, Ake was not in the room, certainly considering Liszt's arrival as that of a castle servant coming to clean the room and hiding herself.

Liszt stood by the window and blew a small horn.

In a short while, through the Eye of Magic, he saw a giant shell swimming over from the sea and entering the room on the first floor. Then, the shell crack opened slightly, and upon seeing Liszt standing at the top of the stairs, it quickly opened completely, revealing Ake wrapped in a water band at the crucial parts.

The sea sprite was still so beautiful and lively.

"Brother!"

Ake shouted excitedly, the sea water in the shell carrying her directly towards the top of the staircase, and she plunged into Liszt's arms: "Ake missed brother so much!"

As he held the soft figure in his arms, Liszt felt like he was embracing a large elf. The fullness of her chest was pressing against him, and even with the barrier of the water band soaking his clothes, he could still feel a suffocating pressure. He could not help but hold Ake a little tighter and carried her back to the study.

It was a while before Ake let go of her hands, containing her excitement, and blinked her large eyes, smiling at Liszt.

"It's been a long time, Ake."

"Yeah, yeah, Ake has been looking forward to brother's return every day. Does brother think of Ake every day too?"

"Of course, thinking of Ake every day, Ake is so cute." Liszt rubbed her blue hair, and she immediately burrowed into his arms like a kitten, sitting with him on a chair.

Or rather, Liszt sat on the chair, and Ake sat in his arms.

Her petite stature of no more than one meter fifty-five, when in the arms of Liszt who was over one meter eighty-five, indeed made her seem like a little cat. But although Ake was petite, her body was curvy and well-proportioned, which unavoidably led to some inappropriate thoughts.

Liszt felt somewhat feverish himself.

But he quickly harbored righteous thoughts: "Ake is just a sea sprite who doesn't quite understand human emotional communication, she is not yet of age, I should not indulge in fantasies." Despite the embrace making it difficult not to imagine some parching scenarios, he still restrained his impulse.

He chatted with Ake about some amusing anecdotes from the battle of Iron Hoof Island, boasting about his own brilliant valor.

Then he got down to business: "Ake, how has your magic progressed while I've been away?"

"Ake has already fully mastered the magician-level water magic—Water Arrow Barrage, Water Wheel Wall, Water Bullet, Water Whirlpool, Fountain of Water can be cast instantly... But the Water Wave Shield, which can only be mastered by a grand magician, Ake has been unable to release it." Ake said with some frustration.

The Water Wave Shield was provided by Chris Truth; although she was not a grand magician, because she had a grand magician as a teacher, she mastered several advanced magic casting methods.

Liszt naturally obtained the casting method effortlessly and passed it on to Ake.

"Tell me the difficulties you've encountered, I will consult with other magicians," Liszt said. The town now not only had Chris, the magician from the Goat Assembly but also Virginia Truth, a private magic consultant. Coming from the Magic Goat Family, this magician would likely have extensive knowledge.

Ake left Liszt's embrace and took a book from the study cabinet, handing it to Liszt: "Brother, Ake has recorded all the questions she doesn't understand in this notebook."

Taking the notebook, Liszt flipped through it casually, the handwriting in the first half was crooked and ugly, but as he reached the latter half, the handwriting became more and more graceful, with many special magical symbols also drawn. It had to be said that Ake's magical talent was brilliant, and so was her talent for drawing.

"I will consult with other magicians and help you solve these as soon as possible." Putting away the incomprehensible notebook, Liszt asked another question, "Ake, where's Nami, not following you?"

Nami is a mangrove minor elf.

Ake said with a smile: "Nami is at Mangrove Island, there are now many little ducklings hatched on Mangrove Island, Nami likes them very much. Every day she catches green caterpillars to feed them and even sleeps with the ducklings."

"How many adult Green-headed Ducks are there on Mangrove Island, and how many just hatched?"

"There are twenty-five adult ducks, and forty-four ducklings have hatched. There are also many eggs that haven't hatched yet."

Hearing that there were so many, Liszt was excited—the Green-headed Duck was a Low-Level Magical Beast, a source of a large amount of Magical Beast Meat.

"Won't those Green-headed Ducks attack Nami?"

"Not at all. The adult ducks are just looking for Green Caterpillars to eat on Mangrove Island. They don't care about their own eggs and the ducklings that hatched; it's Nami who is feeding the ducklings."

"Are those eggs hatched by the adult Green-headed Ducks?"

Ake shook his head: "No, they cracked open by themselves after basking in the Sun." It was clear that Magical Beast Green-headed Ducks are not ordinary ducks; they don't need to be incubated.

"Do they only eat Green Caterpillars?"

"They also go to the shore to eat small shrimp and crabs, and they eat the leaves of the Mangrove Forest and wild berries."

After listening to Ake's detailed description, Liszt basically understood that Green-headed Ducks were omnivorous, Low-Level Magical Beasts that could be domesticated. Artificial breeding was highly feasible, but the breeding of Green Caterpillars must also be managed artificially, as it was the Green Caterpillars that attracted the Green-headed Ducks to settle there.

Of course.

Feeding techniques would certainly require some time to explore, as these were Magical Beasts capable of spitting Water Arrows, which was very dangerous.

"So, Ake, do you often go to that Coral Reef? Have you found any larger Tridacna in Black Pearl Lake?" Liszt inquired further.

The Coral Reef was the coral reef that submerged during high tide, the surrounding waters of which he had named Black Pearl Lake; naturally, the Tridacna that produced Black Pearls were named Black Pearl Tridacna.

"I often go there to play, but there aren't any larger Tridacna in Black Pearl Lake. I've looked into them when they open their mouths; there are no very large Black Pearls. All of

them are much smaller than the Black Pearl brother gave to Ake," Ake said, conjuring a Black Pearl the size of a fist as if by magic.

Holding the Black Pearl, she said, "Ake has been practicing Magic Array construction with Black Pearls recently."

"Good, apart from learning to cast Magic, try to work on researching Magic Arrays. Aim to not only be able to fight in the future but also to produce Magic Potions and manufacture Magic Equipment."

"Hm!"

...

Leaving the Sea View Villa, it was already midnight.

He had intended to hand over Ake's Magic Notes to Chris for solutions, but considering the time, he decided not to disturb her as she might already be asleep.

Early the next morning.

He had a servant send the Magic Notes to Chris: "Tell Chris to try to complete the solutions as soon as possible. If there are parts that she cannot answer, just skip them." Liszt would ask Virginia about the parts Chris couldn't solve.

Afterwards.

He was having breakfast while listening to Butler Carter's report on the Castle's activities over the past month. There were no problems requiring his intervention, so he could skip over them.

After breakfast, he gathered knights such as Marcus and Consultant Goltai to set sail towards Black Horse Island.

Black Horse Island was already ready to be disclosed to the public, but first, it had to welcome a land measurement by The Court Envoy and the Tulip Fort Envoy to ensure it was suitable to be a Viscount's titled island.

On this trip, Liszt was going to handle the secrets on the island that couldn't be exposed—more importantly, he wanted to inspect the revitalized Fire Dragon Bones on-site.

Enhance your reading experience by removing ads for as low as **\$1!**

Chapter 409 - 0406: Can't Hit the Fire Dragon Bones (Second Update)

Burial Ground, in the afternoon.

Liszt walked among the five huge Fire Dragon Bones, constantly using the Eye of Magic to observe the magical feedback of the bones.

He saw no sign of magic.

The so-called resurrection of dragon bones by the Smoke Mission showed no signs; these five decayed dragon bones still looked the same as ever.

He dismissed the Eye of Magic and observed the dragon bones with his naked eye. Geographically, from Black Horse Island, the Burial Ground was located between Ice Grass Hill and Needle Grass Hill, roughly to the due east of the island.

"If I take this number one dragon bone beside me as the starting point (0,0) of the coordinate system, with the eastward extension as the x-axis and the northward extension as the y-axis, with twenty meters to a scale. Then, the number two dragon bone is located at (-2,3); the number three dragon bone at (4,5), the number four dragon bone at (8,3), and the number five dragon bone at (11,4), with the closest distance between numbers one and two being seventy-two meters."

As Liszt examined, he plotted the coordinate system on thick parchment.

The five dragon bones, positioned on the coordinate system, could roughly be connected to form a pentagon shaped like a sword blade: "Is there some special reason for this shape or for this distribution of bones? Or is it just because the volcano erupted at random, scattering the bones to these five points?"

It seemed to be a random scatter without a special reason.

He packed up the parchment and climbed to the top of the number one dragon bone, which had been weathered into a flat horizontal surface at the break. The bone was originally covered with soil and weeds, but now the weeds had been cleared away to reveal the fine patterns of the dragon bone itself. According to normal skeletal structures, bones are hollow, but the Fire Dragon's bones were not.

"Or rather, the location of the bone marrow inside its bones has been filled with some substance," Liszt squatted on the broken surface and looked closely; one could see a division line between the bone and the marrow.

Like the growth rings in a book.

"The Fire Dragon Bones haven't turned into fossils and are still bony in nature, including the large fragments previously transported to Fresh Flower Town, which are real bones. Those bone fragments didn't contain the substance that marrow transforms into... What exactly has the marrow in these five dragon bones turned into?"

He wanted to chip off a piece for research.

But the Dragon Bone was too tough to be chipped open, and strangely, the echo seemed a bit too loud. He stopped, and the echo disappeared instantly. When he struck the bone hard, the echo surged again.

"Something's not right!"

He immediately used the Eye of Magic again, looking around in a circle; no magical traces were found.

He struck the bone again, and at that moment, along with the surging echo, a magical pattern, like lightning, appeared beneath his feet on the dragon bone—red magic power, intertwining like blood vessels within the dragon bone, flashing by in an instant.

"There's a situation!"

He struck once more, seeing even more clearly the fire-red magic power within the dragon bone emerge, thick and thin, convoluted like roots. He turned his head to look at dragon bone number two nearby; when struck again, the second dragon bone also displayed a mass of densely intertwined fire-red filaments that flashed over the bone.

Looking towards the distant bones three, four, and five, every time he struck bone number one, they too would flash red magic filaments.

The echo expanded accordingly.

And as Liszt continued to strike, the twinkling of these fire-red threads became brighter and brighter, as if they would ignite at any moment.

He inexplicably thought of the sensation of turning the crank on a tractor from his childhood.

With the acceleration of the crank's rotation, the ignition of the cylinder increased, eventually accompanied by billowing black smoke, and the tractor ignited successfully.

So, his chisel danced on the Fire Dragon Bone like the needle of a sewing machine.

In his view through the Eye of Magic, the fire-red magic filaments grew brighter with each pass until at last they almost blazed into a large fire.

The temperature in the surrounding air was also rising progressively.

"Just a bit more effort, and I would have ignited these five dragon bones!" His heart surged with excitement as he increased the pace of his work. However, just as the flames were about to catch, the fine steel chisel snapped with a crack.

The fiery red threads on the fire dragon bones also extinguished instantly.

All his efforts were in vain.

Suppressing his frustration, Liszt took out a bone hammer made from fire dragon bone fragments from the Gemstone Space and continued to hammer away at the bones.

But after he had also broken the bone hammer, the fire dragon bones still failed to ignite.

"There must be something missing, perhaps fire dragon magic power?" he stopped hammering and sat on the fire dragon bones to think, his wrist already numb and sore, requiring a rest.

After he had rested, he took out his stock of fire dragon jars—aside from the supply used for the Fire Dragon Brick Factory, there was still quite a lot of fire dragon magic power that had not been put to use.

He released a small amount of fire dragon magic power onto the fire dragon bones.

He quickly discovered...

As the fire dragon magic power touched the fire dragon bones, it instantly turned into numerous fiery red magic threads and was devoured by the bones. After the fiery threads vanished, no Magic Little Fire Dragons flew out.

After watching for a while, Liszt was certain of one thing: "Has my precious fire dragon magic power just gone to waste like that?"

Unwilling to accept this, he took out another bone knife and continued to strike the fire dragon bones.

However, the result was the same as before—the fiery red threads grew brighter and brighter until the bone knife broke, and still, the fire dragon magic power did not ignite: "Could it be that I need to keep feeding it fire dragon magic power?" It seemed the fire dragon bones were lacking a kind of "fuel," much like a tractor without oil.

No matter how much you try to crank a tractor with no oil, it won't start up.

But still...

For Liszt to use fire dragon magic power as fuel, adding it to these five seemingly useless fire dragon bones, felt somewhat reluctant. After all, the uses of fire dragon magic power were so immense—currently, the Fire Dragon Brick Factory relied entirely on fire dragon magic power to operate, and the raw material ratios for slabs, conduits, and pottery had already been figured out.

They could be fired into finished products.

The conduits and slabs from the Fire Dragon Brick Factory directly accelerated the construction speed of Black Horse Island. The streets of the port town were already paved with slabs, and the drains were covered with conduits—neat and smooth, showing none of the backwardness and primitiveness typical of a small town.

Once you step away from the Fire Dragon Brick Factory, the feeling of backwardness hits you in the face.

"The Fire Dragon Brick Factory is one of the few industrial lights on my territory, and I must ensure its smooth operation... The current stock of fire dragon magic power could barely be used as 'fuel' for the addition... Besides, we could continue to mine the underground volcanic glass and extract new fire dragon magic power."

He made a decision right then: while Black Horse Island was still undeveloped, he would first clear the land and mine all the volcanic glass and fire dragon magic power.

The entire underground of the island was made of basalt columns, with gaps filled with lots of volcanic glass—it should be possible to mine plenty of fire dragon magic power.

"Igniting the five dragon bones should be nearly enough, right?" He looked at the dragon bones in front of him and released all the remaining fire dragon magic power.

As the bones rapidly absorbed the magic power, he struck for the last time.

Unfortunately, the result was still the same—all his efforts had been in vain, unable to ignite the magic power.

"Regardless, the five fire dragon bones have clearly revived. The next step is to keep mining fire dragon magic power and add it as fuel! When it finally ignites, what will it breed... could it really be a Fire Dragon Cub?" Liszt swallowed his saliva, feeling his heartbeat quicken.

He quickly dismissed this unreliable fantasy.

Enhance your reading experience by removing ads for as low as **\$1!**

Chapter 410 - 0407: Searching for Ducks in the Mangrove Forest (Third Update, 1600 Monthly Votes Additional)

Igniting Fire Dragon Bones seemed to be a colossal enterprise, and Liszt even doubted whether collecting all the Fire Dragon Magic Power from Black Horse Island would be sufficient to accomplish the ignition.

"I hope that with the help of the Smoke Mission, it can be lit as much as possible!"

However, the exploitation of Fire Dragon Magic Power had to be postponed, as he did not currently have enough serfs arranged for production. When construction on Black Horse Island began, there would undoubtedly come a significant labor shortage.

After one last look at the Fire Dragon Bones, Liszt returned to the port town.

Since he had to attend an ennoblement ceremony the day after tomorrow, he did not have time to stay on Black Horse Island any longer, and he needed to return to Fresh Flower Town tomorrow. That night in the port town, he convened a brief meeting.

"Measuring the island simply involves taking measurements around its perimeter, but the Court Envoy and Tulip Fort Envoy will definitely land on Black Horse Island and stay in the port town for a few days. Therefore, the secrecy must be well maintained. Consultant Goltai, how have you arranged this?" asked Liszt.

"My lord, there are four places of concern on Black Horse Island. One is the pasture with the Black Blood Treasured Horses, which must be strictly guarded to prevent discovery," Goltai reported.

"Second, the bones in the Burial Grounds—regardless of what creature they belong to, discovery would inevitably lead to prying eyes; third, the Fire Dragon Brick Factory, where the slab, culvert, and pottery formulas must be carefully guarded; and finally, the Rubber Garden, as rubber is just too important."

Liszt turned to Karl Ironhammer.

Karl immediately stood up and reported, "The Patrol Team has completed its training and has set up a defense layout for the port town and Black Horse Port. When the envoys are stationed on Black Horse Island, I will deploy the Patrol Team to monitor them all day to prevent them from leaving the areas of the port town and Black Horse Port."

"Very good, this is exactly what is needed. Black Horse Island is my territory; they can measure its area, but they must not set foot an inch inside it!"

Goltai asked, "Lord, what if they want to hunt here or take in the scenery?"

"Tell them if they want to hunt, go to Coral Island. Black Horse Island has neither game nor scenery," Liszt pondered and said, "You could also discreetly offer some gold coins to the Court Envoy, so that when they measure the size of the islands, they might report the size of Black Horse Island to be as small as possible."

The size of an island on paper was linked to military exploits; a larger area naturally required more military exploits to be credited, while a smaller area would mean a significant reduction in military exploits.

In reality, whether Black Horse Island was large or small didn't matter—it was all Liszt's fief anyway.

Therefore, he hoped that it could be measured a bit smaller—just like a house worth a million could be contracted for eight hundred thousand. The house would still be the same, and the money paid to the homeowner would still be the same, but it would save a lot on taxes.

After setting up the security measures,

Liszt then asked, "Aside from the Little Wheat Bug that I just contracted, have there really been no other Elf Bugs emerging?" After returning to Fresh Flower Town, he immediately formed a contract with the plump Little Wheat Bug, then placed the Barley Bug in Barley Hamlet.

All nineteen Elf Bugs were comfortably settled in their new homes.

Based on the frequency of Elf Bugs awarded before the Smoke Mission, he should have been able to foster one or two more Elf Bugs during his more than a month of campaigning.

Goltai spread his hands and said, "My lord, the Knight's glory has already favored Fresh Flower Town and Black Horse Island immensely; the number of Elf Bugs we've found far exceeds that of any place on Coral Island... Indeed, over this past month, we did not detect any signs of new Elf Bugs being birthed."

...

The following morning, just as the eastern sky began to show the pale light of dawn,

Liszt took the triplet Rubber Bugs to the Rubber Garden, unleashed the Tri-Phase Force, and restored the Rubber Trees that had been heavily tapped.

After several releases of the Tri-Phase Force, the Rubber Bugs showed no clear sign of stunted growth; on the contrary, they seemed more lively after recovering from fatigue—

this seemed to prove that releasing the Elf's unique magic did not affect their growth or evolution.

Afterwards.

Before the sun had risen.

They set sail on the Fresh Flower Vessel towards Mangrove Island.

He was headed to the mangrove forest to conduct a field observation of the Green Caterpillars and Green-headed Ducks. The boat quickly approached the shores of Mangrove Island. In the blazing summer heat, the peak season for plant growth, the mangrove forest seemed denser than before. Many seabirds could be seen flying around Mangrove Island or nesting in the canopy of the mangrove trees.

"Lower the boats!" Captain Kostor bellowed.

The sailors immediately lowered several sampans, also dropping ropes so that they could slide down to the sampans. These sampans, small wooden boats, were made of thorn ironwood bonded with rubber—very sturdy and capable of fishing in the coastal waters. They were a product Liszt was planning to promote.

The first step towards the sea was to conquer the coastal waters and develop the fishing industry.

Combining the Dragonbone Stabilizer Technique with the yet unborn Longitudinal Sailboat Technique, he would eventually establish a deep-sea fishing fleet capable of whaling and even hunting sea monsters.

At this moment.

He slid down the ropes to a sampan and swiftly paddled toward the mangrove forest, startling a large flock of seabirds.

Liszt was constantly vigilant of the deeper parts of the mangrove forest and soon saw the Green Caterpillar rewarded by the Smoke Mission—indeed a plump, green caterpillar as long as a finger, covered in curved hairs. At a glance, it was evident, the green hair somewhat resembled animal fur.

"Put on gloves and catch this Green Caterpillar to feel its hair," instructed Liszt to the rowing sailor.

The sailor readily extended his arm and caught a Green Caterpillar on a mangrove branch: "Lord Landlord, it feels like soft green hair, very comfortable to touch." He even took off the gloves to feel it with his skin and repeatedly mentioned how comforting it was, as soft as the fur of a kitten or a puppy.

Liszt nodded and then ordered, "Collect a batch of Green Caterpillars, and go back to study their nutritional and fibrous value."

He then continued to row deeper into the mangrove forest.

The mangrove forest had a complex root system, entangled and knotted. Thankfully, there were some waterways left through which, by bending down and lying on the sampan, one could barely pass.

Twisting and turning, by the time the sun rose in the east, Liszt finally set foot on the ground of Mangrove Island.

The ground was soft mud, clearly often washed by the waves, and many freshly sprouted mangrove seedlings could be seen—not only mangroves but a variety of other trees as well. Although they belonged to different families, they coexisted in much the same way, forming the mangrove forest.

"These trees are truly peculiar, not just the roots, but the flowers are even more strange." Marcus snapped off a tree branch and handed it to Liszt, "Lord, look at this. Their flowers actually look like this, like a bunch of sticks."

Liszt took the branch and quickly recalled some knowledge about mangroves: "These aren't their flowers, they are the seedlings; the seeds have already developed into seedlings. Once they fall, they instantly grow into new mangroves."

"Seedlings? Seedlings growing on the tree?" Marcus was somewhat skeptical.

"Mangroves live by the sea. If the seeds were to germinate on the ground, they would quickly be washed away by the waves. However, once they grow seedlings on the trees, as soon as they hit the mud, they quickly take root, preventing them from being swept away by the waves. This is probably why mangrove forests can continuously propagate."

After a brief explanation.

Liszt tossed away the branch. His main goal was to collect duck eggs and watch the Green-headed Ducks.

And to look for the Mangrove Minor Elf's cordyceps, perhaps he might even encounter Nami. Now that he was confirmed as the Viscount of Black Horse Island, the announcement of another minor elf would likely set off another wave of "Knight's glory favors" sort of overwhelming flattery—though the current Nami seemed of little use.

Just then.

The sound of a duck's "quack quack" echoed.

Enhance your reading experience by removing ads for as low as **\$1!**