

## The Mighty 1021

Chapter 1021: King of Shadows The assassin and the archmage had not yet woken up when Pilaf and his son were already confessing under torture. According to Pilaf, his family had long been in contact with the Kushan Imperial.

Because they operated a trade route together, the Kushan Imperial quickly used the news of the Aluminum Dragon to win over the Earth Fury Family.

“I don’t know how they learned about the Aluminum Dragon, but Shadow Incarnation is a massive organization, probably explaining how they accidentally discovered the Aluminum Dragon while investigating Piero. It is well-known that Piero is involved with Liszt, so isn’t it expected for Shadow Incarnation to investigate?”

Thus, having received the news of the Aluminum Dragon, people from the Kushan Imperial began to plot their conspiracy.

“The assassin is named Louis Shadow, he is the most powerful agent within the Shadow Incarnation, surpassing the levels of Shallow Shadow, Deep Shadow, and Shadowless, reaching a pinnacle that rivals Dragon Knights and archmages. I’m not very familiar with this level, only knowing Louis calls himself the King of Shadows.”

Apart from the King of Shadows Louis Shadow, there was also an archmage, the chief magical advisor to the Kushan Imperial royal family, Lerald Truth.

“I’m not very familiar with Lerald Truth either, only knowing that he is a veteran archmage, his power unfathomable. Moreover, he carries the Kushan Imperial royal family’s Divine Artifact, the Light of Confinement Magic Staff, which can lock the void and prevent any being from escaping the confinement light.”

Pilaf, a tough man, had to undergo various tortures before he could intermittently reveal the entire conspiracy process.

He was not familiar with the King of Shadows, Louis Shadow, nor archmage Lerald Truth, but had been in contact through an intermediary. This intermediary was a trusted knight of Emperor Jupiter, who was executing the entire Eagle Kingdom’s strategy and the collusion with Nobles.

“Where is this intermediary now? Do you really believe he is Emperor Jupiter’s confidant?” inquired the Marquis of Bull Tail, who was responsible for the interrogation.

Pilaf scoffed in response, “I don’t know where he is; he always comes to us, not the other way around... Why would I believe him, don’t you find this question laughable? With the King of Shadows and the archmage standing before me, you ask me whether I believe his identity, do you think I should?”

“So you’re confident in plotting with them to act against the Flame King? Haven’t you heard of the Flame King’s glorious battle achievements?”

“The temptation of the Aluminum Dragon, for a major family like us, is something you wouldn’t understand. Besides, the assassination was carried out by them, not by me personally. If successful, I could enter the Dragon Rearing Family; if not, I could still continue to enjoy... I just didn’t expect Liszt to kill Louis Shadow, and I jumped out!”

Pilaf still regretted his recklessness then—Liszt was clearly targeting his shadow, not himself.

Compelled to act, he exposed his own identity.

He still didn’t know that Liszt had long been aware of his conspiratorial identity.

“I’ve said all I could say, even the Cloaked Bear-wearer Cultivator’s Manual I’ve handed over. As a captive, I request to pay a ransom for the freedom of myself and my two sons,” Pilaf said.

“Unfortunately, Marquis Pilaf, the Earth Fury Family has been destroyed; no one will pay your ransom anymore.”

“Impossible!”

“That’s the truth. You’ve drawn the Flame King’s wrath by attempting to assassinate him, leading to the destruction of the Earth Fury Family. Additionally, we’ve just received news that the Eagle Royal Family has acted, declaring that the Earth Fury Family colluded with

Duke Piero of the Grey Iron Duchy in a plot to rebel against the Eagle Kingdom, and their lands have been reclaimed by the royal family.”

“What!” Pilaf exclaimed, his eyes wide with rage, “Impossible!”

“I also find it hard to believe, but the decisiveness of the Eagle Kingdom’s King is extraordinary. Knowing that the Aluminum Dragon was lost, he immediately allied with the Flame King to partition the Grey Iron Duchy and the Earth Fury Family, compensating for the losses caused by this incident,” Li Weiliam reflected with emotion.

Nobles exist around interest, yet such barefaced exchange of benefits swiftly shattered the slight sense of justice and morality in his mind.

He shook his head.

He walked out of the sturdy prison built underground and returned to the office in Reed City, when soon an assistant came to report, “Sir, a Sky Knight who claims to be a follower of His Majesty the King, Florenza Chase Wind Arrow, wishes to enter the Flame Kingdom and hopes to be granted permission.”

“Florenza Chase Wind Arrow?” Li Weiliam quickly recalled that Liszt had mentioned someone named Florenza who, having failed at Dragon Riding, was prepared to follow him, but it was uncertain if he would come.

To be recognized by an Aluminum Dragon clearly marked him as a talent with potential qualifications for a Dragon Knight.

Therefore, Li Weiliam nodded, “Allow his passage and bring him to the office. I want to arrange him personally.” Liszt habitually acted as a hands-off supervisor, leaving all matters, big and small, for him to handle.

He was extremely busy and had almost no time to rest.

Yet sitting in his spacious and bright office, Li Weiliam felt an indescribable comfort; power, this intoxicating brew, always had a way of making one revel in its essence.

“At last, even I, Li Weiliam, have a day where all the high Nobles bow before me.”

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“The Eagle Royal Family moves swiftly; the Grey Iron Duchy has already become a thing of the past,” riding on the back of an Aluminum Dragon, Liszt thought of the news he had just received with some regret.

Only one-fifth of the nobles of Grey Iron Duchy had been rallied by Piero·Grey Iron to travel to Heroic Yellow City. The Eagle Kingdom immediately acted, branding Piero a traitor and abolishing the Grey Iron Duchy. They also announced that all nobles from Grey Iron Duchy would be treated equally, allowing outstanding knights’ progeny to participate in the Dragon Knight candidacy program and other benefits.

With this, the nobles who were originally reluctant to migrate naturally leaned toward the Eagle Kingdom.

The ones who truly followed Piero consisted of only four marquises, seventeen earls, and thirty-eight viscounts. However, there were more lower-ranking nobles; these lesser nobles, willing to give up their modest family inheritances, prepared to move to the Flame Kingdom in search of opportunities.

To see if they could rise among the ranks of the great nobles.

Wald·Bumblebee was one such aspiring baron, who came from a family that had been in beekeeping for generations, taking their surname from the bear bees they bred. Unfortunately, wars were rare in the Grey Iron Duchy, so their noble title had always remained a modest baron, following a Viscount Lord.

This Viscount Lord was not outstanding but rather timid and afraid of action. He had refused to participate in several battles he could have joined, so Wald naturally had no opportunity to go to the battlefield.

He had long wanted to break away from this viscount, and now was the perfect opportunity, as the duke personally called for development in the Flame Kingdom.

“The Flame Kingdom!” Wald rode on his horse, his heart brimming with dreams of the future. A powerful Dragon Knight, legendary and risen in just a few years, only by following such a king to establish a new nation did the knight’s rigorous training and charges into battle hold meaning.

Yet, his family members were anxious.

Inside the carriage sat his wife and his sister, who was yet unmarried; they felt the bumps of the carriage, much like their current emotional state.

“How much longer until we reach Heroic Yellow City?” Wald’s sister lifted the curtain of the window, looking out at the endless primeval forest, feeling perturbed.

Wald’s wife shook her head, “I don’t know. We have been walking in this forest for a week and have yet to complete this journey. I’m starting to question whether leaving the Grey Iron Duchy was a mistake. The original castle was small, but it was nice living there.”

“Do you think we can still go back?”

“That’s definitely not possible now. Wald is set on following that Holy Dragon Knight to the Flame Kingdom, pinning all hopes of reviving the Bumblebee family on the Flame Kingdom.”

The sister said with skepticism, “Such a great figure should be worth following, right?”

The wife sighed, “I know that His Majesty the King is indeed great, but such a great figure is too far from us. The Bumblebee family is just a minor nobility; I fear that even if we follow behind His Majesty the King, His Majesty won’t even recognize the name Wald·Bumblebee.”

Chapter 1022: Double Fury It was inevitable, really, that Liszt would be unaware of the name Wald·Bumblebee. As more knights followed him, it became increasingly difficult to pay attention to a single baron.

Every mountain was to be tunneled through, and every waterway was to be bridged; these tasks were all supervised by Piero.

His duties, aside from riding dragons to patrol and drive away any Magical Beasts that might invade the migrating caravan, were to ponder the Sub-dragon clues provided by Piero·Grey Iron. This was part of the deal struck during the previous Mind Battle—the Sub-dragon clues Piero had offered concerned Nimia the Giant Lion.

According to legend, there wasn't much information available about Nimia the Giant Lion. What Liszt knew was that it was said to be impervious to weapons and indestructible.

Piero's information corroborated this.

Ten years ago, when the Grey Iron Dragon Ornn was known as the Ash King and was the Grey Iron Family's dragon that repressed the Grey Iron Duchy, it happened upon a robust lion while roaming the endless wilderness to the south of the duchy. The Ash King decided to hunt the lion for food.

However, after a fierce battle, the lion wasn't killed.

Naturally, the Ash King wasn't willing to let it go. Upon returning to the Grey Iron Duchy, he had Piero summon magicians to set up a Magic Array to hunt down Nimia the Giant Lion.

Still, they didn't manage to kill it, and instead, Nimia the Giant Lion turned the tables and escaped unscathed.

"I sent people to the Fertile Lands three times, and all three hunting expeditions failed, resulting in a significant loss of resources, which ultimately led to nothing. I even went to the Fertile Lands myself two years ago and saw from a distance that Nimia the Giant Lion was still alive and well, without a sight of its kin."

Piero could neither capture nor kill Nimia the Giant Lion, but he couldn't bear to give up on it either, so he kept the secret hidden.

He continued to investigate Nimia the Giant Lion in secret, "I found a record stating that in the era of the Moon Empire, Nimia the Giant Lion was a social animal. After a Native Tribe killed one, they made armor from its hide that could rival an Archmage."

"Isn't Nimia the Giant Lion supposed to be indestructible?"

“Well, there might be some special method to kill Nimia the Giant Lion, otherwise, they’d be overwhelming in number, yet now there are almost no traces of them to be found.”

Since Piero had informed him that Nimia the Giant Lion actually resided in the southern wilderness, known as the Fertile Lands, Liszt naturally planned to see this creature for himself. However, finding Nimia the Giant Lion was not easy. Even Piero, from the back of the Grey Iron Dragon, had to search for a whole half-month before locating it.

Such a creature, Nimia the Giant Lion, would actually hide in mountain caves to dwell, invisible even to the Eye of Magic.

Clearing his thoughts, Liszt no longer contemplated the matter of Nimia the Giant Lion; he would have to wait until he had escorted the knights to Heroic Yellow City before he could spare the time.

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The direct line distance from Grey Iron Duchy to Heroic Yellow City was about seven thousand kilometers. The journey was treacherous, and even with knights as escorts, it would take at least two months to safely arrive at Heroic Yellow City.

Liszt’s time, however, was incredibly precious. He only escorted the migrating knights halfway before turning back.

To return to Flame Island.

The reason was simple, Archmage Lerald·Truth had awoken and was ready for interrogation. At that moment, the Archmage Lerald was dressed in a specially tailored prison uniform designed to prevent connectivity with the Magic Web and preclude the casting of powerful magic spells that might facilitate an escape.

As for his original golden Magic Cloak, it was but a gloriously decorated garment that slightly boosted the strength of spells cast.

“Lerald·Truth...”

Liszt had not even begun to interrogate when Lerald suddenly looked at him and enunciated, “The Archmage who defeated me that day, was it Lord Acherloides Truth?”

“Yes, but now let’s discuss something else first, who was behind the attempt on my life this time?”

“Isn’t it clear enough who orchestrated it from behind? No one other than Emperor Jupiter could command an Archmage and the King of Shadows.”

Lerald’s complexion was still somewhat pale, but his spirit showed no signs of fatigue, “King Liszt, we don’t need to beat around the bush. I can disclose everything that I know, but I have one condition.”

“What is the condition?”

“I want to pass on all the knowledge I have acquired over the years to Lord Acherloides. I hope she can inherit my research and delve into more profound truths!”

“What kind of condition is that? You still want to play the role of Acherloides’ teacher?”

“No, after so many years pursuing the truth, my mastery and understanding of magic pale in comparison to the young Sea Monster Magician; clearly, I am not qualified to be her teacher. King Liszt, you do not need to doubt my intentions; the assassination attempt on you was merely a transaction, I bear no malice towards you personally.”

“You think I’ll believe that?”

“Why not? I am an Archmage. Seeking the truth is my life’s mission. Emperor Jupiter and I simply collaborated with each other. He needed me to oversee magical services for him, while I needed him to provide me with research resources. Then he exchanged the Light of Confinement for my attempt on your life.”

The Light of Confinement was that already destroyed magic wand.



With an air of inevitability, Lerald stated, “To me, Emperor Jupiter is utterly oblivious to the allure of the truth. Unfortunately, the Archmages of the Legendary Continent have long since withered away, and I had no choice but to collaborate with the Kushan Empire. However, things are different now. Lord Acherlroides is a Magician of rare talent, she has proven she can surpass all other Archmages!”

Confronted with this spiel from Lerald, Liszt found himself at a loss for words.

He had been ready to give this Archmage a piece of his mind, to make it clear how foolish it was to attempt his assassination, and to extract information about the Kushan Empire. Unexpectedly, the Archmage didn’t play by the rules, seemingly dismissive of the assassination and even desiring to cooperate with Acherlroides.

“So you think you can stab at me and just smooth it over with a few words?”

“You require compensation, is that it? I can’t provide resources of that kind; my Mage Tower is in the Kushan Empire, clearly I must forsake it. However, I can exchange the information I hold, along with all of my knowledge, for your forgiveness,” Lerald offered. “Additionally, I can stay in the Flame Kingdom and provide magical services for the Kingdom as long as my daily research needs are met.”

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The interrogation wasn’t going smoothly.

Or rather, it was going too smoothly, Lerald showed no intention of resisting, assuming a stance of being ready to “sell himself to settle his debt,” pressing for the cooperation to start immediately.

This left Liszt with no outlet for the rage boiling inside him; after all, he couldn’t simply kill the man outright. And indeed, the knowledge held by an Archmage was too tantalizing a lure for Liszt to cast aside. So, he had no choice but to approach Acherlroides to see if she was willing to cooperate with Lerald.

Acherlroides flatly said, “An Archmage certainly has value for cooperation, but he did attempt to assassinate my brother. Such a person is not to Acherlroides’ liking!”

Without a doubt, Acherloides supported the idea of simply executing the Archmage.

“Brother is not fond of him either, but after all, he is an Archmage. It would be too wasteful to discard his knowledge. Besides, his ability to conduct research could greatly aid your own experiments... Let’s keep him. Have Charley keep a constant eye on him, and if he shows any malice, wipe him out.”

That decided it.

Archmage Lerald Truth formally joined the Flame Kingdom. Liszt’s anger, however, remained unvented, so he turned his gaze to Louis·Shadowbody, the King of Shadows, who was recovering from his injuries and on the verge of awakening.

“Attempting on my life, you shall bear twice the fury I hold!”

Chapter 1023: You Know Too Lerald·Truth received amnesty, the price of which was that he would serve the Flame Kingdom for life and devote all his acquired knowledge and held information.

Liszt had no interest in understanding his magic knowledge, but the information he held, especially that related to the Kushan Imperial, was very worth exploring.

The founding time of the Kushan Imperial was no longer reliable. It was said to have originated from a kingdom two thousand years ago, which, after merging with the surrounding three kingdoms through marriage and other means, formed the Kushan Federal Empire. In the two thousand years since, the royal families of the four kingdoms merged with each other, eventually leaving only one imperial household.

There were some differences between the imperial household of the Empire and those of the Kingdoms and Duchies.

The main difference was that the Emperor’s offspring needed to be enfeoffed. Apart from the eldest legitimate son who would inherit the Emperor’s position, the other offspring would be given titles and start their own families with different surnames. If the eldest legitimate son died young, these offspring would have the chance to move into the palace and become the new Emperor, though the opportunity was slim.

Every Emperor received the best resources for cultivation and held office for a long time. They often practiced the method of skipping a generation for succession, passing the throne to a grandson.

If the grandson died young, the son could step forward and continue to cultivate a new grandson.

This generation's Emperor had inherited the Emperor's position directly from his grandfather and already had a grandson; the imperial bloodline would not be interrupted. Emperor Jupiter himself was a Dark Dragon Knight, his son was a Dragon Knight, and his grandson was also being nurtured to become a Dragon Knight.

"The royal family has a secret treasure, a tree related to the Jade Dragon that bears Jade Fruit. You should have seized a Jade Fruit from Louis·Shadowbody; it's the appearance of the Jade Fruit that ensures every generation of the imperial lineage—provided the talent is not too poor—can almost certainly ride dragons."

"Does the Kushan royal family have many such Jade Fruits?"

"I don't know; even I cannot pry into such secrets. By the way, there's a mystery I've always wanted to unravel. Are you able to ride so many dragons because you also possess a Jade Fruit?" Lerald·Truth gazed intensely at Liszt.

He was curious about all information related to the legendary Jade Dragon.

Liszt asked noncommittally, "Why do you ask?"

"When Emperor Jupiter made a deal with me to request your assassination, he told me that without external aid, a Knight could not possibly ride a second dragon. And all three great empires hold Jade Fruits, which have also given rise to Dragon Knights who ride two dragons."

This was an important piece of information; clearly, the Jade Dragon had indeed been dismembered and its remains scattered across the entire Legendary Continent, including the Mafa Continent.

Families that possessed the corpse of the Jade Dragon were obviously able to become enduring Dragon Rearing Families that wouldn't lack dragons to make up numbers, and thus could grow into empires. For example, the Flame Family that Liszt had founded, normally developing for a few hundred years, fit the pattern of an empire's rise perfectly.

Lerald added, "Sadly, the Sacred Dragon has been missing for thousands of years, and the three great empires could not obtain a Sacred Dragon. Only you have ridden a Formless Dragon. After getting the news of the Formless Dragon, when Emperor Jupiter summoned me, he said he was determined to have the Formless Dragon."

"Big talker." Liszt was alert in his heart but showed disdain on his face.

Lerald shook his head, "I'm not familiar with the secret forces of the Kushan Imperial, but I know Emperor Jupiter well. Once he wants something, he will pay any price... With the Formless Dragon in your hands, he will not give up but will continue to look for an opportunity to snatch it away."

"Then let him come. Even the Archmage and the King of Shadows couldn't harm me when they teamed up to assassinate me. I don't believe he has any tricks left!" Liszt's confidence was well-founded; this assassination attempt had proven again that the power of destiny favored him, and all conspiracies and tricks could not hide from him.

Lerald then narrated the overt strength of the Kushan Imperial.

The Imperial Dragon Lair supported thirty-one dragons, among which were twenty-two Dragon Knights, much more powerful than the strength of a typical kingdom. Fortunately, most of the Kushan Empire's Dragon Knights were used to combat the Neverfall Empire, or else it would have been too easy to annex the surrounding small countries, and they would have already expanded eastward.

Afterward, Lerald spoke of the political landscape of the Legendary Continent.

The Neverfall Empire was recognized as the strongest nation, followed closely by the Blue Dragon Empire, and finally, the Kushan Empire. These three empires were often at war, in a situation similar to a tripartite standoff. Next came eleven kingdoms and countless duchies, along with three major city-states.

Freedom City-State, Lost City-State, Mercenary City-State.

City-States were small alliances of Dragon Rearing Families, existing in the form of Mercenary Corps, mainly to oppose the Kushan Empire – which was the only empire that liked to plunder smaller countries.

Because of the great distance and the unexpected decline of magic civilization, the difficulty of imperial expansion increased, otherwise, in these thousands of years, there would have been some talented and ambitious Dragon Knights capable of unifying the Legendary Continent.

“So, how do you view the downfall of the Ancient Moon Empire?”

“I’m not sure, but based on my years of persistent excavation of ancient ruins, I’ve deduced that during the heyday of the Moon Empire, a huge catastrophe of destruction suddenly erupted. After that, the entire magic civilization collapsed overnight, and only then did knights develop in these ruins of civilization.”

“Have you heard of the Mafa Continent?”

“You know about the Mafa Continent too?” Lerald looked at Li Si Te with renewed esteem, “Indeed, there is a Mafa Continent similar to the Legendary Continent, where there were close interactions between the two continents in ancient times. The magicians of the Mafa Continent also achieved unification, called the Sun Empire.”

“What happened to the Sun Empire in the end?”

“It’s hard to say clearly, but I personally deduce that at the same time as the Moon Empire, the Sun Empire also collapsed thunderingly. And in the ancient seas there was also a civilization, ruled by mermaids. Some of the ruins I’ve excavated contain items from the sea and Sky Ships.”

“Sky Ships?” Li Si Te raised an eyebrow.

“The flying vessels that traverse the Devil’s Sea, humans from the time of the Moon Empire and Sun Empire didn’t like to travel on ordinary ships, they always flew in the sky, side by side with dragons.” Lerald said with some emotion, as to every magician, the magic civilization of ancient times was an ideal state.

“How much do you know about dragons?”

“I’ve certainly studied a lot about these magical creatures; they are the embodiment of the limits of Magic Power, representing the manifestation of some kind of Truth. As far as I know, there should be thirty-six types of Gemstone Dragons, seventy-two types of Metal Dragons, eight types of Elemental Dragons, five types of Sacred Dragons, and three types of Evil Dragons... But I’m not very familiar with the specific kinds.”

“You also know about the Evil Dragons?” Li Si Te became quite interested, “What do you know about them?”

Lerald was taken aback, “So Your Majesty you know about Evil Dragons too... That shouldn’t be right, this place is the wild countryside, small kingdoms like Eagle, Steel Ridge, and Blast Furnace Fortress shouldn’t be able to get any news about Evil Dragons... Ah, it must have been Lord Acherloides who taught you, I didn’t expect her to be so young, yet so knowledgeable.”

To Li Si Te, this didn’t sound quite right—it was he who had taught Acherloides, not the other way around!

He was the renowned scholar acknowledged by the Magic Guild of the Flame Kingdom!

Chapter 1024: Torture It was just a muttered complaint.

Liszt was well aware of his limitations; his so-called vast knowledge was mostly courtesy titles given to him out of politeness by others.

Now, it was Acherloides who was truly the most learned in the Flame Kingdom, especially when it came to knowledge of magic. Some basic principles were beyond Liszt’s comprehension, so profound were they. That was also why he had spared Archmage Lerald Truth’s life—some cutting-edge knowledge could only be vaguely understood by Lerald.

Kenley Truth and Chris Truth, the two vice presidents of the Magic Guild, were constrained by their own levels of cultivation and often couldn’t keep up with Acherloides’s pace.

As for the seven mermaids, they were Superior Magic creatures; however, their knowledge of magic wasn't even on par with that of human Grand Magicians.

"During this period, Acherloides has developed a strong distaste for you because you participated in an attempt on my life. Therefore, your assignment for the time being will be the compilation of 'Great Encyclopedia'. Once you've become accustomed to life in the Flame Kingdom, I'll involve you in Acherloides's experimental research," he said.

"That's fine, but when do you plan to build a Mage Tower for me, Your Majesty?"

He had not yet started his work and was already asking for his perks.

Liszt waved his hand dismissively, "No rush for the Mage Tower. With the architectural art I now possess, constructing wondrous buildings is a matter of minutes. Once my King's Castle and Royal Palace are complete, it will be your Mage Tower's turn." He still needed more time to assess Lerald's character.

It simply wasn't possible to fully trust someone after just a few conversations.

Lerald Truth could not disagree, "Compiling 'Great Encyclopedia' is indeed a good idea, but I have no patience for the task myself. You'll need to help me find a group of Grand Magicians to assist me; I am only willing to provide dictation. In addition, you'll need to prepare a laboratory for me. I want to develop a magic curriculum to teach to Lord Acherloides eventually."

"That can be easily arranged, but there is another issue we need to discuss—what information do you have about Louis Shadow, the King of Shadows?"

"Louis Shadow is the leader of Shadow Incarnation, an ace up the sleeve of Emperor Jupiter. I don't know much about his background, only that he has twice successfully assassinated Dragon Knights from smaller kingdoms. He exists on a higher level within Shadow Incarnation, above the rank of Shadows."

Shallow Shadow corresponds to Elite Earth Knight.

Deep Shadow corresponds to the average level Sky Knight.

Shadows corresponds to Completion Level Sky Knight.

Louis Shadow is the King of Shadows, at the level of a Dragon Knight or Archmage.

Suddenly remembering something additional, Lerald continued, “The reason Louis became the King of Shadows is probably related to Emperor Jupiter’s Dark Dragon, a creature inherited from the previous emperor. Jupiter himself is also grooming his grandson, hoping he can inherit the Dark Dragon.”

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“The Dark Dragon is related to the King of Shadows... Could it be that Shadow Incarnation is a system of cultivation similar to Light Magic Swordsman or Fire Paladin?”

With doubts in mind, Liszt stood up to leave.

He urgently needed to deal with some necessary tasks, such as practicing and harmonizing with the dragons—without which even dragons bound with Mind Branding would become estranged.

Moreover, he needed to properly soothe the elves, especially those recently obtained from the Earth Fury Family and the Grey Iron Family. With the sudden increase of Greater Elves, Liszt didn’t know what to name them; he considered following the Dragon Rearing Family’s tradition of not naming even the Greater Elves.

As of today, he could hardly look after the elves anymore.

He didn’t even have time to properly bond with the three Dragon Elves at home, including Jela, the uniquely different Thorn Greater Elf, who was virtually left to fend for herself.

Fortunately, Jela was currently learning how to manage and striving to be a good Elves Butler of the Flame Castle.



“Back then, when a single Tulip Bug failed to evolve, I was heartbroken for days. Now, almost every month, a few Elf Bugs die, yet it has become hard for even the thought of sighing to last long,” Liszt said, looking at Jela as she proudly educated the new Little Minor Elves, a wistful sentiment playing across his lips.

The main issue was that his rise to power was too wild, and there had never been a perfect harmony between his mentality and his strength.

“Waaah, did you all get that?” Jela, with hands on hips, finished scolding the Little Minor Elves. Wearing a set of extra-small Flack Abbieye, she looked somewhat... absurd.

The Minor Elves looked at each other, then dispersed without any of them responding to Jela.

Jela was so annoyed that she cried out, “Waaah”!

Elves have never been gregarious creatures; they have relatively independent personalities, which is why they often lack obedience and are easily immersed in their own worlds.

For example, the Corn Greater Elf, Mickey, counted corn kernels every day when he was a Minor Elf and continued to do so as a Greater Elf, striving to count from one to one hundred.

Once he counted to one hundred, he might be able to evolve into a Dragon Elf.

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Before Liszt could complete his round of training with the dragons, the King of Shadows, Louis Shadow, whom he had targeted with double fury, had already woken up from his stupor. Unlike Archmage Lerald Truth, he was assaulted by Liszt’s frenzied flames in his internal organs and nearly died.

So, even after waking up, he was still gasping for breath, ready to faint at any moment.

“Louis Shadow, do you understand your current situation?” Liszt personally interrogated the King of Shadows, his curiosity about the Shadow Incarnation undiminished.

“How did you, avoid, my assassination?” Louis, instead of answering, retorted with a question and was panting after uttering just a few words.

“I see you’re still not quite awake, not realizing the situation you’re in.”

“No, you, you’re not human, definitely not, I clearly stabbed, your heart, felt the heart, bursting, such a euphonic sound!”

“Nonsense!”

Right from the start, Louis presented an uncooperative stance. No matter how Liszt interrogated him, he just kept repeating phrases like “Liszt is not human,” “you’re already dead,” and “I wouldn’t fail an assassination,” stubbornly unyielding.

This angered Liszt immensely, not just double fury, but triple.

But the current Louis couldn’t be beaten; his body was too weak and could die from any blow. Therefore, Liszt forced himself to calm down, and a spark of insight crossed his mind: “If Louis is so uncooperative, it’s either because of his loyal-to-a-fault nature, or it’s because he dares not speak carelessly.”

Combining this with what Lerald Truth had said before, that the King of Shadows might be related to the Dark Dragon, Liszt grew more suspicious that Louis was a type of Dragon Wraith under the Dark Dragon’s influence.

Unlike Paris, who could train independently as a Light Magic Swordsman, Louis might be unable to escape the Dark Dragon’s control.

“Don’t wish to speak, huh? If you want to play the waiting game with me, then I’ll allow you to wait!” Liszt got up and left the underground dungeon immediately.

He ordered a magician with healing abilities: “Heal his body as soon as possible.”

He also handed over the interrogation duties to the dungeon warden: “When his body can withstand it, torture him daily with severe punishment. He doesn’t need to speak, just keep him from dying!”

“Your Majesty, you can rest assured. I might not be good at interrogation, but I excel at torturing prisoners!” The dungeon warden, a Sky Knight with the rank of Earl, volunteered to manage the dungeon specifically to torture mortals—it could be said he was a sadist.

After seeing Liszt off, the warden went to the cell with a smile at the corner of his mouth and, with an unspeakable gaze, watched Louis Shadow, making his hair stand on end.

Then he cackled: “You’d better get better quickly.”

Chapter 1025: Favor of Destiny In the end, they couldn’t prise open the mouth of Louis Shadow, the King of Shadows, who, tortured and battered, never revealed any information about the Kushan Imperial or the Shadow Incarnation.

This was the strongest-willed person Liszt had ever seen, so he could only let the prison staff torture Louis Shadow half to death before trying to invite Lerald·Truth to see if he could search the other’s memories through soul magic.

Unfortunately, no such magic existed, even for an Archmage who had lived for many years.

In the end, Louis Shadow’s soul collapsed, and his physical body disintegrated, returning to the fundamental material elements between heaven and earth; simultaneously, the Smoke Mission was finally completed.

“Mission completed, reward: Cloaked Bear-wearer Cultivator’s Manual.”

To be honest, this mission deeply puzzled Liszt. According to the mission’s reward, he should have received the Cloaked Bear-wearer Cultivator’s Manual a month ago when Pilaf and his son confessed. Even if the mission had not been completed, it should have changed, but it was forcedly delayed until now.

Only after dealing with Pilaf and his son, Archmage Lerald·Truth, and the King of Shadows, Louis Shadow, was the mission reward finally issued.

“Why is it like this? Could it be that there was some change in the Smoke Mission, or perhaps the Power of Destiny, due to excessive consumption, experienced some deviation?”

This question did not puzzle him for long because the new mission content had vaguely explained what had happened to the Smoke Mission.

“Mission: Two hundred and second choice of destiny, guiding and predicting time and again, you have grown from a small landlord to a monarch of a nation, and as the Flame Kingdom is about to be established, perhaps it is time to ponder some deeper issues, please touch the Bastion. Reward: Favor of Destiny.”

“Favor of Destiny, it seems like the Smoke Mission is undergoing changes.”

Liszt frowned and mused, “Is this change good or bad? Judging by the content of the reward, it should be a good change... So what was I before, and what is my relationship with destiny... Or was the Power of Destiny I received before just a trial version, and now they are giving me the official version?”

Clearly, the Favor of Destiny was not just a title; it was like having a higher level of control over the Power of Destiny. According to his understanding, it was due to his years of making decisions and changing destiny that the Power of Destiny had grown stronger and gradually formed the Favor of Destiny.

If one were to say that after the death of the Smoke Dragon, its residual power lingered in him.

Then this power had now taken root and was even ready to start nurturing a new Smoke Dragon.

“Is it really so?” For now, Liszt could not be certain; he could only wait for the mission to be completed and experience the Favor of Destiny afterward, “So what I need to do now is keep training hard and then touch the Bastion... The Bastion is the realm beyond Dragon Knights as Ach mentioned.”

Beyond Dragon Knights is to break the Bastion, to become a Bastion Knight.

Currently, the only existing clue about breaking the Bastion involves the slumbering Dragon of the Magic Web; speaking of which, Liszt had already seen it twice.

The first time was during an experiment to rip apart a natural node, allowing the Formless Dragon Bard a brief entry into adulthood strength, thereby glimpsing the terrifying figure of the Dragon of the Magic Web.

The second time was when the Time Scepter triggered the ability to reflect time, allowing him to see a potential future vision featuring a pair of terrifying eyes—somehow, he was certain those were the eyes of the Dragon of the Magic Web, probably because in his knowledge, only the Dragon of the Magic Web could have such eyes.

“The Bastion is just a concept for now, even Ach hasn’t figured it out yet; how am I to touch the Bastion? Could it be that I need Ach’s help again to allow the Formless Dragon Bard to enter its adult strength and then secretly spy on the Dragon of the Magic Web to discover information about the Bastion?”

Indeed, the Dragon of the Magic Web provided excellent observational material.

However, with the formidable power of the Dragon of the Magic Web, transcending material, material boundaries, and worlds beyond material, what terrible things might happen if Liszt’s spying alarmed it?

“With the strength of the Dragon of the Magic Web, it shouldn’t be hard to crush me, right?” Liszt rarely felt vulnerable.

Recently, he had become so arrogant that he looked down on even the empire, but he still harbored a deep fear of the Dragon of the Magic Web. It was this fear that kept his mentality from becoming recklessly inflated. He knew all too well that even as a Holy Dragon Knight, he was not invincible, and there were still many beings that could harm him.

Not to mention the Dragon of the Magic Web, there was also the Cursed Dragon, whose incredible contaminating power was clearly beyond his resistance.

Ranked among the Evil Dragons alongside the Cursed Dragon were the Silent Dragon and the Shadow Dragon—unknown entities of formidable strength, definitely not weaker than the Sacred Dragon.

Even if these dragons wouldn't trouble him without reason, he couldn't afford to be too complacent. Although the assassinations by the Kushan Empire had been thwarted, the elusive assassination methods of the King of Shadows still significantly heightened his vigilance—in this magical world, even Dragon Knights were not safe.

“Better keep a low profile for now,, focus on developing the Flame Kingdom, and ride a few more dragons... I wonder if I can ride the Light Dragon from Red Maple Mountain of the Maple Leaf Duchy. I have a feeling that once I develop Light Attribute Magic Power, it could effectively counter assassins like a Shadow Incarnation.”

What left a deep impression on him was how Lerald·Truth, using the Light of Confinement Magic Staff, displayed a space-locking skill, a sophisticated utilization of Light Attribute Magic Power which could penetrate all spaces and discern all truths and illusions.

If he had a Light Dragon by his side.

The King of Shadows would stand no chance of getting close.

“I now have two Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruits. Once the research on the Jade Dragon's hind leg is thorough, I should be able to continue cultivating Mind Fruit trees, providing a continuous supply of Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruits... I can use one on the Light Dragon.”

In fact, he also had information on several Elemental Dragons, their general activity areas already known, but they didn't have much value for development at the moment. For instance, the Wind Dragon, Ice Dragon, Earth Dragon—their development wasn't very significant, and even the Little Water Dragon inside his body wasn't of much value.

These kinds of Elemental Dragons belonged to the Evil Dragon sequence, they were not productive and consumed vast resources, so Liszt couldn't afford to keep too many.

Developing the Light Dragon was also for the sake of protecting himself.

...

It seemed that as soon as Liszt thought about the Little Water Dragon staying inside him without coming out, on the first day of August, unexpectedly, he felt the Little Water Dragon calling him from within.

“Yo-ho!”

It had had enough of staying inside Liszt’s kidneys and now wanted to really come out and experience the outside world.

In an open area, Liszt waited for the Little Water Dragon to emerge. Moments later, the Light Attribute Dragon’s Super Magic erupted from his body, transforming into a wave suspended in mid-air. The wave quickly exploded into a torrential downpour, and as the raindrops hit the ground,

A light blue small dragon was flapping its wings, looking at Liszt.

It was ten meters long with a ten-meter wingspan, slender in form with beautiful scales, everything about it radiated beauty, including an exceptionally pretty head.

Yet the evil tint in its eyes could match that of Leo.

“Yo-ho!” It looked at Liszt once, flapped its wings, and charged into the high sky, plunging down rapidly just as Liszt was about to lose sight of it.

It frolicked back and forth, thoroughly enjoying itself.

Until it grew tired, then it landed in front of Liszt again, opened its mouth wide, and cried “Yo-ho,” “Yo-ho,” asking Liszt for food.

Chapter 1026: Battle of the Water World “Walter, will you let me ride?”

Liszt tried to mount Little Water Dragon Walter, but the little dragon glared at him fiercely, refusing Liszt’s ride even after enjoying such a feast of Superior Magic within him.

“Yo-ho!”

With a somewhat milky call, he expressed his firm stance.

“It’s really a inherited temper of the Evil Dragon, Walter, you resist just like Leo did initially. Unfortunately, when Leo met me, I was but a Sky Knight. Now that you’ve met me, I am a powerful Dragon Knight and possess the Phoenix Incarnation.”

Liszt looked at Little Water Dragon Walter, shaking his head in regret.

Walter was the name he gave to the Little Water Dragon—since water is called “Walter” in English—so, without wanting to exert more brainpower, Liszt announced its name the moment it was born—whether it accepted it or not, Walter would accompany it for life.

“Yo-ho!” Hearing the name Leo, Walter shrank his neck a bit but soon raised his head and puffed out his chest, continuing to express his firm stance.

Such is the nature of Elemental Dragons, all of whom are classified as Evil Dragons, precisely because of their personalities.

Gemstone Dragons and Metal Dragons may also look down on humans, but their temperaments are relatively mild. Any human recognized by them gets a chance to engage in the Mind Battle. However, Elemental Dragons are different—their inner negative emotions continually flourish, and there’s no hope of mollifying them or gaining their approval.

“So, after all the fuss, it still comes down to strength, Walter, and your strength is nothing in my eyes,” Liszt said as he pulled out a Magic Potion and handed it to Little Water Dragon Walter.

After Little Water Dragon happily finished the potion,

he was met by Liszt, who had already surged with Dragon Dou Qi and quickly entered a battle stance. Having overpowered others in the Aluminum Dragon Mind Battle without relying on the Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruit, he was now fearless in any Mind Battle and did not need to use Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruit.

After all, he was always shrouded in the power of destiny, originating from the Smoke Dragon—a Sacred Dragon like the Jade Dragon, which is the source of the Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruit.



“Ha!”

Squatting and then soaring into the sky, he activated half of his Phoenix Incarnation, conjuring a pair of wings on his back that flapped ferociously. He sped straight towards Little Water Dragon Walter, with exceedingly rapid speed.

No match for the newly born Little Water Dragon.

Just as he was about to reach its back,

the Little Water Dragon suddenly twisted its body, its dragon eyes filled with a sinister gleam, and opened its dragon mouth to spew a light blue stream of water-like Dragon Breath, not sparing any Superior Magic.

Compared to Leo’s high-temperature Flame Dragon Breath, its Dragon Breath seemed more like a water gun.

However, in the next moment Liszt discovered the marvelous use of the Water Dragon Dragon Breath—it did not disperse but instead condensed into multiple water snakes striking towards Liszt.

“Child’s play!” Liszt casually drew out the Shattered Crystal Blade, and immediately myriad flames burst forth from the great sword, mercilessly shattering each water snake.

The Shattered Crystal Blade was a weapon seized from the King of Shadows.

The Knowledge Ancient Book identified it as—Elf Blood, Chromium Dragon Bone, Crystal, Magic Piercing.

Based on this description, along with his and Ach’s research,

the main body of this Shattered Crystal Blade is a segment of the Metal Dragon – Chromium Dragon’s bone, soaked in likely a Greater Elf’s blood. Additionally, it’s adorned with abundant crystals, melded with the Chromium Dragon Bone using special Iron Knight techniques to create an indestructible union,

resulting in this great sword that appears to be pieced together from numerous shattered crystals.

And its nature was Magic Piercing, which had a very powerful piercing effect on Magic Power, especially defensive types of Magic Power—such as the Magician’s Water Wave Shield and the Knight’s Magic Equipment, all within the scope of Magic Piercing.

The King of Shadows must have relied on this weapon to successfully assassinate two Dragon Knights, as even Liszt couldn’t defend against the powerful effect of Magic Piercing.

Had he not been able to transform into a Phoenix, he would have been pierced through the heart and died.

Now it had become Liszt’s weapon and had been named “Shattered Crystal Blade,” showing its powerful effect as soon as it was used.

The water serpent formed from Little Water Dragon Walter’s Dragon Breath couldn’t withstand the sweep of Shattered Crystal Blade at all.

With one strike that crushed Walter’s attack, Liszt had already rushed to Walter’s back and was about to take a seat on the Dragon Tooth Platform. Naturally, Walter was reluctant, desperately twisting its body, its wings flailing wildly, and its tail whipping viciously toward Liszt like a whip.

The sound of the wind howled.

Liszt had no choice but to dodge the tail whip.

“Yo-ho!”

Once Little Water Dragon Walter’s attack succeeded, it immediately flapped its wings to escape into the distance, but it had just been born and was too weak. Liszt effortlessly flapped his Phoenix wings and caught up with it in a flash. After defeating its Dragon Breath again, he finally managed to sit on the Dragon Tooth Platform.

“Now, I am so powerful... Juvenile dragons are almost no different from ordinary Magical Beasts before me,” he thought as he took his seat.

Then.

His vision was submerged by an endless ocean, and he had undoubtedly arrived in the all-water world of Little Water Dragon Walter's psychological realm.

"Yo-ho!"

A thunder-like roar jolted Liszt from his thoughts, revealing that Little Water Dragon Walter had transformed into a massive and ferocious adult Water Dragon. Gone was its beautiful and delicate appearance from its childhood, replaced by a bloated, wrinkled, and spiky form that greatly enhanced the sense of power after losing its aesthetic appeal.

It stared at Liszt willfully, opening its dragon mouth and issuing a silent laugh.

Through a faint mind connection, Liszt could understand what Walter was saying—it was telling Liszt that the wheel of fortune turns, and now it was its turn to be in charge.

"Hmm, the last dragon that thought this was a fifty-year-old Aluminum Dragon. Do you know what it's doing now? It's working for me, escorting a group of Knights who are migrating to the Flame Kingdom," Liszt said, standing in the water without showing any discomfort.

The psychological realm was very peculiar.

It was a world of both reality and illusion.

It thought of itself as a psychological space, and dragons in the psychological realm were the most powerful beings, while their human opponents in the Mind Battle were at an absolute disadvantage. But Liszt was an exception; the trump cards he held in the real world were directly reflected in the psychological realm.

The fate smoke that enveloped his entire body, the Phoenix Incarnation ready to be displayed at any moment, and the weapon in his hand could all be materialized in the psychological realm.

Now, in this all-water world, he had another materialized trump card—the Heart of the Mermaid contract, which allowed him to swim freely in the water.

Thus.

He held the smoke-enhanced Shattered Crystal Blade in both hands, fearlessly looking at the approaching Water Dragon Walter, “In the psychological realm, there is no Dragon Knight more powerful than me!”

“Yo-ho!” Seeing Liszt’s smooth and graceful stance, Walter became puzzled—its understanding was that humans could not survive underwater.

So in its own psychological realm, it thought itself invincible, but unexpectedly it encountered a human who could breathe freely underwater.

The confusion was fleeting, and it soon discarded that thought, its eyes gleaming with wickedness as it viciously pounced toward Liszt—although it had been nurtured from his body, this did not prevent it from wanting to crush him, because how could an ant ride on the noble Water Dragon!

Chapter 1027: Pike and Water Clang!

The sound of the sword moving through the water was very pleasant to the ear, despite the Shattered Crystal Blade’s unusual design which possessed a rhythmic arrangement and structure.

When swung in the air, it could stir up the air currents silently, while in water, it produced a pleasant friction sound.

With one slash, the Superior Magic Dragon Dou Qi, even underwater, emitted a brilliant light, like a giant Flame Blade fiercely striking Water Dragon Walter.

Plop!

Walter’s scales were instantly cleaved by the Superior Magic Dragon Dou Qi, leaving a charred wound.

“Roar!” Walter was both angry and terrified, never expecting that Liszt could harm him in such an environment, and it seemed that Liszt’s strength had not only not declined but had surged, becoming even more powerful and formidable than in reality.

“I told you, with your youthful intelligence you wouldn’t comprehend my strength, Walter. Stop the futile struggle,” Liszt calmly said, holding the Shattered Crystal Blade, with smoke forming a cape fluttering behind him in the waves, “I nurtured you from wreckage, this is our unbreakable bond.”

“Roar!”

Walter’s dragon eyes erupted in a faint blue light, charging at Liszt again with a powerful Dragon Breath, which instantly transformed into countless giant sea snakes swirling towards Liszt.

Compared to the Dragon Breath in reality, its current one was truly formidable, the myriad water snakes swirling around was enough to make one’s scalp tingle.

However, under the smoke-enhanced Shattered Crystal Blade, no matter how strong or numerous the giant snakes were, they were merely fodder.

Flames transformed into a sea of fire, swiftly burning and evaporating every Dragon Breath giant snake, spinning and jumping in the sea, creating a fire tornado rushing towards Water Dragon Walter.

The battle was exhilarating.

In the end, with his strong abilities, Liszt forcefully slew Water Dragon Walter, the Shattered Crystal Blade stained with dragon blood containing Superior Magic, proclaiming the victory of this Mind Battle—without relying on Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruit and taking the Mind Battle seriously.

It was his second rightful victory, facing an Elemental Dragon, an Evil Dragon’s mental world.

The seawater churned up bubbles, and the next moment, the bubbles dissipated, a new Water Dragon was floating in front of him, lowering its head to nudge Liszt, indicating for

him to mount its Dragon Tooth Platform—as defeating a dragon in the Mind Battle was akin to signing a marital record.

Liszt sheathed the Shattered Crystal Blade and smiled faintly, leaping onto the Dragon Tooth Platform.

Then, in an instant, he completed the Mind Sync Connection, controlling the Water Dragon as it continuously surfaced from the water, flying towards the surface of the water, not knowing how long they flew before finally leaping out of the water, splashing countless droplets of water, soaring straight upwards.

The next moment.

The view transformed.

He was riding the young Little Water Dragon Walter, flying clumsily in the sky, the view wasn't fresh, much like the human perspective.

“Roar!” Walter let out an angry roar; though it accepted the outcome, it wasn't satisfied.

“Calm down, after more adjustments, you'll understand how fortunate it is to follow me,” Liszt patted the scales on its neck.

Everything thus concluded.

...

Little Water Dragon Walter's Dragon Nest was temporarily arranged in the only sea city of Flame Kingdom—Mermaid City. It was near the estuary of the Whirlpool River, close to Estuary City, a gathering place for the Fish Ugly Race, and a resting spot for mermaids, soon to be developed into an underwater breeding garden.

Most Elves found by the mermaids were arranged to stay near Mermaid City.

The aquaculture industry originally surrounding Black Horse Island was gradually shifting here. For instance, the artificial cultivation of Hei Chequ, Fen Hai Luo, and Golden-

Lipped Clam had been completely handed over to the Fish Ugly Race. Seaweed and Giant Algae were also being cultivated on a large scale here.

Giant Algae Greater Elf Pike had moved from the Giant Algae Forest of Black Horse Island and now owned a luxurious Worm Room in Mermaid City.

“The handsome Pike likes life here; if only those ugly toadfish would stay further away from me,” mused Pike as he lay on a Giant Algae leaf, watching the Fish Ugly harvest the Giant Algae around him, feeling pleased with himself and occasionally pulling some Jade Powder from his body to nibble on.

Suddenly.

A thought crossed his mind, and he looked towards the distant sea surface, “Hmm, the equally handsome Liszt has arrived; it’s been a long time since he last visited me, I wonder which little elf has bewitched him... Only the handsome Pike truly loves himself; no one in this world will treat you well, except for yourself.”

Amidst his soliloquy, Liszt, riding Little Water Dragon Walter, had already arrived.

The existence of Water Dragons in the water was very special; their bodies seemed to be coated with a layer of air, completely isolated from the seawater. This reminded him of Rainbow Whale Rose he left on Black Horse Island who could use a magic called the Rainbow Breathing Membrane, which was equally miraculous.

Liszt, riding Walter, was also enveloped in a layer of air, breathing freely.

Moreover, Walter moved smoothly in the water, even more agile and faster than flying in the sky, and the deep sea pressure had no effect on him—this was expected, after all, if mermaids could swim freely in the deep sea, how could the more magical Water Dragon not manage?

And one thing about Water Dragons was that, even in the dark depths of the sea, their vision remained unaffected; they could see a special kind of light to discern the underwater world.

This was something mermaids could not do.

Once merged with the Eye of Magic, who knew what kind of miraculous changes would occur.

“Yo-ho!” Stopping near the edge of a newly sprouting Giant Algae Forest, Walter yawned out of boredom. By that time, the slowly approaching Pike, who had been summoned by Liszt, had arrived.

He saw Walter.

Such a sight of a Water Dragon gave him an extremely unusual shock; indeed, he had seen dragons before, as Liszt had let him experience several dragons. However, Pike didn’t feel anything towards these dragons; he even slightly despised the haughty demeanor they possessed.

“Only I, Pike, am the most handsome; dragons are nothing in comparison!”

But at that moment, upon seeing Little Water Dragon Walter for the first time, Pike felt as if he had fallen in love with this dragon.

“Oh, heavens, Liszt, what have you brought? It’s so perfect, handsome Pike likes it!” Pike couldn’t help but fly over and circle around Little Water Dragon Walter incessantly.

“Yo-ho!” Walter blew a bubble at Pike, trying to shoo away this sharp-toothed little thing like chasing away a fly.

Pike was knocked over several times, but quickly swam back, flipping over and under, “Liszt, I like it, handsome Pike likes it!”

“I feel your affection, Pike, in fact, I brought Little Water Dragon Walter over to see if you would like him,” Liszt laughed heartily, relishing in such moments. Pike growing fond of Walter indicated that Pike had finally reached the edge of evolution.

Greater Elves only liked dragons that were compatible with them, only then could they evolve.



Fortunately, Pike had now encountered Walter.

“From now on, Mermaid City shall be Walter’s Dragon Nest, and Pike, you and Walter must get along well; no one must bully anyone.”

“Ha ha, handsome Pike will take good care of this little cutie, off you go, Liszt!” exclaimed Pike, patting his little chest.

But the words made Liszt’s face darken—what did he mean by ‘off you go’?

Little Water Dragon Walter, with a volatile temper, let out a “yo-ho” dragon roar, greatly detesting this little flea-like creature.

“I am a noble dragon, you damn flea!”

Chapter 1028: Beast Taming Contract Walter was dissatisfied, but since Liszt had already decided and had given it a batch of magic potions as a reward, it had no choice but to accept the fact that it had to keep company with the little flea Pike.

“My cutie, I’ll take good care of you, and the handsome Pike will like you just as much as he likes himself,” grinned the Giant Algae Greater Elf, his smile unsettling.

“Yoho!” Walter glared, trying to frighten Pike.

Without the elf pact, Pike wouldn’t even have taken a second glance at Liszt, let alone be intimidated by Walter’s glare. Cheerfully flying onto Walter, Pike touched Walter’s scales, wantonly feeling the essence of the Water Dragon.

“What a lovely Water Dragon you are, Walter. The handsome Pike likes you!”

“Yoho!” The Little Water Dragon threw its head back in an angry yet desolate posture, but in truth, it couldn’t even sense Pike’s existence—the Greater Elf was simply too small for it.

However, when it closed its eyes, Pike’s face flooded its mind, sending it into a frenzy.

Therefore, it could only choose to divert its attention by cramming magic potions: “Yoho!” It told Liszt, busy with his own amusement, that the supply of magic potions had to be doubled, otherwise there would be a rebellion.

Liszt maintained his smile, paying no mind to the Little Water Dragon.

“Your Majesty, you truly are a great human king blessed with favor. Is this a Water Dragon? Such a marvelous creature. Its powerful and oppressive superior magic can be felt emanating from it.” Mermaid Salty Sea Marquis Blue Posey hurried over and spoke in admiration.

“Dragons, after all, represent the pinnacle of power. The Little Water Dragon Walter will make Mermaid City its Dragon Nest from now on. Blue Posey, the design of the Dragon Nest will be your responsibility.”

“Please rest assured, Your Majesty. Inviting a dragon to reside in Mermaid City is a fortune for all mermaids.”

“When providing for Little Water Dragon Walter, you must keep Yu Chou in check. Walter isn’t like Mountain Copper Dragon Mata; it belongs to the Evil Dragon series and has a very unfriendly temper.”

“I will control Yu Chou. Even if Yu Chou gets eaten by Walter, it won’t be a big deal. With the Source of Vitality Potion, these Yu Chou are reproducing new little Yu Chou every day. Their fertility is so strong, it’s as if we’re back to the ocean before it was polluted by the Cursed Dragon. Back then, it’s said that every year there had to be organized mass combats among Yu Chou to control their numbers.”

Yu Chou belonged to an intelligent species, but in the eyes of merfolk, these Yu Chou were just a group of reproductive, lowly slaves, devoid of any dignity an intelligent race should have.

In fact, the Naga were treated the same. In the eyes of merfolk, the Naga were also an inferior race.

Merfolk were only friendly towards humans, as they believed the human form represented a higher civilization. Judging by appearance has always been a pastime for higher

intelligent species. Now seeing Little Water Dragon Walter, Blue Posey too had a dazzled fascination in his eyes, almost yearning to rush over for a touch.

This prompted Walter to let out a continuous “Yoho!” It really wanted to eat this mermaid, considering it a great nourishment.

...

Leaving Little Water Dragon Walter behind.

Liszt left the exploring to Ach, as he himself currently had no clues and could only hope that Ach might discover something.

Then.

He mounted the Formless Dragon Bard, tearing directly through the material boundary, and reached the wilderness south of Firm Earth—the former habitat of the Aluminum Dragon. There was a brass ore deposit here that couldn’t be mined at the moment, but he wasn’t here to mine, nor was he planning to meet up with the migration team.

Instead, he was preparing to head towards Fertile Lands, attempting to find Nimia the Giant Lion.

As for the Light Dragon that was part of the original plan, there was no intention to ride it for now—a mature Light Dragon wasn’t an easy adversary to deal with. Besides, Maple Leaf Duchy was located between Eagle Kingdom and Steel Ridge Kingdom, and snatching the Light Dragon would be too revealing without proper preparation, so it wasn’t wise to move on it.

The Light Dragon was right there, unclaimed and ready to ride at any time.

He reserved the Light Dragon as a precaution against assassination.

Yet, after the failed assassination, Emperor Jupiter surely, as Lerald·Truth said, would not let it go and was bound to seek revenge. However, the King of Shadows was already dead,

the Archmage had defected to the Flame Kingdom, and the Shattered Crystal Blade became Liszt's personal sword.

That mirror-like equipment, capable of detecting Superior Magic—titled “Magic Weaving Compass”—had also fallen into Liszt's hands. It could weave the trails of Superior Magic in its vicinity onto the compass, a very powerful detection divine artifact, especially effective against dragons.

And another piece of equipment, the Light of Confinement Magic Staff, meant to lock down space, was damaged.

One could say Emperor Jupiter was initially confident in his assassination attempt on Liszt, but now he had lost his wife and his troops, his bottom line completely stripped away. He definitely wouldn't send another assassin after Liszt any time soon—gathering such a luxurious assassination team wasn't easy.

In short.

Liszt enjoyed safety during this period. In the northeastern corner of the Legendary Continent, he was invincible as long as he kept a low profile; no one could harm him.

“The Fertile Lands are still a thousand kilometers further south. I hope Nimia the Giant Lion hasn't spent this time sleeping in the mud... Otherwise, it won't be easy to find.”

Yet, his words turned out to be prophetic.

Fate did not favor him over these few days; after three days and nights searching within the Fertile Lands, he found no traces of Superior Magic.

There were no traces of High Magic either.

If Nimia had not left the Fertile Lands, then it was certainly sleeping underground—high-level dragon beasts, magical beasts, and such creatures did not hunt every day. Sometimes, they slept for ten days to half a month.

Liszt could not afford to wait here.

After searching for three days without success, he directly tore through the material boundary and traveled back to his domain. As soon as he returned, good news reached him. Ach, while preparing to initiate research on the Bastion, had accidentally developed another special kind of magical result—a magical contract designed after Hundred Birds Toward The Phoenix.

This contract was originally suggested by Liszt in the hope of creating a bridge for communication between knights and their magical beast mounts.

Ach gathered a group of Grand Magicians to study this, not expecting much, but they met with unexpected success.

“Brother, this contract has been tested by knights and has proven to indeed establish mental communication between the knight and magical beast. Their souls can connect through a special frequency,” he said. “Although mental communication at close range is rather vague, the knight and magical beast can still influence each other.”

“Similar to knights and elves?”

“Somewhat, though the contract’s power is weaker since it lacks compulsion. The magical beast must be familiar with the knight to establish the contract, and if the magical beast resists, the contract may even break... Additionally, magicians can also use the contract to communicate with magical beasts.”

“Magicians too? So, is it suitable for all magical beasts?”

“It has to be a magical beast of a certain intelligence level. It’s difficult to successfully contract insect-like magical beasts with minimal intelligence. Knights can’t build rapport with such beasts; no matter how well you treat an insect magical beast, it won’t return feelings, making a contract impossible.”

Although it wasn’t universally applicable to all magical beasts.

Liszt stroked his chin, still approving of this research breakthrough: “Its application range will be broad. So, let’s call this contract the ‘Beast Taming Contract’. With this contract, it will no longer be difficult for knights to tame a magical beast to become their mount.”

A fitting name, expressive and elegant.

Chapter 1029: The New Era of the Kingdom In the blink of an eye, September had arrived, and Dimaria Yuhua Stone arrived at the Fortress of the Mind through the Heart Reed Teleportation Formation.

The island where the Fortress of the Mind was located had become a bustling port, with a large number of ships docked and countless serfs loading and unloading goods. Outputs from Flame Island were sent from here to Steel Ridge, Eagle and other countries, and foreign goods also converged here to Flame Island.

However, there were strict quarantine standards for goods in transit, to prevent the likes of rats and other spies from sneaking in.

“It is a great miracle, no matter how many times I go through it,” Dimaria silently marveled as he looked at the dark Magic Gate behind him.

Thinking about this departure from Flame Island, he felt somewhat conflicted.

As the former Marquis Nuta, born in Eagle Kingdom, he had once clinked glasses with King Adonis Moonlight Silver of Eagle Kingdom. Now captured and defecting to Flame Kingdom, and serving as the vice-chairman of the Development Committee, he virtually held the entire kingdom’s authority.

This taste of power far surpassed his former glory.

Yet now, he was to visit Sapphire Duchy under the title of emissary of Flame Kingdom to discuss this year’s Pioneer Mandate with Duke Anthony Sapphire.

Following the same routine as last year, the Sapphire Dragon would take the lead, invading Eagle Kingdom to plunder its population.

Despite the demotion, the Sapphire Duchy still belonged to Steel Ridge Kingdom, holding such a title made the Pioneer Mandate happen as naturally as in previous years. Moreover, deploying the Sapphire Dragon provided a valid excuse—had not Eagle Kingdom once waged a dragon-slaying war against the Sapphire Dragon, so couldn’t the Sapphire Duchy seek retribution?

But anyone with clear sight knew that behind it all, Flame Kingdom was supporting the Pioneer Mandate. This was Liszt's revenge.

"King Adonis, all I can say is I'm sorry. The Yu Huashi Family couldn't gain protection from Eagle Kingdom; for the benefit of my family, I had no choice but to lean towards Flame Kingdom... His Majesty Liszt, with his extraordinary talents and shocking power, will only bring greater prosperity to the Yu Huashi Family."

Casting aside that slight guilt in his heart, Dimaria adjusted his mindset by the time he arrived at Blue Dragon Island by ship.

Now, he was a knight of Flame Kingdom, serving only his family and Flame Kingdom!

...

Florence Pursuit Arrow stood in front of the Magic Gate at the Male Jade Transmission Array, waiting among the crowd.

Today, the migrating knights from Grey Iron Duchy, having journeyed from the endless wilderness, were resting in Heroic Yellow City. Duke Piero Grey Iron and other nobles would today cross through the Teleportation Array to reach Jade City, officially joining Flame Kingdom and becoming followers of Liszt Flame, the Flame King.

The welcoming team was led by Li Weiliam Tulip, a middle-aged noble currently holding only the title of Marquis, yet one of the few top elites in Flame Kingdom—he was the father of the king!

He himself had advanced to become a Domain Knight, ranked just below Dragon Knights.

There were those who envied Li Weiliam, those who resented him, and also those who scorned him. Many believed that Li Weiliam owed all his current glory to his son; otherwise, he would merely be a mere Sword Saint with an Earl's title, hardly qualified for such glorious moments.

However, Li Weiliam paid no heed to these envious words; if others were capable, let them also have such a powerful son.

Florence spared a glance at Li Weiliam, harboring neither envy nor admiration; he was about to become a Completion Level Sky Knight, and he also possessed a —given the Grey Iron Duchy's former inextricable relationship with the Eagle Royal Family, it naturally secured the training manual for Domain Knights.

While Duke Piero might lack the talent and fail in the training, Florence was brimming with confidence.

He was destined to become a Domain Knight, rising with the ascent of the Flame Kingdom, achieving brilliant battle honors, and becoming a Duke was not out of reach.

“A new kingdom rising invariably means competing with the original three kingdoms for resources; there ample opportunities for me to achieve battle honors... Even if I fail to seize these opportunities, I can still inherit my father's noble title and become a Duke... But I prefer to earn the Duke title myself!”

He arrived at Flame Island, where his workload was minimal, allowing him plenty of opportunities to travel and explore.

The most discussed topics here were not noble gossip and secrets, but conversations about battle honors and admiration for Liszt.

At sixteen, he was still an Apprentice Knight, known as useless, and was marginalized to the most remote rural town.

However, by eighteen, Liszt had become a Sky Knight and soon after, a Dragon Knight. He surged to prominence after a dragon-slaying battle on the high seas. Then, during the second dragon-slaying campaign, as a Holy Dragon Knight, he solo fought against five dragons and two Dragon Knights from Eagle Kingdom.

He killed a Dragon Knight and seized the Grey Iron Dragon, stunning the three great kingdoms.



Now, at only twenty-one, Liszt owned seven dragons—Formless Dragon, Fire Dragon, Light Green Gemstone Dragon, Grey Iron Dragon, Mountain Copper Dragon, Aluminum Dragon, and Bone Dragon—he didn't know Liszt had acquired a Water Dragon, reaching eight dragons in total.

In this era, the most legendary and brilliant figure was Liszt; everyone knew his rise was unstoppable.

Thus, being able to follow Liszt meant imminent success and signalled that great nobles would spring up like bamboo after rain.

“My starting point is far higher than King Liszt's, although I haven't been touched by the knight's glory as the Son of Glory, I too must strive to create my own legacy rather than inherit my father's noble title...”

As he was lost in thought,  
suddenly, someone yelled, “He's coming!”

Florence snapped back to reality, looking up at the dark magic gate, where a deep blue vortex emerged followed by a loud dragon roar. The next moment, a long silver figure burst out of the magic gate under the sunlight, glistening with silver light.

It was the Aluminum Dragon he had once failed to win in the Mind Battle!

Now it had become one of Liszt's mounts, escorting the knight migration team to Flame Island.

After the Aluminum Dragon emerged from the Male Jade Transmission Array, it didn't look back, ascending into the sky and disappeared—it headed to the Dragon Nest Liszt was preparing for it.

The Aluminum Dragon's appearance caused a stir among the knights, but it soon calmed down—this group of welcoming knights had seen plenty of dragons, particularly on Flame Island, where dragons, especially the Formless ones, made frequent appearances, their beautiful forms already winning everyone's hearts.

Thus, the sight of a new Aluminum Dragon didn't excite them much.

A moment later, the teleportation array whirled again, and a group of knights emerged. Seeing the familiar flags behind the knights, Florence wanted to step forward to greet them but then halted, following the actions of the other knights—he did not want people to know of his relationship with Duke Pierrot.

After all, he was determined to strive on his own and start a new family legacy.

His reservations did not affect the entire welcoming ceremony; Li Weiliam had already ridden forward on his Black Blood Treasured Horse, exchanging knightly courtesies with Duke Pierrot.

“Duke Pierrot, knights, welcome to Flame Island. I am honored to represent Liszt Flame, the Flame King, and offer you our heartfelt welcome. His Majesty eagerly anticipates your arrival, as the Flame Kingdom now needs your contribution to inaugurate a new era for our kingdom.”

Chapter 1030: Here Comes the Brother “Thank you, Marquis Li Weiliam for the grand welcome and His Majesty Liszt for your concern,” Piero Grey Iron's heart has longed for the Flame Kingdom, and now, at last, I have set foot upon the soil of Flame Island. In the days to come, I will dedicate all the loyalty of myself and the Grey Iron Family to this land.”

“Now, please allow me to introduce the gentlemen behind me. They are knights who once charged bravely for the Grey Iron Duchy and they are not lacking in loyalty and integrity!”

“Marquis Mendes Cabbage, a Completion Level Sky Knight...”

Ahead, the nobles, under the mutual introductions of Duke Pierro and Marquis Li Weiliam, bore the still scorching September sun with fiery enthusiasm as they socialized.

Wald Bumblebee was full of envy; he too wished to be part of the nobles, but at present, he was just a little lackey behind them. However, that was of no consequence, for after coming to the Flame Kingdom, all nobles would no longer be followers of Duke Pierro Grey Iron.

They would all follow Liszt Flame.

“I am not strong enough yet, but I am young enough, and I persist every day in taking the royal jelly produced by my family, which rivals magic potions, and I already vaguely sense an imminent breakthrough beyond the Earth Knight limits... My future is above the skies, and the Bear Bee Clan will also become true nobles!”

There were actually many nobles with a mindset similar to Wald's. Every knight who had migrated thousands of miles to the Flame Kingdom hoped to make their fortune here.

Liszt's legendary stance was like a flag, attracting ambitious knights to gather around.

Many countries at the start of their creation would attract talent in this way, with the personal charm of the monarch leading his followers to brave the thorns and till a brilliant career.

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Because they were not captives but knights who had migrated.

Therefore, this migrating party of one duke, four marquises, seventeen earls, thirty-eight viscounts, and a large number of barons and honored knights were able to be quickly put to important use upon their arrival in the Flame Kingdom. Aside from lands that had to be allocated after the establishment of the kingdom, all other treatments were the same as before.

Liszt did not meet with these individuals straight away, as he was busy building a Dragon Nest for the Aluminum Dragon.

The Aluminum Dragon was not demanding about living conditions, but it did have a fondness for things that shone with silver light, and it had to be the unique luster of metallic silver, not counterfeit. Therefore, Liszt directly constructed a huge Dragon Nest clad in metallic silver near the Flame King City.

Right in a cave hollowed out of the mountain—the Aluminum Dragon liked to live in caves.

At the entrance of the cave, there was also a lake, filled not with water but with mercury. The abundant mercury mined from the mercury mines of Dragon Valley City didn't have

much use yet. In fact, most resources were transported to be stored at Flame King City, the private property of the Flame Family.

During the construction of the King's Castle, a pile of warehouses would be built around the Moon Slayer Sacred Mountain, used to store materials.

Once the land around the Flame King City was developed, even the elves would move here—apart from the King's Castle and several major cities, other cities would be allocated to nobles of the Burning Legion, as the direct Knight Order of the Flame Family, who normally had to sustain themselves on their own fiefdoms.

Many of the national systems designed by Liszt borrowed from the form of the Sapphire Duchy; the Sapphire Family created the Blue Blood Alliance, and he intended to create a Burning Legion.

Of course.

Most kingdoms were like that.

The knight system itself was a societal system that was difficult to define in terms of national structures. Essentially, a king was not much different from a great noble, apart from having a larger territory, more followers, more resources, a relatively better-structured management system, and more centralized family power.

“How do you like this place? For this silver lair, I have melted down entire ten million silver coins to create such a large space.”

“Roar!”

The Aluminum Dragon stood at the entrance to the Dragon Nest, first lowering its head to look at the mercury lake at the mouth of the cave, then surveying the Dragon Nest, issuing its opinion—it was mediocre at best. While it looked quite pretty, the lack of a full silver interior was disappointing; merely silver-plated, it didn't meet its taste standards.

“Be content, you know I've melted down all the scavenged silver coins. Fortunately, the Flame Kingdom hasn't begun to bestow fiefs yet; we can barter goods for goods.

Otherwise, the shortage of silver coins would directly lead to the collapse of the monetary system. I'll buy more silver coins later and recast the Dragon Nest for you."

"Roar!"

The Aluminum Dragon grudgingly agreed.

At this moment, Liszt, stroking its scales, said, "Now that you have moved into the new Dragon Nest, you should have a new name—I've got it all prepared for you... let's call you Connor."

Connor, a rather common name.

"Roar!" The Aluminum Dragon showed little interest in the name, reluctantly accepting it without inquiring about its meaning. Even if it asked, Liszt wouldn't say, because that name came from memories of another world.

There was a movie called "Terminator", where the protagonist, human leader John Connor, battled Terminator robots. And the major villain in the sequel, T-1000, was a type of infiltrator Terminator, also known as a liquid metal robot. Conveniently, once the Aluminum Dragon fully matured, it would also be able to liquefy.

It wouldn't work to call the Aluminum Dragon T-1000, so Liszt simply named it Connor.

Before the Aluminum Dragon had time to get used to its new Dragon Nest, suddenly a loud dragon cry "ho-ho" sounded. It was the Mountain Copper Dragon Mata flying over, its Dragon Nest situated not far from that of Connor.

"Roar!"

Aluminum Dragon Connor sensed the presence of the Mountain Copper Dragon Mata and instantly raised its scales on end, standing at the entrance of the Dragon Nest, glowering fiercely at the sky.

Approaching from the direction of the sun, the Mountain Copper Dragon Mata, radiating a golden glow, arrived at the territory of the Aluminum Dragon with a domineering presence.

Its form was robust, shining so gold it was dazzling.

Connor was slender, with scales that were gray-white and lacked any luster.

Compared like this, the Aluminum Dragon seemed just like an ordinary beast, lacking the nobility and splendor of the Mountain Copper Dragon.

“Ho-ho!”

“Roar!”

The two dragons glared at each other, neither backing down, both ready to attack. Seeing this, Liszt sighed; having many dragons introduced competition, which was troublesome. It would be somewhat better if they were dragons of different Knights, but the key was that they were all Liszt’s dragons.

None liked it when their rider formed a close relationship with other dragons.

“Mata, return to your Dragon Nest!” Liszt was someone who desired strong control and did not like his dragons crossing boundaries, “If you don’t go back, your treatment will be downgraded. You are a smart dragon and should know which choice is most beneficial for you.”

The Mountain Copper Dragon squinted at Liszt.

Then turned its head.

“Ho-ho!”

It let out a roar at Connor and then leisurely took flight, returning to its own Dragon Nest. In fact, it had come here just to assert its status. As an overpowering Magic Metal Dragon, the area around Flame King City was its territory—newcomer, be smart!

“Such a headache!”

After chasing away the Mountain Copper Dragon Mata and pacifying the Aluminum Dragon Connor, Liszt finally breathed a sigh of relief, ready to head to Jade City to host a banquet for newcomers like Duke Pierrot and the others.