

## The Mighty 1041

Chapter 1041: Don't Take Me as an Example Li Si Te did not know how vast the Legendary Continent was. Based on some previous conjectures, and also on Acherloides' study of astronomy, it could generally be inferred that the world was a massive sphere.

However, due to incomplete theories and lack of measuring devices, more accurate verification could not be completed, so the exact size of the Legendary Continent remained unknown. Over the past years, even though Li Si Te had become a Dragon Knight and Acherloides had become an Archmage, there was still no time to travel around the world.

Their activities were generally limited to the northeastern corner of the Legendary Continent, including the Sea of Azure Waves and the Shell Sea, going no further than reaching the edge of the Devil's Sea.

Their understanding of this planet was limited to knowing there were two continents on the endless ocean—The Legendary Continent and the Mafa Continent.

But the geographical distribution of these two continents on the planet was difficult to determine. If land could not be assessed, naturally, the distribution of the oceans was also unclear. Sometimes Liszt wondered whether the Legendary Continent and the Mafa Continent might be positioned similarly to the continents of Eurasia and America.

Respectively in two hemispheres of this planet.

Without supporting data from practical surveys, speculation was the only option. It so happened that this time, upon reviving seven mermaids who lamented the decline of their kind, these seven mermaids decided to embark on a journey around the seas to search for other surviving mermaids.

Li Si Te therefore entrusted the mermaids to take a sextant to map the distribution of the coastlines of the Legendary Continent and to measure the depth and distribution of the oceans.

“Now, Mermaid City can't do without Salty Sea Marquis Blue Posey commanding Yu Chou as forced labor. Once Reef City starts construction, it will definitely depend on you

to command Yu Chou as forced labor. Only Eternia and her four companions can team up to travel around the sea.”

“Your Majesty, what if we delay the construction of Reef City? I too wish to travel around the sea. Lord Acherloides has studied the devil for a long time, but to actually begin planning the purification of the Devil’s Sea, it will still take a long time. During this period, I would like to see the ocean... In my time, I’ve never really seen the ocean.”

“Hmm, then let it be decided.”

He nodded in agreement.

In fact, he did not wish for all the mermaids to travel around the seas instead of working. The Flame Kingdom was in full swing with construction, and a large number of Yu Chou perfectly filled the labor shortfall, making them indispensable for driving the mermaids. However, he did not want to exploit them too harshly and was still willing to grant the mermaids some freedom.

Perhaps on this sea voyage, they might find more surviving mermaids and then bring them back to settle in the Flame Kingdom.

So, he generously sent the mermaids on their journey, leaving only Salty Sea Marquis Blue Posey to stay reluctantly behind, continuing to oversee Mermaid City and command the Yu Chou as forced labor in the construction.

“I wonder what gains this trip will bring... Whether or not they find surviving mermaids is not up for discussion, but the coastline distribution of the Legendary Continent will surely be mapped out; I just don’t know if there will be other gains beyond the Legendary Continent.”

The mermaid’s trip around the seas was just an interlude.

Li Si Te quickly pushed it to the back of his mind—not completely out of mind since he was connected by a contract with the mermaids, allowing him to communicate over vast distances and keep track of their movements at any time.

But now his work was very busy.

Spring plowing had already started, and schools in all cities had begun classes. As the king of the Flame Kingdom, he inevitably had to make appearances at some spring plowing events to show concern for the agricultural activities; or perhaps visit a school to give a speech, especially at the Royal Academy to harvest a wave of loyalty from the young knights.

The Dragon Knight selection program finally commenced, and three individuals were chosen.

These included the young girl Hippolyta from the Moon Slayer clan who initially sheltered the Elf, the grandson of Nicholas Bellows Count from the Iron Knight Family, Nikola Fengxiang, and another from the offspring of an Earth Knight, De Gaulle.

Hippolyta, who had trained in Dou Qi for less than two years, had already successfully advanced to Elite Earth Knight, and her adaptability to Magic Potions was extremely strong. There was hope that she would become a Sky Knight before the age of sixteen. Thus, barely meeting the qualifications for Dragon Knight selection, she was pushed forward into the program by the Royal Academy.

Nikola Fengxiang hadn't yet reached sixteen years old, but had already become a Sky Knight, a genius of the Fengxiang Family. Though he aspired to be an Iron Knight, he equally coveted the title of Dragon Knight.

As for De Gaulle, he was merely a common, title-less offspring of an Earth Knight, whose mother had brought him up on Hot Spring Island. Following Liszt's campaign against Count Hot Spring Island, they were relocated to live in the Flame Kingdom. He was only twelve this year, but had also already become an Elite Earth Knight, similarly pushed forward by the Royal Academy.

"Hippolyta, Nikola, De Gaulle, you should already know the significance of the Dragon Knight selection program. Besides you, only one person has been selected for the Flame Kingdom Dragon Knight selection program, and she has likely taught you knightly courses at the Royal Academy, the Light Green Gemstone Dragon Knight, Emily."

Liszt looked at the three individuals before him, filled with expectation and said, "Each of you selected for the Dragon Knight selection program represents the future hope of the Flame Kingdom. You will enjoy the utmost treatment, and your goal will be Dragon

Riding. However, the difficulty of riding a dragon is immense; your talents alone are not enough to dazzle the Legendary Continent, and you can only rely on effort.”

“Your Majesty, could you tell us what preparations are needed for Dragon Riding?” asked Nikola, the oldest among them, and as a noble progeny, relatively more mature.

He eagerly anticipated learning more about Dragon Riding as he gazed intently at Liszt.

He was acutely aware that Liszt before him was a formidable being who single-handedly rode six or seven dragons; all the youth of the Flame Kingdom, especially the young knights, saw Liszt as a striving goal—although it seemed a distant goal, youth are often fearless.

Believing what others can do, they can do as well.

Liszt’s gaze swept over the three individuals, carefully scrutinizing them.

Nikola, a young man with a natural noble pride in his demeanor, was average in appearance and nothing special physically; De Gaulle, though younger and taller than Nikola, tended to be shy and uneasy, reputedly very hardworking in private, somewhat reminiscent of Emily.

Hippolyta, elegant and graceful.

As a girl, aside from her slightly darker complexion being somewhat off-putting, she had all the makings of a beauty.

It was said that at the Royal Academy, the boys who admired Hippolyta could form a knight order. It was only because the Royal Academy prohibited romances during the underage period that these restless young men didn’t openly compete and become jealous.

“To ride a dragon is both very difficult and very simple,” Liszt said, his gaze briefly pausing on the slightly protruding chest of Hippolyta before shifting away, speaking earnestly, “Being a sixteen-year-old Sky Knight is merely a threshold, indicating you could master Dou Qi at a young age.”

He paused, then continued, “Dou Qi mastery is the basic standard to attract dragons, and being young is another criterion, but the most important is character. Dragons are proud and regard humans as no different from ants; without invincible courage, relentless perseverance, and upright morals, it’s impossible to move a dragon.”

“Can courage, perseverance, and morals truly move a dragon?” Nikola asked again.

“No, these qualities only mean you have the potential to approach a dragon. However, each dragon has its own requirements when selecting its rider, and you must discover and approach these on your own.”

Still, Nikola inquired, “But, Your Majesty, you’ve ridden so many dragons, do they all have the same demands for you?”

Liszt smiled slightly, “I am different, and you need not use me as a model. To me, it’s the dragons that beg to be ridden by me, not me seeking their approval.”

Nikola, De Gaulle, and Hippolyta all widened their eyes in surprise: “What?”

Chapter 1042: Royal Knight Squad Checking on the young people selected for the Dragon Knight reserve program, Li Si Te (Liszt) did not linger at the Royal Academy, for there was no need for him to constantly affirm his presence.

After all,

The school’s Loyalty Course was a mandatory subject, and knights had been receiving brainwashing education from a young age to understand that in the Flame Kingdom, the person they truly needed to follow was their rightful lord. In reality, Liszt did not place much importance on knightly loyalty, as most of his followers were now captives who had surrendered.

There were few who were truly loyal, and he preferred to attract knights with interests, to consolidate the kingdom’s system.

Besides developing the noble class of feudal lands, he also aimed to build the Burning Legion as the direct knights for the Flame Family, which was a part he took very seriously.

Recently, he had selected a large number of knights with battle merits and singled out some Elite Earth Knights of Fire Attribute with weak backgrounds. He led them to the Phoenix Perch Parasol Forest in the Endless Volcano Cluster.

“Red Sparrow Birds, these kinds of big red birds, slightly irritable in temperament but can be tamed as mounts.” Standing atop a Phoenix Perch Parasol tree of considerable girth, Liszt directly summoned a noble Advanced Magical Beast Red Sparrow Bird using his Hundred Birds Toward The Phoenix Ability.

Hundred Birds Toward The Phoenix was one of the Phoenix Incarnation’s abilities, and with continuous development, he had now managed to release it through his human body.

Though not as powerful as when released in Phoenix Incarnation, if used on a single bird, the effect could nearly reach the same level as that of the Phoenix Incarnation.

“Gurulu!”

The Red Sparrow Bird stood by Liszt’s side, affectionately rubbing its neck against his shoulder.

In the distance, a large flock of Red Sparrow Birds chirped noisily, but under the subtle influence of the Hundred Birds Toward The Phoenix pact, they did not approach where Liszt stood.

There were about twenty-six Elite Earth Knights of Fire Attribute, all young knights, none older than twenty. At the moment, these knights were watching the Red Sparrow Bird with fervent gazes, clearly understanding the significance of the great His Majesty the King leading them here.

“Fire-Attribute High-Level Magical Beast Red Sparrow Birds, originally my plan was to reward Sky Knights of Fire Attribute to come tame and ride them. However, as the Flame Kingdom is not yet established and the number of Sky Knights is limited, the privilege has been extended to Elite Earth Knights. And you are fortunate to have the opportunity to ride them,” Liszt declared loudly.

This was true; high-level magical beasts, especially flying high-level magical beasts, were very rare, and those that could be tamed and ridden were even more scarce.

Each one was incredibly valuable; it was almost a waste to give them to Earth Knights.

His original hope was to establish the most elite Royal Knight Squad of the Burning Legion using Red Sparrow Birds, Fire Crows, and Flame Dragon Birds as mounts. Each member of the Knight Squad needed to possess strong talent and loyalty nurtured from a young age, as only those were afforded the right to guard the Royal Palace and the King.

However, such stringent requirements were unlikely to be met within a decade or so, as talents are rare to come by, especially those willing to give up their status as feudal nobles.

Therefore, he had repeatedly lowered the standards to even allow Elite Earth Knights of Fire Attribute under twenty years of age, without a record of misconduct, and not of noble birth. However, if these knights could not become Sky Knights within a few years, their mounts would remain Red Sparrow Birds.

They would have no chance to touch the more powerful Super Magical Beast Fire Crows.

“After the Elite Earth Knights mount the Red Sparrow Birds, they will become part of the Burning Legion – Red Sparrow Squad under the Royal Knight Squad, responsible for guarding the King’s Castle; at the age of twenty-five, if you successfully advance to become Sky Knights, then you will be eligible to change your mounts to Fire Crows,”

“Fire Crows will be upgraded to the Burning Legion – Raven Squad under the Royal Knight Squad, later responsible for guarding the Royal Palace; if you achieve Dou Qi perfection before the age of thirty-five, then you will be eligible to change your mount to a Flame Dragon Bird, becoming a knight who rides a Super Dragon Beast, a true Royal Knight.”

The Royal Knight Squad consists of the Royal Squad, Raven Squad, and Red Sparrow Squad three squads, which are not strictly organized like a Knight Order, but more like an honorary compilation.

Because Liszt himself possessed Fire Attribute Dou Qi, he consequently favored knights of Fire Attribute to serve as his guard.

But in the future, it will definitely open up to knights of all Dou Qi attributes, building more squads, among which the Royal Squad is generally the highest level of honor. Only

knights who ride Super Dragon Beasts can become true Royal Knights, earning the privilege to guard the King during his travels.

At present, in the Flame Kingdom, the only Super Dragon Beasts available to be ridden are the Flame Dragon Birds and Storm Dragon Horse — as for the Lightning Dragon Turtle that took up residence in Mermaid City, with its mountain-like build, it seemingly wasn't suitable for riding.

There are three Storm Dragon Horses.

One of them, a Storm Dragon Horse with a broken horn, had become Li Weiliam's new mount. As a father who was a Dragon Knight and a Domain Knight, and who wielded the administrative power of the Flame Yama Kingdom, he indeed required a mount fitting for his status, one that could underscore his dignity.

Liszt then allowed Li Weiliam to choose between the Flame Dragon Bird and the Storm Dragon Horse.

Li Weiliam wasn't interested in the Flame Dragon Bird, as he possessed Water-Attribute Dou Qi, which was incompatible with the Fire-Attribute Super Dragon Beast. Therefore, he chose the Wind-Attribute Storm Dragon Horse, hoping to pick one of the two without broken horns, but those two had prideful natures and looked down on Li Weiliam.

Even the Broken Horn Storm Dragon Horse initially scorned him.

Ultimately, it was Liszt who found Ach, requesting Unicorn Charlie, through Ach, to issue an order, forcing the most tempered Broken Horn Storm Dragon Horse to agree to become Li Weiliam's mount.

After Li Weiliam mounted the Storm Dragon Horse, the first thing he did was to fashion a horn from a Magic Metal Alloy for the Storm Dragon Horse, fitting it onto the broken horn, allowing the Storm Dragon Horse to regain the confidence of a Super Dragon Beast —the broken horn was a source of humiliation and an inferiority complex for it.

From that moment, the Broken Horn Storm Dragon Horse truly accepted Li Weiliam.



For a while, Li Weiliam rode the Storm Dragon Horse daily, patrolling his domain with great pride.

The Storm Dragon Horse was not a Unicorn, and few ordinary people knew the difference, nor did they know how Li Weiliam managed to mount it.

Thus, many commoners mistook his riding ability as an indication that he was an upright, just, and noble Knight—although one couldn't exactly call Li Weiliam a pure virgin Knight, given that his grandchildren could already run around.

Because of this, Li Weiliam's prestige greatly increased.

...

Shriek!

In the distance, a clear call from the Flame Dragon Bird arose, but it was Ani, the Phoenix Perch Parasol Dragon Greater Elf, riding Little Red, coming in for a landing next to Liszt. Adorned in small armor, Ani dismounted, standing on a tree branch close to Liszt: "Liszt, are you here to inspect the Firebird flock?"

"Yes, Ani, and also to select a few Red Sparrow Birds as mounts for my knights."

"Hmm, they look weak," Ani turned his head to glance at the twenty-six human knights standing on the ground. "Little Red says it could take on a hundred of them."

Little Red echoed with a call: "Shriek!"

Liszt patted Ani's head: "They are still young; they have room for improvement."

"Boring. I'm off to train. I will be a mighty Knight, Liszt, you can deploy me in wars."

"Off you go to train well."

After sending Ani away, Liszt beckoned the twenty-six knights to come tame the Red Sparrow Birds.

“Your Majesty, can we really tame Advanced Magical Beasts?” one of the knights asked, somewhat unconfidently, as the Advanced Magical Beasts overwhelmed them.

Normally, only Elite Earth Knights could wrestle Low-Level Magical Beasts.

“Now, most knights in the Kingdom still capture Low-Level Magical Beasts for mounts, and suddenly taming Advanced Magical Beasts certainly poses a great challenge. But I believe in your future and allow you to seek shelter under my glory. Go forth, these Red Sparrow Birds will bow before you.”

With the power of Hundred Birds Toward The Phoenix, Liszt naturally had ways to hasten their progress, enabling Red Sparrow Birds to sign Beast Taming Contracts with the knights.

However, a Beast Taming Contract was not a strongly binding agreement, and he seriously added, “I can have you contract with the Red Sparrow Birds, but gaining their approval requires your own efforts... If a Red Sparrow breaks the contract, you will lose your qualifications as members of the Royal Knight Squad.”

The knights suddenly became solemn.

To lose their place in the Royal Knight Squad meant losing Liszt’s trust—a prospect far more nerve-wracking than losing an Advanced Magical Beast as a mount.

Chapter 1043: Magic Lamp Bulb The Crimson Sparrow Team of the Royal Knight Squad had been formed, comprising twenty-six Elite Earth Knights of Fire Attribute, all of whom had signed Beast Taming Contracts with the Red Sparrow Bird with the help of Liszt.

The Crimson Sparrow Team will serve as the first batch of knights guarding the Flame King City.

Of course, they are still reserves and must wait until the Red Sparrow Bird truly bonds with them and will not rebel, to finalize the Crimson Sparrow Team roster. In any case, this batch of knights will be the backbone of the future Burning Legion and will also be knights directly under the Flame Family.

The Flame King City they are to guard has not been completely built yet, but the main framework has already taken shape.

In such a magical world filled with magic power, although the construction industry is not very developed, as long as one is willing to spend resources and mobilize magicians for the construction. The speed, quality, and difficulty of building construction are definitely more efficient than high-tech construction methods on Earth.

Coincidentally, on Flame Island, the Moon Slayer Natives have cultivated a large number of Ancient Mages using magic dust.

They participate in construction, undertaking the most difficult parts, which greatly accelerates city construction. Moreover, the Magic Guild is coordinating behind the scenes and developing more construction techniques. The Flame King City is the highest test platform for the construction level of the Flame Kingdom and is a comprehensive plan.

Most cities under the knight system are spontaneously accrued without any complete urban planning.

The Flame King City, however, was planned from the beginning as a large city with a population scale of five hundred thousand, with radiating streets and blocks. At the very center is the city's landmark building, a giant stone gate—Triumphal Arch, which is Liszt's wicked sense of humor, imitating Paris, France.

A grand boulevard runs straight through the Triumphal Arch from the south to the north. This boulevard is called the Gilded Boulevard, which can accommodate ten carriages side by side, that is, the gap for twenty warhorses.

Apart from the Gilded Boulevard, five other boulevards traverse the Triumphal Arch—of course, due to the orientation of the Triumphal Arch, these roads can only go around the arch, forming a large roundabout. Only the Gilded Boulevard can pass through the Triumphal Arch unimpeded.

These five boulevards, along with the Gilded Boulevard, divide the Flame King City into twelve radiating fan-shaped areas.

Going clockwise.

The area from 12 to 1 o'clock is the administrative district, 1 to 2 o'clock is the education district, 2 to 3 o'clock is the green district;

3 to 4 o'clock is the commercial district, 4 to 5 o'clock is the civilian residential district, 5 to 6 o'clock is the commercial district;

6 to 7 o'clock is the civilian residential district; 7 to 8 o'clock is the storage district; 8 to 9 o'clock is the magic district;

9 to 10 o'clock is the green district; 10 to 11 o'clock is the noble residential district; 11 to 12 o'clock is the military district.

Of course, this is just a rough distribution, and each fan-shaped area is divided by countless streets into many small areas. For Liszt, who has a great pursuit of greening, each small area should have a park, and every little street should have a conspicuous public toilet.

In summary, the future Flame King City will be a city shaded by green trees, clean and tidy.

The cities of other countries are always accompanied by a lot of excrement, sewage, and other dirty substances, but in any city of the Flame Kingdom, he does not allow such uncivilized phenomena to exist—in fact, even without official coordination to clean up the excrement, the commoners would scramble to clear it away.

Feces can help crops grow, which has become common knowledge to the people of the Flame Kingdom.

Compared to the luxuries that only the nobles are qualified to master, such as elves, feces are something that both humans and livestock can produce, and it can help all crops. Many small traders specialize in selling feces, transporting it from the cities to the various plantations, eliminating the phenomenon of open defecation—everyone keeps their feces to sell for money.

Noble landlords would buy feces at a high price for farming.

However, there was one problem: transporting feces from the city was bound to pollute the air. Liszt then requested the construction of a sprawling underground network at Flame

King City. These tunnels were spacious enough to allow carriages to pass through. Feces would be transported out of the city through these tunnels.

At this moment,

Having returned from the Phoenix Perch Parasol Forest with the Red Sparrow Squad, Liszt stayed in Flame King City for inspection. Today, he was inspecting the sewer system.

At the moment, Flame King City was not yet inhabited, so the sewers had not started transporting feces or wastewater.

“Lighting is a big issue. The tunnels are built deep underground where light cannot reach, making it easy for evil to breed here,” Liszt said to Goltai and the accompanying others. Goltai had been appointed to specifically oversee the construction of Flame King City.

The former down-and-out Honored Knight had now become a Viscount and was one of the members of the Development Committee.

“Your Majesty, once Flame King City is operational, I will order the establishment of a special inspection Knight Order to protect the safety of the tunnels, ensuring that no filth survives here!” Goltai declared emphatically, having already adapted well to his rising status alongside Liszt.

Although he was still just an Apprentice Knight in terms of strength, as Liszt’s spokesperson, he wouldn’t sell himself short.

“Inspection is certainly necessary. After all, the tunnels are not just for transporting feces, wastewater, and trash, but also part of the emergency and supply routes... However, if the lighting problem is not resolved, it will always be a hidden danger. Has the Magic Guild not developed any outcomes yet?”

“I’m not sure about that; the management of the Magic Guild is not part of my duties. Chris and Kenley, the two presidents, should be aware. Your Majesty, would you like me to contact them?”

Members of the Development Committee had their own distinct responsibilities and rarely overstepped.

Committee Chairman Li Weiliam Tulip was responsible for overall coordination, Vice-Chairman Dimaria Yuhua Stone for diplomacy, Emily for military affairs, Piero Grey Iron for trade, Elton Golden Chrysanthemum Medal for agriculture, Geoffrey Begonia for justice, Durt Red Apricot for communications, and Paris for finance.

Goltai Mast was in charge of urban construction, Marcus Wheel of education... The two special committees, Chris Truth was responsible for external liaisons between the Magic Guild and various departments of the Flame Kingdom, and Kenley Truth for scientific research work of the Magic Guild.

“Contact them,”

Liszt said.

Soon Goltai commanded his assistant to send a message using the Magic Platform and connected with Chris and Kenley. Liszt directly asked, “How is the progress on the magic lamp bulbs I tasked the Magic Guild with developing?”

“Your Majesty, we have achieved preliminary results. The issue of magic power illumination has been resolved, but glass cannot replace crystal to stably harness the magic. We still haven’t found a material that can replace crystal, and we have yet to develop the magic lamp bulbs you desire.”

Magic lamp bulbs, as the name suggests, are lamp bulbs powered by magic.

This world should have the physical phenomenon of magnetism generating electricity, but Liszt did not understand this area and was unable to delve deeper into development. After all, even the steam engine had not yet been properly refined. Thus, he decided to bypass electrical energy and directly use magic to achieve some high-tech advancements.

Magic lamp bulbs were one such concept. Crystal lamp equipment already existed as a form of magic equipment. The only thing needed now was to mass-produce these crystal lamps at a low cost.

Once magic lamp bulbs were developed, the city’s nights would also be thoroughly illuminated, which would greatly extend working hours.

Previously, most people would obediently go to bed at night, but with magic lamp bulbs, they could at least work until midnight with the lights on, which would undoubtedly greatly enhance labor efficiency.

Liszt couldn't help but urge Chris and Kenley, "Hurry and focus, breakthrough the shackles of thought, explore more materials. If even the magic light emission has been solved, how hard can it be to find a suitable medium! Tell those arcanists that whoever finds the right material, I will fund them to establish their own magic laboratory!"

Chapter 1044: Gourd Brand The structure of the Magic Association had become increasingly massive, but Liszt, who remained ever vigilant against a resurgence of magicians, had gradually transformed the concept of "magic."

Now, the Magic Association resembled the Chinese Academy of Sciences, where magicians were gradually adapting to the identity of arcanists and engaging in specialized magic development work. Moreover, under the influence of Liszt's will, arcanists began to specialize in specific fields according to their different interests and skills.

Such as Healing Arcanists, Magic Equipment Arcanists, Magic Array Arcanists, Potion Arcanists, Mechanical Arcanists, and so on.

However, the Chinese Academy of Sciences is an elite organization of scientists, while the Magic Association is an organization that recruits all magicians, roughly considered a combination of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Ministry of Technology, and also encompasses the functions of health commissions.

Integration of production, education, and research.

Research and development of magic technology, education, and training of arcanists, ultimately utilizing arcanists and magic technology in the construction of the kingdom.

At the same time, the Magic Association adopted the "Chief Arcanist System." This was a magic management system that mainly established the position of Chief Arcanist in magic research projects and national institutions, with the Chief Arcanist taking overall responsibility for the project and managing project funds, resources, and so forth.

Because of the demand for Magic Lamp Bulbs.

Liszt directly decided to offer a substantial reward to fund an arcanist to establish a separate magic laboratory, effectively promoting this arcanist to the rank of Chief Arcanist.

In the field of magic, this was definitely a meteoric rise to becoming an industry Boss-level figure.

Keep in mind that although there are so many registered magicians in the Magic Association, fewer than twenty magicians have attained the position of Chief Arcanist and own a separate laboratory. Most magicians are merely assigned to miscellaneous tasks in the laboratories or participate in construction in various city administrations.

The Magic Association had already formed over fifty magic laboratories, undertaking various subjects, but most of these laboratories were under the names of Ach and Lerald — only archmages had the qualifications to continuously open new magic laboratories and initiate various brand-new subjects.

“Your Majesty, with such an enticing reward that you offer, I’m afraid that for the coming period, most arcanists in the Magic Association will be too distracted from their work, focusing solely on finding a carrier for the Magic Lamp Bulb,” Chris replied with a hint of helplessness, not without a bit of sarcasm.

She was all too familiar with the young Dragon Knight, His Majesty the King of the Flame Kingdom — sometimes she could sense his far-sighted strategic planning, which led to the establishment of the Magic Association; other times, his ideas seemed fanciful and unpredictable, or, in other words, he made it up as he went along.

Regardless, Chris would faithfully execute his commands, having long decided to dedicate her life to serving Liszt.

It was both to repay the debt for saving her life and a dedication to the Truth.

Liszt smiled and said, “That’s for the best, it’s the only way the importance of the Magic Lamp Bulb can truly be showcased.”

“But I am curious, Your Majesty, is the Magic Lamp Bulb really that important? We have Crystal Lamps, although expensive to produce, the Crystal Alsophila Tree Forest can provide us with plenty of crystals, and the Light Green Gem Dragon Ethan can also produce a large amount of crystal,” Chris asked, puzzled.



The cultivation of the Crystal Arsophila Tree Forest meant that crystals were no longer a scarce resource, allowing for mass production of Crystal Lamps.

“You do not understand, Crystal Lamps are too limited to the use of nobles and magicians, they cannot conquer the darkness. Only by developing an affordable Magic Lamp Bulb can we conquer darkness to the greatest extent...” Liszt casually explained, but upon further thought, it didn’t really seem all that significant.

Edison invented the light bulb as an application of electrical energy, announcing the advent of the electrical age and the beginning of the second industrial revolution.

However, the Magic Lamp Bulb of the present, other than improving labor efficiency and enriching the nightlife, seemed to have no connection with the industrial revolution.

Of course.

Regardless of whether it was meaningful or not, Liszt just had to make the Magic Lamp Bulb happen!

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I had assumed that finding a suitable carrier for the Magic Lamp Bulb would be like Edison inventing the light bulb, requiring over a thousand attempts and failures before succeeding.

However, Liszt never imagined that less than three days after issuing the reward, a magician would announce they had found the perfect carrier material for the Magic Lamp Bulb.

Therefore,

In the Mage Tower of Flame City, Liszt met with this magician.

The young magician named Oves Truth, who had not long been promoted from Magic Apprentice to Magician, had his identity as an Arcanist specializing in the production of Magic Equipment.

“Your Majesty the King, this is the most suitable carrier I have found for the Magic Lamp Bulb,” the young Oves excitedly presented a brightly shining light bulb.

The bulb was round, following Liszt’s original design, but at the end of the bulb, there was an extra gourd.

It was just an ordinary gourd, a fruit produced by climbing plants commonly found in the primitive jungles of the Flame Kingdom, very similar to those on Earth.

The bulb was mounted on the mouth of the gourd, flashing an unstable blue-white light.

“A gourd?”

“Yes, it’s the common gourds you find in gourd plantations. I previously used gourds to hold some special magical potions. Then it occurred to me, why not infuse gourds with magic power, allowing the Magic Lamp Bulb to maintain the necessary magic power continuously.”

Thinking this, he began to experiment, not expecting much at first since gourds were ordinary plants without any magic power.

However, to his surprise, when he infused the gourd with magic power, he found that the magic power did not dissipate.

Thus, the Gourd Brand Magic Lamp Bulb was born.

With the Eye of Magic activated, Liszt could see through the magic power within this gourd light bulb, filled with Water Attribute magic power. It flowed slowly inside the gourd, providing magic power for the luminous magic array within the glass bulb at the top. The consumption was minimal, and with the magic power in this gourd, it could be lit for at least a year.

“Very good!”

Liszt patted Oves on the shoulder, generously praising, “You are a lucky Arcanist, and of course, luck is also a part of strength. I have high hopes for you, Oves. From today, I will fund you to establish a private Magic Laboratory of your own.”

“Thank you, Your Majesty, thank you so much!” Oves trembled with excitement, bowing deeply to Liszt.

“It is the reward you deserve.” Liszt turned around and said to Chris, Kenley, and the others who accompanied him, “In the next issue of “The Great Arcanist”, I think we can feature Oves on the cover. The Magic Association should strongly support exceptional young Arcanists.”

“The Great Arcanist”, the most authoritative periodical of the Magic Association, was a publication countless magicians were honored to be featured on.

Chris readily agreed, “That’s certainly excellent material, as long as Oves is willing to be interviewed, he will be the cover figure of the next issue of “The Great Arcanist”.”

How could Oves not be willing? He nodded eagerly, “I am willing, I am very willing, President, I would be very happy to accept the interview!”

“Then it’s settled.”

After dismissing an elated Oves, Liszt called Chris and Kenley to his office, holding two small gourds in his hand, solemnly saying, “Do you realize the value of these gourds?”

Chapter 1045: The Gourd’s Confusion “Magic storage?” Chris responded.

“It can be used as a container for magic power,” Kenley answered.

Neither of them understood the value that Liszt was considering; eventually, Liszt himself had to reveal his thoughts, “Could the gourd be considered a ‘Caster’? Could we use it to create some magic that could be released at will?”

“Magic that can be released at will?” They still didn’t grasp the idea.

Liszt could only continue to explain resignedly, as he had a broader vision that the others did not: “Could the gourd be used to create disposable magic, which even ordinary people could release?” This would be akin to a magic scroll, though such scrolls did not exist in this world.

“Do you mean to release magic through the gourd?” Chris was catching on now.

Kenley also realized what he meant but soon objected, “The gourd is too small and doesn’t store much magic power. At most, it could be used to release common magic, and the effect wouldn’t be very significant. Plus, the cost of materials to inscribe an automatic magic array would be huge.”

“That’s not the largest gourd. In the gourd plantation, there should be bigger gourds that could store more magic power, enough to release advanced magic. Moreover, it doesn’t necessarily have to release offensive magic; perhaps it could serve as an energy source for mechanical devices.”

Liszt thought of a device and continued, “If a magic two-wheeled bicycle were powered by the gourd, would it mean it could keep running, allowing even ordinary people to ride it at speed?”

The magic two-wheeled bicycle and its inventor, Gandalf Truth, had previously been featured on the cover of “The Great Arcanist.”

“That is indeed an ingenious idea, but a single gourd still stores too little magic power.”

“Then string together many gourds.”

“String together more gourds?” Kenley paused, then exclaimed with surprise, “The more gourds are linked, the more magic power they could store, perhaps they really could replace the presence of a ‘Caster’!”

“Next step, you must focus on the gourd and expand your thoughts to develop its potential,” Liszt instructed them as they understood his idea. He felt that combining gourds with magic power could create something akin to ‘electric energy.’ Perhaps gourds could usher in an era of ‘electric magic,’ making life more convenient.

Of course, compared to the omnipresent electric energy on Earth, magic power, even combined with gourds, was still a luxury only nobles could afford.

The reason was simple: the source of magic power could only be provided by magicians.

Apart from the Magic Guild funded by Liszt, which could provide magic power on a large scale, other nobles couldn't afford to support magicians, especially in this era of a dwindling magic web. In fact, if Ach hadn't become an Archmage, Liszt would never have considered developing magic.

Rich magic development was no substitute for riding dragons.

But since Ach had become an Archmage, Liszt needed to develop magic for Ach's sake, enabling Ach to reach new heights. He didn't aspire to an era of electric magic but merely wanted to develop some convenient magic items for everyday life—like magic elevators and magic water heaters.

As a member of a dragon-rearing family and noble at the height of luxury, Liszt naturally wanted to enjoy such conveniences.

"I'll pass the idea of the magic elevator to Chris later. Develop it quickly; ideally, by the time the Sun Moon Star Palace is completed, the magic elevator can go through the entire Royal Palace... But Ach had mentioned earlier that she wanted to develop a small Magic Teleportation Array inside the Royal Palace, which seems to make the magic elevator somewhat unnecessary?"

Dwelling on it was pointless.

Even if not used by himself, it would be good for the servants.

He returned to Flame Castle and called on Gourd Greater Elf Klay to inspect the gourd plantation. He had once thought gourds, as agricultural products, were only useful as containers; but now, their ability to store magic power had significantly increased their value.

"Liszt, Jela really is annoying. She's not an elf butler, yet she always likes to nag in your ear and is such an irritating elf!"

Klay kept complaining on his way from leaving the Flame Castle, having had enough of Thorn Greater Elf Jela.

Liszt chuckled, “You can just ignore her.”

He had Jela act as elf butler at this stage of a greater elf, not only because of Jela’s strong desire but also because he hoped that Jela could bring about a ‘catfish effect’, stimulating the elves and promoting their development and evolution. It seemed to be effective; Klay had evolved to a greater elf due to Jela’s provocation.

“I don’t want to pay attention to her, but she’s really annoying. She always interrupts me when I am playing, I don’t like her! I want to leave Flame Castle, I want to live in my gourd garden, yes, and I’ll take the gourd minor elves and elf bugs with me too, I like them.”

It was rare for an elf to like its kind, and Klay was clearly an exception.

In its private worm room, there lived two gourd minor elves and seven gourd elf bugs, all brought there at its own request. The two minor elves also enjoyed following Klay, playing pranks around the castle.

Gourd elves were very mischievous.

On the contrary, Jela, despite her fiery temper and domineering personality, rarely played pranks.

“If you really don’t like living in Flame Castle, you shouldn’t move into the plantation either, as it’s still somewhat dangerous outside. Once my Royal Palace is built, there will be a large Elf Palace, and then you can have your own private garden where you can enjoy the peace.”

“Alright, I’ll bear it for now. When will the Royal Palace be ready?”

“In another half a year, definitely before this year’s festival.”

“That’s acceptable.”

Arriving at the gourd plantation, Liszt primarily came to inspect the growth of the gourds and the different varieties produced.

In the primeval forest, there were many types of gourds: some long, some large, some thick, some hard, some soft, some with one chamber, some with three chambers, varying endlessly. No matter what type of gourd, they all grew within the influence of Klay’s cordyceps.

When he cast the Eye of Magic, aside from a few cordyceps, no other magic feedback glow was detected.

He walked to the largest variety of gourds and picked a super-large gourd, nearly as big as a watermelon: “I wonder if this type of gourd can store magic power. If possible, the amount stored might be enough to release advanced magic once?”

“Unfortunately, magic power isn’t in states like gas, solid, or liquid, and it can’t be liquefied. No matter how much you compress a gourd, it won’t store much magic power.”

Magic power is not a material.

In the triangular theory of magicians, magic power, spirit, and material are equivalent existences. The special nature of magic power might be similar to “light,” possessing wave-particle duality. Because magic power is inherently part of the magic web, whether it’s the magic power of the Dragon of the Magic Web or that of dragons and other creatures, it exists in the form of webs and fields.

Suddenly.

An idea burst into his mind: “Gourds can store magic power, which is quite unusual. According to the triangular theory, ordinary plants are just ordinary materials and shouldn’t be able to block magic power at all. So what is the structure of this gourd that prevents magic power from penetrating?”

Chapter 1046: Jela Resigns Many things in the world can block magic power, for instance, mochi juice is a very outstanding anti-magic material. Large castles are almost all

constructed using mochi juice as a binder, such castles can very well withstand the impact of magic and Dou Qi, remaining strong.

However, mochi juice merely resists magic, it cannot completely stop the infiltration of magic power.

There are hardly any items that can prevent the seeping of magic power, not even gemstones or crystals, those products of dragons. Gemstones can maintain their magic power for an extended period, but the reason lies more in the fact that gemstones have a concentrating effect, allowing them to automatically absorb the free magic power in the air.

Crystals have this effect too, though it is very weak, and once the Dragon Magic Power is exhausted, they lose this property.

Therefore, the ability of gourds to store magic power startled Liszt, awakening him to explore the hidden secrets within, as to why they can block magic power, an existence as distinct from matter.

“It seems that while letting the Magic Guild develop the value of the gourds, I also need to contact Ach, to let Ach also look into the secrets... I can try to fumble around myself, I always feel that this little gourd hides a big secret, it concerns my fortune!”

Unfortunately, the gourd was truly just an ordinary gourd. After turning it over and examining it repeatedly, he found no additional clues.

He could only set it aside for the time being and looked at the Gourd Greater Elf Klay, who was swinging on a vine, saying, “Klay, you really are my little lucky star. The gourds you cultivate are very important... Seeing you’re not quite happy at Flame Castle, why don’t I teach you a song instead?”

“Good, I like to sing!” Klay’s eyes brightened.

“Come, learn from me... ‘Gourd kids, gourd kids, seven flowers on a single vine. Unafraid of wind and rain, la la la la...” Liszt sang.

Klay then followed learning, “Gourd kids, gourd kids, seven flowers on a single vine...”



But halfway through the song, it complained, “This doesn’t sound good at all, not good at all. Liszt, do you think I’m silly? Singing has to rhyme, and your song doesn’t rhyme at all. It’s not as nice as ‘Return to River Fort’ that Old Carter taught me. Listen to me sing!”

Klay showed utter disdain for the song Liszt taught, and indeed, the song ‘Gourd Kids’ sounds nice in Chinese, but translated into Serpent Script, the rhymes become jumbled, leading to a stutter.

After all, they are two completely different language systems, with very different constructions of aesthetic design.

Soon, Klay’s singing voice began to rise.

“Look, how beautiful this ocean is! How thrilling it is! Look, this natural landscape, how it intoxicates us!”

“Look, by the hillside orchard, full of lipstick-like raspberries, fragrance wafting everywhere, warmth filling the air.”

“But you said ‘goodbye’ to me, forever abandoning your lover, forever leaving your hometown. How can you bear not to return? Please don’t leave me, don’t let me suffer again!”

“Return to River Fort, please come back!”

This is a widely popular folk song from the Steel Ridge Kingdom and is equally widespread in the Sapphire Duchy. Basically, everyone born in Sapphire knows this song. Butler Carter is a Sapphire person, and he taught this song to Klay and other elves during his leisure.

Klay had a milky voice, like a child singing, but sang “Return to River Fort” quite pleasingly.

Clap clap clap clap...

Liszt was not stingy with his applause, “Klay, you have a talent for singing, awesome. But you also have to work hard at farming. I hope one day you can grow gourds of the Magic

Potion variety. Gourds are very important to me. You must take this seriously, understand?”

Feeling Liszt’s earnest expectations, Klay nodded, “Of course, I will grow magic potions, I am definitely better than Jela!”

His grudge against Jela was as strong as ever.

Seeing this, Liszt couldn’t help but shake his head. Jela, this “catfish,” indeed fulfilled her role well. There was no elf in the castle that did not “detest” her, even the Thorn Minor Elves “detested” Jela deeply—Jela certainly wouldn’t treat someone kindly just because they were of the same breed.

However, when Liszt returned to Flame Castle and inspected the Elf Bug Room, he found Jela standing on the window of her own room, staring blankly at the distant mountains.

She seemed to have a faint sadness in her mood.

“Jela, what are you looking at?” Liszt couldn’t help but ask with concern—although he now had so many dragons and so many elves to look after, reducing his attention to any single individual, Jela always had an indescribable importance in his heart.

Jela turned her head and looked at Liszt, shook the creases on her Little Flack Abiye collar, and spoke seriously, “I am contemplating the future.”

Pfft!

Liszt almost laughed out loud, but he managed to hold it back, “Oh, what future are you contemplating?”

“Evolution.”

“Evolution?”

“Yes, Liszt, I have matured. During my time as an elf butler, I have recognized my own shortcomings. Despite receiving affirmation from Old Carter, Morson, and others for my management skills, and Ach saying that I have a remarkable talent, being a rare kind of elf,”

Jela started to boast seriously, then continued, “But I also have to review my weaknesses. That is, I am not a Dragon Elf, and my authority does not come into full play. Especially Carly and Yadi, those enchanting bitches, who always hinder me from carrying out orders.”

Carly was a Man-Eating Tree Dragon Sprite, and Yadi was a Buckwheat Dragon Sprite, who often looked down on Jela.

“So, what are you planning to do?” Liszt nodded, asking earnestly, being well aware that Jela’s intelligence could not be judged by normal Greater Elf standards.

Just like the Giant Algae Greater Elf Pike, Gourd Greater Elf Klay, and Pea Great Elf Ash—these Greater Elves indeed had the intelligence of a human child in their teens, but more as “emotional beings.” They could learn knowledge but didn’t understand the reasoning behind it.

Only Dragon Elves would delve into deeper thoughts, showing intelligence and emotional intelligence akin to humans.

However, Jela was already exhibiting such traits, and there was another Greater Elf showing aptitude in this area—Mangrove Greater Elf Nami.

Nami liked to wander outside working, while Jela preferred to stay and manage the castle as a butler.

At this moment, Jela said seriously, “Liszt, you said that only by taking a liking to a dragon can a Greater Elf evolve into a Dragon Elf. So I’ve decided that starting now, I’m going to try to like one of the dragons. Even though I don’t like any of your dragons, I must do this.”

“Eh...” Liszt was somewhat speechless. Could liking dragons really be forced? “Then how do you plan to make yourself like a dragon?”

“More contact,” Jela had clearly thought it through. “I plan to resign from my position as Flame Castle’s elf butler and focus on making contact with your dragons. Fire Dragon Leo, Formless Dragon Bard, Light Green Gemstone Dragon Ethan, Grey Iron Dragon Ornn, Mountain Copper Dragon Mata, Water Dragon Walter, Aluminum Dragon Connor, and even Bone Dragon Vinnie, I will try to make contact with them.”

“Hmm, if that’s the case, why not start with Bard first!” Liszt didn’t know if Jela’s forced approach to liking would work, but it was worth a try.

Jela nodded and then squinted her eyes, “Oooh, I’m going to announce my resignation to the elves right now!”

Chapter 1047: Will Never Like This Dragon “Everyone come out.”

“All elves come out, I have an important announcement!”

“Talking to you, dawdling around, come out quickly, or I’ll knock your teeth out!”

Jela loudly caused a commotion, turning the entire Worm Room area of the castle into complete chaos. Countless Little Minor Elves and Greater Elves were haphazardly flying and loudly clamoring in the corridors, creating a scene more tumultuous than a market square.

“Ula!”

“What is this fuss all about!”

“Jela is a bully!”

“Chirp chirp.”

“Bubble bubble bubble bubble bubble...”

“Huff puff.”

“Such an annoying Greater Elf.”

“Jela, are you trying to discuss the art of bondage with me?”

“I can’t stand this troublemaker of a Greater Elf, can’t you just play quietly, always finding ways to disturb my peace.”

Buckwheat Dragon Sprite Yati stretched lazily.

It was reading a book in its own Worm Room and didn’t want to pay any attention. As a Dragon Elf that had migrated from the Iron Dragon Chain Palace, Yati might have resolved its own issues. However, because of Jela’s meddling, it was always difficult for it to fully integrate into the new environment.

Thus, the role of the Elf Butler had not fallen to it—of course, it wasn’t particularly interested in being a butler either.

But that didn’t prevent it from looking down on Jela, how could a Greater Elf manage Dragon Elves!

Despite its desire to ignore Jela, the annoying elf from the elves, it was unavoidable and it saw her every day. Flame Castle, with its many elves and small rooms, was already working at full capacity, housing over twenty Greater Elves, more than two hundred Little Minor Elves, and over thirteen hundred Elf Bugs.

With so many elves, coupled with Jela’s explosive temper, it was a recipe for constant turmoil over every trivial matter.

Today was no different.

Although Yati did not leave its room, it perked up its ears to carefully listen, trying to figure out what mischief Jela was up to.

It planned to catch her in the act and thoroughly shame the pesky elf.

“Quiet!”

“Everyone be quiet!”

“Talking to you, what are you staring at, I’ll gouge your eyeballs out if you keep staring!”

Jela’s voice was always so energetic; Yati disdainfully curled its lip. It thought to itself, merely because she was Liszt’s first Little Minor Elf, she acted without any limits, she was bound to fall flat on her face soon!

After a good while of scolding.

The corridor finally quieted down a bit, it had to be said, Jela’s deterrence was quite effective.

Just then, Yati heard Jela loudly announce, “I’m telling you all something serious, starting today, I officially resign from my role as the Elf Butler to Liszt.”

A moment of silence.

Then, the corridor suddenly erupted into huge cheers.

“Shakalaka!”

“Ula!”

“Angchi Angchi Angchi...”

“You should have resigned earlier!”

“I see the light, dawn has arrived!”

“Chirp chirp.”

Countless Greater Elves and Minor Elves clapped their hands in high spirits, as if serfs had risen to become masters, filled with excitement. Some elves even pulled out Jade Powder and scattered it around the aisle at random to celebrate this memorable moment of joy. Of course, there were also Minor Elves who sneaked up to gather the fallen Jade Powder, happily stashing it on themselves.

Among them, one Little Minor Elf, caught up in its own delight, flew right in front of Jela, made a face at Jela, stuck out its tongue, and began to show off, making blubbering noises.

However, the next moment, Jela, hands on hips, sent the Little Minor Elf plummeting from heaven to hell. Her fingers spread open, and her chubby little hands drew back and then fiercely slammed down.

Snap!

A crisp sound.

The Little Minor Elf, like a bullet shot from a cannon, crashed to the ground, a tangled mess, and then burst into loud tears.

The festive scene also cooled down with Jela's slap and the Little Minor Elf's crying.

Jela, hands still on her waist, shouted at all the elves in front of her, "Wah, don't think that just because I resigned as the Elf Butler you can do whatever you want. Remember, my resignation is only temporary, I will return... Cherish the little free time you have now, because when I come back..."

With a huff, Jela turned around, leaving behind a resounding word, "Organize!"

Her transparent wings fluttered; she had already left the Worm Room area, not looking back as she flew out of the castle. This departure was a broad sky, a place where fish leap and birds fly, a rush towards a broader level of life, a persistent reflection on the future, and a break from the shackles of fate.

She left decisively.

Leaving the elves in the hallway looking at each other in confusion.

The scene that was supposed to be joyous was now dominated and overshadowed by fear. Many of them had not been at Flame Castle for long, yet Jela's tyrannical image deeply penetrated their minds. From day to night, from reality to dreams, like a phantom looming over the castle.

"Angchi, Angchi..." A carefree Little Minor Elf, after being dominated by fear for a few seconds, returned to its carefree self, grasping the Jade Powder it had collected and happily flying back to the Worm Room.

As if in a chain reaction, the other elves gradually returned to normal, staring, arguing, and the atmosphere slowly returned to usual.

However, for some reason, a few elves had a vague feeling that things were changing.

"What is Jela up to?" Pea Great Elf Ash, winding a rope around his wrist, pondered briefly. Unable to come to a conclusion, it quickly pushed thoughts of Jela out of its mind, returned to the Worm Room, picked up a scale from Grey Iron Dragon Ornn, and continued to sleep in bliss.

Buckwheat Dragon Sprite also wondered briefly why Jela resigned, but it really couldn't be bothered with such an annoying ghostly elf and continued reading.

...

"Bard, hello, I am Jela, Liszt's favorite Greater Elf."

Jela flew next to the ear of Formless Dragon Bard, loudly introducing herself, trying to catch his attention. However, Bard merely raised an eyelid, then closed his eyes again, continuing to sunbathe on the top of Moon Mountain.

Even though Liszt had notified him, asking him to get familiar with Jela.



But dragons have their own character and hardly give a second glance to elves, beings even smaller than ants; showing itself was already giving face to Liszt.

“I want to like you, Bard, you should show some effort, only then can I like you,” Jela stated seriously, standing on Bard’s eyelid.

But the next moment,

Bard somehow procured a stick of Smoked Grass, placed it between his teeth, and began to slowly grind and chew it, quickly spreading the distinct smell of Smoked Grass over the top of Moon Mountain.

Jela’s eyes widened.

One second.

Two seconds.

Three seconds.

On the fourth second, she suddenly covered her nose and yelled as she flew away, “I will never love a dragon with such a smelly mouth! Never!”

...

“So, Jela, are you giving up on Bard?” Liszt was inspecting the construction progress of Sun Moon Star Palace, listening to Jela’s endless complaints, and asked helplessly.

“He’s too smelly, Liszt, how can you stand him, aren’t you afraid of the smell?”

Liszt chuckled, “You get used to it.”

“I can’t get used to it, I want to switch to a dragon I can love.”

“Alright, then switch to Mountain Copper Dragon Mata; he’s just over there in the back mountain, I’ll send you there.”

Chapter 1048: Twenty-One Territories For now, it seemed that Mata, the Mountain Copper Dragon, was quite favored by Jela; at least one dragon and one elf were able to coexist harmoniously—mainly because Jela was talking to herself, and Mata didn’t even care to bother with Liszt, let alone a Greater Elf.

Send someone to protect Jela.

Liszt did not stay long in the Flame King City, as he had been immersed in the Magic Laboratory for several days, looking for possible clues with Ach, who squeezed in time to study the gourd.

“The gourd is very strange; from a microscopic level, its structure doesn’t seem out of the ordinary, but on an even smaller scale, there must be a different structure that blocks the permeation of magic power. Brother, Ach can’t sense that smaller level yet and needs some equipment to help.”

“Whatever equipment or resources you need, just give the order,” Liszt said decisively, feeling a sense of urgency within.

The Smoke Mission had already been delayed for almost half a year by the barrier task.

Every day he looked at the unchanging Smoke Serpent Script: “Mission: The two hundred and second choice of destiny, guiding and predicting time after time, you have grown from a small rural landlord to the ruler of a kingdom. As the Flame Kingdom is about to be established, it is perhaps time to consider some deeper questions. Please touch the barrier. Reward: The Favor of Destiny.”

His heart gradually became irritated.

Previously, the Smoke Mission came every few days or weeks, which was truly refreshing. Feeling the benefits brought by the Power of Destiny often led to a serious dependency.

Now, for more than half a year, he had not received any rewards from the Smoke Mission.

It felt as if his heart had been scratched by a cat, always feeling uncomfortable. This was probably what they meant by the ease of transitioning from frugality to extravagance and the difficulty of the reverse. Without the Smoke Mission, life could still go on normally, and there would be no discomfort. But now, accustomed to the Smoke Mission, not receiving benefits felt quite unpleasant.

However, he also understood that being too dependent on the Smoke Mission was not a good thing. This delay in the barrier task might be a good opportunity for him to break free from this dependence.

He had a very clear understanding of this: “The Smoke Mission is a manifestation of the Power of Destiny within me, and it is my talent; relying on it is not wrong. However, I need to develop myself comprehensively and should not rely too heavily on the Smoke Mission. Everything should be done in moderation.”

All in all.

The Smoke Mission was too frequent before, now it is too delayed; finding a moderate and appropriate balance is best.

On Ach’s experimental table were gourds of various sizes and shapes. She took out a document and said, “Ach has started to conceive of a device that can observe the structure of matter at a more microscopic level. Brother, you once said that a combination of convex and concave lenses can form telescopes as well as microscopes.”

“That’s correct, I’ve said it.”

“Ach has become proficient in the development of telescopes while studying astronomy and has made many pairs of astronomical telescopes in various specifications. However, there have been few attempts at developing microscopes, relying instead on my own subtle perception of magic power... Now that I cannot sense it, it’s an ideal time to develop a microscope.”

Liszt was impressed by Ach’s increasing skill, but also puzzled, “With your perceptive abilities, you should be able to sense things down to the atomic level; in this case, the microscope you need to create has to achieve an even higher level of precision.”

He didn't know much about microscopes, but he seemed to remember from junior high biology that optical microscopes could only magnify objects by a little more than a thousand times.

Those atomic-level materials were all seen using electron microscopes.

As for even smaller particles like electrons and atomic nuclei, Liszt was unclear what kind of microscope was used to view them. Nor could he understand whether scientists had really seen electrons or had detected them using scientific methods.

"If the precision of the microscope isn't sufficient, then Ach will develop a Magic Microscope."

"A Magic Microscope?"

"Yes. Brother, didn't you say that magic power is similar to light, possessing the dual nature of waves and particles? Since optical microscopes can magnify and observe matter, a Magic Microscope should also be able to magnify and observe matter. Perhaps with the help of a Magic Microscope, Ach could extend my perception to an even more microscopic level."

Alright.

Li Si Te (Liszt) had to admit that he truly couldn't keep pace with Ach's train of thought, nor could he really understand how magic power could be used to create a telescope.

In fact, he merely understood the principle of an optical microscope; he had no idea of the principle of an electron microscope, let alone the magic microscope that Ach was now conceptualizing.

So, he simply responded, "It's good that you have an idea."

He waved his hand and left with a suave turn, striding away.

...

The principle by which gourd's isolated magic power was left to Ach to research, and Liszt immediately turned his attention to territory development. As April was approaching, the Development Committee, having completed the spring farming work, organized a Flame Island territory planning session in accordance with Liszt's wishes.

Territory planning was Liszt's concept for land development, referring to administrative divisions on Earth.

"Li Si Te," said Li Weiliam in the executive office, commanding a clerk to hang a meticulously drawn map on the wall.

With sextants to measure latitude and longitudinal coordinates, and flying magical beasts to survey from high altitudes, drawing maps was a fairly easy task for the Flame Kingdom. This map of Flame Island detailed every mountain, river, road, and castle.

Apart from such a map, there were also topographic maps with contour lines under Liszt's guidance.

The committee was even preparing to construct a giant sand table in the Sun Moon Star Palace, to proportionally replicate the entire Flame Island, and eventually, the northeastern corner of the Legendary Continent.

This map on the wall divided the Flame Territory into twenty-one domains using straight lines—a domain was equivalent to a provincial unit.

Of course, most domains were simply delineated and the location of the central city within each domain was designated, without any actual development having taken place. The Flame Island had basically subjugated all the Moon Slayer natives by now, with only a few native tribes still hidden deep within the primal jungles.

Liszt scanned the map.

Currently, there were roughly nine developed and named domains.

Reed Marsh Domain, central city Reed City; Whirlpool Mountain Domain, central city Flame City; Whirlpool Estuary Domain, central city Estuary City; Dragon Pit Great Mine Domain, central city Dragon Valley City; Jade Mountain Domain, central city Jade City; Mermaid Domain, central city Mermaid City; King's Domain, central city Flame King City; Pan-Sea Reef Domain, central city Reef City; Endless Volcano Domain, central city Phoenix City.

Among them, the Mermaid Domain was almost entirely underwater, with Mermaid City also submerged with no land-based territory.

The Endless Volcano Domain was near the Endless Volcano Cluster and Phoenix City was built on the edge of the Phoenix Perch Parasol Forest, currently only a small town in scale.

“After the territory planning, road construction must follow suit. Although magic teleportation arrays will play a major role in the future, normal roads are still necessary. Excessively busy arrays put too much strain on the magic arrays, leading to collapses. So, this planning aspect still requires more of your attention, father,” he said.

“Don't worry, although you have already established your Flame Family, you are still my son; my feelings for this kingdom are connected with yours.”

“Yes, the Flame Family and the Tulip Family are just names; our blood ties us together.”

Then, father and son exchanged a knowing smile, leaving everything unspoken.

Chapter 1049: Magic Power Barrier Liszt still underestimated Acherloides' efficiency. While he was busy inspecting the construction of his territory, only a month had passed when Acherloides managed to create the theoretical magic microscope.

“Lord Acherloides provided the design, and I led a group of outstanding Grand Magicians day and night in a rush job, and after repeated polishing, we finally completed this magic microscope that can be operated by an Archmage,” Lerald·Truth excitedly introduced on behalf of him.

During this time settled in the Flame Kingdom, he had quickly integrated into the Magic Guild.

The high-end magic research projects presided over by Acherloides were eye-opening for him. He felt that the truths he had encountered before were just scratching the surface; this place was the true holy land of Truth. Despite being an Archmage himself, his admiration for Acherloides had reached the point where he considered himself her disciple.

It must be said that the Earth knowledge explained by Liszt to Acherloides may have deviated slightly in this world, but it greatly broadened Acherloides' perspective, allowing her to examine the meaning represented by magic from a greater height.

It also often meant coming closer to the Truth.

Therefore, the research topics she studied were so shocking and fascinating to Lerald.

Lerald organized his own knowledge and also supplemented Acherloides with a wealth of basic magic. Now, Acherloides not only had profound foundational knowledge but also a forward-looking perspective. Her mastery of magic definitely surpassed those Magicians from the ancient Moon Empire and Sun Empire.

The magic telescope, extremely cumbersome for Liszt, was simply conceptualized by Acherloides after a few days of thought and she already had a completed approach.

Then it was operated by magicians like Lerald who had many years of experience in making magic equipment.

Swiftly, the magic telescope appeared before Liszt's eyes.

A massive device, standing three meters tall and shaped like a giant iron barrel, was etched with dense magic runes and had several complex magic arrays embedded within it.

"Low Magic, High Magic, and Superior Magic, though originating from the same source, have completely different particle movements at the microscopic level. Ordinary magicians can only access Low Magic and are unable to use the magic telescope; those Archmages with High Magic can barely use it; but when Lord Acherloides mounts the Unicorn, entering the realm of Superior Magic, she can perfectly control the magic telescope," Lerald explained, inadvertently glancing at Unicorn Charlie.

This unimaginably beautiful unicorn truly was an enviable being, especially in combination with a magician—they complemented each other perfectly.

“Brother, Acherloides has already used the magic telescope to observe the fine structure of the gourd...” Acherloides was about to give a detailed explanation when she suddenly realized Lerald and the others were still there and issued an unceremonious command, “Lord Lerald, please leave the laboratory for the time being.”

“As you wish.” Lerald was not offended, gave a slight bow, and then led the other Grand Magicians out of the laboratory.

Within the Magic Guild, Acherloides’ position was truly unique.

Once everyone had left and the laboratory door was closed, Acherloides finally said, “The fine structure of the gourd is very interesting, brother. Guess what Acherloides thought of first when she saw this structure?” She had a faint smile on her lips, showing a girl’s innocence only in Liszt’s presence.

“The Magic Web?”

“Not that.”

“Dragon?”

“Not that either.”

“Then I have no idea.” Liszt expressed his helplessness.

Acherloides laughed, “I’ll give you a hint—mermaid.”

“Mermaid?” Liszt racked his brain but couldn’t make any connection with mermaids for a long time, and finally guessed at random, “Could it be thinking of the devil?”

“No, brother, it’s the ocean!”



“The ocean?”

“Mm, on the atomic level, Acherloides couldn’t feel any difference in the gourd. But on a more subtle level, like the ocean, constantly churning, magic is pushed back by the ocean the moment it makes contact. The subtle level of ordinary materials, however, is not like the ocean; it’s like a layer of stone, and magic easily penetrates through it.”

Acherloides described what she saw through the magic telescope, explaining that the observed material could be assumed as a type of filter.

Some filters are built with large rocks, and magic penetrates them effortlessly; others are built with pebbles, through which magic also passes without trouble; some filters are made of fine sand, where magic penetrates slightly slower; and there are filters made of even finer dust, where much of the magic is blocked.

In contrast, the filter of the gourd is composed of seawater, with virtually no gaps for magic to penetrate.

Understanding what Acherloides had explained, Liszt furrowed his brow, “So Acherloides, do you think the gourd’s seawater structure has any connection to the Barrier?”

He didn’t care what the gourd looked like.

His concern was always the information about the Barrier.

“Brother, after synthesizing the research from the past six months, Acherloides has made a rough judgment about the Barrier,” Acherloides spoke earnestly, “The Barrier is a boundary for matter, spirit, and magic. Take the Formless Dragon Bard, for example; its Barrier is clearly a material one.”

Acherloides then went into a detailed analysis of Bard’s situation.

Bard can traverse material, the boundaries of material, and worlds beyond material, and while it appears to be an act of breaking through Barriers, it is not actually the case.

“Bard’s ability has not transcended the limits of the material Barrier. The real material Barrier is not the tearing of material boundaries or alchemical changes like turning stones to gold but another dimension altogether. Like the Dragon of the Magic Web, it does not tear through boundaries like Bard, yet it’s capable of permeating material, existing within material, its boundaries, and worlds beyond.”

This analysis gave Liszt food for thought.

Acherloides continued, “Now, about the gourd’s subtle level, its seawater-like structure that blocks magic from penetrating. In Acherloides’s view, it doesn’t reveal a material Barrier, but a magic Barrier. At least it’s a magical Barrier when trying to penetrate this particular dimension. When magic can penetrate the gourd, it means the Barrier in this respect has been broken.”

Liszt asked, “If this is indeed a magic Barrier, does that mean that if I practice with Leo, we should follow this line of thought, shaping our magic to penetrate the Barrier that the gourd represents?”

“The idea is roughly like that, but Acherloides has not thoroughly considered the specific details of cultivation. Don’t be anxious, brother, Acherloides needs to reference more clues to finally decode the true secret of the Barrier.”

“Although I’m impatient, I can endure it,” Liszt gave Acherloides a reassuring glance, “I am already at the pinnacle of power in this world, and I’m only twenty-two years old this year, so I still have a lot of time... Acherloides, we both have long lives ahead of us, there’s no need for either of us to rush.”

“Mm-hmm,” Acherloides nodded vigorously.

Liszt then played with her azure locks.

Even though the Smoke Mission was like a fishbone stuck in his throat, he could only treat it as overcoming his dependency on the Smoke Mission, perhaps after overcoming it, he would be able to see more clearly what the Power of Destiny truly was.

Suddenly.

A flash of insight crossed his mind, “Perhaps, the ‘Favor of Destiny’ rewarded by the Smoke Mission, is to let me recognize the Power of Destiny, to contemplate it?”

The unknown lies ahead.

But his mindset had quickly stabilized; countless Dragon Knights through the ages failed to break through the Barrier, and even if he didn’t complete this Smoke Mission, he would not have lived in vain. Now it was an opportune time to focus all his energy on building the Kingdom, to lay a solid foundation.

Chapter 1050: Time Flies Like a White Colt Touching the barrier required patience.

And time, like a white steed flashing past a crevice, rushed by.

In May of the Sapphire Calendar Year 157, Duke of Snowstorm Mountain, Scora Cornflower, died. Before his death, Duke Scora announced that his title would be inherited by Second Prince Scart Cornflower.

First Prince Spot Cornflower immediately rebelled and proclaimed that Second Prince Scart Cornflower was a patricide, asserting that the ducal title rightfully belonged to him. The old duke’s two sons each claimed to be the rightful Duke of Snowstorm Mountain and sought arbitration from the Cornflower Gem Dragon of the Snowstorm Mountain Duchy.

The Cornflower Gem Dragon paid no heed to the brothers’ strife.

Then, the First Prince sought help from the Yellowstone Kingdom, while the Second Prince turned to Yevich Water Peanut, requesting assistance from the “Eagle Kingdom” behind him.

The Snowstorm Mountain Duchy plunged into civil war, and many civilians, to escape the turmoil, were covertly transported by the mercenary corps organized by Yevich to Heroic Yellow City, through the Male Jade Transmission Array, settling in the Flame Kingdom. The arrival of these Snowstorm Mountain civilians was a significant boost to the population structure balance in the Flame Kingdom.

Thus, Liszt instructed Yevich, “You must ensure that the civil war in Snowstorm Mountain Duchy lasts for three to five years, continuously relocating populations to supplement our Flame Kingdom.”

“Your Majesty, rest assured, everything is under control.” Yevich, already mounted on a high-level Dragon Beast—Pegasus, confidently stated.

“Once you complete this task, upon returning home, you will be the new Marquis of the Flame Kingdom!” Liszt promised benefits, for he liked to motivate his followers with interests.

The abovementioned Pegasus was a reward for Yevich’s years of operation in the Snowstorm Mountain Duchy. Granting a marquisate after completing the population relocation strategy was also a natural step. This once despondent candidate for the Dragon Knight Plan had become a Completion Level Sky Knight through hardships.

Worth reemploying.

“I will never disappoint Your Majesty’s expectations!” Yevich was spirited.

He had already married the daughter of a local marquis in Snowstorm Mountain Duchy, reaping rewards in both career and love, feeling that he had reached the pinnacle of his life.

It was with the help of this marquis that he thrived in the Snowstorm Mountain Duchy.

The marquis had long become a follower of Liszt and aligned with the Flame Kingdom under his introduction.

All these schemes were conducted secretly by the Development Committee, with Liszt merely showing up for a lunch with the marquis.

...

In June of the Sapphire Calendar Year 157, after spending two months with the Mountain Copper Dragon Mata, the Thorn Greater Elf Jela could no longer bear it and complained to Liszt, “Mata is just a big stupid dragon that does nothing but eat, drink, and sleep. It’s no better than a pig from a piggery, and it should be slaughtered for meat!”

“What’s the matter, don’t you like Mata?” Liszt asked with a smile.

Jela, hands on hips, cheeks puffed out with indignation, exclaimed, “I will absolutely never like this big stupid dragon, wuah!”

This phrase seemed familiar; she had described the Formless Dragon Bard similarly two months ago. It appeared that even if she gritted her teeth, Jela had no luck with either the Mountain Copper Dragon or the Formless Dragon.

“Then let me take you to meet Aluminum Dragon Connor. Mata’s and Connor’s Dragon Nests are not far apart, so you wouldn’t need to move. While interacting with Connor, also take the time to clear the Thorn Plantation, then select a Worm Room in the Sun Moon Star Palace.”

Flame City was a major agricultural city with many plantations cleared.

However, as Liszt was about to move into the Sun Moon Star Palace, some plantations would also relocate, including the Thorn Plantation—Flame King City’s nearby soil was particularly suitable for thorn bushes, a shrub type plant.

“I know, I’ve seen Connor, and he’s a bit ugly.” Jela had disliked Aluminum Dragon Connor even before they started to interact, leaving Liszt without any expectation that she would take a liking to Connor—Jela didn’t seem on the verge of evolving, her personality was just acting up.

However, Liszt was willing to let her quirks run their course, just in case she evolved. After all, thorns did have the Auxiliary Medicine Thorn variety, which was far more valuable than ordinary magic potions.

The Magic Guild had recently categorized magic potions by grades.

The lowest grade was the ordinary chaotic type magic potion, referred to as mixed standard magic potion. This type was just ordinary magic potion, usable by all knights with average effects.

The next level up was the ordinary single type magic potion, referred to as single standard magic potion. This type of potion is categorized based on magic power attributes, having

good effects for knights with the same Dou Qi attributes, but not much effect on knights with different Dou Qi attributes.

The next level up was the ordinary specific type magic potion, referred to as special standard magic potion. This type was actually just like the single standard magic potion, but limited to the Light and Dark attributes. These categories of potions were rare and hence relatively more valuable.

Be it single standard or special standard, they can be named individually, such as water standard potion, fire standard potion, light standard potion...

Above the special standard was the strong medicine, referred to simply as strong medicine. For example, the Platinum Magic Potion from the Red and White Rose Family was considered strong medicine, providing powerful effects to knights consuming it.

Above strong medicine were auxiliary magic medicines, referred to as auxiliary medicine.

Above auxiliary medicines was the Dragon's Magic Potion, referred to as dragon medicine. Dragon medicine didn't have outstanding effects on human knights but provided immense benefits to dragons. For instance, the Red Dragon Water from the Red and White Rose Family and the Fire Dragon Elixir from the Flame Family both belonged to this category of dragon medicine.

Mixed standard, single standard, special standard, strong medicine, auxiliary medicine, dragon medicine—these were the six classifications of magic potions.

Further divisions were possible, with strong medicine being subcategorized into mixed strong, single strong, and special strong, and similar grading for dragon medicine. However, this was unnecessary as strong medicine and dragon medicine were already too rare.

...

In the Sapphire Calendar Year 157, August, King's Castle of the Flame Kingdom fully installed magic lamp bulbs in the underground paths, indicating smooth city operations with the illumination of the pathways.

Thus, the Development Committee organized the first batch of immigrants.

These immigrants were well-behaving citizens from major cities who would become the honored residents of Flame King City. Besides the civilians, various knights from the Burning Legion also moved to reside in Flame King City.

Temporarily, the Burning Legion comprised five orders: the Mammoth Knight Brigade (riding Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants), the Royal Knight Squad – Red Sparrow Team (riding Red Sparrow Birds), the Burning Knights Group (riding Black Blood Treasured Horses), the Blizzard Knights (riding Blizzard Beasts), and the Pegasus Knights (riding Pegasus).

Of course, each order was still under development and had very few members.

After the official operation of Flame King City, the surrounding facilities also began to operate gradually, and the most important, the Sun Moon Star Palace, soon completed its main construction. Mr. Carter personally led a large group of servants from Flame Castle to the Sun Moon Star Palace to oversee the interior decoration.

As for the surrounding architectural wonders of the royal palace, they were already transferred to Ach, who personally designed and supervised their construction.

The Flying Moat, Vertical Lift, Miniature Magic Gate, Aerial Floating Park, Man-made Sun, Moon and Stars, Crystal Rainbow Canopy, Proportional Dragon Sculpture, Eternal Torch, Endless Rain Cloud... Ach had many ideas, and the resources required to build these wonders would be astronomical.

Thus, Liszt made his own suggestion, “Ach, why don’t we start with the Proportional Dragon Sculpture and the Vertical Lift first? We can slowly build the other facilities as time permits.”

Ach felt somewhat reluctant.

But still, understandingly nodded, “Ach will listen to brother.”

Thus, Liszt quietly wiped the cold sweat off his forehead and breathed a sigh of relief—he realized a landlord’s house isn’t always stocked with surplus!

