

## The Mighty 1061

Chapter 1061: Creating Something from Nothing “Creation from nothing.”

A complete sentence emerged in Li Si Te’s (Liszt) mind.

It was one of the Thirty-Six Stratagems, originally meaning to create something from nothing, akin to fabricating out of thin air. It was also an inspiration that suddenly struck him; perhaps the barrier of magic power was essentially “creation from nothing.” However, this “creation from nothing” did not mean an unfounded “creation,” but rather a creation from “nothing.”

According to the triangular theory, magic power could be transformed from both material and mental aspects, which all falls under “creation from something.”

Hence, ordinary flames and Fire Attribute Mana belonged to “creation from something,” so it did not involve any barrier information. However, the relationship between Volcanic Super Magic and magma belonged to creation from nothing, which led him to believe that Volcanic Super Magic was a product of barrier creation.

“The origin of Volcanic Super Magic is ‘nothing,’ but forming this ‘nothing’ requires stringent conditions. In my view, the high-temperature environment of the magma and the rich Fire Attribute Mana provide a good hotbed for forming ‘nothing.’ And this ‘nothing,’ more or less, resembles an essence of the world.”

It was difficult to articulate Liszt’s inspiration at the moment, much like “applause should be here.” The environment represented by “nothing” was essentially “as it should be.”

In places where Super Magic should exist, Super Magic exists.

Essentially, the magic power barrier is such an abstract concept.

“So to touch the barrier of Fire Attribute Mana, I must understand this ‘nothing,’ achieve ‘as it should be’... Now, does this seem more like an idealist worldview?” He sent a “follow me” message to Leo, then suddenly burst out of the magma.

Transformed into a phoenix engulfed in flames, he hovered above the volcano crater.

Quickly, Leo also burst from the magma, transformed into a sinister red and black Fire Dragon, allowing Liszt, who had returned to human form, to land on the Dragon Tooth Platform and swiftly complete the Dragon Knight Resonance, linking minds.

“Leo, I might have found the barrier!”

Sharing his insight with Leo, their thoughts explored and fused continuously. Soon, Leo let out a deafening roar, “Oh!”

It was expressing the excitement shared with Liszt.

“Touch the barrier, find ‘as it should be’!” Man and dragon sensed the path ahead clear suddenly, as the dense fog enveloping the Dragon Knight Cultivation System’s path rapidly dispersed.

Dragon’s Super Magic and Superior Magic Dragon Dou Qi shone constantly in interaction. It was another attempt by man and dragon to apply the idealist worldview, “as it should be,” to the materialist real world. Liszt predominantly led, with Leo assisting—Liszt understood idealism and materialism better.

He had been educated in materialism back on Earth, resulting in a deeply ingrained materialist worldview. Transported to this world unshrouded by religion and gods, even though magic introduced fantastical elements, the world fundamentally remained materialist.

But that doesn’t mean idealism is wrong—Indeed, no one on Earth could prove that idealism is absolutely incorrect.

Idealism and materialism are merely two different philosophical methods to comprehend the world.

Liszt knew little about philosophy; at this moment, he was using the two terms to express his insight into exploring the barrier: “The barrier is a door, Leo, it exists in this world, strictly guarding the triangular theory of magic power, material, and spirit, maintaining the world’s operation, and what we need to do is to push open this door.”

“How do we push it open?”

“Push it open from within ourselves, because the barrier, this door, also exists within our hearts, as we are all part of the world. To become as powerful as the Dragon of the Magic Web, we must open this door, break through the triangular theory, step outside the world’s operational system... and touch it!”

Leo landed on the summit of the volcano, and Liszt sat on its back, the afterglow of the sunset casting a golden glow on man and dragon, as though they were a motionless statue.

Yet, their hearts were aflame, as magic power and Dou Qi boiled within.

Materialism had long been ingrained in his worldview, and to assimilate an idealistic perspective was like negating himself; yet, it was the only path to transcendence.

“Difficult!”

“Truly difficult!”

“Even though I’ve come to understand the real meaning of barriers, I still have no clue about how to break them,” he said as he slowly shook his head while the sun dipped completely below the horizon, his lips curling into a smile, “but... I have indeed successfully touched the barrier!”

The long-unseen Smoke Serpent Script floated before his eyes.

“Complete the task, receive the favor of destiny.”

The two hundred and third Smoke Mission, also the longest one, was finally successfully completed, earning him the long-anticipated reward of destiny’s favor.

At that moment,

Liszt understood the favor of destiny he was rewarded.

Because the Smoke Serpent Script before him didn't morph into new scripts but slowly dissipated. At the same time in his mind, a smoky fog formed an oval seed—it didn't look like a seed at all, yet Liszt knew it was one.

It could also be called a Smoke Dragon Seed.

It represented a brand-new Holy Dragon-Smoke Dragon, being nurtured in his mind just like Fire Dragon Leo and Water Dragon Walter had been in his body. Except the Smoke Dragon, in this form, was slowly breathing in and out the power of destiny in his mind.

“No more Smoke Missions from now on...”

“However, the power of destiny is slowly reviving. I don't know how much time the Smoke Dragon needs to be nurtured, but clearly, I am the greatest beneficiary.”

“Because.”

“I am favored by destiny, the power of destiny centers around me, and everything will flow smoothly, extending blessings. In this moment, I am the Smoke Dragon!” He could feel the Smoke Dragon Seed in his mind, perhaps due to the long immersion, it had already been marked by him.

Which meant, even if the Smoke Dragon was nurtured, he would no longer need to ride it.

He even felt that the Smoke Dragon might not even develop an independent Dragon character.

Because unlike Fire Dragon Leo and Water Dragon Walter, all the nutrients of the Smoke Dragon Seed came from Liszt. There wasn't the slightest power left from the previous generation of Smoke Dragon, even the power of destiny was gathered through Liszt. Task after task completed, destiny magnified over and over.

Declaring himself as the Smoke Dragon wasn't mere boasting, but a fact.

“Moreover, I can also feel that the birth of this Smoke Dragon Seed has given me a newfound clear perspective on destiny. It's as if I can myself avoid disasters and fortunes,

even manipulating the threads of destiny around me... This power, for the first time, is truly under my control!"

Riding on Leo, he sprinted towards the distant Phoenix City.

While passing through the Phoenix Perch Parasol Forest, he immediately had a marvelous epiphany—a sense that within the forest, with just a thought, he could manipulate the threads of destiny to allow the two Phoenix Perch Parasol trees to nurture elves—and then he did exactly that.

Just then, Phoenix Perch Parasol Dragon Greater Elf Ani, riding the Flame Dragon Bird Little Red, appeared.

Liszt then told Ani, "Ani, keep an eye on these two trees, see if they nurture any Elf Bugs, and call me immediately if they do."

Wearing a small-sized Knight's Leather Armor, Ani slapped his chest confidently, "Leave this small task to me!"

Chapter 1062: My Kingdom Phoenix City is a dominion-level city yet to be developed; its main streets have been planned out, but construction hasn't begun yet. Currently, within the entire Endless Volcano Domain, there's only one small city—Phoenix Tree City.

Phoenix Tree City is the town originally situated on the edge of Phoenix Perch Parasol Forest.

With the development of Fire Dragon Elixir, this small town seized an opportunity for growth; even the Magic Guild established a branch here, mainly responsible for locally gathering Magic Potions and refining Fire Dragon Elixir. The sole purpose of these elixirs is to continually supply Fire Dragon Leo.

The influence of Phoenix Perch Parasol Dragon Greater Elf Ani's Cordyceps is massive, covering nearly 60,000 acres, all cultivated with Phoenix Perch Parasol Trees.

Even the constantly produced Fire Dragon Elixir still couldn't satisfy Leo's urgent needs.

Moreover, the Volcanic Super Magic produced by several active volcanoes also gradually became scarce. Hence, in these past two years, Leo's growth had stalled, with his body length and wingspan both maintained at sixty-five meters—a considerable distance from the adult standard of a hundred-meter wingspan and body length.

"I have already become the master of my fate; the next step is to find more potions like Fire Dragon Elixir to help Leo continue growing."

Surveying the still desolate Phoenix City, Liszt calculated how to break through the barriers.

He had now touched the barriers and understood what they truly were. Not only the barriers of Fire Attribute Mana but, broadly speaking, the barriers of other types of mana, and even material and spiritual barriers, were beginning to show signs of their nature. However, the most hopeful way to break through the barriers was still to cooperate with Leo.

Alone, one simply couldn't achieve such inherently idealistic feats.

Exploring the root of the barrier, this "nothingness" itself was an extremely harsh condition, only barely met by Dragon Knights, to create "nothingness" to touch and break through the barriers—perhaps Archmages could also touch the barriers, but breaking them was indeed too difficult.

After all, the magic system behind Archmages relies on the mana from the Dragon of the Magic Web, not their own power.

"Because Leo isn't mature, his power can't reach its limit; it's tough for me to create the 'nonexistent' environment required, making it even hard to break through this layer of barriers."

After encountering the barriers, Liszt gradually formed a complete cultivation plan: "So my future focus in cultivation is to help Leo mature as soon as possible... For the other dragons, there's still no clue on breaking the barriers." Even Formless Dragon Bard was not the first choice.

It's still hard to precisely describe the material barriers with idealistic thoughts.

He wasn't one to aim too high and said, "Since I've chosen to conquer the barriers from the angle of Fire Attribute Mana, I'll throw all my efforts into it, side by side with Leo to break the barriers first. Once we have the experience of breaking through barriers, I'll then journey to new realms together with Bard and other dragons.

"But!"

"Regardless of everything."

"Now, I am no longer merely a Dragon Knight, although I'm not yet a Barrier Knight... Maybe I could call my current state a Half-Step Barrier Knight?" Though the title Half-Step Barrier Knight is somewhat melodramatic, it aptly describes Liszt's current state.

The power of a Completion-term Dragon Knight is subject to strict confines, belonging to the "pinnacle of strength."

Yet Liszt had touched the barriers and understood the principle of creation from nothingness. His and Leo's power subtly transformed, presenting as a "boiling" display of magic. The operation speed of Dragon's Super Magic and Superior Magic Dragon Dou Qi was incredibly fierce, and their exerted power also became immense.

This was just a change, not yet a transformation, but the increase in power was unmistakably clear.

"Now, even if I were to face a regular dragon alone, wouldn't it be no problem at all? If I and Leo achieve Unity of Man and Dragon, I fear there exists no Dragon Knight who could withstand our attack." The boost in strength brought him boundless confidence; he seemed to foresee himself conquering every corner and uniting the Northeastern Corner of Legendary Continent in a grand scene.

Thinking.

His lips couldn't help but curve into a smile: "It probably won't be long... before Flame Kingdom turns into Flame Imperial!"

Suddenly, he raised his eyebrows, and Leo let out a thunderous “Oh!” transformed into a trail of flames, and disappeared over the skies of Phoenix City.

“Let’s go, Leo, we will return and prepare to be crowned king!”

...

“Brother, you have changed.”

Ach exclaimed upon seeing Liszt for the first time in the Sun Moon Star Palace.

“Oh, is that so? Ach, tell me how I have changed?” Liszt was also surprised by Ach’s sensitivity; he had just touched the barrier, and it had already been noticed.

“Brother’s temperament has changed. Ach cannot quite pinpoint it, but it feels rather strange compared to before.”

“So, do you think this change is good or bad?”

“Of course, it’s a good change.”

“Hmm, that’s very good then.” Liszt smiled proudly and then took Ach’s hand, sharing his current joy, “After reading your summary notes, I was inspired and went to the volcanic magma and then comprehended the essence of the barrier.”

He then shared his understanding of the barrier with Ach without reservation, which made Ach immediately want to return to the laboratory to verify the information.

“Don’t rush, Ach. In these next few days, my kingdom’s founding ceremony will take place. Put aside trivial matters and join me in sharing this supreme moment of glory.”

Ach didn’t like attending bustling events.

But faced with Liszt’s warm invitation, he couldn’t refuse: “Alright.”



“Don’t always think about work and research, come on, Ach, smile. From birth to death, our lives are filled with endless work and research, but when it’s time to relax, we must decisively relax. Otherwise, when we get old, we’ll only regret missing out on too much scenery.”

He took Ach’s hand and led him to the highest room in the Sun Moon Star Palace, then up the stairs to a small balcony at the top.

From here, they could overlook all of Flame King City.

“Do you remember when you first came to Fresh Flower Town, living in the small castle, only able to look out the window each day, admiring that small patch of farmland?”

“Yes, Ach remembers.”

“Back then, I was just a countryside baron, and you were just a little sea monster being chased by sea serpents. However, six or seven years have passed in a blink, and you have become an embodiment of truth in the world—a magus—and I have become a Dragon Knight of several dragons. Now, the Flame Kingdom we started together is about to be established... Ach, do you feel accomplished?”

Ach smiled, “Does brother feel accomplished?”

“Absolutely full of accomplishment.” Liszt stood with his hands behind his back, gazing into the distance, radiating heroic pride, “This vast fertile land, all my domain; these bustling crowds, all my subjects; everything prospering and desolate before us, all my kingdom.”

He turned around.

He looked down at Ach’s beautiful face, and then, amidst Ach’s expectant and nervous gaze, kissed the soft lips of the little sea monster.

Lands and beauty.

Children make choices, Liszt wants it all.

Chapter 1063: When to Enter the Stage The landscape was picturesque, a moment filled with many heroes.

On January 1, 158 of the Sapphire Calendar, the festive atmosphere on Flame Island was subdued, as it was overshadowed by the Kingdom Foundation Ceremony of the Flame Kingdom.

As the first rays of sunlight pierced the cold morning air, the brightly decorated Flame King City was already bustling, with all residents rising early and gathering along both sides of the Gilded Boulevard. The Gilded Boulevard, fenced off, was carpeted with gold and red, stretching from one end of the city to the other.

Doo-doo-doo-doo...

The sound of horns blended with the music, as the Royal Palace's band began to perform. The nobles here preferred the elegant piano played indoors, but that didn't mean other instruments weren't developed. The Royal Palace's band included several folk musicians who performed atop floats in formation.

It was a joyful tune.

Soon, accompanied by the tune, a male chorus resonated.

"How splendid that bright sunlight is, after the storm the sky is so clear, the fresh air is so enchanting, how splendid that bright sunlight is, ah, your eyes sparkle with light, like the radiant, splendid sun... like the radiant, splendid sun, her eyes forever the most beautiful in my heart."

This was a folk song widely circulated in the northeastern corner of the Legendary Continent—"My Sun." The Serpent Script of Steel Ridge, the Wind Language of Eagle, and the Rock Script of Blast Furnace Fortress all had translations of this folk song.

At the moment, the male chorus was singing "My Sun" in Serpent Script, which had been designated the official language of the Flame Kingdom.

“Like the radiant, splendid sun...”

The ordinary citizens lining the Gilded Boulevard soon joined the choir in singing the folk song, a tune nearly everyone knew how to sing.

When the song concluded, the band and choir’s floats had already made their way onto the Gilded Boulevard.

At this point behind the floats, a series of open-topped carriages followed one after another, each carrying nobles dressed in the splendid attire of Flack Abaie.

“Ah, there’s Viscount Blair, I know him, he’s an administrative officer from our Flame King City!”

“Behind him is Viscount Isaiah, the administrative officer from Reed City; I’ve seen Viscount Isaiah conducting inspections of goods when I was doing business there!”

“They are all viscounts, why don’t I see any earls or marquises?”

“I heard that marquises and earls, these great nobles, aren’t participating in the street parade; today, they are being enfeoffed at a ceremony in the Royal Palace!”

“When will I also be able to sit in a carriage and receive cheers?”

“You can stop dreaming about that.”

Three hundred and sixty-six carriages, carrying three hundred and sixty-six viscounts, paraded ostentatiously. Following the viscounts’ carriages was another group of nobles dressed in Flack Abaie attire. However, compared to the viscounts’ glamorous appearance, they were dressed a bit more modestly—this was the baron formation.

One thousand two hundred and forty barons, all mounted on steeds, showed clear distinctions in the types of horses.

Some barons rode shiny, large, and robust black horses, which were members of the Burning Legion's purebred Black Blood Treasured Horses; others rode slightly shorter black horses, which were the feudal barons' mixed-breeds of Black Blood Treasured Horses.

Some barons rode brown, yellow, or red horses, which were the mounts of lifetime barons, merely ordinary warhorses.

Though the barons did not ride in carriages, their imposing presence on horseback was even more striking, earning them plenty of cheers from the crowds lining the Gilded Boulevard, especially from the daughters of merchants and craftsmen, who frequently cast flirtatious glances at the knights atop their horses—they didn't dare aspire to viscounts, but barons were still within their reach to contemplate.

After the Barons, came the procession of the Honored Knights.

Although tens of thousands of Honored Knights existed, not all had come since they still bore the responsibility of managing their domains; thus, only five hundred representatives were present.

A procession of nearly two thousand people thus embarked upon the Gilded Boulevard, marching steadily forward.

They soon reached the Triumphal Arch that stood at the center of Flame King City, where Magicians cast their spells upon the Arch. Multicolored magic soared into the sky, drawing exclamations from the citizens. It was like the fireworks on Earth, beautiful and smokeless, both environmentally friendly and natural.

Passing through the Triumphal Arch, the procession continued north along the Gilded Boulevard and soon arrived at the Royal Palace Square of Sun Moon Star Palace.

The square, adjacent to Flame King City, was usually off-limits to commoners.

But on this universally celebrated day, the square was opened to the public, hence it had been filled early with a large influx of commoners and Noble families. In this strictly hierarchical society, there was a clear divide between Nobles and commoners, with the Nobles gathering in a separate area, maintaining a distance from the commoners.

No commoner dared cross this line.

Even mischievous children would be promptly pulled back by their parents.

The procession arrived at the square and went through a procedure—parking their carriages and horses and then regathering in the square.

As the sun climbed high, around nine in the morning, a new round of orchestra and choir performances began. At this time, a large number of Nobles, Grand Magicians, and envoys from various countries emerged from the Royal Palace and entered the pre-arranged viewing stand. Three individuals made particularly stunning entrances.

Leading the charge was Light Green Gem Dragon Knight, Emily Flame, who rode directly on Light Green Gem Dragon Ethan to the Royal Palace Square, circling the area before guiding Ethan to land in the center of the square.

She dismounted the dragon.

Ethan flapped his wings, issuing a high-pitched dragon's cry, and flew out of the square to land on the waist of Moon Mountain. Emily, amidst many admiring and envious gazes, walked to the viewing stand and sat in the seat marked with her name.

Next to shock the audience was Duke Li Weiliam Tulip of Tulip Island, who did not ride his Broken Horn Storm Dragon Horse. Instead, he stepped on the head of the Giant Lion, Nimia, walked to the edge of the square, and then leapt into the square and walked to his seat.

The Giant Lion, Nimia, also roared and crouched on a nearby open space by the square, putting immense pressure on the crowd.

The third to make an appearance was Archmage Lerald Truth, who sat on a glittering carpet, cloaked in radiant gold as he flew into the square. For a moment, his Light System Magic nearly blinded everyone; by the time their eyes adjusted, he had already taken his seat.

Clearly,

These spectacular entries had been orchestrated by Liszt to enhance the atmosphere of the founding ceremony of Flame Kingdom.

“Indeed... what a grand celebration.”

The envoy of Eagle Kingdom, Alexander White Iron, watched the dragons of his former Kingdom, along with Giant Lion, Nimia, and the majestic entrance of the Archmage.

Although he was full of grievances, he dared not voice his complaints, resorting to muttering under his breath.

On the surface, he maintained a smile, engaging in lively conversation with the envoy from Blast Furnace Fortress Kingdom, “I wonder when His Majesty the King will make his appearance.”

The envoy from Blast Furnace Fortress Kingdom was about to reply, when suddenly, a commanding, dominant dragon’s cry rose from the direction of the Royal Palace, a sound that seemed capable of penetrating heaven and earth, instantly quieting the entire square.

“Oh!”

Chapter 1064: Now Entering the Scene “Fire Dragon!”

“It’s the sound of a Fire Dragon!”

“His Majesty the King’s first dragon, could this mean His Majesty is about to make an appearance?”

The crowd in the square was filled with eager anticipation, but to their surprise, following that “oh” roar, the Fire Dragon they expected did not appear. Instead, another resounding dragon’s cry came from behind the Royal Palace.

“Roar!”

“This is...”

“It’s the sound of a Mountain Copper Dragon!”

No one needed reminding, as soon sharp-eyed individuals were already pointing at the sky above the palace: “Dragon! Dragon! Dragon!” It was unmistakably a golden dragon flying over.

“Ah, sparkling with gold, is it a Golden Dragon?”

“Don’t you recognize it? It’s His Majesty the King’s Mountain Copper Dragon, a Magic Metal Dragon, even more noble than the Golden Dragon!”

“All dragons are noble, each in their own right!”

The sparkling Mountain Copper Dragon Mata quickly flew over the square and just like the Light Green Gem Dragon Ethan before, circled around once and headed straight for Sun Mountain, alighting midway up its slope.

The crowd’s astonishment had not yet subsided.

At this moment, another majestic dragon cry echoed: “Roar”

Following this, a silver-white dragon approached. Those who recognized dragons already cried out in astonishment—it was the Grey Iron Dragon Ornn. Ornn circled once and also flew towards Moon Mountain, squatting on its slopes not far from Ethan, gazing back toward the direction of the square.

“Roar!”

Once again, along with the dragon’s roar, a slightly smaller grey and white dragon approached—it was the Aluminum Dragon Connor. Circling the square once, it flew to the middle of Sun Mountain.

“Yo-ho!”

Following the Aluminum Dragon, with a slightly youthful dragon cry, another beautiful young dragon with light blue scales flew into the square.

“What is this?”

Many people were puzzled in their hearts, unable to recognize this dragon. Especially the envoys from other nations, who were shocked. The dragons that had appeared before all had profiles and were not abrupt revelations. However, this beautiful young dragon was exposing itself to everyone for the first time.

So it was quite clear.

This was yet another new dragon!

“How is this possible? Fire Dragon, Formless Dragon, Mountain Copper Dragon, Grey Iron Dragon, Light Green Gemstone Dragon, Aluminum Dragon, Bone Dragon, and adding this one, Liszt already has eight dragons?” Alexander White Iron swallowed hard instinctively, his palms beginning to sweat.

The present Eagle Kingdom, not counting its vassals, only had eight dragons in its Dragon Nest!

The newly established Flame Kingdom had already caught up with the Eagle Kingdom in terms of the number of dragons, and what was most crucial was that the Flame Kingdom also possessed a Sacred Dragon!

Truly terrifying!

The envoy from Blast Furnace Fortress Kingdom, standing next to Alexander, also changed color. Though Blast Furnace Fortress was far from the Flame Kingdom, the rapidly developing Flame Kingdom was putting enormous pressure on the envoy—such a speed in dragon taming would make the empire nervous.

Only the envoy from Steel Ridge Kingdom, Mathew of the Red and White Roses, was overjoyed: “Liszt is even stronger than I imagined. Once he becomes my brother-in-law, the Red and White Rose Family will have the backing of two royal families, our influence should be no different from that of the Royal Family!”



Mathew, who was used to getting everything he wanted with money since childhood, naturally assumed that with wealth, the Red and White Rose Family could stand shoulder to shoulder with the Royal Family.

“My lord Duke, what kind of dragon is this?” Marquis of Pea Island Dimaria Jasper, looking at the newly arrived young dragon, was also caught in surprise. He had never seen this dragon before either, “This must be His Majesty’s eighth dragon, His Majesty’s glory is too incredible.”

Li Weiliang responded with a slight smile, restraining himself as he replied, “It’s quite normal that you haven’t seen it before. It is an Elemental Dragon—the Water Dragon... Water Dragon Walter. He’s still quite young and temperamental, and has always been reared in the sea by Liszt.”

Water Dragon Walter was originally meant to be Liszt’s hidden trump card.

But after touching the barrier, he started to breed the Smoke Dragon, realizing that he had become invincible in the world. The schemes of the three great empires were in vain, so there was no need to continue concealing his power. Consequently, he decided to display all his dragons during the Founding Ceremony, to enhance his prestige.

And so,

Walter’s entrance quickly stirred up a huge commotion among the nobles, but they were not given much time to calm their emotions. Walter circled around the plaza and then landed directly on the peak of Moon Mountain—his stature was small enough that there was ample space for him to coil upon the mountaintop without being crowded on the mountainside.

Soon, another familiar dragon chant—sharp and high-pitched—“Woo Yi Ya” abruptly exploded in the air above the plaza. It nearly scared the commoners into wetting their pants, and even the nobles observing from the stands almost lost their composure. The dragon chant was so sudden that it felt like it exploded right by everyone’s ear.

As everyone came back to their senses, the Formless Dragon Bard had just revealed his form, circling the sky before flying towards the summit of Sun Mountain, and coiling at its highest point.

His body, like flowing crystal, was dazzling and mesmerizing.

“His Majesty the King actually chose not to make his entrance riding the Sacred Dragon, how strange,” someone murmured as they saw the Sacred Dragon take the stage alone while Liszt had yet to appear.

“Yes, and with only the Fire Dragon and the Bone Dragon yet to make an entrance, could His Majesty be planning to ride the Fire Dragon?”

“The Fire Dragon, noble as it may be, cannot compare to the Sacred Dragon. Besides, the Fire Dragon is known as an Evil Dragon.” In the eyes of many, dragons are the epitome of nobility, regardless of type, but the Sacred Dragon clearly ranks higher in nobility than the Elemental Dragons—Formless Dragon Bard is known as the only Sacred Dragon to have appeared on the Legendary Continent.

Before Bard’s appearance, many people, including those from Dragon Rearing Families, did not believe in the existence of Sacred Dragons.

“Perhaps His Majesty is sentimental. His first dragon was the Fire Dragon, and both the Flame Kingdom and his surname were named after it.”

“That makes sense. The Flame Kingdom... If not for sentiment, His Majesty wouldn’t have chosen such a name for his kingdom in the middle of the sea.”

The discussions went on for quite some time because after Bard’s appearance, there was a long wait for another dragon to show up—currently, only Fire Dragon Leo and Bone Dragon Vinnie had yet to make their entrance.

...

“They should have already digested the ‘Dragon Exhibit’ ceremony I meticulously arranged. Archmage Acherloides, please join me in putting a perfect end to this Dragon Exhibit ceremony.”

Behind the Sun Moon Star Palace, Fire Dragon Leo was squatting on the ground.

On its back, hand in hand, stood Acherloides and Liszt, with the Unicorn Charlie by Acherloides's side and Liszt dressed in Bone Dragon Armor.

"Mhm," Acherloides responded with a sweet smile. That innocent smile now had a touch of a girl's coyness, and her clear eyes also held a hint of sweet affection.

She had grown up.

After a kiss from Liszt, the Sea Serpent girl quickly revealed the fragrance of a budding blossom.

Snort!

Behind them, Unicorn Charlie snorted with disdain.

It seemed that Charlie held a deep prejudice against Liszt for such vulgar human behavior, offending the purity it recognized. Yet it chose not to leave Acherloides's side—perhaps its recognized purity was but a state of mind, a pure sense of being, or maybe it had grown accustomed to its current life.

"Let's go, Liszt, Acherloides, don't waste any more time!" An accusation tinged with a childish tone resounded, which was surprisingly Thorn Greater Elf Jela, wearing a gorgeous Flack Abbieye, who had flown over at some point.

Liszt and Acherloides exchanged a smile.

"Let's go!"

Acherloides mounted Unicorn Charlie, Liszt climbed onto the Dragon Tooth Platform on Leo, and together they soared into the sky.

In this moment, Dragon Knight Liszt Flame, the founder of the Flame Kingdom, and Archmage Acherloides Truth officially made their entrance.

"Wowah!"

Jela shouted, flapping a pair of transparent wings in a hurry, scrambling to land on Liszt's shoulder: "Wait for me!"

Chapter 1065: Quietness The colossal black and red figure rose from behind the Sun Moon Star Palace, with illusory flames circling around the Fire Dragon as if it were a rising sun.

Despite the golden sun already present in the sky, Li Si Te's (Liszt's) entrance plunged the Royal Palace Square, filled with whispers, into silence. All nobles and commoners turned their eyes toward the imposing Fire Dragon above Sun Moon Star Palace, which could rival the red sun.

"His Majesty has emerged!"

Some sharp-eyed individuals had already spotted Liszt riding on the back of the Fire Dragon, clad in white armor that shimmered with a pale blue light.

"And Prince Archmage as well!" someone noticed the Unicorn beside the Fire Dragon and the figure nearly enveloped in a Magic Cloak on its back.

Though the Unicorn's size was vastly different from that of the Fire Dragon, its brilliant glow was not the slightest bit dimmed.

The Fire Dragon, akin to the red sun, drew closer and closer, and in a blink, it landed on the Palace Square. Its massive frame struck the ground rocks, causing the entire square to tremble—the building materials of the Palace were strengthened with magic and mixed with rubber water, which would not be damaged unless under a powerful attack.

Bang!

Liszt, wearing Bone Dragon Armor and wielding a Bone Dragon Sword, leapt from the dragon's back. He nodded at Li Ao (Leo), and the Fire Dragon soared back into the sky, heading directly for a landing midway up Moon Mountain. The show was not over yet, as the Bone Dragon Armor on Liszt suddenly transformed into a bluish light and cascaded toward the outskirts of the square.

In the flickering light, a Bone Dragon towered on the ground, and the blue flames in its eye sockets shivered, giving an eerie sensation.

The next moment, Bone Dragon Vinnie crouched down, mirroring Nimia the Giant Lion on the other side of the square.

They staunchly guarded the safety of the Royal Palace Square.

All eight dragons took their positions, making Sun Mountain, Moon Mountain, and the Sun Moon Star Palace, though not very tall, seem like a sanctum for humans and a sacred land for dragons.

They shone brightly and radiated magnificence.

Ach dismounted from Unicorn Charlie.

Charlie stepped gently into the void and without looking back, entered the Sun Moon Star Palace. It wasn't Liszt's mount, and it held in contempt such ostentatious displays by Liszt. Having delivered Ach had been more than enough; there was no need to maintain a facade for Liszt's sake.

It wasn't until the powerful creatures had lined up or departed that the crowd turned their gaze back to a man and woman walking arm-in-arm—a common nobility social etiquette for the opposite sexes—toward the podium. Ach, being petite and cloaked in a Magic Cloak, was not conspicuous.

However, Liszt, towering at one meter ninety-three, was markedly proud and transcendent.

Especially since he wore a Gemstone Crown on his head—the Gemstone Crown was usually in Ach's custody and served as the King's crown in crucial moments—with thirty-six gemstones of varying sizes and colors, lavishly adorning the crown and stealing all focus at a glance.

Beneath the crown was densely packed light-gold hair, naturally curly, and an extraordinarily handsome face that could make most women green with envy.

In his youth, Liszt had a softness on his face.

But now, at the age of twenty-four, Liszt had shed all traces of youthfulness, and his face bore sheer determination and a noble demeanor. About half a year ago, he had started to grow a beard—not the thick kind, with clean cheeks and only a circle around the lips and chin.

This circle of beard added mature masculine charm and heightened the majesty of a King.

He wore a suit of evening dress in the form of tailcoats, not in the conventional black and white, but a striking mix of gold, red, and black. Common folk wouldn't be able to pull off such vibrant colors, yet with Liszt's fine physique and temperament, coupled with the tailor's clever design, he managed it flawlessly.

This was not traditional noble attire, nor was it that of the flamboyant King Flack·Abbaie, which made it seem somewhat peculiar to those in the square.

But solely the authority and demeanor of Liszt swiftly made everyone overlook the novelty of the dress. Their eyes fervently followed their own King ascending the platform of power, step by step.

Many also noticed the Thorn Greater Elf Jela strutting behind Liszt—Jela was quite famous, and everyone knew it was Liszt's first Minor Elf, frequently mentioned in the many fabricated biographies of Liszt.

However.

Nobody really cared about Jela. They thought that Jela accompanying Liszt in the procession was just a matter of Liszt honoring the past. Jela herself was not particularly special—after all, Liszt owned three Dragon Elves, and no matter how excellent Jela was, she was just a Greater Elf.

Of course, Jela did not see it that way. She puffed out her chest and followed Liszt with pride, as if she were the protagonist about to receive the cheers of the crowd.

“Wow!”

“I must maintain a noble image, Liszt. Move aside a bit. Don't block my flight path.”

Liszt did not hear Jela's muttering. Even though he had prepared himself diligently for such an occasion, he still felt too excited to calm down. He maintained a calm and composed demeanor, delivered Ach to her place on the viewing platform, and then turned around to shove Jela into Ach's arms.

"Stop causing trouble, Jela." He sent a reprimand to Jela in his mind before stepping onto his own platform of power.

Facing the viewing platform and the entire Royal Palace Square, he took a deep breath.

He lifted the King's Scepter that was embedded on the platform and held it in his hand—this was a scepter made from a Magic Metal Alloy, with no special abilities, merely a valuable decorative piece. But it symbolized the power of the King and was meant to be passed down through the generations.

Taking another deep breath, Liszt raised the King's Scepter high in the air.

Then, in an undeniable tone, he declared, "My subjects, I am your King, Liszt Flame!"

Boom!

The entire square erupted at the start of Liszt's self-introduction. Everyone began to cheer wildly, both Nobles and commoners alike. The thunderous roar, like an explosion, quickly submerged everything else, as if it were a sudden tsunami, wave after wave crashing against the unwavering Liszt.

He extended his right hand downward, signaling for the crowd to stop.

But the waves of cheers continued, one after another, with no intention of stopping—the stunning display of the eight dragons earlier had already pushed the grand ceremony to a climax, and the excited populace needed an outlet for their emotions. Liszt's royal speech was just that outlet.

If it were a different King, they might have calmly waited for the people's enthusiasm to run its course before delivering a long royal speech.

But Liszt was not a ordinary King. He was the powerful Dragon Knight who had founded the Flame Kingdom by his own hand, a Half-Step Barrier Knight who touched the existence of barriers. He was not used to waiting. When he wanted his subjects to be quiet, that will would not be easily shaken.

“Oh ho!”

“Roar!”

“Roar!”

“Yo ho!”

“Hu ho!”

“Wu yi ya!”

“Roar!”

The dragon’s roars suddenly rose from Sun Mountain and Moon Mountain—an awe-inspiring sound that penetrated the heavens and earth, swept through the Royal Palace Square in an instant, and effortlessly overshadowed the cheers of the people.

When the dragon’s roars faded,  
there wasn’t a single person on the square who dared to cheer anymore.

Only the clear voice of Liszt slowly rose.

It clearly reached everyone’s ears: “As the sole master of the great seas, Lord of all islands, the Formless Dragon Knight, Fire Dragon Knight, Water Dragon Knight, Mountain Copper Dragon Knight, Grey Iron Dragon Knight, Bone Dragon Knight, Aluminum Dragon Knight, I declare to everyone in the Legendary Continent...”

Chapter 1066: Dazzling “I hereby declare to everyone on the Legendary Continent,” he announced with a majestic tone, “that the Flame Kingdom rises above the Eastern Sea,



succeeding the glorious civilizations of the Moon Empire and the Sun Empire. Today, on the First Day of the First Month of the First Year of the Flame Calendar, it officially becomes a new kingdom on the Legendary Continent, believing in the glory of knights, protecting the virtues of justice, inheriting the past and providing shelter for the people of the kingdom.”

A pre-written oath was solemnly pronounced by Liszt, reaching the ears of everyone present at the Royal Palace Square.

After he spoke,

his mind connected with his dragon, which issued various dragon roars, “Oh ho,” “Roar,” “Hoo ho,” “Yo ho,” “Wu yi ya,” incessantly resounding.

The hushed crowd also erupted into cheers, and the Magician “Fireworks Team” that had been prepared around the square began using Magic Equipment to continuously unleash various magics, instantly turning the sky into a spectacle of multicolored beauties, pleasing to both heart and sight.

With a slight smile curving his lips, Liszt, holding the king’s scepter, walked towards his throne on the stage—a throne specially crafted from Magic Metal Alloy, symbolizing sheer luxury.

During the interlude of ongoing cheers, servants of the Royal Palace and knight retainers hastily stepped into the square to clear the now unnecessary props and redecorate the Royal Palace Square, readying it for the next phase of the founding ceremony. Liszt took this opportunity to drink some water and glanced at the speech notes he carried with him.

As the cheering gradually subsided, whispers quickly swelled, with the excited nobles and commoners passionately discussing the dragon display ceremony and the king’s speech.

“The kingdom is finally established; from now on, we can truly call ourselves people of the Flame,” someone remarked.

“Indeed, no more Eagle People, Moon Slayers, or Sapphire People; we are all Flame People now, the subjects of our great King Liszt,” another added.

“The Majesty’s speech was outstanding,” another said. “Our Flame Kingdom even inherits the great civilizations of the Moon Empire and the Sun Empire.”

“I know about the Moon Empire, but what is the Sun Empire?” someone questioned.

“Never mind what it is, just hearing Moon and Sun, you know the Sun Empire was as great as the Moon Empire,” another person chimed in.

“The Light emanating from His Majesty was so bright, I couldn’t even open my eyes,” another exclaimed.

“A kingdom, in my lifetime I have witnessed the birth of a great kingdom and had the honor to be a part in it, becoming a founding noble!” An Earl on the viewing platform was filled with emotion, having gone from a captive last year to a founding Earl this year.

An envoy from a duchy also expressed deep emotions, “King Liszt has truly become a legend of the Legendary Continent.”

A noble lady, her eyes twinkling with stars, almost fainting from excitement, covered her chest, “Although I might not agree with King’s fashion taste, his noble demeanor is indeed intoxicating... I truly hope I could have a chance to dance with His Majesty.”

“I want to ride dragons too!” exclaimed a little commoner boy, clenching his fists. His name was Jim; he had migrated to Flame Island with his mother during last year’s Pioneer Mandate War and was now attending Knight School.

“Life on Flame Island is so blissful, all thanks to King Liszt, who will always protect us!”

“His Majesty is the greatest knight!”

Countless praises were uttered by people of various standings, yet not everyone was moved by the king’s speech.

At least, Alexander White Iron, the envoy from Eagle Kingdom, had been anxious since the dragon display ceremony began: “Eight dragons... Although the founding ceremony is

full of fanfare, Liszt's strength is undeniable. Adonis tasked me with assessing Flame Kingdom, how should I report back?"

Liszt had indeed displayed unimaginable depth at the founding ceremony, any kingdom possessing eight dragons could dominate outright.

Alexander knew of King Adonis's plans, which involved feigning weakness before striking a fatal blow. However, while it was easy to feign weakness, where would this fatal blow come from?

To kill Liszt?

A Dragon Knight who could conquer eight dragons, evade imperial assassinations—a Dragon Knight of such unfathomable strength?

With such Dragon Knights and eight dragons standing guard, it was clearly unrealistic to expect the Flame Kingdom to collapse easily.

"With the Flame Kingdom at the forefront is my Eagle Kingdom, Steel Ridge and Blast Furnace Fortress could perhaps make do, but where could my Eagle hide?"

There were cheers all around, yet Alexander remained silent.

However, he was not a solitary man, as the envoy from the Blast Furnace Fortress Kingdom was also silent beside him. Unlike Alexander's deep concerns, although this envoy was also cautious, he was more thoughtful about how to maintain the balance of the four great kingdoms in the northeastern corner of the Legendary Continent.

A triangle is the most stable structure—people in this world who do not study geometry probably do not know this.

However, those with some political sensitivity would guess that three kingdoms could coexist easily. If one was powerful, the other two could ally to prevent being swallowed. But with four kingdoms, many variables could arise, and the powerful Blast Furnace Fortress Kingdom also had to consider more.

...

Liszt was indifferent to what thoughts the Dragon Ceremony and king's speech might provoke among the envoys of various countries.

He quickly signaled for the founding ceremony to proceed to the next part—bestowing titles upon the nobles.

Honored knights were the first to be ennobled, and due to the large number, Liszt did not need to perform the ennoblement ceremony personally. He only needed to recite a few lines written in the script, “My followers, the war is over, but tomorrow still needs protection.”

Watching the knights lined up, Liszt declared with spirit, “I will repay courage with honor, loyalty with love, and betrayal with vengeance. Let the knight's glory be witnessed!”

With a rustle,

A group of knights knelt on both knees, stood up straight, and focused their gaze on Liszt.

More than a dozen royal clerks held all the prepared materials and distributed them to each of the honored knights, including the badges, garments, cultural sticks, and fiefdom certificates.

Once all the nobles had donned their badges on their chests, Liszt solemnly scanned the crowd and said, “Considering your performance on the battlefield, your bold charges, your fearless acceptance of life and death, and the splendid glory you have brought to the Flame Kingdom... now, as the King of the Flame Kingdom, I dub you as lords of the kingdom, in charge of fiefdoms, providing for knights, for my sake!”

The knights all stood up and solemnly performed the oath of loyalty to the knight again, loudly responding, “I will take charge of the fiefdom, provide for the knights, for my master's sake!”

And so,

The ennoblement ceremony was established, and the lords left in turn, returning to their original positions in the viewing stands. After the lords, it was the barons, the same lines

and process, and soon these over a thousand barons also returned to their places. Then came the three hundred and sixty-six viscounts.

Different from the ennoblement ceremonies of lords and barons was the “king’s callout” for the viscounts.

The clerks took care of distributing the ennoblement materials to the nobles, while Liszt stood nearby and loudly declared to a viscount, “Blair Steel-Nail, as the King of the Flame Kingdom, I dub you Viscount of Trifolium County.”

Blair, who had followed Liszt from Fresh Flower Town, performed the knight’s loyalty oath excitedly, his voice choked as he responded, “I will take charge of Trifolium County, provide for knights, for my master’s sake!”

Nodding slightly,

Liszt proceeded to the next viscount, loudly declaring, “Isaiah Moss, as the King of the Flame Kingdom, I dub you Viscount of Drizzle County.”

Every proclamation was met with a loud response of loyalty from a viscount. This lengthy yet solemn scene made the commoners and minor nobles watching the founding ceremony’s blood boil, especially the younger children, who could hardly wait to rush home to train in Dou Qi and become glorious knights.

They earned their achievements on the battlefield and accepted the king’s land grant.

Like the dazzling viscounts in the arena, receiving the attention of the entire crowd.

Chapter 1067: Too High Profile Even reading each person’s name along with a single sentence, the ceremony of assigning viscount titles still lasted a full two hours.

Together with the earlier knight parade, dragon display ceremony, and the king’s speech, by the time it was ten in the morning, the coronation ceremony on the Royal Palace Square had been completed entirely, shifting to the Sun Moon Star Palace to commence the investiture of the earls and marquises.

The process was not much different from the ceremonies for assigning viscount, baron, and honored titles.

However, each earl and marquis elaborated considerably more, and thus, twenty-one marquises and sixty-four earls had managed to complete their investiture ceremonies before noon.

“The Flame Kingdom is newly established, and its founding nobility include not just honored titles, barons, viscounts, earls, and marquises, but also three dukes—Duke Li Weiliam Tulip of Tulip Island, Duke Piero Grey Iron of Phoenix Tree Island, and Duke Bruce of Salty Sea, who was unable to attend the ceremony.”

Liszt had presided over the entire morning’s investitures, and was now parched and irritated, the initial excitement and agitation completely exhausted.

Yet, he still mustered his energy to complete the final part of the ceremony, “A separate investiture will be held for the three dukes on another day, but now it is time for the noon banquet, and I invite you all to join me.”

The luncheon was held in the grand hall of the Royal Palace.

All the nobles participated in the feast, with high-ranking nobles and envoys from various kingdoms gathering together, middle-ranking nobles sticking together, and the lower-ranking nobles as well. There was no talk of equality; the class system under the knight hierarchy was just so strict, yet no one complained.

On the contrary, the lower-ranking nobles only envied and aspired to squeeze into the group of high-ranking nobles.

The knight class has always been synonymous with ambition—at least in the newly born Flame Kingdom, where knights had not yet become corrupt and still maintained zeal.

...

The grand coronation, with the ending of the noon banquet, came to a perfect close, but the effects it brought about quickly rippled inwardly and outwardly.

Feudal nobles had already departed Flame Island, taking with them the serfs and followers previously allocated to them, bound for their own fiefs.

Particularly a batch of high-ranking nobles, who took a large number of serfs, reducing the population of Flame Island from five million to three million in an instant. Two million of those were direct subjects of Liszt, while the remaining million were subjects of the city nobles—city nobles who didn't have investiture rights but could support knights.

The city nobles, also known as the knights of the Burning Legion, took over the administrative powers of several cities.

However, many more cities remained under Liszt's name; after losing a large population, these cities needed a vast number of people to replenish all sectors of industry.

In an era without automation or industrialization, the population was the most critical labor force.

Liszt had only been excited for one day before being entangled in a multitude of kingdom affairs, even though he had formed an outer cabinet and inner cabinet, still, many decisions required his input.

“Your Majesty...”

“Father, just call me Liszt, there's no need for royal titles between us,” Liszt, having a soul from Earth, couldn't adapt to the relationship where his father became his follower—although he knew that in ancient China, such cases occurred too.

He vaguely recalled it was during the Qing Dynasty or Ming Dynasty.

There was an emperor who had no sons, hence he adopted a child from the royal family as his heir.

After this child ascended the throne, he still struggled to manage relationships with his own father, engaging in a grand struggle with the ministers.

Fortunately, the Flame Kingdom was created by Liszt himself; he could set the rules as he pleased.

Li Weiliam Tulip showed a relieved smile, although he didn't mind bending the knee to his own son—a trivial matter under the Knight system.

However, Liszt's attitude pleased and gratified him, "Liszt, now with the feudal nobles moving out, Flame Island is about to face the trouble of population shortage."

"What's the Outer Cabinet's method of handling this?"

"The Outer Cabinet has discussed several times, undecided, but there are two plans. The first is to suspend the new city plans, stabilize the cities already developed, waiting for the population to gather and increase before considering new city construction. The second plan is to immediately launch a Pioneer Mandate war to plunder population."

Liszt thought briefly, didn't respond directly, but asked, "How far has the joint plan with the Steel Ridge Kingdom progressed?"

Li Weiliam Tulip shook his head, somewhat helplessly replying, "Although the Steel Ridge Royal Family has decided to cooperate with our kingdom to divide up the Eagle Kingdom, the specific details and profit-sharing schemes are not something that can be finalized in a short time."

"Direct contact with King Osborne, have him urge his nobles—war is better sooner than later, and we can't give the Eagle Kingdom a chance to react."

"Osborne is all show, on the surface a bold and able king, but in reality, he's just a cautious custodian. According to the Magic Platform messages sent by the Blood Servant from the City of Steel, Osborne's multiple meetings end up with ministers arguing back and forth, still without any concrete results."

"He's useless, rotten wood cannot be carved..." Liszt couldn't help but curse aloud, "I lead the Dragon Slaying Battle, he leads the knight charge, we split the Eagle Kingdom equally—such a simple arithmetic problem, and yet he needs so long to think about it... Has it been over a year now?"

"It's been a year and a half, and it was I who personally went on a mission to the Steel Ridge Kingdom to finalize the plan," said Li Weiliam Tulip.



“So dragging; if it weren’t for my knights being insufficient, unable to swallow the whole Eagle Kingdom, I would have taken my dragons and attacked directly.” This wasn’t merely bragging; on the level of a Dragon Knight, he was invincible, just let down by his subordinates’ weakness.

For the Flame Kingdom to swallow the Eagle Kingdom alone, the risk was too great.

It might not just involve the Eagle Kingdom, but also include Steel Ridge and Blast Furnace Fortress, even possibly a few other nearby kingdoms—it was hard to say the Eagle Kingdom wouldn’t seek external help, especially since the Eagle Royal Family had once revealed Sacred Dragon news to the Kushan Imperial, and in desperation, anything could happen.

Teaming up with the Steel Ridge Kingdom and distributing some interests to appease the surrounding kingdoms was the only way to smoothly swallow the Eagle Kingdom.

Li Weiliam Tulip suddenly said, “Liszt, there’s a point worth debating—the appearance of eight dragons at the national founding ceremony... I worry that with your increasing deterrence, the Steel Ridge Royal Family might abandon the cooperation.”

“Father, you mean Osborne could have been frightened by my speed of Dragon Riding?”

“Yes, you’ve ridden the Sacred Dragon, the Fire Dragon, the Magic Metal Dragon, and now the Water Dragon, all within a few years... Each dragon you add makes the three major kingdoms apprehensive about you. I’m more worried that the three major kingdoms might have already started forming an alliance.”

“Any signs?”

“Not yet, but I can’t rule out the possibility.”

Liszt frowned; such a possibility indeed wasn’t out of the question. If he were king of the three major kingdoms, he would also be extremely wary of himself. The royal families of the three major kingdoms, after hundreds or thousands of years, had gathered only a few, a dozen dragons, yet he had done so in just a few years.

Thinking of this, he sighed with some self-reproach, “It seems I indeed have been too high-profile; next time I ride a Dragon, it should probably be kept on a deserted island, not to be overly exposed.”

Beside him, the Duke of Tulip Island, pretending not to care, picked up his teacup and took a sip of tea.

Chapter 1068: Video Conference No matter what, the plan to unite with the Steel Ridge Kingdom was still up in the air, success or failure uncertain.

The persistent problem of population shortfall was a significant issue for the Flame Kingdom, and Liszt, eager for rapid achievements, was unwilling to slow down his development plans.

Therefore, launching the Pioneer Mandate war was the best way forward.

“But the content of the Pioneer Mandate must be innovative,” Liszt said—“Wool can’t be sheared from the same place repeatedly; you have to switch locations to continue shearing,” which was a principle he clearly understood.

“If we do not plunder the Eagle Kingdom, we can only plunder the Snowstorm Mountain Duchy,” Li Weiliam said.

“Then notify Marquis Yevich Shuihuasheng of Heroic Yellow City and Marquis Amat Ice Shield of Thorn Left Territory, to speed up the conquest of the Snowstorm Mountain Duchy. Before June arrives, I need at least five hundred thousand serfs transported back from there, and the more knights the better.”

The Snowstorm Mountain Duchy was not a large duchy. Situated on the plateau and quite barren, its population barely totaled six to seven million.

The internal war between the First Prince and the Second Prince had just begun, and already Yevich with the help of his father-in-law Amat had secretly transferred over five hundred thousand people to the Flame Kingdom. Now they wanted to extract another half million people; within a short year, the population would be reduced by a fifth.

Further, the Yellowstone Kingdom was also covertly shearing wool, perhaps by the time the two princes decided the victor, the Snowstorm Mountain Duchy would be left with only half its population.

Of course, this had nothing to do with Liszt. He was only concerned about the development of the Flame Kingdom.

“Then I shall go and make the arrangements.”

“By the way, Father, I plan to hold your ducal investiture ceremony on January 15. I will have the Royal Inner Court prepare everything for the ceremony; just wait for the 15th to arrive.”

“I’m not fussy; any time would do.” Li Weiliam’s usually unflappable face nevertheless revealed a smile he could not contain.

There was a time when he was but an earl in the Sapphire Duchy, struggling to reach the status of marquis.

He had assumed that achieving marquis status before his Dou Qi exhausted would be a knightly honor bestowed upon him, but with the rise of his second son, Liszt, his dreams had become easily achievable. Unknowingly, the marquisate was in hand, followed by the acquisition of the “Domain Knight Manual.”

He became an existence second only to a Dragon Knight.

Power always complemented ambition, yet hardly had his ambition stirred when the prospect of ducal status was already within reach.

Everything seemed like a dream.

When he left the Sun Moon Star Palace, even walking felt as though he were about to float into the air—as a Domain Knight could indeed fly in the air for prolonged periods.

On the Royal Palace Square, his mount, the Broken Horn Storm Dragon Horse, was pacing about idly.

The broken horn on top of this Super Dragon Beast's head had become even more magnificent. Not only was it forged from a Magic Metal Alloy core, but it was also embedded with tiny gemstones and inscribed with Magic Runes. This had been custom-ordered by Li Weiliam from the Magic Association, equivalent to a piece of powerful Magic Equipment.

Mounting his steed, Li Weiliam called out, "White Dragon Horse, let's set off."

Immediately, the Broken Horn Storm Dragon Horse flapped its wings, taking to the sky like a bolt of Lightning, and rapidly headed towards Flame King City. Moments later, it already landed in front of the towering and majestic offices of King's Castle.

The whole King's Castle office was a six-story building reminiscent of the Victorian era, painted a conspicuous golden yellow, and faced the Triumphal Arch. The lengthy building was divided into three sections: one for the bureaucratic institutions of the King's Castle, one for the Inner Cabinet, and another for the Outer Cabinet.

Li Weiliam's office was on the sixth floor, spacious and lavishly decorated. Allowing his personal attendant to take off his coat, he went straight to his petrified wood desk.

He signaled his assistant, "Convene the Outer Cabinet ministers for a meeting on the Magic Platform, set the time for two-thirty in the afternoon."

"Yes, my lord," the elegantly dressed female assistant, who could score an eighty in appearance, swayed her slender waist as she walked into the small conference room attached to the office.

She began tapping away on a slightly large, intricately designed Magic Platform.

Her fingers were slender, magic power flowing at her fingertips; she was indeed a magician—although in Flame Kingdom, the term "magician" was about to be obsolete. She was now a registered arcanist, specializing in communication arcanistry, specifically trained to operate the magic platform.

The magic platform lit up, like a projector, casting a dozen screens on the walls of the meeting room.

Before long, some screens turned from gray to colored, and then people dressed similarly to the female assistant appeared on the screens. Just as Earth had developed from text communication to video communication, the magic platform, after continuous development and improvement, had also entered the era of video communication.

For Flame Kingdom, which had already conquered the magic teleportation array, developing video communication posed no technical difficulties. Ach used his spare time to come up with a video communication scheme, and then handed it over to the Magic Guild for development and design.

However, the cost of video magic platforms was extremely high, and the current production was only enough for the use of the inner and outer cabinet members and the training of professional communication arcanists.

Others had yet to gain access to it.

“Posidoya Assistant, is the Prime Minister convening the magic platform meeting?” a woman asked from one of the screens.

“Yes, Oliya Assistant, please notify the First Minister of Internal Affairs to attend the magic platform meeting,” the female assistant replied.

“I will notify Lord Geoffrey right away, but since he is inspecting his domain, it may take some time.”

“The meeting is set for two-thirty in the afternoon; please make sure to inform the First Minister of Internal Affairs.”

“Yes.”

Thus, the female assistant went through the screens one by one, confirming the time of the magic platform meeting. Just as she finished the notifications and was about to shut down the magic platform, Li Weiliam had already walked in holding a glass of red wine.

“Posidoya, connect me to Tulip Castle,” he said.

“Yes, my lord,” Posidoya Assistant said as she manipulated the magic platform, soon projecting another screen. Until the magic platform connected, the screen remained gray—Tulip Castle did not have a video magic platform, and this Tulip Castle was a new duke’s castle built on Tulip Island.

Coral Island had been returned to Sapphire Duchy, and that former Tulip Castle had become a thing of the past. Only Black Horse Island remained a possession of Liszt in the form of an enclave. Black Horse Island had a natural node, and a magic teleportation array would be established there in the future to strengthen control over Sapphire Duchy.

“This is Tulip Castle,” a male voice came from the magic platform, and although it couldn’t achieve video communication, ordinary magic platforms had long since been upgraded to voice communication.

“Levis?” Li Weiliam asked.

“Yes, Father,” came the reply.

“How is Loria’s health?”

“Very well, she’s constantly under the observation of a healing arcanist, and the twins in her belly are developing healthily,” Levis’s voice revealed excitement. This was Loria’s second pregnancy.

“Mm,” Li Weiliam was also pleased. Although his four-year-old grandson Richard had already shown excellent talent, he still held expectations for the unborn twins—after all, with Liszt as a shining example before them, who could guarantee that the second son might not turn out to be legendary.

Indeed, since Liszt’s rise, his legendary story had changed the awkward position of many noble second sons.

Originally, most nobles ignored their second sons and let them fend for themselves, as the primogeniture system ensured that by fostering the first son, the family legacy could continue. But now, many nobles were willing to spread resources to cultivate their second sons in addition to the first, not necessarily hoping to produce another Liszt.

As long as the second son could make a slight mark, the cultivation would not be in vain.

And Liszt had become the irreplaceable idol in the hearts of many noble second sons. Every day, from the three great kingdoms and many duchies, a large number of noble second sons came from afar to seek allegiance. A good portion of the city's nobility were such second sons.

Without the resources of a family, they relied entirely on Liszt for support and became vassals of the Flame Family.

After a pause, Li Weiliang said indifferently, "Levis, the 15th is my ennoblement ceremony. Calculate the time for yourself, bring your grandmother and the others, and hurry to Sun Moon Star Palace."

"The ennoblement on the 15th, Father? Rest assured, I will arrange everything at home and rush to Sun Moon Star Palace immediately!" Levis laughed heartily.

Chapter 1069: Continental Outline "Dear, Father has set the date for his ennoblement, it will be on the 15th of this month, ha ha, our Tulip Family is about to become a Duke Family."

After ending the Magic Platform communication, Liszt hurried to his wife's room and said to Loria Gold Wheat Ear, who was heavily pregnant, "This news is absolutely delightful. From Sapphire to Flame Island, the Tulip Family is finally about to enter a glorious moment!"

Loria gently touched her belly and, although she smiled, she was not as excited as Liszt. "Wasn't this already decided when Liszt promised to bequeath Tulip Island to Father? The Duke title was already secured then."

"Even so, not having it confirmed each day left me uneasy!"

"There's nothing to be uneasy about, Liszt. You shouldn't focus too much on titles, lands, or wealth here in the Flame Kingdom. You just need to stay close to Liszt. You are his brother, and the bond between you is stronger than any noble title could provide."

"Don't worry, Father is still here," Liszt said nonchalantly.

Loria frowned slightly but quickly relaxed, “One day, the Tulip Family will be handed over to you, and you mustn’t drift apart from Liszt.”

Liszt responded sullenly, “You always worry about unnecessary things.”

However, Loria spoke seriously, “Richard is already four years old, Liszt. I have made a decision.”

“What is it?”

“Once the twins are born, I plan to ask Father to send Richard to the Sun Moon Star Palace. First, to accompany Father, since as Prime Minister of the Outer Cabinet, he spends more time residing at the Flame King City than at Tulip Castle. Second, it would also allow him to start training with the Burning Legion knights sooner.”

“Is that necessary, Loria? Richard is only four years old. When I was his age, I was still peeing and playing with mud in the castle garden.”

“Yes!”

Loria insisted, and even announced her decision during the castle’s evening dinner.

Lady Marie, not being Liszt’s biological mother, did not comment.

But Lady Penelope approved greatly, “Loria’s decision is very wise. Although I am sad to see Little Richard leave Tulip Castle, at the Sun Moon Star Palace, he will always be basking in Liszt’s glory. Little Richard is incredibly fortunate to have a Dragon Knight uncle.”

“Grandmother, it’s just basic knight training. Do you think I can’t teach him? I’m a Sky Knight after all.”

“How can a Sky Knight compare to a Dragon Knight? Liszt, you’re already thirty years old and still just a regular-level Sky Knight. Don’t you see that?”



Lady Penelope glanced at Liszt, who had once been her favorite grandson, but now her eyes mostly held Liszt.

“Cough, cough!”

Liszt coughed awkwardly.

He wanted to say that being a thirty-year-old Sky Knight wasn’t a poor achievement. However, given his grandmother’s comparison with Liszt, a legendary Dragon Knight as radiant as the sun, he couldn’t reply—every young prodigy in the northeastern corner of the Legendary Continent lived in Liszt’s shadow.

Essentially, Liszt was an existence that defied normal understanding.

Seeing this, Loria smiled and said, “Let’s ask Father’s opinion once we reach Flame King City. At four, Richard is already capable of living away from his parents.” While she mentioned consulting Li Weiliam, everyone knew Loria had already made up her mind.

Levis shrugged his shoulders.

He actually understood Loria’s thoughts and knew that doing so would help Richard, but he felt that Richard, being only four years old, was too young.

However, turning his head and glancing at his son, who sat like a little adult, he inexplicably thought that this might not be a bad thing—Loria’s strict discipline on Richard was severe, hardly allowing him to play like a normal child and starting to instill noble etiquettes and the Controlling Path from the age of two.

Such a childhood, when pondering, was terrifying.

So, speaking with the tone of the heir of the Tulip Family, he said assertively, “The day after tomorrow, I will take Richard to inspect the construction of the estates across the lands. You all stay in the Castle to pack, and we will depart for Flame King City in three days.”

...

The nation had not long been founded, and many tasks demanded attention.

During a busy interval, Liszt received an unexpected new message via the Magic Platform from the six Mermaids who had circumnavigated the sea.

“Your Majesty, we have started our return journey from the westernmost point of the Legendary Continent, and we have packaged and sent back to the Magic Guild the coastline position data calculated by the Sextant... I apologize for the delays over the scheduled year of circumnavigation however, although we haven’t discovered more Mermaids, we have captured many Elves, including two Greater Elves.”

The Magic Platform message was long and had been transcribed onto paper by a communication Arcanist.

Liszt continued reading, “We have discovered several relics of the Sea Kingdom. Unfortunately, these are from the far past, and the Naga and Yu Chou have long vanished... In the westernmost sea of the Legendary Continent, we even encountered a legendary Sea Monster—the Hydra. It was too powerful for us to capture.”

The Mermaids reported their experiences of circumnavigating the sea over the year in an informal style.

Not many useful bits of information were relayed, just the discovery of the Sub-dragon—Hydra—and the coastline Sextant Positioning, along with the Elves worth paying attention to.

“Reply to the Mermaids, instruct them to end their voyage as soon as possible, and bring the Elves back,” Liszt ordered after reading the message, “Also, send the results of the estate division among Duke Bluposi and the six Marquises of the Kingdom.” He disliked having to urge the Mermaids to hasten their return to work, but it was necessary to admonish them of the appropriate attitude.

“Yes, Your Majesty,” replied the communication Arcanist, bowing before swiftly exiting.

After dealing with urgent official duties, Liszt quickly made his way to the Mage Tower to inquire about the progress of mapping the Legendary Continent’s coastline.

“Chris, have you received the Sextant Positioning data sent by the Mermaids, and have you finished creating the map?”

“Your Majesty, a rough sketch has already been drawn,” Chris indicated the Arcanist in charge of map drawing, who spread a large map across the table.

The map was substantial, yet it featured only an incomplete outline, with a small portion containing detailed records.

“So this is the Legendary Continent...” Liszt observed the map, where the drawn coastline shaped the Legendary Continent into an irregular form, with a large segment of the northern part lacking a coastline as the Mermaids had not yet traveled there.

With the main contours of the Legendary Continent sketched, it clearly compared the geographical position and area of the three great Kingdoms in the northeastern corner of the continent.

“The three great Kingdoms combined only equal one-twentieth of the entire area of the Legendary Continent. Indeed, it’s merely an inconspicuous corner... Flame Islands are here, Sapphire Archipelago is here... and from this view, the Eagle Kingdom is completely surrounded by Steel Ridge, Blast Furnace Fortress, and Yellowstone Plains.”

“Once those three Kingdoms are managed, annexing them would be as easy as pie!”

Staring at the extensively blank map, Liszt was already imagining how he would conquer it—as his power would eventually not allow him to remain low-profile, the conquest of the Legendary Continent had gradually moved from fantasy to practical planning.

Chapter 1070: Pulling the Strings The investiture ceremony of Duke Li Weiliam Tulip of Tulip Island was not too grand, especially considering the luxurious scenes that were front and center at the kingdom’s founding ceremony.

However, for the Tulip Family, this moment was their most glorious.

In Liszt’s name, a three-day banquet was held at Flame King City, inviting a large number of nobles who stayed in the Flame King City. Afterwards, people like Levis returned to

Tulip Island, while Li Weiliam continued to serve as the Prime Minister of the Kingdom's Outer Cabinet, stationed within Flame King City.

Levis's son Richard, which is Liszt's little nephew, remained directly at the Sun Moon Star Palace.

Liszt was quite fond of this little nephew and naturally would not refuse to cultivate him. However, he was busy with affairs and couldn't personally supervise him; specialized Inner Court servants would take care of him, and there would also be teachers from the Royal Knight Academy to give him lessons.

"Chris, has the agenda for the Magic Guild reform been determined?" Liszt came to the Flame City Mage Tower again and asked Chris Truth, the First Arcanist Minister.

"Your Majesty, after years of exploration, the registered magicians of the Magic Guild have fully adapted to the Arcanist System, so the reform resistance is not great. The plan to reorganize the Magic Guild into the Royal Arcane Academy has smoothly passed the Arcanist Assessment Committee."

The Magic Guild had been a transitional product from the beginning, and now with the establishment of Flame Kingdom, it was time to change according to Liszt's will.

Referencing the university system in the United States on Earth, Liszt's ideal scientific system was industry-university-research integration.

The Royal Knight Academy had already been established to cultivate elite knights and undertook roles similar to National Defense University and West Point Military Academy. Now, the establishment of the Royal Arcane Academy was to train various arcanists and undertake magical research and development tasks. This would form a dual education system of knights and arcanists.

At the same time, it would integrate educational resources from various regions, establish common schools, and offer courses in knight and arcane systems to provide a continuous stream of talent for the kingdom.

This move was undoubtedly ahead of its time, and the impact it might bring was uncertain.

But Liszt didn't care. His power had broken through the sky, and he already had the capital to do as he wished—simply put, having a dragon was just that capricious.

“Since it has passed the assessment, then complete the reorganization as soon as possible. Mm, both Ach and Lord Lerald are not interested in managing worldly affairs. You are the First Arcanist Minister, and the first principal of the Royal Arcane Academy will be you.”

Chris smiled and nodded: “As you wish, Your Majesty.”

After a pause, Chris inquired further: “Then, Your Majesty, will the finances of the Royal Arcane Academy be undertaken by the kingdom, or provided by Your Majesty's Inner Court?”

The kingdom undertaking it meant funding through taxation collected from landlords from various regions.

The Inner Court providing it meant private funding by the Flame Family.

Both financial systems involved Liszt's money, but the uses of the money were different. One was the national treasury, taxes collected for kingdom's construction; the other was private money, earnings from his own lands that he could spend freely.

“The kingdom will undertake it,” Liszt said expressionlessly. “I will gradually incorporate arcanists into the noble system, so the Royal Arcane Academy will no longer rely on my private support... The talent cultivation of the Arcane Academy will be undertaken by the feudal nobles together. Of course, they can also enjoy the research achievements together.”

Research was a bottomless pit, and magical research was no different. He was not willing to foot the bill alone.

This was a good opportunity to collect hefty taxes from the feudal nobles under the guise of the Royal Arcane Academy, and then throw them some mediocre research results to stifle any complaints from the nobles.

“I understand. Then, will the location of the Royal Arcane Academy be directly placed in the magical district of the Flame King City?”

“That will be fine.”

...

The reorganization of the Magic Guild into the Royal Arcane Academy was proceeding on a grand scale.

Magicians passionate about magical research had to take time out from their schedules to deal with various formalities, transition to become teachers at the Royal Arcane Academy, or have their laboratories affiliated with the academy. Funding applications, personnel allocation, and all sorts of assorted messy matters came flooding in.

Magicians had it hard, and knights fared no better. With the Feudal Nobles taking away a large number of knights and officials, every city and town had to dispatch new knights to succeed them.

Amidst such national upheaval, various unexpected situations arose continually.

Yet this did not affect the spring farming work of the Flame Era First Year. Although the serfs were short-staffed and the vast expanses of newly cleared fields could not be cultivated, there were still the elf-tended farms. Plenty of serfs scrambled to work these lands, and Liszt’s own fields were allocated enough “fertilizer” to spread.

“The reason why spring farming isn’t affected also has a significant aspect—that elves are in severe short supply. Particularly since the Feudal Nobles took their own elves, many plantations have been abandoned... not really abandoned, but the harvest depends on whether they’re favored by knightly glory.”

Duke Li Weiliam Tulip said this when reporting on this year’s spring farming efforts.

Liszt nodded. “The breeding speed of elves indeed cannot keep up, so we must continue to issue Pioneer Mandates. We cannot overlook the rich prize that is the Eagle Kingdom. By the way, Father, did the envoy from the Steel Ridge Kingdom confirm that King Osborn has distinctly refused to join forces with me to partition the Eagle Kingdom?”

“Yes, the Sapphire Duchy turning to the Flame Kingdom has made a bigger impact than we imagined. King Osborn places great importance on the face of the nobles.”

“Perhaps he is just going with the flow, seeing my power growing and not wishing to plan the Eagle Kingdom’s fall with me, afraid that I will continue to grow stronger,” Liszt shook his head. “Well, if he refuses, then he refuses. Lately, I’ve had this vague feeling that there is a new dragon in this very sea, waiting for my ride.”

“A new one?” Li Weiliam’s eyes widened.

“Just a feeling, whether it’s true is unclear, but my strength has been steadily increasing, so it wouldn’t be surprising if there were one or two more dragons.” He was speaking sincerely; ever since the disappearance of the Smoke Mission and the inception of the Smoke Dragon, he could clearly manipulate the Threads of Destiny.

Not long ago, Phoenix Perch Parasol Dragon Greater Elf Ani informed him that the two Phoenix Perch Parasol trees under close monitoring had successfully bred two Elf Bugs.

This was strong proof.

Proof that he could take initiative, arranging things around him with crystal clarity. And recently, feeling lucky and inspired, he sensed the existence of a new dragon in the sea surrounding the Flame Islands. If he were to manipulate the Threads of Destiny with his will once more, he could secure this dragon in his grasp.

“I am the Son of Glory, guided by knightly honor. Father, I leave the affairs of the Kingdom to you and the Outer Cabinet, as I will depart for a while to find my new dragon.”

What could Li Weiliam say when dragons were the ultimate quest? “Rest assured in your search for the dragon, I will take good care of the Kingdom for you.”

And so, Liszt silently left the Sun Moon Star Palace.

He was not in haste to seek out a new dragon but went to the Dragon Pit Great Mine to see the Grey Iron Dragon Ornn, who had taken the great mine as its Dragon Nest.

“Ornn, let’s work hard together for a while, to quickly form a Mind Branding and achieve perfection,” he said.

“Roar!” Ornn responded.

After the Light Green Gem Dragon Ethan and Fire Dragon Leo, Formless Bard had recently been perfected, and within their minds, a clear, indelible image of Liszt took shape. The other dragons, however, were different; the Bone Dragon Vinnie could not form Mind Branding, Little Water Dragon Walter and Aluminum Dragon Connor had no sign of it, and Mountain Copper Dragon Mata appeared as only a wraith.

Only in Ornn’s mind was the image of Liszt already blurry, not too far from perfection.

Running his hand over Ornn’s scales, he couldn’t help but ponder, “Manipulating the Threads of Destiny is a delicate matter. To influence something like the birth of an Elf Bug is straightforward, but involving a dragon requires following the trajectory of the threads and exerting the right force in the right way.”

This was the mechanism behind the Smoke Mission.

The original Smoke Mission required completing tasks to receive the reward, which was the most effortless way to manipulate the Threads of Destiny. Now that Liszt had transformed into the Smoke Dragon, it was simply about converting the passive Smoke Mission into proactive strikes.

To lead with his will, to actively manipulate the Threads of Destiny, and to obtain what he desired, “Once I perfect my practice with Ornn, I should be able to draw out this new dragon. However, I can sense that there are many more Threads of Destiny around me, waiting for me to manipulate each one.”

Behind each Thread of Destiny lies bountiful harvest.

“But I am only one person, and spread too thin... Truly, a happy dilemma!”