

## The Mighty 1081

Chapter 1081: Woo Yi Ya The skies roared with hail, making it impossible for the Royal Sapphire Dragon to hear what Liszt was saying, and it deemed the words of humans insignificant like ants.

Seeing that his Magic Hailstone attack barely did any notable damage, the dragon simply opened its mouth to emit a Dragon Breath. It was a brilliant blue-white light, almost like a laser beam, hitting the Grey Iron Dragon before it could react, right in the chest and abdomen area.

“Roar!”

The Grey Iron Dragon Ornn, in pain, let out an infuriated roar.

The Royal Sapphire Dragon, successful in its first strike, opened its mouth again to prepare for another Dragon Breath attack.

“Dodge it, Ornn!” Liszt, enduring the severe pain from the mind-unity link, maneuvered the Grey Iron Dragon to evade it quickly. He glanced at the spot hit by the laser-like Dragon Breath; a large area of dragon scales was shattered, the wound looked like it was scorched by a fierce fire, emitting light smoke from the charred area.

It almost smelled like roasted dragon meat.

It was undeniable, that laser Dragon Breath was nearly powerful enough to heavily injure the Grey Iron Dragon.

Seeing the Royal Sapphire Dragon preparing to unleash another laser Dragon Breath, Ornn’s ferocity was fully provoked. It too opened its mouth to unleash its Dragon Breath, a torrent of metal transforming into sharp steel blades, projecting straight at the Royal Sapphire Dragon in a columnar path.

However, its Dragon Breath was slightly slower, dodged by the Royal Sapphire Dragon twisting its body, the laser Dragon Breath from its opponent’s mouth was still forthcoming.

Boom!

The beam of light grazed Ornn's wing and shot towards the distance.

Ornn dodged the attack and lifted its dragon head once more, mouth open, about to emit its own Dragon Breath – the metal torrent. But Liszt's thoughts took control: "Stop using Dragon Breath, Ornn, such primitive and outdated combat methods shouldn't be used by a Dragon Knight!"

Immediately.

His mind shimmered with brilliant light: "Charge with me!"

The Dragon Dou Qi Manual was swiftly enacted, Thunderclasp Dragon Lance was slightly short, but enough to exert the studied Dragon Dou Qi of past Grey Iron Dragon Knights.

Unity of Man and Dragon.

Headed straight for the Royal Sapphire Dragon, then the Dragon Lance charged with copious Magic Power and Dou Qi, aimed at a cunning angle with a ferocious momentum, stabbing beneath the left wing of the Royal Sapphire Dragon—if they couldn't persuade it through language, subduing the Royal Sapphire Dragon first was the only option.

One lance strike after another.

A well-trained Dragon Knight, once in battle stance, finally unleashed his true combat power. Each Dragon Lance strike combined speed, angle, and force perfectly, even causing ripples in the air, as if mere inches away from piercing the material boundary.

The Royal Sapphire Dragon had strong combat power, be it robust Magic Power attacks or the electrically shot laser Dragon Breath, all were powerful offensive techniques.

However, it lacked Dragon Knight training, its strength dispersed and not condensed, possessing brute ferocity yet missing an unstoppable explosive power.

Round and round, several rounds of combat.

Liszt had now managed to turn the tide while controlling the Grey Iron Dragon, from initially struggling to now dominantly suppressing the Royal Sapphire Dragon. The Thunderclasp Dragon Lance stabbed repeatedly into the beautiful dragon scales of the Royal Sapphire Dragon, piercing one bloody hole after another, with dragon blood splattering out.

“Royal Sapphire Dragon, I’ve said it before, you have strength but can’t utilize it effectively, don’t you see? You lack a knight like me to guide you!”

During the brief battle pause, Liszt still tried to communicate his sentiment.

But the response he got was the Royal Sapphire Dragon suddenly turning around and swinging its long dragon tail like a thick whip.

The distance between the two dragons surely exceeded the length of the tail.

However, when the tail swung towards the Grey Iron Dragon, a blue-white lightning spread from the tip of its tail, instantly turning the tail into a handle, the front end extending into a tens of meters long arc of lightning.

Crackle!

Snap!

The arc of lightning harshly struck the Grey Iron Dragon, then shattered into multiple small lightnings, streaking across the Grey Iron Dragon’s body.

“Roar!” Ornn trembled throughout its body from the electric shock.

Liszt, riding on the Dragon Tooth Platform, also flickered with electric sparks, but he quickly shifted his skin to a Phoenix Incarnation, thus avoiding the damage from the lightning. Despite still feeling the numbing sensation from the Grey Iron Dragon being shocked, it no longer hindered him from continuing the attack.

Thunderclasp charge, striking the Royal Sapphire Dragon again, pulling out the lance tip after, blood spurted.

Thus, the battle continued with merging and splitting.

Whenever the Royal Sapphire Dragon unleashed a chain of lightning, Li Si Te would retaliate with a dragon lance thrust, and occasionally the Grey Iron Dragon would tear with its claws. More often, the two dragons of roughly equal size entwined their air currents, charging at each other, showcasing a brutal combat of flesh and blood.

The fight rapidly escalated.

Li Si Te's side, being a Dragon Knight, clearly suppressed the might of a single dragon.

However, the Royal Sapphire Dragon, with its myriad tactics and unique fighting style unlike ordinary dragons, behaved like a magician among dragons, always countering the Grey Iron Dragon unexpectedly.

As they fought and flew, their position had strayed far from the Snow Mountain range, and the sun at the horizon began to dip, gradually approaching the evening.

“Still not willing to submit, Royal Sapphire Dragon?”

“Roar!”

“Roar!”

Proud in nature, the heavily wounded Royal Sapphire Dragon remained spirited, not diminishing its proud demeanor at all.

It gazed deeply at Li Si Te with its large dragon eyes, enduring a hit from the dragon spear, and quickly fled into the distance.

Seeing this, Li Si Te slightly smiled, seemingly not too rushed, and simply communicated with Ornn: “Pursue!” They followed closely behind the Royal Sapphire Dragon, not allowing it to escape the sensory lock of the Grey Iron Dragon.

A chase ensued.

As the last glimmer of evening light faded, the land entered night.

The Royal Sapphire Dragon, seeing that the Grey Iron Dragon was not pursuing urgently, relaxed slightly to heal its body which had been punctured by dozens of spear holes.

However, at this moment, a chilling sense of alertness surged in its heart, and the breath of another dragon, hidden under the guise of the Grey Iron Dragon’s presence, suddenly became evident. The dragon’s eyes searched in the night but could not locate the other dragon, only growing more anxious and accelerating its escape.

Before it could speed away from the Grey Iron Dragon, a barely visible rift tore open in the void of the night.

Then a sharp “Wu Yi Ya” pierced the night sky.

A sudden burst of gray-white mist appeared, enveloping the Royal Sapphire Dragon. This mist was sharper than the sharpest blade; upon contact, it shattered the mostly healed dragon scales of the Royal Sapphire Dragon and penetrated deeper into its flesh.

“Roar!”

In immense pain, the Royal Sapphire Dragon flapped its wings wildly, sparing no effort to use its Dragon’s Super Magic, summoning endless Magic Hailstone to attack indiscriminately.

Yet such attacks couldn’t pinpoint the dragon that ambushed it.

The elusive presence, like maggots boring into bone, continuously burrowed into the Royal Sapphire Dragon’s heart, subjecting it to immense pressure.

Moreover, the Grey Iron Dragon had already caught up from behind.

With one in front and one behind, the combined presence of the two dragons firmly locked it in, as if ready to launch a fatal attack at any moment.

Click.

A bright light ascended from the back of the Grey Iron Dragon, the glow emitted by a row of Magic Lamp Bulbs, shining upon the Royal Sapphire Dragon.

Li Si Te's voice was unusually clear in the night: "Royal Sapphire Dragon, as I said, the fate between us is destined. You should not flee... Come now, make the right choice. Unite with me; I need your strength, and you shall receive tributes from the Flame Kingdom!"

"Roar!" The roar of the Royal Sapphire Dragon was still filled with disdain, showing no change in its attitude even when facing two dragons, with nowhere to flee.

"Sigh."

Li Si Te shook his head.

He knew that unless the Royal Sapphire Dragon was severely crippled, it would never bow.

Li Si Te, an experienced Dragon Rider, understood the dragon's temperament well; if the compatibility between human and dragon was not harmonious, the dragon would rather die than submit. Therefore, the prior verbal communication and somewhat performative battle were merely meant to buy time for the Formless Dragon Bard to arrive.

From the beginning, he had never planned to conquer a dragon single-handedly.

"I am, after all, a Dragon Knight with eight dragons!"

Chapter 1082: The Overall Situation is Decided The Royal Sapphire Dragon is indeed very powerful compared to most Gemstone Dragons, with both Magic Power Attack and Laser Breath as powerful means of attack.

Unfortunately, it faces Liszt, the favored one of destiny, as the Power of Destiny has already arranged everything clearly—in between the pincer attack of Grey Iron Dragon Ornn and Formless Dragon Bard, the Royal Sapphire Dragon was fiercely battered and then heavily injured as it fell to the ground.

Crash!

The slightly injured Ornn stomped on the ragged body of the Royal Sapphire Dragon, trampling it fiercely to vent his anger: “Roar!” It was particularly displeased with the Royal Sapphire Dragon because all along the way Liszt had been fixated on this Dragon, which made it hold a bellyful of rage.

Bard landed to the side, his beautiful appearance undamaged.

Although still underage, the combat power of the Sacred Dragon was already becoming more and more prominent, but it had always lived a peaceful life, rarely affected emotionally by other Dragons.

“Roar!” The Royal Sapphire Dragon lay on the ground, trying to struggle, but it had no strength left, with its magic power and energy all depleted in the great battle.

But its eyes still flickered with an unconquered light, preferring death over bowing its proud head.

“Why must you be so stubborn, sigh.” Liszt signaled Bard to come over, prying open the mouth of the Royal Sapphire Dragon. Then, he took out a Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruit, stuffed it into the Dragon’s maw, and had Bard lift its neck to ensure the Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruit slid down its throat smoothly.

Watching the Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruit being swallowed, he then revealed a satisfied smile: “Royal Sapphire Dragon, the things destined by fate are unavoidable, why not accept them gracefully... In fact, from the first second I saw you, I had already thought of your name.”

“Roar!”

The Royal Sapphire Dragon intended to spew breath to kill Liszt, but alas, its magic power was exhausted, unable to emit even a slight Dragon Breath.

Liszt continued talking to himself: “You have a body with a powerful magic-like Magic Power Attack, truly a Magician among Dragons, so you shall be called Ryze... Rune Mage Ryze, I hope you can ennoble the name, let everyone know the charm of the Demon King.”

The Rune Mage in the “League of Legends” was nothing less than a demon-level hero of the middle lane.

Ryze roared hoarsely: “Roar!”

“Sleep now, when you wake up tomorrow, the world will be different, the doors of the new world will officially open to you... You’ll understand that I am the most suitable Knight for you, chosen by destiny to merge as one.”

“Roar...”

After several reluctant roars, the Royal Sapphire Dragon Ryze gradually felt overwhelmingly tired. The eyes that had flickered with an unyielding light also began to dilate and the eyelids grew heavy; without prolonged preparation, it rapidly fell into a deep slumber. The Dragon’s eyes closed, and the scales guarding the Dragon Tooth Platform opened up slowly.

Liszt glanced at the Grey Iron Dragon still standing on Ryze’s back: “Ornn, come down, don’t step on Ryze.”

Reluctantly, Ornn stepped down: “Roar!”

“Here’s the Magic Potion to replenish your consumed energy, heal your wounds quickly.” Liszt forced a handful of Magic Potions into Ornn’s mouth and sent him away.



Bard naturally also received a batch of Magic Potions.

Unfortunately, Fire Dragon Elixir and Water Dragon Water were specific Dragon Medicines, and Red Dragon Water was even harder to obtain, so they had to make do with some Magic Potions that were less effective on Dragons.

After comforting the two Dragons, he finally jumped onto Ryze's back, found the exposed Dragon Tooth Platform, took a deep breath, and slowly sat down.

Boom!

In an instant, he had established a mysterious connection with Ryze. His view changed immediately, one moment he was in the dense forest, and the next he was in a deep blue Crystal Staircase World. The experienced Liszt naturally understood that this Crystal Staircase was the Mind World of Ryze.

Each Dragon has an imagined Mind World, which is both a figment and a real existence.

And according to the personality of each Dragon, the structure of the Mind World is different.

“Such a grand Crystal Staircase, the material should be similar to the gemstones, crystals produced by Ryze, it looks like it's quite narcissistic about itself.”

Standing at the very bottom on the edge of the stairs, Liszt looked up and found a deep blue Dragon lying at the top of the stairs, only part of its body visible. Without a doubt, this was the projection of Ryze himself in its Mind World, but its body was wrapped in Rainbow Chains.

This was the power of the Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruit.

As if sensing Liszt's intrusion, the dragon bound by the Rainbow Chains moved, struggling to turn its dragon head and looked down at Liszt from above.

In its eyes was a complex expression — in reality, Reiz was already in a coma, but in the soul world, it was awake.

They locked gazes for a few seconds.

Liszt nodded slightly: “Ascend the steps, and the Mind Battle will be completed. I understand, Reiz, I will reach the peak, whether you believe it or not.”

The rules of battle in this part of the soul world are simple, to be victorious one must climb all the stairs. Each level of stairs will have a different Magic Power Attack, or rather, Reiz is in fact a dragon with a magician’s mind, and the towering staircase it constructed is a display of various kinds of magic.

Each level of stairs will present one type of magic — an attack move transformed by magic power.

“Whoosh!” Reiz, at the top of the stairs, let out a disdainful breath from its nostrils and then slowly prostrated itself. Awake as it might be, it could not resist the heavy Rainbow Chains that bound it.

The contempt was self-evident.

Liszt was not angered, but merely smiled slightly— Reiz knew nothing of destiny!

The next moment, the cape transformed by the Power of Destiny fluttered without wind, and he burst into flames, quickly transforming into a blazing red Phoenix.

“Screech!”

The loud call, like a clarion call, with its wings wrapped in grey smoke, fluttering gently, the body shot towards the stairs like a bolt of lightning.

Reiz, the top of the stairs, let out a stream of disdain from its nostrils, then slowly crawled down, awake but unable to counter the heavy rainbow chains on its body.

The meaning of its disdain was self-evident.

Liszt was not angry, instead he just smiled faintly – Reiz knows nothing about destiny!

Liszt had reached the first step, and magic power quickly formed into countless Wind Blades.

But before the Wind Blades could touch the Phoenix Incarnation, Liszt had already rushed to the second step like lightning; and when the second step started to transform into a dense hail, he quickly crossed it and rushed to the third step area, drawing countless Thunders.

Yet, just like Wind Blades and hail, the Thunder had barely begun to condense when the Phoenix Incarnation, at speeds beyond the capture of the naked eye, rushed to the fourth step area.

A single step was at least a thousand meters wide, and any knight would not be able to cross it quickly, only able to resist the violent Magic Power Attacks. However, for the supersonic Phoenix Incarnation, crossing the steps was easy as pie, and the magic attacks couldn't touch even a single feather of his.

In the blink of an eye, the Phoenix Incarnation had burst through twenty steps and had passed the halfway point of the staircase.

The Royal Sapphire Dragon Reiz could no longer lie still; it struggled to raise its head and glared at the Phoenix Incarnation that Liszt had become, wanting to roar in anger. But a chain of Rainbow Chains swiftly emerged on its dragon mouth, securely binding it shut, unable to open at all.

But this soul world still changed following Reiz's struggle.

The upper levels of the stairs that had not yet released magic, did not wait for Liszt to come over, and began to pre-emptively prepare Magic Power Attacks. Tornadoes, lava rain, tsunamis, collapsing rocks, Lightning Chains, burning sun, overlapping icebergs, bubbling pus and other magic transformations appeared swiftly.

Reiz was willing to change the rules of the Mind Battle to stop Liszt, the cheater.

“Screech!”

The Phoenix Incarnation let out a loud call again, turning into a sea swallow in the storm, diving headfirst into the raging magic attack area without fear.

The grey smoke entwining his wings began to swirl around his body; whenever a magic attack was incoming, the grey smoke would shift there to counter it. Transformed into the grey smoke, the Power of Destiny had long been mastered by Liszt, a power on the same level as the Rainbow Chains.

Rainbow Chains could bind the heart of the dragon, and naturally, the grey smoke could also resist attacks in the soul world.

Passing through the tornadoes, through the lava rain, through tsunamis... through bubbling pus. Finally, after crossing the forty-second step, taking only a few minutes, Liszt's Phoenix Incarnation reached the top of the deep blue crystal staircase, a neat platform.

The Royal Sapphire Dragon, entwined in Rainbow Chains, was lying on top of it.

As the magic below the steps dissipated, Liszt, on the platform, stood before Reiz's dragon head, having reverted to his human form: "Reiz, do you understand now? You and I are destined to become one. Perhaps the process was a bit rough, but everything has been arranged."

Having said this, he leapt lightly, jumped onto the dragon's back, found the Dragon Tooth Platform, and sat down with a smile.

...

Meanwhile, in the real world.

Liszt, riding on the back of the slumbering Royal Sapphire Dragon, suddenly opened his eyes: "The game is set!"

Chapter 1083: Melancholy Under the Starry Sky Victorious in the battle of minds, the Dragon Knight has already succeeded.

Liszt carefully touched the gradually recovering beautiful blue scales of the Royal Sapphire Dragon Reiz, feeling a hefty sense of harvest in his heart.

The thread of destiny that was connected to Reiz had vanished without a trace.

New threads of destiny started twinkling around him, but he didn't pay close attention to them. For the sake of Reiz, he had been running back and forth for nearly half a year, and now he needed a little rest to catch his breath.

He flipped off the Dragon Tooth Platform.

He began to circle the sleeping Royal Sapphire Dragon, appreciating every curve and every scale on the dragon's body.

"Reiz, oh Reiz, even though you are unconscious, our brief unity of minds has given me some understanding of you. You can not only produce the precious royal sapphires, but you're also a powerful combat aid. Only two hundred years old, you can protect the Flame Family for at least six hundred years!"

It is said that dragons enter old age after eight hundred, leaving the nation that raised them to fly to the unknown Valley of Dragons, where they quietly await their life's end.

Most of Liszt's dragons are still quite young.

Bone Dragon, age unknown, after all, it is an anomaly among dragons, cannot be classified as Metal, Gemstone, or Elemental Dragons, nor as Sacred or Evil Dragons.

Light Green Gemstone Dragon, over four hundred years old.

Grey Iron Dragon, over three hundred years old.

Mountain Copper Dragon, over two hundred years old.

Royal Sapphire Dragon, over two hundred years old.

Formless Dragon, over eighty years old.

Aluminum Dragon, over fifty years old.

Fire Dragon, five years old, but already as big as one in its fifties or sixties.

Water Dragon, two years old.

Elemental Dragons grow much faster than common Metal and Gemstone Dragons if they have an ample supply of Superior Magic. They can reach maturity early.

The same is not true for other dragons, even Sacred Dragons.

For example, Formless Dragon Bard, no matter how much Superior Magic it consumes, cannot shorten its maturity time.

This probably relates to dragons' output; Elemental Dragons do not produce anything, so all their magic power is consumed by themselves; Metal and Gemstone Dragons' excess magic power generally gets converted into gems or metals, forming mineral deposits in the outside world; Formless Sacred Dragons also consume magic power to produce Space Gems.

Perhaps Twilight Dragons do the same, producing Time Diamonds.

Jade Dragons might use magic power to nurture Mind Fruit Trees.

It's unclear for Immortal Dragons and Smoke Dragons; Liszt hasn't yet understood whether these two types of Sacred Dragons need magic supplements— he finds it very difficult to equate the power of destiny with magic power, and even more so to believe that consuming magic potions could increase the Power of Destiny.

The Power of Destiny is truly wondrous.

“There are also Evil Dragons, Dragons of the Magic Web, and the ‘Moon Dragon’ passed down through generations by the Moon Slayers. It’s unknown what extraordinary aspects these dragons possess.”

His thoughts drifted for a moment, but soon he brought his attention back to the Royal Sapphire Dragon. Reiz, with steady breathing, had its wounds crusted over and would soon heal—dragons have formidable constitutions and amazing healing abilities; unless the soul is injured, recovery is typically swift and easy.

“Reiz’s magic power can overflow and then form magic-like attack moves. Due to the utilization efficiency of magic power, the power is not very strong.”

“But now it’s different. With my help, Reiz completing the process of forming runes and constructing magic with magic power, it will inevitably become a real Dragon Magician, no, an Archmage of Dragons, at the level of Superior Magic!” Liszt was eagerly conceptualizing.

As a Royal Sapphire Dragon Knight, once his magic is fully developed, his combat power should be about the same as Ach when he rides a Unicorn.

With the formidable physique of dragons and the power of their Dragon Breath, his combat strength would closely rival that of an adult Fire Dragon Knight.

“When that time comes, riding on Bard, I will be the Dragon’s King of Shadows, instantly striking the heavens and the earth; riding on Leo, I will be the Dragon’s Berserker, resisting all head-on; riding on Ryze, I will be the Dragon’s Archmage, using magic to shatter heaven and earth.”

The very thought of it is thrilling.

Therefore, he indulged himself in fantasy for a full quarter of an hour before reluctantly gathering his thoughts. Watching the sky gradually darken, he started taking out the essentials for camping from his Space Ring.

“Let’s camp here tonight, wait for Ryze to wake up tomorrow, give it a batch of Magic Potions to help it fully recover, and then embark on the return journey to Flame Island... After bringing Ryze to meet with the Greater Elves and testing if any of them take a liking to it, the next step would be to establish a new Magic Teleportation Array.”

The first Magic Teleportation Array in Flame Kingdom is the Mind Island-Reed Marsh Magic Teleportation Array; this is a trade route to Sapphire Duchy, Eagle Kingdom, and Steel Ridge Kingdom.

The second Magic Teleportation Array is the Heroic Yellow City-Jade Mountain Magic Teleportation Array, which is an offensive route towards Snowstorm Mountain Duchy and Yellowstone Kingdom, currently only contacting the Snowstorm Mountain Duchy. At the same time, the Male Jade Transmission Array is also the golden passage for Flame Kingdom to step into the Legendary Continent.

The yet undeveloped virgin land of the Heroic Yellow Plains surrounding Heroic Yellow City will gradually prosper as more and more Nobles are enfeoffed there.

Consecutive establishment of two Magic Teleportation Arrays has depleted a large amount of magic materials reserved by the Kingdom, necessitating time to gather a new batch of magic materials. Moreover, due to the busyness of recent state founding, there hasn't been time to attend to the construction of Magic Teleportation Arrays, hence the delay of the third one until now.

This third Magic Teleportation Array has already been decided to be the Brass Ore-Volcano Crater Magic Transmission Array, in short, the Yellow Fire Teleportation Array.

The two ends of the Teleportation Array are the natural nodes of the volcano crater at the Endless Volcano Cluster on Flame Island and the natural node of brass ore on the Fertile Lands of Eagle Kingdom, the location where the Aluminum Dragon Connor originally resided. Once this Teleportation Array is built, it would provide rapid access to the southwest wilderness of Eagle Kingdom.

With this development.

The Male Jade Transmission Array connects to the southern frontier of Eagle Kingdom while the Yellow Fire Teleportation Array connects to the southwest frontier. The Heart Reed Teleportation Formation connects to the southeast coastline of Eagle Kingdom.

These three Teleportation Arrays would semi-encircle Eagle Kingdom, and when the time is right, Flame Kingdom will swiftly complete the annexation of Eagle Kingdom—comparing the volumes of Flame Kingdom and Eagle Kingdom, this plan seems like a



snake trying to swallow an elephant. But the essence of Kingdom warfare is the Dragon Slaying battle.

As long as Liszt wins the Dragon Slaying battle, with the aid of the three swiftly traversing Teleportation Arrays, he could rapidly lead his Giant Dragon army to suppress the entire Eagle Kingdom.

Ultimately achieving the feat of the snake swallowing the elephant.

The Nobles big and small of Eagle Kingdom, intimidated by the dragons, would wisely choose to surrender to Flame Kingdom.

“However, to be on the safe side, to complete the annexation of Eagle Kingdom in one fell swoop, it is essential to conquer all the dragons and Dragon Knights of the Eagle Royal Family... It would be best to covertly construct a few Teleportation Arrays within Eagle Kingdom, allowing my dragons to swiftly intercept the dragons of Eagle Royal Family.”

Liszt has an ambitious plan. He not only wants to annex the nation of Eagle Kingdom but also to seize all the dragons of the Eagle Royal Family.

However, dragons and Dragon Knights seeking to escape is difficult to intercept in time.

Many conditions need to be met.

First, it is necessary to build Teleportation Arrays within Eagle Kingdom, relying on these to swiftly traverse and intercept the fleeing dragons and Dragon Knights. Depending on the Formless Dragon Bard alone for Space Shuttle is fast but hardly optimal for executing group dragon tactics. Only when the dragons act together can Liszt defeat all the Dragon Knights of a Kingdom on his own.

Second, it is essential to monitor the movements of the dragons and Dragon Knights at all times; this requires the release of Space Magic Beacons by Ach, to locate each dragon, and then rely on Formless Dragon Bard to sense the beacon's location for timely path adjustment in the pursuit.

Third, in order to quickly conquer dragons, the Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruits are indispensable. Currently, Ach is studying the Jade Dragon's Hind Leg, and it is believed

that soon a large batch of Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruits will be cultivated—having used one on Ryze, he now has only one Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruit left in stock.

Fourth...

There are many more conditions, but Liszt did not continue to delve deeper. The annexation of Eagle Kingdom is a grand plan that requires careful planning. Once the action commences, it must proceed with the ferocity of lightning, not giving any opportunity for the Dragon Knights of Eagle Royal Family to escape.

“During the preparatory period for the action, all remains as usual, seizing the Pioneer Mandate once a year! It is both to cut the opponent’s flesh to increase my power and to lull the Eagle Royal Family into complacency.”

Thinking of conspiracies for a while, the sky darkened.

Turning on the outdoor magic lamp bulb, he brought out a small round table, and then served steaming hot delicacies one by one. Accompanied by the delicious semi-slope milk tea, he began tonight’s dinner—possessing a stationary Space Ring, he could still enjoy the delicious food personally cooked by Mrs. Abbie even when abroad.

But looking at the ten Space Rings on his fingers and the several Space Gems strung around his neck, one knows he wouldn’t lack for food and drink even if he was away for months.

After eating and drinking his fill, he lay on the rocking chair to digest.

Tonight, the moon is invisible, but the stars are scintillating, with a Milky Way Galaxy faintly visible, stirring a mild homesickness in him: “The planet I am currently on, where exactly is it located, is it still within the Milky Way Galaxy? Perhaps one day I can land on this planet’s moon, but returning to Earth... seems like an impossibility.”

Chapter 1084: Lining Up The following day, after breakfast and practicing his Dou Qi course, it wasn’t until the sun was high in the sky that the Royal Sapphire Dragon Reiz finally woke up from its stupor.

Its body was still very weak, lying prone on the ground, its gaze fixed on Li Si Te throughout.

“Don’t look at me like that, Reiz... Here is all the stock of Magic Potion I brought; take them to replenish and recuperate. Once you’ve recovered, I’ll take you back to the Flame Kingdom to start a new life. For now, I know you have many topics you want to discuss.”

He took out a large bundle of bottled Magic Potion and placed it in front of Reiz.

Reiz did not accept the Magic Potion, nor did it make a sound, still staring at Li Si Te. If it could, it would very much like to spit out a laser beam of Dragon Breath to turn Li Si Te to ashes.

But the Mind Battle was over, and it could not resist the constraint from the mind.

It could only silently vent the resentment accumulating in its heart. It did not like Li Si Te, having disliked him from the very first time they met. Especially when it thought about being brutally roughed up, then tricked with drugs, the Dragon Tooth Platform overtaken, and it was forced to lose to a puny human in the Mind Battle, it was almost on the brink of a heart attack.

In the Mind Battle, Li Si Te won fairly with tactics, climbing all the steps and reaching the final platform.

However, this did not increase Reiz’s approval of Li Si Te. The reason was simple: it did not need a Dragon Knight in its dragon life, and even if it really needed one, it should not be a despicable Dragon Knight like Li Si Te who achieved everything through shortcuts without any effort.

The Dragon Knight it was looking for should have endured the baptism of Magic Power, and with unyielding perseverance, climbed all the steps by hand to reach the pinnacle.

Not like turning into a firebird and zooming up in one swoop.

“This is a despicable act of cheating, you tiny ant, unforgivable!”

The blurry telepathic link allowed Li Si Te to understand Reiz’s anger. He didn’t mind Reiz’s complaints; the process wasn’t important, the result was what mattered: “There’s no

rule against taking short-cuts in the Mind Battle, Reiz. I hope you can be a dragon that honors its bets.”

Huff!

Blue and white electric sparks burst out of Reiz’s nostrils, it really wanted to spit out laser Dragon Breath.

“These Magic Potions are very beneficial for your recovery. You are my dragon now. In the future, the Flame Kingdom will take care of you. You will no longer need to hunt laboriously, as there will be a great supply of Magic Potions at your beck and call every day.” Li Si Te glanced at the still huffing Reiz, decisively mounted on it.

He sat on the Dragon Tooth Platform, instantly completing the mental unity link.

In that instant, the thoughts of human and dragon were synchronized, with each containing a piece of the other. Li Si Te could feel and influence Reiz’s thoughts, and Reiz could also feel and affect Li Si Te. This went beyond the communication of language and could resolve all differences in a moment.

“Roar!”

After hundreds of turns of mental contest, Reiz finally compromised and began to eat the Magic Potions on the ground: “Li Si Te, remember, even though I lost to you in the Mind Battle, this does not mean that I will acknowledge you. I refuse to engage in any form of training with you!”

Just being tsundere...

Li Si Te, having been through this before, responded indifferently: “Don’t worry, Reiz. From now on, I will not force you, I will sincerely convince you.”

Time changes everything; there’s no need to rush.

After resting until the afternoon, Reiz’s body, thanks to the replenishment of the Magic Potion, quickly returned to normal—of course, the restoration of the depleted Superior Magic would still need time—but at least now it was capable of flying.

Considering Reiz's pride, Li Si Te did not continue to ride it, instead changing to the Formless Dragon Bard.

He also did not choose to ride the Grey Iron Dragon Ornn; Ornn was massive in size, making the Dragon Tooth Platform uncomfortable to sit on. Bard, at sixteen meters in body length with a wingspan of sixteen meters (having grown by one meter since their first encounter), had a perfectly fitting position for the Dragon Tooth Platform for riding, and its petite frame did not easily obstruct the view.

Of course, when dragon riding, the vision of the rider and dragon can be merged into one.

"Let's go, we're heading to Heroic Yellow City!" With a command from Liszt, a man and three dragons swiftly took to the sky, flying through the clouds toward Heroic Yellow City.

Three days later, they arrived at Heroic Yellow City.

Making use of the night, they passed through the Magic Gate of Heroic Yellow City, and with prior signals to the guard knights to extinguish lanterns and disperse the crowd, no one noticed the addition of a Royal Sapphire Dragon. The same went for the Jade Mountain Magic Gate, silently shuttling through the night before flying non-stop to the southeast.

Of the nine major islands of the Flame Islands, only Mangrove Island and Anchor Island were left unfeoffed, and he planned to station the Royal Sapphire Dragon on Anchor Island.

There were many Yu Chous stationed around Anchor Island, and Mermaids patrolling, which could well keep the secret of the Royal Sapphire Dragon.

A day later.

Liszt arrived at Anchor Island with Ryze: "Ryze, for now you will live on Anchor Island. Feel free to request anything you need, and I will satisfy you. You have a powerful vision, be cautious to avoid humans when going out, don't get discovered... You understand the grand ambitions of the Flame Kingdom, I hope for your cooperation."

Ryze responded with indifference.

It had no interest in human ambitions, but it wouldn't hinder Liszt's plans.

"Roar!" It flew around Anchor Island, found a low hill, and reluctantly settled down, "Magic Potion, I need a steady supply!"

"No problem," Liszt agreed promptly, planning to supply Ryze with Magic Potion for the time being. Once Ryze's body had fully recovered, he would consider reducing the supply—after all, there's no surplus food in a landlord's house, and too many dragons to support, even abundant Magic Potion won't last against nine!

If it weren't for the Fire Dragon Elixir specifically for Fire Dragon Leo, and the Water Dragon Water for Water Dragon Walter, his supply of Magic Potion would be even tighter.

"For the sake of Magic Potion, this year's Pioneer Mandate must be carried out ahead of schedule. The rich foundation of the Eagle Kingdom naturally entails taking on the burden of supporting my dragons."

...

After settling Royal Sapphire Dragon Ryze, Liszt returned to the Sun Moon Star Palace, dealt with a day's worth of official duties, and then set off without rest.

He planned to take his Greater Elves and spend a few days getting along with Ryze, to see if any of the Greater Elves would suddenly fall in love with Ryze, triggering evolution.

"Jela, how are you getting along with Vinnie?" He met the Thorn Greater Elf in the valley, lying on the head of Bone Dragon Vinnie.

"Liszt, you're back. Vinnie is a good dragon, but I haven't fallen in love with it yet," said Jela excitedly, yet a hint of fatigue leaked through.

It had tried its best to fall in love with each dragon, but the results were disappointing as no dragon seemed to catch its affection. Especially Bone Dragon Vinnie, the most friendly of all dragons to it—after all, Vinnie used to be human—but it just couldn't fall in love.

“If you haven’t fallen in love, then let’s take it easy for now, I’ll introduce you to a new dragon.”

“A new dragon? Let it wait in line; I haven’t spent time with Water Dragon Walter yet,” Jela waved its hand, not very enthusiastic. The prolonged forced interactions with dragons had exhausted it.

“Alright, you should rest at the Royal Palace for a while; don’t tire yourself out too much.”

“I know,” Jela responded languidly, then rallied itself and said, “Wah, Jela will definitely evolve into a Dragon Elf and become the true Greater Elf Butler of the Sun Moon Star Palace!”

Bone Dragon Vinnie looked at Jela affectionately and communicated with Liszt through Dragon Heart Electrical Signal: “Jela is really cute, I hope it evolves into a Dragon Elf soon... Liszt, did you get another dragon?”

“Yes, I encountered it during my travels, a Royal Sapphire Dragon named Ryze.”

“Royal Sapphire Dragon?” Bone Dragon Vinnie raised its head, “That is a very powerful Gemstone Dragon, I remember the Magic Goat Family once owned a Royal Sapphire, with which my ancestor fought alongside the first Sapphire Duke...”

Recalling the past made it somewhat wistful.

However, it quickly snapped out of the nostalgia: “Congratulations, Your Majesty, you are truly the Son of Glory, and under your leadership, the Flame Kingdom will rise magnificently.”

Chapter 1085: Magic Pool Revolution Bone Dragon Vinnie’s compliments made Liszt feel comfortable. Although the combat power of Bone Dragons is weak and they can strictly not be regarded as dragons—a non-flying dragon is indeed a disgrace to the dragon clan—moreover, Bone Dragons don’t possess Dragon Breath. If it weren’t for the soul infusion by Virginia Truth, it would merely be a walking corpse.

“Vinnie, I heard you’ve been researching with Ach lately?”

“Yes, Your Majesty, Lord Acherloides takes an hour each day to discuss the soul structure of Bone Dragons with me to analyze the power structure of the Cursed Dragon,” replied Bone Dragon Vinnie.

The Cursed Dragon is one of the Three Great Evil Dragons, identified by Ach and Liszt as having broken the soul barrier, becoming a being that surpasses Dragon Knights.

To cleanse the Devil’s Sea, to study the Cursed Dragon, and to research soul-type powers, Ach naturally lets Bone Dragon Vinnie cooperate. If Bone Dragons must be defined, they are entities composed of Soul Elements, somewhat similar to the Cursed Dragon.

“Have you found any results from your research?”

“Nothing yet, it’s a pity that I am now a Bone Dragon, and it’s inconvenient for me to conduct experiments personally, and Lord Acherloides can only spare an hour a day to study me... Lord Lerald is also very busy, and not much involved in soul research... I really hope to unravel the secrets of Bone Dragons.”

Becoming a Bone Dragon, Virginia Truth felt the joy of being alive, but after all, she was originally a human and still hopes to revert to a human form.

“There will be such a day, Vinnie, you must believe in Ach, she is the greatest Archmage of this era, and even during the era of Moon Empire, she would still be the greatest Archmage.”

“Your Majesty, I trust Lord Acherloides completely.”

“Then I won’t disturb you any further, I still have official duties to handle.”

Liszt was ready to leave, but suddenly, a surge of mental waves from Bone Dragon Vinnie came through: “Your Majesty, it’s been several days since I have left Sun Moon Valley. May I ask for a bit of Your Majesty’s time to accompany Your Majesty for a stroll?” Its dragon eyes flashed with azure fires.

“Uh, that can be arranged.” Liszt was noncommittal.



Since Bone Dragon Vinnie wished it, he mounted onto the Dragon Tooth Platform and instantly completed a mental fusion link. In that moment, thoughts and minds collided, surpassing the physical body; the Dragon Riding resonance was an unparalleled delightful feeling—riding a dragon, especially one with a female human soul, was very exhilarating.

They circled around Sun Moon Valley twice.

He bade farewell to Bone Dragon Vinnie and returned to Sun Moon Star Palace feeling refreshed and at ease. The next day, he summoned all the Greater Elves living in the palace, squeezed them into a large box, and instructed Formless Dragon Bard to grab the large box and fly directly to Anchor Island.

Upon arriving at Anchor Island, first, he delivered a large number of Magic Potions to Royal Sapphire Dragon Reiz to help it recover.

Then, he gestured to the Greater Elves to carefully sense Reiz's aura to see if any of the Greater Elves took a liking to this beautiful Gemstone Dragon.

“Roar!” Reiz, seeing countless little flies buzzing around, was very angry and shouted loudly.

Liszt soothed, “Reiz, endure it for just three days, please.”

“Roar!”

“Rest assured, this won't happen repeatedly... and don't you think they are cute? If dragons represent strength, elves represent beauty.”

“Roar!” It questioned—Can Giant Algae Greater Elf Pike, with a mouth full of sharp teeth, also represent beauty?

Liszt looked at Pike, who was lazily lying on a dragon scale, and gave an embarrassed smile: “Actually, when Pike is not smiling, he is quite handsome. Many people in the territory say he is the handsome little ocean prince... and he's just here to join the fun, he actually likes Little Water Dragon Walter.”

As if feeling someone complimenting his handsomeness, the sunbathing Pike suddenly turned his head, saw Liszt looking at him, and burst into a big smile, exposing his sharp teeth: “Hi, Liszt, the sun today is really handsome, just like Pike.”

“You’re right.” Liszt waved his hand insincerely.

Ryze repeatedly rolled his eyes upward and thereafter lay prone on the ground with a languid indifference, too lazy to raise his head for more interaction. Subsequently, he simply closed his eyes, favoring an ‘out of sight, out of mind’ approach.

“Just three days’ time.” He thought helplessly.

...

Three days flashed by.

Potato Great Spirit Kuchi was the first to shake his head: “Li Si Te, I don’t like it. Its scales don’t suit my aesthetic.”

Then came Corn Greater Elf Mickey.

“I can’t count its scales; there are many irregularities, which makes calculations difficult. Therefore, Li Si Te, I can’t take a liking to it,” he said seriously, “You should find me a Mathematical Dragon so that I can study mathematics with it.”

In reality, he could only count up to 76 so far, which is still far from the major milestone of 100.

Over the next three days, the majority of the great spirits like Banana Greater Elf Poppy, Millet Greater Elf Tick, Mangrove Greater Elf Nami, and others all shook their heads, expressing their dislike for Ryze’s idea.

Watching one Greater Elf shake their head after another, Li Si Te sighed despondently, feeling that he was overly ambitious, recognizing how challenging it is for a Dragon Elf to

trigger evolution. Moreover, these Greater Elves had been with him for a short period, with even Pike, the longest, only being six years.

A Greater Elf can live up to two hundred years, they still have plenty of time to brew and wait for the opportunity to evolve.

Seeing the evolution successes of Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree Greater Elf, Pea Great Elf, and Pike's ongoing effort, he felt fortunate enough to be favored by fate.

He shouldn't be overly demanding.

However,

Just as he was comforting himself, he suddenly noticed another Greater Elf, standing on Ryze's back, not saying anything but looking at Royal Sapphire Dragon Ryze with a puzzled expression.

"Gourd Greater Elf Klay?"

Li Si Te squinted his eyes, clearly feeling a thread of destiny flicker nearby, one end connected to Klay and the other to Ryze: "Could it be that Klay's moment for evolution has arrived? This is an exciting surprise indeed, it's Klay!"

In his Minor Elf stage, Klay wasn't very noticeable, though gourds were fun and always reminded Li Si Te of the Gourd Brothers, they had limited use.

They could only hold some beverages, serving as containers.

However, in his Greater Elf stage, as Klay's ability to store magic power was discovered, his value soared tremendously. He has already surpassed the Magic Potions and grain-type Greater Elves and comes only second to King Lotus Sprite Kenji, who can produce Dragon Medicine – Water of the Water Dragon. Even Thorn Greater Elf Jela, who can produce Thorn Auxiliary Medicine, didn't have his value.

Because gourds capable of storing magic power, after repeated studies by the arcanists, had become known in the magic world as "magic batteries", a new term was coined replacing the gourd itself – "Magic Pool."

The creation of the Magic Pool made many magical technologies feasible. Although still far from widespread civilian use, it started a revolution of Magic Pools, which was more than sufficient. In military aspects, arcanists from the Royal Arcane Academy had developed a magic array powered by the Magic Pool for spell-casting.

This meant that even ordinary people could cast some magic using the Magic Pool and magic array.

It was essentially like having artillery in the magical world.

Facing the impact brought by the Magic Pool revolution, Li Si Te was still in a dilemma, unsure whether to support or ban it, but without a doubt, the intrinsic value of the gourd was immeasurable. Should Gourd Greater Elf Klay evolve into a Dragon Elf, the gourd production would surely surge.

He was very satisfied with this harvest: “The gourds storing magic power are unique to my territory, and I control the technology of the Magic Pool. Klay, strive hard in your evolution!”

Chapter 1086: Open Grey Iron Dragon Even though the Threads of Destiny have already connected Gourd Greater Elf Klay with the Royal Sapphire Dragon Reiz, after careful inquiry, Liszt discovered that Klay’s evolution opportunity is still very weak, not truly fond of this beautiful Gemstone Dragon.

“I don’t know, Liszt, I think it... Reiz, is beautiful, very special, but I don’t know if I like it.”

“Um, I understand, Klay, right now you only have a certain fondness for Reiz because you are not yet familiar with each other,” Liszt consoled, suspecting that it might be because Klay has become a Greater Elf not long ago and his body hasn’t fully “developed.”

This has led to a vague evolution opportunity.

But the power of destiny has already captured their fate together, indicating that one day he will truly like Reiz.

So he added: “How about this, you come back with me first, and each time I come to train with Reiz, you come along, until you fully like it, then you can move over for extended contact.”

“Alright, I do need time to digest... I really hope I can evolve into a Dragon Elf and get ahead of that jerk Jela!” Klay clenched his fist, squinting as he imagined how he would deal with Jela after becoming a Dragon Elf—should he beat her up, or should he beat her up?

Soon.

The noisy Greater Elves, with the ascent of Formless Dragon Bard, left Anchor Island.

The Royal Sapphire Dragon looked at the peaceful sky, and sighed long: “I’ve breathed the free, sweet air again.”

...

The weather in June gets increasingly hotter.

Flame Kingdom is steadily developing, and Liszt’s primary job has shifted from training with Grey Iron Dragon Ornn to training with Aluminum Dragon Connor.

Up to now, among his many dragons, Light Green Gem Dragon Ethan has already achieved Completion Level Mind Branding and became the mount of Emily Flame.

Fire Dragon Leo and Formless Dragon Bard have also achieved Completion Level Mind Branding, but Liszt has not sought new knights for them, as these two dragons are reserved for his own riding—Bard’s ability to shuttle through space makes an excellent choice for a mount; Leo possesses potential to break barriers.

Now Grey Iron Dragon Ornn has reached Completion Level Mind Branding.

Still remaining are Mountain Copper Dragon Mata, Aluminum Dragon Connor, Water Dragon Walter, and Royal Sapphire Dragon Reiz, without Completion Level Mind Branding—excluding Bone Dragon Vinnie.

“Adult dragons have a set nature, it’s difficult to reach Completion Level Mind Branding in a short time, so Mata and Reiz are temporarily not considered. Young dragons have an unsettled nature, easily achieving Completion Level Mind Branding. Walter is still too young, let him roam freely for a while, first complete Connor’s Mind Branding.”

However, before delving into deeper training with Aluminum Dragon Connor, he needs to find a new knight for Grey Iron Dragon Ornn—dragons without knights cannot unleash their full combat power.

He summoned the first batch of candidates for the Dragon Knight plan at the Sun Moon Star Palace.

Only three people.

“Nikola, Hippolyta, De Gaulle, you haven’t disappointed my expectations... especially Nikola, who has already earned the name of a Swordsman, Cast Iron Swordsman, a little common title, but I see great talent in you,” Liszt approached Nikola and patted the young man’s shoulder.

Cast Iron Swordsman Nikola Fournier, seventeen years old this year, is the nephew of Marquis Nickel Fournier of Dragon Valley Town, a member of the Iron Knight Fournier Family.

While a bit ugly, it does not hinder his exceptional talent.

“Thank you for the praise, Your Majesty, you are the idol Nikola admires, your glory inspires me to strive tirelessly towards becoming a Dragon Knight,” Nikola said solemnly.

This flattery was a bit superficial but did not prevent Liszt from being very pleased: “I believe you will become an excellent Dragon Knight.”

Then, he turned to look at De Gaulle beside him.

De Gaulle had no surname; he was the son of commoners, born on the Sapphire Duchy’s Hot Spring Island.

His father had once been a serf in the Eagle Kingdom, sold to Hot Spring Island where he was trained by the Count of Hot Spring Island into an Earth Knight, only to die in a Pioneer Mandate, leaving behind his unborn son De Gaulle. His mother never remarried, instead raising him on the meager family fortune.

After Dragon Knight Liszt eradicated the Count of Hot Spring Island, the young De Gaulle moved to the Flame Kingdom with his mother. Two years ago, when he was chosen for the Dragon Knight reserve program, he was just a twelve-year-old Elite Earth Knight, and now he has become a fourteen-year-old ordinary level Sky Knight.

“De Gaulle, you possess exceptional talent, but what I value more is your perseverance and your filial piety towards your mother.”

“Without my mother’s upbringing and guidance, there would be no De Gaulle today,” the young man replied.

“But do not be overly proud,” Liszt remarked, having heard that De Gaulle displayed a somewhat haughty demeanor while studying at the Royal Knight Academy.

It is likely his past insecurities have led to his current arrogance.

Others might stiffen up in response to such criticism, retorting, “I became a Sky Knight at fourteen, what about you?” However, in front of the legendary Dragon Knight Liszt, he was nothing, hence he sincerely responded, “Yes, Your Majesty, I will stay humble, cautious, and diligently practice.”

Liszt nodded, shifting his gaze to Hippolyta, who had grown into a young lady.

The last time he visited the Royal Knight Academy, he thought Hippolyta was a “beauty in the making” with her statuesque figure and open-hearted personality, though her wheatish skin was slightly less favorable.

However, now Hippolyta not only had gradually fairer skin, her figure had also fully matured—her chest was not large but was firm, her waist powerful yet slender, her hips volubly curved, and her long legs equally slim and straight, transitioning from a girl to a woman.

She was truly the epitome of beauty.

It was said that, in private, enthusiasts referred to her as the “Flower of the Killing Moon”, alongside Emily Flame, known as “the Flower of Flame”, and Paris Flame, known as “the Gemstone Flower”—collectively dubbed as the three golden flowers of the Flame Kingdom. As for the more noble Ach, no one dared to call her by a nickname in private.

“I heard you’ve been learning from Emily recently?” Liszt asked with a smile.

Hippolyta’s eyes sparkled with admiration as she replied, “Yes, Your Majesty, Princess Emily has taught me many combat skills of the Sky Knights.” Although her talent was exceptional, it still slightly lagged behind Nikola and De Gaulle, having only recently advanced.

“With Emily teaching you, I’m relieved,” Liszt nodded, cutting the conversation short.

He returned to his throne forged from Magic Metal and seriously said, “Normally, you would need to reach Completion Level as a Sky Knight before having the chance to interact with dragons, but the Flame Kingdom is a young kingdom, and youth means more opportunities... I am prepared to open up access to the Grey Iron Dragon.”

“Ah!”

“Ah!”

“Ah!”

Three exclamations of surprise. The three young men and women all gasped, eagerly looking at Liszt—everyone wanted a chance to interact with dragons.

Liszt was pleased with the youths’ excitement and did not tease them, directly stating, “I grant the three of you an equal opportunity to interact with the Grey Iron Dragon for six months. It’s up to you to win over Ornn, or perhaps none of you might succeed.”



Not every member of the Dragon Knight reserve program can become a Dragon Knight; the successful rate is quite low.

“Thank you, Your Majesty!” the youths eagerly responded.

“Very well, go prepare and report to Princess Emily; she will be fully responsible for arranging your interaction with the Grey Iron Dragon,” Liszt dismissed the three youths.

Watching their spirited backs, he shook his head slightly; knowing Ornn well, he doubted that any of the three would win Ornn’s approval—Nikola was too ugly, De Gaulle too proud, and Hippolyta simply inexperienced.

“I hope one of them manages to create a miracle. I need more Dragon Knights to assist me... The day before yesterday, the Royal Knight Academy, other Knight Academies, and the Feudal Nobles reported to me the outstanding young Knights; let’s swiftly select the second batch of talents to join the Dragon Knight reserve program.”

Chapter 1087: The Ancient Remnant Clan The Royal Knight Academy is the largest Knight Academy in the Flame Kingdom, the prefix “Royal” denotes its equal standing with the Royal Arcane Academy.

Not only is it a school, but it is also the supervising institution for all other Knight Academies across the land.

Local Knight Academies generally only provide instruction up to Earth Knight level, at which point students graduate. To further study beyond Earth Knight, one must attend the Royal Knight Academy—this is somewhat akin to pursuing a master’s or a doctoral degree.

Consequently, the quantity of promising Knights selected by the Royal Knight Academy is substantial, outnumbering the combined total from all the other Knight Academies across the nation and those recommended by the Feudal Nobles. All of them are youths who have become Earth Knights at a very young age or are hopeful to become Sky Knights.

Liszt’s task was to select the most outstanding few from these candidates to join the Dragon Knight reserve plan.

“It seems there aren’t many promising talents, none that could match Emily, and even fewer that could stand shoulder to shoulder with De Gaulle, Nikola, or Hippolyta... It appears difficult for this batch of Dragon Knight reserve plan members to produce a Dragon Knight. But then again, can Nikola and the others truly become Dragon Knights?”

Shaking his head, he no longer pondered this question.

It would be a joyous occasion if one were to become a Dragon Knight, but if not, one would simply continue training generation after generation, until eventually a new Dragon Knight would emerge.

Besides, it was possible that in a few more years, his own training with Fire Dragon Leo might break through the barrier, achieving the unparalleled status of Bastion Knight.

It wasn’t inconceivable to conquer the entire Legendary Continent, single-handedly with his Dragon.

Hence, the Dragon Knight reserve plan must proceed, and his training with Leo can’t fall by the wayside... Unfortunately, Leo is still not of age, far from the pinnacle of strength, and finding it difficult to truly contend with barriers. I need to find more volcanoes for Leo to absorb the Volcanic Super Magic and hasten his growth!”

He selected ten Knights with exceptional talent, eight males and two females, to join the Dragon Knight reserve plan.

Liszt handed the list to Emily Flame, who had rushed to the Sun Moon Star Palace—he had already entrusted her with managing the Dragon Knight reserve plan.

“Take this list, the care of these little guys is now in your hands.”

“I will, Your Majesty.” Emily took the list, nodded her head, her eyes glowing as she gazed at Liszt, “I’m already seventeen this year.”

“Hmm.”

Liszt returned his attention with a scrutinizing gaze.

The first Female Dragon Knight of the Legendary Continent was no longer the skinny little girl of yesteryears.

Compared to the not yet matured “Flower of the Killing Moon” Hippolyta, the “Flower of Flame” Emily’s demeanor shone more brilliantly, greatly benefited by the halo of a Dragon Knight. While not as voluptuous as the “Gemstone Flower” Paris, Emily’s slightly exotic features exuded a distinctly alluring charm.

Moreover, since Emily was almost single-handedly trained by him, the sense of accomplishment in witnessing her growth gave her a significant place in his heart.

His heated gaze swept over Emily, as if he could see through her clothing and grasp every inch of her.

Feeling the intensity of his gaze, Emily did not shy away but instead met Liszt’s eyes with quickened breath, full of earnest anticipation.

After a moment, Liszt reached out, lifted Emily’s chin, and softly said, “Then, tonight you shall stay and come of age.”

...

At the end of June, good news came from the Royal Arcane Academy—after more than a year of cultivation, the first batch of Bloodline Fruits stimulated from the Tree of Golden Apples had finally ripened.

The first batch consisted of sixteen Bloodline Fruits.

The uses of these Bloodline Fruits were allocated well in advance, with ten designated to evolve Fierce Earth Dogs into Blizzard Beasts, and five to evolve livestock into Magical Beasts.

One of them was left for Rainbow Whale Rose.

“Jiyo!” Rose was raised in Mermaid City, this low-level Dragon Beast was close to humans, and when it was in Black Horse Island, it served as Li Si Te’s (Liszt’s) exclusive ocean mount.

However, with the growth of Ach and the acquisition of the Heart of the Mermaid contract, Rose could no longer provide riding services for Li Si Te (Liszt). Like the Fire Dragon Horse, Blizzard Beast Dousen, King of Black Blood Treasure Horses Lightning, and Landwalker Bird Loki, it had long been unable to keep up with his pace.

It could only be raised.

The Fire Dragon Horse retired early to focus on breeding.

Dousen now commands the increasingly strong group of Blizzard Beasts and has become an important member of the Blizzard Knights within the Burning Legion, still making valuable contributions.

Lightning serves as a ceremonial symbol for Li Si Te (Liszt) when inspecting the Burning Knights Group—to express closeness with the members of the knights group, he needed to choose a Black Blood Treasured Horse as his mount, but of course, only riding it during parades and other ceremonial occasions, it was impossible to ride Lightning into battle again.

Loki was given to Emily by Li Si Te (Liszt), and after Emily succeeded in Dragon Riding, Loki was handed over to Paris.

As for Rose, ever since being brought from Black Horse Island to Flame Island, it had been kept in Mermaid City by Li Si Te (Liszt), well-fed and well-cared for.

Sadly, like Loki, Rose was never able to find another Rainbow Whale and was forced to live a solitary life.

“Rose, eat up. After you’ve eaten, you’ll evolve into a powerful Rainbow Whale.” Li Si Te (Liszt) stood by the water, stuffing a Water Attribute Bloodline Fruit into Rose’s mouth and then stroked its big head, “Evolution won’t free you from loneliness, but at least you’ll live for a few more decades.”

The lifespan of Dragon Beasts is not short. Low-Level Dragon Beasts live for several decades without a problem, and it's normal for Intermediate Dragon Beasts to live for over a century.

“Jiyo, jiyo!” After eating the Bloodline Fruit, Rose was very happy, quickly reacting and growing excited, swimming around in the water.

“Duke Bluposi, I ask you to look after this Rainbow Whale,” Liszt spoke to the Mermaids who were spectating nearby.

“As you wish, Your Majesty,” Bluposi nodded and then added, “I’ve closely observed this little dolphin, Rose. If my guess is not wrong, during the era of the Moon Empire, there were many such dolphins called Sea Tigers, which were Naga’s favorite mounts... Perhaps there are Devils in the Devil’s Sea that have transformed from Sea Tigers.”

“Sea Tigers, you say? Another remnant of ancient species, no wonder hardly any other Rainbow Whales are found in the vast sea.” Li Si Te (Liszt) believed Bluposi’s speculation.

He soon thought of Landwalker Bird Loki again, wondering if landwalker birds are also an ancient legacy.

Unfortunately, there is a civilization gap between the era of the Moon Empire and the present time, and many species and knowledge have been lost to the sands of history, becoming difficult to ascertain.

Suddenly.

He recalled an almost forgotten reward from the Smoke Mission, “Beneath the Sun Moon Star Palace is a natural node, that is the entrance to the ancient ruins related to the ancestors of the Moon Slayers, i.e., those six Archmages who built the statues... I wonder if the ruins hold secrets of the ancient civilization.”

The stories passed down by the Moon Slayers tell of their ancestors battling the Moon Dragon and slaying it.

The Flame Islands and this part of the ocean indeed contain many ancient bones of dragons, such as the important mining area of the Flame Kingdom—the Dragon Pit Great Mine. This indicates that a world-shaking war surely took place here, and so the ruins might well be hiding secrets from ancient times.

“Unfortunately, the spatial rift blocks the entrance to the ruins, and for now, Ach has not found a way to sort out the spatial rifts, so I can only look at the entrance without being able to go in.”

Li Si Te (Liszt) felt somewhat frustrated.

His two most relied upon dragons, the Formless Dragon Bard and Fire Dragon Leo, were both not yet of age.

Alas!

Time waits for no one!

Chapter 1088: Yellow Fire Teleportation Array Rainbow Whale Rose’s evolution took place over a mere half-month, where its changes were minimal—it grew only a third in size and mastered a new Water Magic—Water Wave Shield.

A very common Water Magic.

“Jiyo, Jiyo...” After evolving, Rose’s life remained blissfully unchanged, perhaps oblivious to its solitary existence as a single dolphin. Or maybe, frolicking with the human caregivers and having no worries about food and drink summed up all the happiness it could comprehend.

In any case, Rose seemed happier than Liszt as it didn’t need to deal with the mundane affairs of the human world.

“Let the Outer Cabinet handle today’s war in its entirety; Emily will manage the details. When the Pioneer Mandate arrives, I will, as always, protect the Kingdom’s Knight Order in secrecy, free from disturbances by the Eagle Kingdom’s Dragon Knights.” He issued the authorization of the Pioneer Mandate during a plenary session of the Outer Cabinet.

He then had a brief video conference with Marquis Yevich Water Peanut and Marquis Amat Ice Shield, who were far away in the Snowstorm Mountain Duchy.

“Yevich, has the Second Prince of Snowstorm Mountain reached a dead end?”

“Yes, Your Majesty, the First Prince Spot, by colluding with a Dragon Knight from the Yellowstone Kingdom, has gained the support of a large number of elite Knights, severely affecting the Knight Order of Second Prince Scart, who can no longer vie for the Duchy seat of Snowstorm Mountain,” replied Yevich.

“Send a message to condemn your Knights. Did Spot take this upon himself, or was it the Dragon Knight’s intention?” Liszt inquired further.

After the First Prince Spot Cornflower of Snowstorm Mountain Duchy defeated the Knight Order of Second Prince Scart, Yevich and Amat received a message sent by the opposing side, condemning the Flame Kingdom’s interference in the internal affairs of Snowstorm Mountain Duchy—it was explicitly stated that it was the Flame Kingdom intervening, not the Eagle Kingdom.

Regarding this matter, Amat responded, “Your Majesty, knowing Spot as I do, if it weren’t for the Dragon Knight’s support, he wouldn’t explicitly involve the Flame Kingdom. He would continue to default to the actions of the Eagle Kingdom.”

Such is the sorrow of small nations.

Even though the two princes of the Snowstorm Mountain Duchy already know that people like Yevich are Knights of the Flame Kingdom, they still have to play dumb and acknowledge the false identity of the Eagle Kingdom that Yevich has adopted. Otherwise, if they truly exposed the situation, it might even provoke a large-scale invasion by the Flame Kingdom.

A moment of silence.

Liszt eventually said, “Since a Dragon Knight from Yellowstone has already intervened, let’s temporarily conclude our campaign against Snowstorm Mountain Duchy... However, you can invite Scart to join the Flame Kingdom, telling him I grant him a Marquis title, and at an appropriate time, help him reclaim the Duchy position.”

He recently planned to focus on strategizing against the Eagle Kingdom, so he intended not to provoke the Yellowstone Kingdom for the time being.

Moreover, years of civil war had nearly drained Snowstorm Mountain Duchy; out of a total population of six to seven million, over two million had been secretly relocated, amounting to one-third of the total population.

To further exploit it would mean stripping the Duchy bare of even its sheepskin.

So, a break was also good; keeping Second Prince Scart as an excuse for intervening in the Snowstorm Mountain Duchy and waiting for the right moment to continue harvesting wool.

“As you wish, Your Majesty, I will promptly arrange for Scart to pledge allegiance to you,” Yevich agreed.

Liszt nodded, “Once the Snowstorm Mountain Duchy matter is settled, shift your focus to the construction of the Heroic Yellow Plains. This barren area is a steppingstone for the Flame Kingdom’s advance into the Legendary Continent; we must hurry and cultivate it well.”

“Yes, Your Majesty.”

...

“Now the Flame Kingdom has a population of eight million, myself and my feudal nobles account for about five million, and the feudal nobles hold the remaining three million... That’s still not enough, not even reaching ten million, less than some wealthy duchies. There’s a long way to go!”

As July arrived, various Knight Orders began to assemble, ready to advance into the Eagle Kingdom’s coastal hinterlands for the first issuance of the Flame Kingdom’s Pioneer Mandate.



Liszt did not pay attention to the Pioneer Mandate; after successfully helping Gourd Greater Elf Klay fall in love with Royal Sapphire Dragon Ryze, he and Ach went to the Fertile Lands south of the former Grey Iron Duchy.

This location is under construction for the Brass Ore-Volcano Crater Magic Teleportation Array.

The Yellow Fire Teleportation Array is temporarily closed to the public and is used only for military purposes, such as dispatching a large number of Blood Servants from here in the early stages, allowing these night bats to collect intelligence from surrounding countries—the Blood Servants' training difficulty has been reduced and their concealment abilities enhanced with Ach's help.

Thus, under the flag of the Burning Legion, a constantly growing Blood Knights has been formed.

Under the cultivation of Marquis Mary Dawnbreak of Reed City, the Blood Knights' Blood Servants already number over three hundred and sixty members.

They are distributed among the three major kingdoms and the surrounding duchies.

They patiently lie in wait, using the Magic Platform to communicate, continuously transmitting intelligence, allowing Liszt to keep abreast of the dynamics of the neighboring countries.

“Recently, the Steel Ridge Royal Family has been getting closer to the Eagle Royal Family, with two secret royal meetings already hinting at plotting against me...”

“The Blast Furnace Fortress Royal Family is relatively stable, not much involved, focusing on confronting the Fallen Leaves Kingdom to the west.”

“Beyond the Fallen Leaves Kingdom lies the Kushan Imperial, where the Blood Servants have just arrived. It will take some time to gather information from the Kushan Imperial.”

“Once I complete the unification of the northeastern corner of the Legendary Continent, it will be Kushan Imperial's turn!”

“Emperor Jupiter, you dare to send someone to assassinate me. What goes around comes around, and when Bard comes of age, I will personally arrange for you to understand clearly!” Liszt has never been a magnanimous person; he harbors grudges and thinks of vengeance day and night.

Especially for such major life-threatening grudges.

Of course, revenge is a dish best served cold, and since his power isn’t yet strong enough, retaliating against Emperor Jupiter can wait for now.

“Brother, the magic array is now open, the Brass Ore Magic Gate can be propped open for a short time. You and Bard can now proceed with the established plan to open the wormhole space and set up the teleportation array,” Ach’s voice brought the somewhat distracted Liszt back to reality.

“Okay.”

After regaining his senses, he and Formless Dragon Bard quickly passed through the natural node and arrived outside the realm of matter. Focusing his thoughts to activate the space magic power, he connected the Brass Ore Magic Gate with the Volcano Crater Magic Gate, opening a wormhole space that could be traversed freely.

Thus, after Ach’s finishing touches, the Yellow Fire Teleportation Array was successfully built.

The remaining work, such as establishing strongholds, could be directly transferred to the Outer Cabinet. Liszt took Ach, leaving the Fertile Lands not returning to the Flame Kingdom, but instead delving deeper into the southwestern hinterlands of the Eagle Kingdom.

Bard flew along the material boundary.

Liszt rode on the Dragon Tooth Platform, with Ach lying in his arms, beside them was Unicorn Charlie, who occasionally looked at him with disdainful eyes—whenever this happened, Charlie would become exceedingly annoyed, his perception of a pure maiden slowly being tainted.

And he had no ability to change this, only able to passively accept.

Ach rested her hands on Liszt's chest, enjoying a twist of her small, soft body: "Brother, shall we stay here for a few days? The mermaids will be back soon, and Ach promised them to help purify the sea."

"Purifying the sea is not urgent; let the group of mermaids wait, I will decide the specific time," Liszt had grievances against the mermaids, "The Blood Servants found this volcano. Although not large, the magma supply is abundant, enough for Leo to draw from for two or three months."

His trip was specifically to send Fire Dragon Leo to the newly discovered magma volcano to aid Leo's growth.

Calculating a bit, he continued, "For convenience of travel, I will find natural nodes around the volcano, which will take about a day or two, just spending a night or two outdoors. Don't always think about work, take the opportunity to relax since we're out traveling."

"Alright."

Chapter 1089: Punishment Order Fire Dragon Leo dived headfirst into the magma, having not absorbed volcanic super magic for many days, it was desperately eager, and the mere Dragon Medicine – Fire Dragon Elixir was not nearly enough to satisfy its appetite.

Following that, Li Si Te began searching for natural nodes around the volcano.

Each natural node is related to super magic incidents and may hide something significant, such as deposits of metal ores, dragon skeletons, gemstone veins, or remnants of divine objects. However, after scouring the area within a three-hundred-kilometer radius of the volcano, he did not find any natural nodes.

"It might be due to the scarcity of super magic incidents on Legendary Continent, which would explain why there are so few natural nodes. The Flame Islands and Shell Sea were the sites of ancient wars of yore, hence the abundance of natural nodes there."

Eventually.

Two days later, he discovered a natural node near a city located five hundred kilometers to the northeast. Unfortunately, it was close to a human castle, making it impossible to mine any resources, if any were there. However, it was enough for the Formless Dragon Bard to use it to traverse.

The Eagle Kingdom would be his sooner or later, and then he could comprehensively inspect all the natural nodes.

“Big brother, are we going back now?” Ach had been accompanying Li Si Te; she was able to enjoy sightseeing while putting her work aside on the first day, but by the second day, she was already missing the laboratory.

She had several experimental projects in her hands, waiting for her to oversee.

Li Si Te shook his head helplessly: “Since you can’t wait to go back, then let’s return. But remember, Ach, truth is boundless. While some truths are discovered, there may be more waiting to be explored... We must learn when to stop; we still have lives to enjoy.”

“Ach knows. Big brother, don’t worry about Ach. We both have long lives ahead, so there’s plenty of time to enjoy.”

“Four to five hundred years may seem long indeed, but short nonetheless; we should still enjoy the moment.” Li Si Te smiled, knowing it was hard to persuade Ach. The Little Sea Monster had long been lost in the ocean of magic, beyond the point of self-extraction. He would have to intervene with external force.

He must take the time to “disturb” Ach’s magic experiments in the future, forcing her to relax and enjoy life.

“It would be a great pity to have only magic for company in life. It was I who led Ach into the ‘magic’ detour; I have the responsibility to bring her more beautiful life memories.”

...

Not long after Ach returned to the laboratory, five mermaids who had been roaming the seas finally came back.

Marquis Fisherman – Gulvig, Marquis Aquamarch – Tibidais, Marquis Sea Trench – Sharivara, Marquis Fugitive – Viswinti, Marquis Lost – Coquelix.

Li Si Te did not receive them immediately; instead, he arranged for Duke Salty Sea – Brubossi and Marquis Great West – Eternia to prepare the ennoblement ceremonies for them at sea. He would meet the five mermaids at the ennoblement ceremony and arrange their duties.

“Your Majesty is dissatisfied with you, no, with all of us as well,” Eternia conveyed Li Si Te’s attitude explicitly, “The King released us from our seals, granted us new lives, and kindly allowed us to explore. But our return to him was delayed.”

“We only wanted to understand the current seas better; why would His Majesty be angry? I am of course grateful that he rescued me, and I will work for him, manage the seas, but as a follower, I also have the right to control my own life,” said Sharivara.

“This is no longer the era of mermaids, Sharivara.”

“But the seas ultimately need us mermaids to manage them, don’t they?”

Eternia glanced at Sharivara: “I think it’s because we’ve slept for too long and failed to keep up with the changes of the times. That’s why we mermaids have lost the proper reverence for the human King. Or perhaps His Majesty has been too kind to us, making us lose our proper judgment.”

Gulvig tried to mediate: “Eternia, could you be more explicit?”

Originally, Eternia only intended to convey Li Si Te’s attitude and was not planning to kindly remind the other mermaids—mermaids are not social creatures. Besides the relations for breeding, all of them are relatively independent individuals. Even in the ancient times, the kingdoms of mermaids were constantly at war with each other.

However, looking at the possibly few mermaids in this world.

She ultimately let out a deep sigh: “Purifying the ocean is our wish, yet it requires the aid of Lord Acherlodes, and Your Majesty can directly influence Lord Acherlodes... Another point, Your Majesty is not only benevolent.”

She paused for a moment and then continued: “Your Majesty is a self-made king among humans, his greatness lies not only in his kindness to his followers and subjects but also in his cruelty towards enemies. Merely two Dragon Knights have perished by Your Majesty’s hand, I do not wish for the mermaids to incur Your Majesty’s wrath.”

“Is that really necessary?” Tibidais asked somewhat awkwardly.

“Who knows? I only hope that everyone can adjust their attitude, so that such a possibility does not occur,” Eternia shook her head, “The ennoblement ceremony is at the end of this month, and the Pioneer Mandate will soon arrive. I believe it’s time for the mermaids to take action.”

Gulvig is still quite loyal to Li Si Te; she would have died long ago due to the corruption of the Cursed Dragon’s power if not for the help of Li Si Te and Ach.

She stated plainly: “What action should we take, Eternia?”

“It’s quite simple. The Iron Dragon Warships are not fast enough, and the Magic Power Ships have not been put into service yet. After the Flame Kingdom issues the Pioneer Mandate, there will be a need to transport vast quantities of materials. This is precisely the area we mermaids excel in. I believe each of us can control the water currents to aid the fleet’s progress.”

The speed of the mermaids is incredibly fast, reaching 500 kilometers per hour in the sea without an issue. Even towing the entire fleet, they could manage a speed of one to two hundred kilometers per hour.

From Mind Island to the coast of Eagle Kingdom is at most a distance of seven or eight hundred kilometers, which is just a matter of four to five hours.

Relying solely on the speed of Iron Dragon Warships and Fire Dragon Cargo Ships, it takes five to six days to make a round trip. Once mermaids participate in transportation,

any amount of materials can be brought back. Most crucially, the Flame Kingdom will also be able to send more manpower and resources to participate in the Pioneer Mandate in Eagle Kingdom.

Mermaids are not stubborn or foolish creatures. After carefully considering the pros and cons, everyone agreed to participate in the Pioneer Mandate, to properly showcase themselves.

Subsequently.

Eternia reported the matter to Li Si Te.

“Well done, Marquis Eternia, the mermaids’ involvement in the Pioneer Mandate greatly aids the war effort. I will remember your contribution,” Li Si Te approved of Eternia’s performance; properly utilized, mermaids can be a powerful force, but the prerequisite is that they must serve his purpose.

Only those who understand the times are truly great, and the same applies to the mermaids.

...

Flame Era First Year, August 6th.

Using the pretext that “Dragon Knight Alonso Xiankelai of Eagle Kingdom attempted to engage in conspiracy within the Flame Kingdom,” the Flame Kingdom officially issued its very first war command.

It was not labelled as a “Pioneer Mandate.”

Instead, it adopted the term “Punishment Order.”

Sapphire Duke could describe his actions as “pioneering,” but for a king like Li Si Te, pioneering was somewhat lacking in status; “punishment” better suited his current position—as punishment is a means through which the strong impose on the weak, akin to an adult instructing a child.

“After this campaign, the inland along the coast of Eagle Kingdom will be utterly desolate. The next Punishment Order requires careful planning; we need to decide from where to plunder,” mounted on Formless Dragon Bard, Li Si Te quietly arrived above the warzone, silently watching the Knight Orders below charging into battle.

Even without Dragon Knights to breach the walls, the Knight Orders of the Flame Kingdom still overwhelmingly crush most of the feudal knights.

There’s no special reason; the Beast Taming Contracts brought a large number of Magical Beast mounts to the Flame Kingdom, and knights mounted on Magical Beasts charge into battle with impressive bravery.

“Invincible in battle indeed...”

Chapter 1090: War Mobilization Order The war scene was intense, with cavalry charges and castle defenses firing arrows — in moments, castles fell. The large landed nobility had long been relocated by the Eagle Royal Family, leaving only the smaller nobles who were unwilling to abandon their fiefs, incapable of mounting substantial resistance.

As a result, the Flame Kingdom seized the opportunity to push forward unopposed. As the Knight Order marched past each castle, they either broke its defenses or received the noble’s surrender.

Then.

The logistics teams responsible for handling prisoners and serfs began to pack up, using carts and wheelbarrows to transport all goods, which were continuously sent towards the coast.

There, they were transported by the Fire Dragon Merchant Ships and Iron Dragon Warships.

Among the seven mermaids, only Duke Bruce of the Salty Sea remained to guard the waters around Flame Island, using fish-ugly serfs to labor, while the other six mermaids rushed to assist with the transport. A fleet of three-mast ships, loaded with materials and people, returned to Mind Island.



At the front lines, atop a hill, Liszt stood shoulder to shoulder with Emily.

Behind them lay two dragons, each deep in slumber — the Light Green Gemstone Dragon Ethan and the Formless Dragon Bard.

“Your Majesty, with the Punishment Order ending this year, there will be no more resources for the Eagle Kingdom’s inland coastal areas to plunder. Where shall we plunder in next year’s Punishment Order?” Emily inquired.

“We could push up along several major rivers to pillage some wealthy areas, but the to-and-fro would be a waste of time. Fortunately, the shipbuilding industry in our interior is booming and we have ample reserves of sailors, enough to sustain the long marches of the Knight Order.” Liszt squinted his eyes, “However, whether it’s necessary to do so remains to be seen.”

Emily looked up at Liszt, “Is there another way if we don’t do this?”

“There is.”

“Hm?”

“Mary recently reported to me that the Eagle Royal Family has had several secret meetings with the Steel Ridge Kingdom. It’s possible they may set aside past grievances and form an alliance.” Liszt’s intelligence came largely from the Blood Knights led by Mary Dawn Break and her numerous Blood Servants.

As the First Minister of National Defense, Emily, although not directly subordinate to Mary, was also privy to some information, “Does Your Majesty believe the Steel Ridge Kingdom would likely ally with the Eagle Kingdom and take a war stance against our country?”

“Maybe not against the Flame Kingdom, they could be targeting the Sapphire Duchy. Blood Servants have discovered rats from the Steel Ridge Kingdom flooding into the Sapphire Duchy in large numbers. Moreover, a considerable number of shipyards have been built in the northern seas of the Steel Ridge Kingdom, with a sizable fleet already assembled.”

In the past, kingdoms on land had no interest in the sea, with only the Eagle Kingdom plotting a dragon-slaying war to eliminate the pesky Sapphire Duchy and conspiring with the Bull Family to build a fleet.

However, since Liszt and Ach rose from the sea.

The perception that the sea was barren and desolate was quickly changed; the royal families of various nations have come to realize that there may indeed be resources above the vast sea. Thus, the Steel Ridge Royal Family also started to secretly prepare a fleet, ready to wage war across the sea at any moment and invade the Sea of Azure Waves — the Shell Sea is probably a place no one dares to touch.

“Building a fleet and sending out rats is indeed preparation for war. Your Majesty, I need to consult with Marquis Mary and then draw up war defense preparations,” said the adult Emily, who had become a qualified commander, “The Sapphire Duchy is the primary target, and Mind Island is directly in the line of fire.”

Mind Island holds a Magic Gate, an essential route for the Flame Kingdom to attack the Eagle Kingdom, one can imagine its strategic value.

A site coveted by all strategists.

At least the Eagle Royal Family certainly dreams of destroying Mind Island, destroying the Heart Reed Teleportation Formation, cutting off the Flame Kingdom’s eastern sea gateway.

“Mary will soon return from the Steel Ridge Kingdom, bringing with her the latest developments of the Steel Ridge Royal Family.”

“Should a maritime war break out, would the Steel Ridge Royal Family and the Eagle Royal Family dispatch Dragon Knights to initiate a new round of dragon-slaying wars?” As Emily spoke, a flicker of excitement sparkled in her eyes; since becoming a Dragon Knight, she had yet to participate in a true dragon-slaying war.

She had only trained a few times with Liszt... either Dragon Riding combat or engaging in close quarters battle.

Embracing Emily's slender and powerful waist, Liszt spoke with boundless pride, "Whether we initiate it or not does not matter. Whether it's a conventional naval battle or a dragon-slaying war, the outcome has already been decided. The sea has, and only has one master – and not just the Sea of Azure Waves or the Shell Sea, but the entire ocean!"

Emily gently rested her head on Liszt's shoulder, feeling his grand ambitions; her excitement subsided slightly, replaced by a surge of sweetness: "Yes, my King, Your Majesty."

...

The Punishment Order lasted for a full four months, from the beginning of August until the end of November.

Since the Eagle Kingdom continued to follow a strategy of non-resistance, Liszt unceremoniously stripped the land down to three feet, packing up and taking away all the population and materials on the land, even the unripe crops in the fields—since there was no one left here, there was no need to leave any resources behind.

After the war, a census was taken.

Eight hundred thousand people were plundered, of which feudal nobles were allocated two hundred thousand; the remaining six hundred thousand went to Liszt and his castle nobles.

The Greater Elves did not receive a single one, all having migrated away with the Nobles; the Little Minor Elves only received three.

The rest belonged to the elves owned by some smaller nobles.

"Overall, this year's harvest from the Punishment Order, other than being quite substantial in terms of population, none of the other aspects were as good as last year's Pioneer Mandate. The captives and newly recruited members of the Knight Class are mostly lesser nobles with poor talent and character," summarized Duke Li Weiliam of Tulip Island at an Outer Cabinet meeting.

"It seems that the Eagle Kingdom's move to migrate their Nobles has allowed them to minimize their losses considerably," sighed Duke Piero of Phoenix Tree Island.

“I’m disappointed to say that there may be nowhere left to carry out next year’s Punishment Order; we need to open up a new battleground,” said Marquis Dimaria of Pea Island eagerly. Without sufficient wars to achieve merit, how could he realize his dukedom?

“Perhaps targeting the Snowstorm Mountain Duchy could offer a breakthrough?”

“The civil war in Snowstorm Mountain Duchy has just ended, and with the support of the Dragon Knights from Yellowstone Kingdom, Duke Spot has successfully ascended the throne, now also acknowledged by the Cornflower Gem Dragon, making it difficult to control them at will. Moreover, their domestic resources aren’t abundant, and two rounds of Punishment Orders are likely to render the duchy non-existent.”

Liszt directly halted the ministers’ suggestions: “For now, we will mainly pursue peace with Snowstorm Mountain Duchy, focusing on conquering the Eagle Kingdom... Don’t worry, the march of war for the Flame Kingdom is ceaseless, and perhaps someone will actively provoke a new war.”

As if to validate Liszt’s foresight, just as the Flame Era First Year came to an end in November and December barely began, the Blood Servants reported an important piece of news.

The Eagle Kingdom and the Steel Ridge Kingdom had announced an alliance and issued a war mobilization order for the conquest of the Sapphire Duchy.

“The traitors must be punished; the Sapphire Family has betrayed the Steel Ridge Kingdom, betrayed their own master the Platinum Family; only blood and flame can cleanse the sins they have committed!”

With the issue of the mobilization order,  
the Sea of Azure Waves began to surge once more.