

The Mighty 481

Chapter 481 - Liszt on Pharmacology

The luncheon was quite sumptuous.

Even though the food at Tulip Castle wasn't exactly to Liszt's taste, he still devoured large amounts of Magical Beast Meat and a variety of dairy products.

"During the Pioneer Mandate Wars, it felt like I was starving every day. Back here, I can finally eat my fill without reserve," he said, rubbing his belly contentedly as he put down his fork.

Lady Penelope cheerily said, "From now on, we can't have a Sky Knight going hungry. The Tulip Family might not be as grand as the great Nobles, but we can certainly provide enough food."

Lady Marie also laughed, "As for the castle's food, as long as it suits your taste, you can eat as much as you want."

All eyes were on Liszt.

The Earl, feeling a bit jealous, said, "Mother, I've never had a proper meal on the battlefield either."

"You're not growing anymore, but Liszt is still growing. Look at him, every time I see him, he seems to have grown taller. Are you one meter ninety now?" Lady Penelope dismissed the Earl offhandedly and turned the conversation back to Liszt.

Liszt shook his head, "About one meter eighty-nine, and I feel like my height has stopped increasing. I think my final height will be around one meter ninety."

Levis enviously said, "A height of one meter ninety is more than enough. Too tall can be oppressive to others." He was only one meter eighty-five and was now shorter than Liszt by a whole head.

Li Vera chuckled and said, "In our family, Liszt has been favored by the knight's glory since his birth. You've inherited all the best attributes of the Tulip and Long Taro Families—height, looks, talent. I was very jealous when I was little, but now, I can hardly even reach your shadow."

"I believe that Levis, Li Vera, and Lidun have all inherited our family's talent. As long as the supply of resources keeps up, they all have the potential to advance to Sky Knight," Liszt replied.

Tossing a few words of praise cost him nothing, so he was happy to encourage his siblings in such an atmosphere.

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In the afternoon, Goltai arrived from Fresh Flower Town.

"My lord, I was overjoyed to the point of near insanity when I heard you advanced to Sky Knight," he remarked, showering exaggerated flattery upon their first meeting, "When I first followed you to Fresh Flower Town, I knew you were deeply favored by the knight's glory, the Son of Glory!"

Liszt maintained his smile.

Goltai's flattery continued unabated, "In less than two years, you've achieved honors that many Nobles couldn't in a lifetime. A Sky Knight at only seventeen—it's a tremendous joy for all the vassals of Black Horse Island Domain!"

It seemed Goltai might go on for half an hour if he wasn't stopped.

He had to interrupt, "Consultant Goltai, becoming a Sky Knight is indeed a cause for celebration, but right now I'm more interested in the domain's affairs. Has my Corn Minor Elf been born during these two months I've been away? Is everything smooth with the various industries of the domain?"

"The Corn Minor Elf hasn't been born yet, but it has reached the final stage of the Fat Pupa Stage, motionless. We can't guess whether it has evolved successfully, but it has not decayed and vanished, so I believe the time for it to emerge successfully should be soon."

"That's good to hear!"

Relieved, Liszt had been worrying about the Corn Minor Elf for some time now. The Elf Bug's Fat Pupa Stage is a critical point—failure means turning to ash; success means the minor elf breaks out of the cocoon. Though the Corn Minor Elf has yet to break out, it has not turned to ash and is diligently completing its evolution.

"What about the other matters?"

"The new Cordyceps on the Rubber Trees have spawned a large number of seedlings around their roots. Blair has already sent the Serfs to cultivate them within the influence of the cordyceps before the arrival of heavy snow. It seems these seedlings, under the influence of the cordyceps, will be able to safely get through the winter."

Goltai could now be considered a barely qualified domain consultant, mindful of most matters.

Overall, these past two months, the domain had not changed much, and there were no pleasing advancements in any industries—the lack of serfs made it difficult to maintain even the key industries, let alone those that had not yet been developed.

"Between the two batches of serfs, we lost over eight hundred people. The actual number of serfs who arrived safely is sixteen thousand three hundred and sixteen. Currently, eight thousand are settled in Fresh Flower Town, and another eight thousand are settled in the Port Town, yet to be assigned work and housing."

"Do we have enough houses for them to live in?"

"In accordance with your instructions before you left on the Pioneer Mandate, the carpentry workshop rushed to make a batch of 'bunk beds'. This way, eight serfs can live in a wooden house, barely accommodating everyone against the severe cold. However, we still don't have enough clothing, and many serfs are still freezing."

"Have the residents with spare clothes contribute their unused cotton garments first, then emergency purchase more from outside. We paid a high price to transport the serfs here,

and even if some were lost during the voyage, I hope that once they are on our domain, not a single one of them will die from hunger or cold."

"My lord, I will try my best to arrange it."

"Not try your best, you must make it happen," Liszt said sternly, shifting the responsibility of solving the problem to Goltai and other officials—the root of the problem lay in his own greed for bringing in too many serfs, resulting in a shortage of warm clothing.

Goltai pondered for a moment and then said, "My lord, if we frantically purchase clothing, there's a fear that the price of all cotton clothes and blankets on Coral Island will sharply increase."

"Even if the price goes up, we have to buy it. Don't be afraid to spend money, Consultant Goltai. I will figure out the finances. What you need to do is to follow my orders and complete the domain's construction. The money we spend now will be repaid many times over in the future. Black Horse Island and Fresh Flower Town have too many profitable industries."

"I understand." Goltai nodded. "This winter, I will get all the officials in our domain to take action and carry out your orders at all costs."

As a superior,

Liszt seldom involved himself in frontline work anymore. All he needed to do was to direct the domain's officials.

After a thorough discussion with Goltai, he stayed at Tulip Castle for the night, holding an all-night conversation with Levis, Li Vera, and Lidun to exchange their cultivation experiences.

He did not conceal his lesser abilities.

He explained any issues he encountered in his practice and shared some scientific methods to aid in cultivation with his siblings. After all, their improvement in strength held no disadvantages for him; they were always bonded by the same blood.

The greater the strength of the family, the more protection everyone enjoyed.

"There must be a method to Dou Qi cultivation, just as there must be a method to 'pill-consumption'. The reason for my rapid progression is nothing special - merely being good at summarizing and reflecting."

Liszt spoke as if he were a teacher, his words flowing smoothly: "What you are most concerned about must surely be 'pill-consumption'. Tonight I'll focus on explaining how to 'consume pills'... My knowledge of 'consuming pills' comes from my father, grandfather, and the multitude of books I've bought... Although everyone has a different way of doing it, careful observation reveals common principles."

He asked the servants to bring paper and a pen.

While speaking, he scribbled notes on the table, "These common principles, you can call them 'Liszt's Pill-Consumption Studies,' dedicated to the science of pill consumption... Always record your sensations post-consumption, understand how to flexibly design tables and draw curves to ultimately find the most suitable dosage."

He spoke earnestly.

Levis and the others listened with equal seriousness, their eyes occasionally shining—perhaps they believed that mastering Liszt's Pill-Consumption Studies would allow them to advance to Sky Knight as rapidly as Liszt had.

They were never to know

Just how many treasures Liszt possessed, and the kind of fortuitous encounters he had—the role that scientific 'pill-consumption' played in advancing to Sky Knight probably didn't even amount to one-tenth of the whole process.

Chapter 482 The Future Development Direction

Utilizing medicine is an indispensable method in knight training; without the aid of magic potions, it's very difficult to break the shackles of the human body and accommodate more Dou Qi to transform one's physique.

Scientifically utilizing medicine to achieve less than a tenth of the effect is already quite impressive.

"Even if Levis had not learned the science of medicine from me, he would have become a Sky Knight sooner or later. As the legitimate eldest son of the Tulip Family, it's impossible for him to remain at the Earth Knight stage all his life; as for Li Vera, it's hard to say. She still hasn't entered the elite stage, and the possibility of breaking through to Sky Knight seems rather small."

Knight training not only requires a great deal of resources but also a persistent heart.

Li Vera's diligence in training is not outstanding. Probably being a woman has limited her pursuit of strength. She'd rather spend lots of time accompanying Lady Penelope to watch farces than practice Dou Qi cultivation every day.

As for Lidun.

He's still young, not even an Earth Knight yet, so it's hard to judge his future achievements. However, he's only thirteen years old, and after the festive season, only fourteen. His talent is indeed not weaker than Levis was— as for Liszt, it's not good to compare; he was useless when he was young, but now he is astonishing.

A seventeen-year-old Sky Knight, such an exact record has not been seen before in the Duchy of Sapphire.

He obviously can't compare with the Dragon Knight candidates of the Continental Kingdoms, but within the nation, Liszt can already be bestowed with the title "unprecedented."

"Basically, this is all of Liszt's knowledge on medicine. In the near future, I'll take the time to write down my training experience into a manual to be passed down within the Tulip Family—"The Earth Chronicle of Liszt." You can borrow it to read when it's available. Normally, I am very busy and do not have the time to answer your questions."

Even the Earl doesn't have the time to attend to his children's training issues every day, being just a peer granted land, he's even less obligated to teach them.

To write a chronicle for the family's internal reference is already a significant act of responsibility.

After an overnight discussion, Liszt laid bare all his experiences of the Elite Earth Knight Stage. It wasn't until three o'clock in the morning that he dismissed the exchange meeting, took a bath, had a late-night snack, and then returned to his room to sleep.

The next day was another busy one.

The Earl had mentioned hosting a grand banquet for Liszt to celebrate his advancement to Sky Knight; thus, countless nobles from Coral Island were called to Tulip Castle to attend the celebration. The focus of the banquet, Liszt, was once again lauded all day long.

He drank until he was utterly drunk.

He didn't even carry out his evening practice.

As morning sunlight spilled through the window, he woke up with his body fully recovered and his head free of any hangover discomfort. During his morning wash, he shook off the tumultuous state of the past two days and began to organize his life plans for the future.

"Becoming a Sky Knight is just the beginning. I am now a Sky Knight of the ordinary level and need to continue training to advance to the Sword Saint level, the Completion Level, and ultimately succeed in dragon riding to become the Dragon Knight of my dreams," he said as he washed his face with cold water, finding it more comfortable in the dead of winter.

The biting cold water had no effect on him; a Sky Knight with a robust physique had a strong resistance to all kinds of temperature and weather.

But the cold nonetheless sharpened his thoughts, "Concerning my training, there are three points to consider at the moment. One is the development of Dragon Dou Qi, and how to nurture the sprouting Magic Fire Seed is an unavoidable subject; another is the cultivation of the Advanced Dou Qi Manual, where I must quickly catch up with flying and combat."

He took a towel passed by a servant and wiped his face.

He was still reflecting, "Another is the issue of medicine for Sky Knights. In the Elite Earth Knight stage, medicine is a necessary means of training. But as a Sky Knight, medicine remains an essential method of training, and I must formulate a new medicine plan as soon as possible."

Dou Qi Cultivation could be described as rowing upstream; if you don't advance, you fall back.

That's why even after becoming a Sky Knight, medicine cannot be stopped, and the dosage of medicine will be even greater.

Unlike magicians, who rely on meditation to gather free magic power from the air and can afford to live in isolation to focus on studying the Truth, knights produce and consume their own Dou Qi. When knights ruled the world, the consumption of Dou Qi necessitated the continual draining of resources.

And so, war was born.

"The magic potions in my territory, obviously the quantity planted is not enough, pity that there aren't enough elves to expand the cultivation of magic potions... This expenditure will definitely be huge in the future, and the most appropriate method to cope at the moment is to expand the scale of Flame Mushrooms and Ice Snow Flame Mushrooms cultivation."

His territory boasted five kinds of magic potion cultivation projects: Black Tulip, Rapid Growth Magic Thorn, Flame Mushroom, Ice Snow Flame Mushroom, and Auxiliary Medicine Dragon Mallow.

However, for Black Tulips, Rapid Growth Magic Thorns, and Auxiliary Medicine Dragon Mallows, elf blessings are necessary; otherwise, it's impossible to cultivate these magic potions.

Only Flame Mushrooms and Ice Snow Flame Mushrooms could have their cultivation scale continuously expanded.

"Taking advantage of the incoming cold current, this winter at least five hundred acres of Ice Snow Flame Mushrooms and a thousand acres of Flame Mushrooms should be planted! In the future, I hope that the Flame Mushrooms can quickly expand to a scale of ten thousand acres... There are many serfs brought in, and I have enough manpower to learn how to cultivate Flame Mushrooms."

Cultivating Flame Mushrooms requires a lot of materials.

But the expense of buying those materials is negligible compared to the value of the magic potions. The only constraint is the cultivation technique—ordinary serfs have no clue about how to plant mushrooms—fortunately, Liszt has always been promoting the apprentice system on his territory, and the serfs of Mushroom Hamlet have begun to take on apprentices.

This way, the mushroom cultivation technique gradually spread.

"In addition, Thorn Minor Elf Jela should be fully assigned to plant Rapid Growth Magic Thorns, and as for Rapid Growth Iron Thorns, they should be cultivated like ordinary timber. Thanks to their rapid growth property, they still have a significant advantage over ordinary timber. Anyway, the carpenter workshops are not a very profitable business."

Furniture of ironwood quality is still in high demand, but with each noble's territory having its own carpenters, it's difficult to sell furniture from the workshops at a high price.

The volume of sales also couldn't expand, and the techniques were quickly learned by other carpenters.

Therefore.

From a cost and benefit analysis, Liszt hoped to develop those industries with high return rates in his territory, such as Fresh Flower Brew, Fresh Flower Soap, and the soon-to-be-produced glass—the master craftsmen at the Fire Dragon Brick Factory had been researching glass technology for several months and could produce barely passable glass products.

There were still a lot of impurities and color defects, but it didn't prevent them from being sold at appropriate prices.

"The magical beast breeding industry must also be quickly unfolded. The Mangrove Forest-Green Caterpillar-Green-headed Duck industry chain must expand its scale as soon as possible. Have Ach bring Nami to create more mangrove habitats; Tridacna and Fen Hai Luo should also best begin aquaculture, especially proactively 'cultivating' pearls."

No one knows how to cultivate the Pink Pearls of Fen Hai Luo, but Black Pearls can be induced by placing sand or similar impurities in small shells of Tridacna.

In the end.

When the washing up was complete, and he had already walked to the dining room, preparing to enjoy breakfast,

Liszt finally sorted out his territory's three major future target industries—the high-margin manufacturing industries that generate cash flow, like glass and spirits etc.; the magic potion cultivation industry that supplies his need for taking drugs, such as various magic potions and auxiliary medicines; the breeding industry that supplies his daily consumption of food, like Dragon Breed Cows, Green-headed Ducks, and Fen Hai Luo, etc.

Everything else can wait.

Only these three industries must be vigorously developed.

Drinking the Dragon Breed Milk sent over by the knights of Fresh Flower Town yesterday, Liszt thought for a moment, then decided he would first return to his territory before attending this year's Pioneer Mandate celebration and the feoffment ceremony—he missed his own castle, the elves living in the castle, and the Sea Sprite Ake.

Chapter 483 Corn Above the Head

Now on Coral Island, Liszt could go wherever he wanted without anyone being able to stop him, especially when it was a return to his own territory. Declining the banquet invitations from his noble colleagues, he led Retainer Knights directly to Fresh Flower Town at a fast pace.

The significantly grown Landwalker bird Loki finally had the chance to fully release itself.

"Take Douson and the Eight Tiny Ones back to Fresh Flower Town, I'll go ahead alone, no need to follow me!" he instructed the Retainers and servants, then calmed the Blizzard Beasts and mounted Loki, who started running like the wind.

"Faster, Loki!"

"Clatter!"

The intelligent Landwalker bird understood many of Liszt's commands. Immediately it broke into a sprint, its approximately 1.7 meters tall legs were like stilts, exceptionally stable, and even when running so fast that only the afterimages of its legs were visible, it still remained unruffled.

The wind howled past his ears.

By Liszt's estimation, Loki's speed at the moment was at least over 300 kilometers per hour because it had been only twenty minutes since they left Tulip Castle before they saw a small town on the outskirts of North Valley City—a distance of less than a hundred kilometers from Tulip Castle to North Valley City.

"Originally, when Loki did not use magic, its top speed was 200 kilometers per hour, and it could only maintain that for ten minutes; now it can reach 300 kilometers per hour and sustain it for twenty minutes," Liszt silently calculated as he watched Loki, whose speed had noticeably decreased as it reached its physical limits.

He let Loki rest for a while in the small woods beside the road.

Gave it some wheat grains and water.

After a quarter of an hour, Loki started clattering again, announcing that its strength had been restored. Liszt then continued to ride it to complete other data measurements.

A vertical leap from a standstill measured six meters high and thirty-five meters in length.

A sprinting leap reached eight and a half meters high and ninety meters long.

Such data were already impeccable. However, when Liszt permitted Loki to use the Light Body Skill, its statistics became even more astonishing—the running speed peaked at 500 kilometers per hour, like a flash of lightning, Loki swiftly traveled from North Valley City to Fresh Flower Town.

They stopped by the edge of the Thorn Forest at Thorn Ridge.

During the sprint leap, the height reached a staggering twenty meters, with the horizontal span exceeding two hundred meters—it almost looked like low-altitude flying.

"Sky Knights can soar a hundred meters into the sky, Loki is slightly behind, but its speed is faster; it's almost my perfect mount... If only it could fly, it's a pity those long wings still haven't learned how to fly," Liszt thought proudly, yet with a hint of regret.

The inability to fly was always a flaw.

When he rode Loki onto Douson Avenue, the Patrol Team quickly spotted him, and the news swiftly spread throughout the town. At the Castle gates, Butler Carter was already hurriedly leading the servants to welcome the master's return.

"Welcome home, master."

"It's been a while, Mr. Carter, Mrs. Morson, and all you ladies and gentlemen," Liszt greeted the servants with a smile.

He handed over Loki to be led away for feeding and entered the Castle while chatting with Butler Carter.

Without any delay, he headed straight for the Worm Room.

"Woah!"

"Woah!"

Jela, already aware through Mind Connection that Liszt was home, flew out, shouting at Liszt—it was unsatisfied with Liszt's lengthy absence, though amidst the displeasure was joy for his return.

"Jela, it's been a while."

He patted the small thorns on Jela's head and settled it onto his shoulder.

Then he saw the Corn Grass Bugs in the Fat Pupa Stage that had been carefully protected. The originally greenish-yellow bugs had now turned grey-yellow, their skins dull and motionless.

But Liszt could sense the strong vitality throbbing beneath their skin.

He cast his Eye of Magic, and saw the chaotic magic power suddenly boil like water, continuously forming bubbles. Bubbles burst one after another, followed by indescribable changes in nature. The Corn Grass Bug, already huge in its Fat Pupa Stage, also swelled up in an instant.

Excitement flowed from it, deeply affecting Liszt's emotions.

Butler Carter stood behind him, witnessing the transformation, and exclaimed, "Master, has it evolved successfully?"

"Yes, Jela's birth was just like this!" Liszt said with a radiant smile, truly a complete surprise; his Corn Grass Bug had started its final evolution just as he returned.

Time trickled by.

The Corn Grass Bug had grown as thick as a calf's leg.

And then.

As if sensing something, he suddenly widened his pupils and saw the Corn Grass Bug's grayish-yellow skin turn pale and suddenly split open. A tender, pale yellow little hand

emerged from beneath the skin, followed by an arm, and then a plump little head poked out.

There was also a small corn cob on top of its head.

The exquisitely beautiful Minor Elf had revealed its face.

With curiosity about the world, it looked around and finally fixed its gaze on Liszt, opened its little mouth, and cried out crisply, "Chirp." Its cry, different from Jela's clearer sound, was somewhat similar to Nami's delicate voice.

"Wow!"

Jela, seeing the newborn Minor Elf, quickly flew up, wanting to pounce towards it.

But Liszt grabbed her and placed her on a table beside him, issuing a "do not move" command, and she pursed her lips in disappointment.

Afterward.

Liszt smiled and waved at the newborn Minor Elf.

The Corn Minor Elf then crawled out from the ruined skin, its chubby body wobbled, and a pair of transparent wings unfolded, it took flight, circling the room once before landing on Liszt's palm: "Chirp."

The husk the Corn Grass Bug left behind.

Before Liszt could touch it, it turned to dust and vanished without a trace.

"Such a gentle Minor Elf, I can feel your tranquil heart," he mused, looking at his third Minor Elf, his emotions brimming, "Mr. Carter, look, isn't it incredibly beautiful?"

"Yes, Master, it's unbelievably beautiful; I feel so fortunate to have witnessed the birth of a new Minor Elf in my lifetime," Mr. Carter said, his voice choked with emotion. The birth of the Thorn Minor Elf was a surprise, the Mangrove Minor Elf he had only heard about, apparently, it was reared outside.

Now this Corn Minor Elf, he had witnessed its entire birth process.

He regarded Liszt as his dearest person, happy for Liszt's growth, and he couldn't help but shed tears of joy for Liszt having a new Minor Elf.

"Wow!"

Jela cried out from the table.

But neither Liszt nor Carter paid attention to it, still admiring the pale yellow, incredibly beautiful Corn Minor Elf—it should be called the Corn Grass Minor Elf, but following the successive births of Stick Corn, Oil Corn, and Corn, "Corn" had become a large family.

This year's harvest of Grain Corn, Oil Corn, and Stick Corn seeds had already been saved, waiting for extensive promotion and cultivation in the next spring planting season.

Though their effects were yet unclear, there was no doubt that all three types of corn were excellent.

Even if the variety wasn't great, the Corn Grass itself was high-quality forage.

The Corn Minor Elf had significant value.

Carter quietly wiped the tears from the corner of his eyes and composed himself before asking, "Master, have you decided on a name for it?"

Chapter 484 The Cover-Sliding Maniac Reappears

The name of the Corn Minor Elf had not yet been decided by Liszt.

The name of Thorn Minor Elf Jela stemmed from "Rise of the Thorns," while the name of Mangrove Minor Elf Nami came from "Tidecaller." Both were heroes from "League of Legends", but it seemed there were no heroes related to corn.

"It's not that there are none, for the explosives expert Jiggs does have a connection with corn—explosions, popcorn. However, Jiggs as a name is not flashy enough, nor is it solid or vivid. Besides, I remember the steward of the Fruit Thief Monkey Training Ground is called Jiggs, so to use that name again would be awkward."

Therefore.

After thinking for a long time and not finding a suitable name, he simply made a random decision, "Just call it... Mickey."

Why it was named Mickey, Liszt did not know. He had just thought of this name and decided to use it for the Corn Minor Elf—generally in noble families, minor elves do not have names, and they are directly called by their Cordyceps names since there are too many of them.

However, the Tulip Family had not yet reached such an affluent state, so every minor elf had a name.

Naturally, Liszt also named his own minor elves.

"My lord, I will spread the news of Mickey's birth immediately," said Carter, somewhat eagerly. The birth of a minor elf was clearly another glorious occasion worth a grand celebration.

"Go ahead."

However, before Carter could leave, the officials of the town hurriedly arrived at the castle. Isaiah, leading the officials, had received the patrol member's notification and quickly rushed to the castle.

"Mr. Carter, is the lord in the castle?"

"Gentlemen, the lord is currently welcoming the birth of the Corn Minor Elf Mickey. I was just about to inform you all."

"What? The Corn Minor Elf has been born?" The informed officials exclaimed in surprise, "My goodness, knightly glory has favored us, one marvelous event following another, all the glory converging upon the great lord we follow!"

Just at that moment.

Liszt came down from the second floor.

On each shoulder was perched a minor elf. On his left shoulder sat a snow-white, pouting, and angry Thorn Minor Elf Jela; on his right shoulder was a pale yellow Corn Minor Elf Mickey, with a face of curiosity about its surroundings. It was a pity Nami wasn't there; otherwise, there might have been one on top of his head as well.

"Praise the lord!"

"Praise the lord!"

The officials quickly started bowing and saluting.

Liszt said with a smile, "There is no need for such formalities. Let's save the celebrations for the banquet later. Right now, I am more concerned with the development of the estate, especially the arrival of the new serfs, and the arrangements for the knights and their families."

Isaiah stepped forward, "My lord, the knights that were taken in have already been led to Black Horse Island by Captain Marcus. Except for a few Earth Knight instructors who remained in Fresh Flower Town, the other knights have gone to Black Horse Island. Consultant Goltai also went to Black Horse Island to settle the knights."

"Then how are the serfs in Fresh Flower Town arranged?"

"Following your instructions, Fresh Flower Town did not continue to reclaim wasteland. Most of the Cordyceps has been gradually moved to Black Horse Island, so the new serfs

in Fresh Flower Town are only temporarily arranged to live there, and tasked with repairing roads and wooden houses. They will gradually move to the new town on Black Horse Island to farm once it is built."

"You officials must ensure the procurement of supplies, to guarantee that the serfs can survive this winter. I will find a way to handle the matter of Gold Coins."

"Yes, my lord."

After receiving compliments from everyone and discussing government affairs for half an hour, Liszt dismissed the officials. It just so happened that the retainers and servants had already led the Blizzard Beasts back to Fresh Flower Town, so Liszt arranged for the Blizzard Beasts to be placed in dog kennels before leaving the castle for the Magic Workshop.

He was in dire need of Magic Potions and urgently required Chris Truth to provide a new batch of them.

He also came here to collect those Magic Books—having given Chris many Gold Coins to purchase Magic Books, the pursuit of the achievement of the Cover-Sliding Maniac would continue.

What if a new Dou Qi Secret Technique is hidden within the cover of one book?

Sliding the cover doesn't do any harm.

When he arrived at the Magic Workshop, Chris wasn't working, but sitting on a rocking chair in the cold wind, looking at a withering tree not far away, watching its last leaf fall.

"What are you thinking about?"

Liszt's voice interrupted Chris's reverie.

She hurried to her feet, "Viscount, have you returned? I heard you successfully advanced to a Sky Knight, praise the lord, it is an impressive achievement indeed."

"With both talent and hard work, becoming a Sky Knight is only natural," Liszt said indifferently. In his own territory, he didn't need to be modest.

"Viscount, are you here to take the magic potion?"

"I came to see you, to check on your training progress, and incidentally to take some magic books back for viewing. Only then will I take the magic potion," he said. Of course, his goal was the magic potion. But when speaking, there was no need to be so blunt; he could adjust the order appropriately.

A flash of surprise crossed Chris's face, then she replied, "Recently, I've been a bit unsettled, as if my understanding of the Magic Array has reached a critical point. But there are a few places that I don't quite understand, which need more careful thought."

"Don't be anxious. If there are any difficulties, you can tell me. I may not be a magician, but I can consult with other magicians."

"If I really can't solve it, I will ask for your help, Viscount."

"So, how many magic books did Mr. Elkeson sell?"

"I spent a total of thirty Gold Coins to buy three boxes of magic books, mostly theoretical notes. I also spent one hundred and thirty-six Gold Coins to purchase four types of advanced magic, along with eight types of common magic, among them was a high-level Light Magic - Shadow Projection, worth forty Gold Coins."

These magic books were directly handed over to a servant to carry to the castle.

Only then did they start to transfer the magic potions. Chris was very fast at making magic potions, as long as the materials could keep up, and the losses during production were quite low. However, it was clear that the magic potion materials produced by the domain were still too few. The potions she had made recently accounted for only a small batch.

It wouldn't be enough for even half a month's training for Liszt.

Therefore, he still needed to spend Gold Coins to buy potions from outside, even though it was painful. But for the sake of training, it was a necessary expenditure – fortunately, the final payment for the sale of the Black Pearls would be received soon, as well as the earnings from the Fresh Flower Brew. The production of glass was also on the agenda.

Otherwise, Liszt would really struggle to face the gold-devouring maw of his domain's construction.

...

He took the magic potions.

Returned to the castle.

Liszt immediately began the Cover-Sliding Maniac achievement. The castle's library was now full to the brim with shelves upon shelves of books, looking like the study of a learned scholar.

But in reality, besides the covers showing creases, half of all the knight's novels and magic books were brand new.

One book, two books, three books... He was like a busy little bee, constantly slicing open covers, searching for possible hidden layers and metallic papers.

Hoping to find another Dou Qi Secret Technique.

Unfortunately, his hopes were dashed by the time he sat down for dinner, having sliced open the cover of every book with no hidden layers found.

He sighed, "Without the guidance of a Smoke Mission, it indeed isn't reliable. It seems I must set off for Black Horse Island immediately tomorrow, outline the new town, and complete this phase of the Smoke Mission."

Chapter 485 Ach and the Sea Elf Bugs

The banquet was lively, although officials and knights from Black Horse Island did not appear, the officials and knights from Fresh Flower Town alone were enough to keep the castle bustling all night.

However.

On his own territory, Liszt seldom drank, his dignity became ever more palpable, and when he did not wish to drink, his followers dared not urge him to do so.

There was another matter worth mentioning at the banquet.

His personal guard Paris formally pledged her loyalty to him, becoming one of the many followers. Liszt personally appointed her as the captain of the Black Horse Island Patrol Knight Order—Paris's strength ensured that even if the Earth Knights envied her high position, they dared not provoke her.

After all, she was one of the few in the territory with the strength of an Elite Earth Knight, a force to be reckoned with even among veteran Elite Earth Knights.

Even though Paris was a woman.

This world did not adhere to concepts such as the three obediences and four virtues; female knights were not few in number, and women's status in society was not necessarily much worse than men's. However, in the high-end combat forces, there were few women, with most women taking on the roles of managing territories.

Men charged into battle, while women managed estates.

This was the standard arrangement.

Paris, having become a follower, was already preparing to pack her things. She would set off early the next morning to follow Liszt to Black Horse Island, where she would settle for a long period to come, taking up her duties.

Looking at Paris, who had already adopted the form of address between superior and subordinate when speaking.

Liszt felt somewhat melancholic. The knightly system was a society with very clear distinctions between superior and inferior, and here the definition of "friend" was more like a partner who could bring mutual benefits. Since Liszt arrived in this world, he had not really made a single true friend.

Butler Carter was his confidant, closer than family but not a friend.

Consultant Goltai was his teacher as well as an advisor to the territory, but only a follower. Captain Marcus, likewise a teacher, was also a follower.

Levis was a brother, Meioubao a cousin; neither could be considered friends.

Sea Sprite Ake was his sister but honestly, their relationship was somewhere between siblings and lovers, even carrying a twisted sense of owner and pet, yet it was certainly not friendship.

Only Paris, with her initial disdain for nobles, could have developed into a friend.

Alas, sometimes due to gender attraction, vague ambiguities can arise, making normal communication difficult to maintain over time. But to cross that line was not the result Liszt desired; he had no such considerations at the moment, and so he decisively cut the Gordian knot.

He did not want to become entangled in emotional affairs.

Dragon-riding was the focus of his life.

...

After the banquet ended, he took Douson and the two little minor elves with him to the Sea View Villa.

The villa's lights were still on, yet Ake's figure did not appear. He blew the horn for quite some time, still without response from Ake.

"Ake doesn't know where she's gone off to, it seems I won't see her tonight."

But just as he was about to turn back, familiar horn sounds rang out from the sea—Ake responding. Moments later, Liszt saw the greatly missed sea sprite, still as beautiful as ever, untouched by the passage of time.

"Brother!"

Ake flung herself directly into Liszt's arms.

Her petite yet full figure sparked an inappropriate reaction in Liszt instantaneously—even in winter, Ake needed no clothes, her body was somewhat cool but very soft. She had already mastered the skill of manipulating water streams, avoiding getting Liszt's clothes wet upon contact.

Therefore.

During the embrace, it was as if the water streams did not exist, and her body pressed tightly against Liszt's clothes.

...

With that thought, Liszt felt his body about to lose control and could only recite "a minimum of three years, up to the death penalty" in his head while circulating his Dou Qi to suppress his bodily reactions. It took quite an effort before he finally managed to keep himself under control and did not reveal the restlessness in his heart.

"Chirp."

The Mangrove Minor Elf was flying nearby, and seeing Ake happy, it too became cheerful.

However, its expression quickly froze because it saw Thorn Minor Elf Jela, her face full of malevolence, staring at it with her eyes wide open and fists clenched, her threatening intent unmistakable.

This made Nami involuntarily recall the first time they met when Jela had roughly slapped it.

Leaving behind a deeply ingrained shadow.

It shrunk its neck and lay down on Ake's back, warily casting glances at Jela. Then, it shifted its gaze towards another Minor Elf, Mickey the Corn Minor Elf.

Mickey was a gentle Minor Elf, and after chirping "chirp, chirp" a few times, slowly flew towards Nami. Then, the two Minor Elves circled each other, drawing circles in a clearly friendly first encounter. But that was limited to just a friendly greeting.

Elves are not social creatures, nor do they possess abundant social emotions.

They are more dependent on their contracted masters.

...

"Brother, Ake has so many things to tell you."

After the embrace, they could finally have a normal conversation, and Ake quickly bounced around excitedly, taking out five Elf Bugs from a seashell as if presenting treasures!

"This..." Liszt was so surprised he was almost at a loss for words.

The five Elf Bugs were laid out on the table, colored yellow-brown, purple-brown, pink, greenish-yellow, and dark brown. All were roughly similar, with two small gills behind their heads suitable for living in water.

"Ake, where did you get so many Elf Bugs? Have you contracted them all?"

"These are all Elf Bugs from the deep sea, so Ake contracted them. However, Ake also found two more Elf Bugs in the Mangrove Forest by the sea, waiting for Brother to contract them."

Five contracted.

Two uncontracted.

That is to say, Ake had already brought him seven Elf Bugs. Adding Nami and that Kelp Bug, in such a short time, Ake had brought him one Minor Elf and eight Elf Bugs, practically wholesaling Elves. However, Liszt soon realized he had misunderstood one of the Elf Bugs.

The yellow-brown one was the previous Kelp Bug.

Ake also brought the remaining four Elf Bugs, showing what their corresponding marine plants looked like.

The purple-brown Elf Bug originated from a wrinkled sheet-like algae which looked a bit like the seaweed Liszt had eaten in seaweed egg soup—this Elf Bug could be called "Laver Bug" for now.

The pink Elf Bug originated from a translucent, gelatinous red plant that grew on rocks, resembling red flowers blooming on the rocks, probably also a kind of algae—this Elf Bug could be called "Redstone Flower Bug" for now.

The greenish-yellow Elf Bug originated from a kind of algae often seen in the waters of Fresh Flower Town, which the fishermen of Oyster Village call horsetail algae—this Elf Bug could naturally be called "Horsetail Bug".

The dark brown Elf Bug could also be found on the rocks at the seaside when the tide was low, known to the fishermen as ink horn algae—this Elf Bug should be named "Inkangle Bug".

Kelp Bug, Laver Bug, Redstone Flower Bug, Horsetail Bug, Inkangle Bug.

Five marine Elf Bugs expanded Liszt's horizons: "These marine Elf Bugs all seem to have gills, and they all originate from algae plants? Are Elf Bugs born from algae plants all like this?"

There was no way to start the marine breeding industry for now.

Liszt then asked Ake, "Where are the other two Elf Bugs?"

"One is in Nami's hometown, in the Mangrove Forest of Mangrove Island, a newly bred Elf Bug. The other is in the seas farther north of Black Horse Island, where there is also a very small island with a large mangrove forest. It was Nami who discovered that Elf Bug."

...

Chapter 486 Six New Towns on Black Horse Island

They chatted until midnight.

It was then that he finally understood Ach had not spent much of the past two months studying magic arrays, but instead, had been searching for elf bugs in the vast ocean. The ocean was much broader than the land, with depths that could reach thousands of kilometers; Ach only swam in the shallow areas about a hundred meters deep, where it was hard to find plants in the deeper waters.

The laver bug, the redstone flower bug, and the inkangle bug were not discovered near Black Horse Island but found in the waters near Coral Island.

Now, their cordyceps had been transferred by Ach to the waters around Black Horse Island.

While the horsetail bug was found in the waters near Fresh Flower Town, it, too, had been moved to the vicinity of Black Horse Island by Ach.

"Ach, I really appreciate your hard work in searching for the elf bugs in the sea, but be careful. After all, there are many sea monsters in the ocean. You can hunt the low-level sea monsters, but the intermediate ones are very dangerous, not to mention the advanced and even the super sea monsters."

"Brother, Ach has become very strong and can deal with intermediate sea monsters!"

"No matter what, don't be reckless, understand?" Liszt squeezed Ach's nose, "I'd rather you seriously study magic arrays so that when the era of great sea voyages comes, you can help me navigate the seas without hindrance, or even become a water mage sooner."

Ach nodded earnestly, "Brother, Ach understands. Ach will definitely study hard, strive to become stronger, and help Brother navigate safely on the sea."

"That's my good Ach."

...

The next morning, Liszt took the Fresh Flower Vessel to Black Horse Island.

When passing by Mangrove Island, he directly steered a sampan around the mangrove forest to observe. As Ach had ordered, the mangrove minor elves warmly received Liszt and showed him the location of their cordyceps and elf bugs.

This was Nami's first appearance in the presence of outsiders.

It caused many exclamations of surprise.

However, many people in the territory already knew about the existence of the mangrove minor elf, so there was no excessive shock. Soon, under Nami's guidance, Liszt found the elf bug basking in the sun. Its cordyceps was a small tree in the mangrove forest, close to the seaside.

Hanging on it were long, bar-shaped fruits.

"Is this an autumn range tree?"

Liszt recognized it at a glance. This type of tree is a very common species in mangrove forests. In fact, most of the mangrove forests cultivated at the mouth of the Red River are planted with seeds of the autumn range tree because it is a viviparous species with seedlings developing directly on the tree. Once gathered, they could easily be transplanted elsewhere.

The fruits of the autumn range tree are inedible, bitter, poisonous, and even less useful than Nami's mangroves, their only purpose being to contribute seedlings and provide material for the expansion of the mangrove forest.

But no matter what,

The contract still needed to be made.

After sprinkling jade powder to entice the green elf bug to lick it, he extended his finger, and with a peck, the contract was successful. This became the twenty-seventh elf bug Liszt had contracted—he had contracted a total of twenty-nine, among which the thorn bug and the corn grass bug had already evolved into minor elves.

The five elf bugs contracted by Ach were not included in this count.

"Captain Kostor, do not head to Black Horse Port, continue north. My mangrove minor elf told me there's another small island north of Black Horse Island that has new elf bugs."

"The archmage's minor elves are truly remarkable, able to discover new elf bugs!" Captain Kostor exclaimed in admiration and continued sailing north.

As dusk approached, following the reminders of Ach aboard the Fresh Flower Vessel, we finally found that small island.

The island was very small, even a little smaller than Mangrove Island, and its mangrove forest wasn't as large as the one on Mangrove Island. However, it was home to many birds, most of which were seagulls.

"We should drive the seagulls away and continue to breed Green Caterpillars and Green-headed Ducks here," said Liszt, standing at the bow of the ship. With a casual wave of his hand, he decided the future of the island, "Let's call it Seagull Island, after all, since we've taken over their habitat, we ought to leave a bit of a commemoration."

"My lord, you are always so generous and kind."

"Heh heh."

Liszt chuckled lightly. Captain Kostor was seriously brown-nosing, but to his ears, it sounded somewhat ironic—taking over the seagulls' habitat and only preserving a name, what does that have to do with generosity or kindness.

No matter.

Soon, Nami led him to the location of the Elf Bug, saving him the time it would have taken to use the Eye of Magic to observe. Cordyceps was also a small tree, a common species in the mangrove forest, marked as "Sheep-horn Fruit Tree." Although it was a fruit tree, the seeds of its fruit were poisonous.

Its main use was the leaves, which could be used as fodder to feed livestock and poultry such as cows, sheep, horses, pigs, chickens, ducks, geese, and so on.

The plants of the mangrove forest were basically not of much value.

Thus.

He quickly spread Jade Powder on himself and contracted the Sheep-horn Fruit Bug, making it the twenty-eighth Elf Bug in Liszt's hands: "No matter if they are useful or not, at least they can expand the range of the mangrove forest, providing habitat for the breeding of Green Caterpillars and Green-headed Ducks, which is already a benefit."

...

Finally, at night, the Fresh Flower Vessel entered Black Horse Port.

The port town officials, under the leadership of Goltai, quickly organized a grand bonfire party to welcome the arrival of Liszt.

Liszt also took the opportunity to encourage the officials of the territory.

And he inquired about the living arrangements of the Knights who had been incorporated in Black Horse Island, urging them to integrate as soon as possible and to contribute their light and warmth to the construction of the territory. After the bonfire party, without resting, Liszt immediately convened a territory meeting. All the Knights holding governmental positions participated in the meeting.

The main agenda of the meeting was divided into two parts: one was the officials reporting on the construction situation, and the other was the new town planning.

There was nothing new in the reporting content—Goltai had already made a report once.

His primary purpose was to determine the new town's plan.

Blair had been in charge of this matter, so he explained the planning scheme prepared by the officials: "My lord, the population of Black Horse Island is counted as twenty thousand. According to the capacity of a small town for five thousand people, we need to build three new towns. But in order to ensure we can accommodate more residents in the future, we have planned six new towns."

Hearing this.

Liszt couldn't help but nod his head, he had always advocated that officials should have foresight, not just focusing on the present.

They needed to look to the distant future, from an overall perspective, to think about how the territory should be developed and built. Now, the new town scheme presided over by Blair was quite good. Six new towns, along with the continuously developing port town, were enough to accommodate forty to fifty thousand people, satisfying the development needs of Black Horse Island for several years.

Seeing Liszt nodding his head.

Blair was quite excited, which meant his scheme was preliminarily approved: "We plan to build the second town at the northwest corner of the island, which is the location of New Harbor... The third town is planned to be located between Sheep Grass Hill and Needle Grass Hill, serving as a hub entering Black Horse Ranch."

Chapter 487 Jela's Furious Outburst

The planning scheme for the six new towns went through continuous revisions and was eventually confirmed and passed by Liszt. According to this plan, the future administrative division of Black Horse Island was already clearly defined.

The southernmost town was the port town, adjacent to Black Horse Port, and it was set to be upgraded into a port city, serving as the central city on Black Horse Island, with Liszt's new castle situated on the outskirts of the city. This city would concentrate most of the territory's industries, becoming a modern industrial city.

The most northwestern town was New Harbor Town, neighboring the yet-to-be-developed New Harbor, and also had the potential to be upgraded into a city. It would serve as the starting point for Liszt's exploration of the Sea of Azure Waves and the Devil's Sea.

The southwesternmost town was Green Tea Town, located at the foot of Ice Grass Hill, with vast lands planned for green tea plantations. The future development of this small town would mainly focus on the green tea business.

The easternmost town was Red River Town, situated at the mouth of the Red River, with the mangrove forest nearby. The future development of this town would primarily revolve around the industry of green caterpillars and green-headed ducks.

The valley between Sheep Grass Hill and Needle Grass Hill held Horse Ranching Town, neighboring Black Horse Ranch. The town's future development would mainly concentrate on ranching.

The valley between Alfalfa Hill and Ice Grass Hill was to be Thorn Town. In the future, Thorn Garden would move here, and naturally, the town's development would focus on thorn planting.

To the west was Grain Town, situated in the valley between Alfalfa Hill and Sheep Grass Hill, with plans to open up large-scale grain farms, serving as the food base of Black Horse Island.

If one more town, Fresh Flower Town, which was the main trading town with the potential to upgrade into a trading city, were to be counted,

then Liszt's territorial planning would consist of a structure with eight small towns at its core. The knights didn't have enough merits to be granted fiefs just yet; everything in the

territory was still his property—any future grants of small towns or villages would be to places that were impoverished and undeveloped.

With the scheme set, the next step was to arrange the construction.

The idle labor force of serfs would be mobilized this winter, ensuring enough food and warm clothing to make sure the projects wouldn't be delayed too much during winter.

The territory officers had already accumulated construction techniques for winter and knew how to arrange work and rest reasonably.

Liszt was not stingy; he immediately decided to start by planning several baths for men and women in the port town and other towns that were ready to be constructed in winter, using the heat from Fire Dragon Magic Power to help the serfs drive away the chilly air from a day's work.

With this settled,

after the evening meeting dispersed,

Liszt summoned the Smoke Mission and found that the mission was already completed.

"Mission accomplished, reward: a pea that produces rhizobia."

Subsequently, a new mission was issued: "Mission: With the successive arrivals of the Mangrove Minor Elves and the Corn Minor Elves, the Thorn Minor Elf feels its status is threatened, only able to vent its anger through inappropriate means such as violence. Please guide it to properly channel its anger. Reward: An Elf Bug."

"Hmm, venting Jela's anger..." Liszt's eyebrows rose, looking at the mission reward and connecting it with the content of the mission, he vaguely had an idea, "Should I tell it to release its anger in farming to earn my best affection? Or perhaps influence thorns to breed a new Elf Bug?"

Whether a minor elf can affect the birth of a similar Elf Bug is uncertain.

However, based on observations from the Tulip Family, there is at least some influence—Tulip Castle not only had one Tulip Great Elf, but also two Tulip Lesser Spirits (one was given to Li Vera) and eight Tulip Bugs (two were given to Li Vera).

Additionally, there was a Tulip Bug given to Liszt.

That is to say, the Tulip Family clearly had an abnormal number of Tulip Elves, which was certainly related to the family's massive cultivation of tulips, but the influence of other Greater and Little Minor Elves on each other could not be discounted.

"Regardless, I have to guide Jela to channel its hot temper into farming to prevent it from bothering Mickey. It would be best if it can really help bring about a new Thorn Bug. With one more Thorn Bug, I could plant more than a hundred acres of Rapid Growth Magic Thorns."

Jela would plant eight hundred acres of Rapid Growth Magic Thorns, and a new Thorn Bug could plant another hundred acres.

Just relying on Thorn Magic Potions would be roughly enough for a third of what Liszt needs for his potion consumption. Coupled with Flame Magic Potion, Ice Flame Potion, Dark Magic Medicine, and Dragon Kui Auxiliary Medicine, it would make up half of what he needed.

He didn't stay long on Black Horse Island.

The next day, after inspecting the overcrowded dormitories of the serfs, he took a boat and left Black Horse Island to return to Fresh Flower Town. After filling his stomach and practicing magic, he continued the training of the Blizzard Beast and began to guide Jela, instilling in it the correct moral values, values, and perspective on life as an elf.

"Jela, I know you don't like other minor elves, but you need to understand that they are all my elves, and you can't just hurt any of them," Li Si Te said.

Jela retorted, "Woah!"

Its emotions made it clear that it just wanted to give Mickey and Nami a lesson.

Pop.

Li Si Te flicked it on the head with Finger-Flick Magic.

"Woah!" Jela made an angry face and pretended to intimidate Li Si Te, but its actions were futile.

Pop!

Li Si Te flicked it again with Finger-Flick Magic.

"Woah!"

Pop!

"Woah!"

Pop.

"Woah..." Finally, Jela submitted, covering its head and daring not to cry out anymore.

Having tamed Jela's temper, Li Si Te then began to lead gently: "Jela, do you know how to make me like you? You must cultivate your thorns well. I need the thorns, and you can cultivate them. That will make me like you. If you can find Thorn Bugs to help you, I'll like you even more."

"Woah?" Jela seemed a bit unclear.

Li Si Te had no choice but to pull out a thorn vine, put on a happy expression, and then pointed at Jela, and then at the thorn. Jela paused for a moment, then waved its hand and scattered a beam of green light, which immediately made the thorn vine sprout anew.

Seeing this, Li Si Te decisively gave it a kiss with a pop.

Jela immediately laughed happily, very pleased with Li Si Te's kiss. It then applied magic more cheerfully, causing the thorn vine to sprout even more.

Basically.

Li Si Te had made it understand that "thorns equal kisses," and the next step was to guide it to cultivate the eight hundred acres of Thorn Garden to vent its dissatisfaction. At this moment, the cooperation of the Corn Minor Elf, Mickey, was needed. Li Si Te deliberately treated Mickey very well to incite Jela's anger.

Then let Jela plant more thorns, thus treating it even better.

This required some time to deeply influence it, and Li Si Te could only stay in Fresh Flower Town for one day before having to interrupt the training to attend the celebration banquet of the Pioneer Mandate at Tulip Castle this year. The Earl reconfirmed several Honored Knights and one of them was conferred as a new Baron.

Then came the distribution of the minerals, which could only be distributed to the landlords after the Grand Duke had collected taxes on them.

Even though the mineral loot this time wasn't much, Li Si Te, with his achievements second only to the Earl, still managed to obtain fifty thousand pounds of iron and some copper, tin, and aluminum metals. Metals could not only be used to make weapons and tools, but were also very practical magic materials, and one could never have too many.

After a night of reveling, the year's first major snowfall quietly arrived in the night.

Early the next morning, Li Si Te set off through the snow to return to his territory—this time, he would stay for a long while, with no need to go out.

"Jela, get ready to start over as a new elf!"

Chapter 488 Mutated Crops

Heavy snow was whirling in the air, swiftly enveloping Fresh Flower Town in a silver garment, with only the roads remaining clear.

The officials organized the serfs who had no tasks at hand, continually clearing the accumulated snow on the roads to ensure all the pathways throughout the town were unobstructed.

Meanwhile, some roads were still under construction, with rocks produced by the Blizzard Beasts being constantly broken into cobblestones to pave the roads. The main thoroughfare of Fresh Flower Town had already been expanded to accommodate four carriages driving abreast, and the roads between various settlements could also fit two carriages side by side.

While other towns commonly had mud roads, Fresh Flower Town had already achieved modernization in transportation.

Viscount Liszt, the Lord Landlord, always remembered the slogan, "If you want to be rich, build roads first." Without smooth roads, the development of Fresh Flower Town would always be limited.

Although fundamental construction required the burning of a substantial amount of funds, it was absolutely a significant boost to economic development.

Liszt even had a plan to collaborate with Tulip Castle to build a gravel road from Fresh Flower Town to Coral City to further reduce the travel time between the two. However, this road would be costly, and the Earl might not agree.

At least until Black Horse Island experienced an economic boom that would greatly enhance trade between the two, it was highly unlikely that the road would be built.

People in this world did not yet have the concept of "infrastructure development."

To the nobles, it made no difference whether the serfs walked on a gravel road or a mud road; whether they trod on green pastures or through excrement and wastewater.

Only Liszt would go to great lengths to build infrastructure.

On Black Horse Island, he had already planned numerous future roads wide enough for four carriages to drive side by side—simply called four-lane roads.

Between every two towns, there would be a four-lane road. In the future, as the cities of New Harbor Town and the port town developed and were upgraded, a direct six-lane road would also be built.

He believed that Black Horse Island's industries would need such roads for support.

...

On this day.

More good news arrived.

The serf household that had discovered the Pea Cordyceps reported a miraculous change in their peas—the influence of the Pea Cordyceps allowed peas to grow even in autumn and winter. However, as the Pea Cordyceps were removed, the leftover peas at home could no longer thrive.

Now that the pea shoots had withered, the serfs planned to uproot them and gather the mature peas as seeds—these peas had developed well and were excellent seeds.

But.

When he pulled out the roots of the peas, he found nodules the size of fingernails. The serf remembered the Lord Landlord mentioning that leguminous plants had rhizobia in their roots, which could enhance crop production, so he excitedly reported his discovery.

The local officials, naturally having heard Liszt explain the benefits of rhizobia for the soil and plants, immediately reported to the Castle, informing Liszt.

"Many nodules the size of fingernails?" Liszt understood at once that these were the "peas that produce rhizobia" from the previous Smoke Mission reward.

He immediately led the Retainer Knights to the serf's home to see the peas.

The roots of the peas were quite loose, indeed harboring a large number of nodules. Not only were they numerous, but also significantly larger than the artificially inoculated soybeans with nodules that Liszt had seen on Earth.

He immediately ordered all the peas to be uprooted, discovering that there were more than twenty plants with rich nodules on their roots, while the rest of the peas were quite ordinary.

"Gather all these nodules and preserve them carefully. Next spring, when planting peas, soybeans, peanuts, and the like, remember to use soil mixed with these nodules. Also, buy up all these pea seeds for focused cultivation next year, planting them near the Pea Cordyceps," he ordered.

"Yes, Lord," the officials hastily noted down Liszt's instructions.

The new variety of peas were named "Mushroom Peas" by Liszt, meaning they were peas that could produce rhizobia.

...

He believed that with the continuous cultivation of the Pea Cordyceps, the Rhizobia that Liszt was hoping for would be produced in large quantities, boosting the yield of all leguminous plants and enriching the fertility of the soil.

"The estate now has more and more new varieties of crops."

On the way back, he suddenly thought that many new varieties of crops had been born in this land over the past two years.

The Black Tulip was first, followed by Corn Grass, Smoked Grass (Smoked Grass probably doesn't count, as it should grow in other areas too; after all, Liszt recognized it from a Knight's Novel), and then the Flame Mushroom, the Ice Snow Flame Mushrooms, and after that came the Rapid Growth Thorn.

The Rapid Growth Thorn set off a trend of crop mutation and led to Liszt's unique naming method.

Suddenly, five new varieties emerged—Rapid Growth Thorn, Rapid Growth Poison Thorn, Rapid Growth Spiky Thorn, Rapid Growth Iron Thorns, and Rapid Growth Magic Thorn.

Two new varieties of Rubber Tree were developed—Fruit Rubber and Fan Rubber (a new Cordyceps species, its use currently unknown).

Corn Grass developed into three new varieties—Grain Corn, Oil Corn, and Stick Corn.

Now peas have also yielded a new variety—the Pea Cordyceps.

In addition, there's the mutated Auxiliary Medicine Dragon Mallow; these new mutant crop varieties were all named in the format of "property" plus "original name," creating new names.

"These really are interesting names, distinctive and self-explanatory, simple yet expressive." He was quite satisfied with his own naming ability.

...

The Pea Cordyceps was just a small episode.

The chaos in the estate caused by the influx of new serfs soon settled into stability, without needing Liszt's concern. He resumed his usual schedule, living a plain but fulfilling life. Lately, his greatest pleasure was to train Thorn Minor Elf Jela, teaching it to be an elf again.

Without the prompting of the Smoke Mission, Liszt probably wouldn't have had any idea how to educate an elf.

He would simply think of elves as straightforward farming tools, without considering "ideological reformation." Now it seems, at times spiritual power should not be underestimated, as it can brainwash humans, unleashing enormous productivity in work; similarly, why couldn't it brainwash elves.

He had experience in teaching the Blizzard Beast.

So, he quite enjoyed educating Jela, continuously guiding her to channel her anger into growing thorns. After five days of training, Jela finally completely adapted to the new behavior, whenever she disliked other minor elves or got angry.

She would run to the Thorn Garden, use her magic power to promote the growth of thorns.

"Good girl!" Liszt would then offer loving encouragement, a rewarding word of praise, a gentle pat, or a little treat.

Jela would be instantly delighted.

Afterwards, he summoned the Smoke Mission.

"Task completed, reward one Thorn Elf Bug."

No surprises, having spent every day recently in the Thorn Garden, the Smoke Mission's reward indeed originated there. It was a Rapid Growth Magic Thorn that had undergone a change; a large bulge had grown on its branches. Magic power gathered inside, evidently nurturing an Elf Bug.

"It looks like it has been nurturing for several days, not just recently developed; seems like it's not influenced by Jela?" Liszt mused.

Thorns are evergreen plants all year round, with slower growth in the winter.

Because Magic Potion itself has magic power, Liszt hadn't noticed the abnormality of this particular Magic Potion before; now judging from the degree of magic power accumulation, it had been nurturing for at least half a month.

Regardless.

The emergence of this Thorn Bug came just at the right time, alleviating the shortage of Magic Potion.

Chapter 489 The Fall of the Sky Ship

With the Thorn Bug reward in hand, Liszt turned to the new mission at hand.

He had barely finished reading when he gasped in surprise, for the reward for the mission was extraordinarily unexpected.

"Mission: Construction in the fief is booming, yet there is a lack of means of transportation, making the moving of materials costly in both manpower and resources. As a lord with a very broad vision and a rich reserve of knowledge, why not find a way to solve it by inventing a new type of cart to save on transportation costs? Reward: The fallen Sky Ship."

The content of the mission was rather common, and the so-called cost-saving means of transportation seemed straightforward to him.

Cars and trains are not likely, but bicycles, tricycles, or even a pushcart with a single wheel could be made. He had an even more effortless plan in mind—a unicycle handcart.

It was a means of transportation he had long wanted to invent.

Liszt had never implemented many of his inventions, always feeling that tampering too much with modern civilization's technology might backfire if learned by others. After all, he was just a minor noble, unable to protect his industry and the fruits of his labor.

Now, however, he held the title of Sky Knight and had the Earl as his backer.

Even in the Duchy of Sapphire, he was a force to be reckoned with and could protect his achievements. Thus, he planned to gradually develop those inventions step by step—unicycle carts, curved ploughs, paper, perfumes... and he even wanted to introduce entertainment industries—poker, mahjong, football, theater, and so on.

As long as it could make money, anything was possible.

Of course, these inventions would need time and could not be rushed since his domain was still in its early stages and didn't have the capacity to develop new industries.

He shook his head.

His attention was more on the surprising reward of the Smoke Mission.

"The fallen Sky Ship, what does this mean? Does it suggest that there is a Sky Ship flying in the sky that suddenly falls into my domain? Or does it mean a Sky Ship that had already fallen is to be found somewhere within my land?" He focused on the key point of the reward, "So, what is a Sky Ship?"

Memories surfaced swiftly in his mind.

It was the introductory poem from "Philip, Scion of the Sun's Diary".

The author Philip had written a passage on the first page of his diary, like a piece of prose or a poem.

...

My grandfather had such a tattoo on his back.

He said that his father bore the same tattoo on his back as well.

I asked him why my father did not have it on his back, nor did I?

He said our ancestors had abandoned us, and we can no longer bear the symbol of the Sun.

I did not understand what he meant.

Grandfather explained that we were exiled to the land of sin from our homeland and wouldn't be able to return until five hundred years had passed.

After five hundred years, a great ship sailing the skies, bathed in the sunlight, would come to take us back.

Five hundred years have passed, but the Sky Ship has not come.

...

The meaning behind this poem was not difficult to comprehend—Philip's ancestors hailed from a land outside of the Devil's Sea, and they referred to themselves as the "Children of the Sun," likely possessing advanced mastery over magic power. This could be inferred from their creation of intricate Magic Equipment like the Drift Bottle.

They were exiled to Dodo Island, with the understanding that after five hundred years, when their sins were cleansed, someone on a Sky Ship would come to take them away.

But no one did.

"So, the Sky Ship is some kind of transportation crafted by the Child of the Sun? When they travel and sail, do they rely on the Sky Ship to fly?"

"And I, am about to receive a fallen Sky Ship?"

"Or is it that a Sky Ship coming to pick up the Descendants of the Sun is currently flying towards me and will then accidentally fall?"

He instantly fantasized about various possibilities, but due to too few clues, he could not be sure.

He could only rush to finish the tasks and prepare defenses—the devil knows what the Sky Ship really is about whether the Children of the Sun actually exist, and whether they would pose a threat to his territory.

He issued orders swiftly, sending a message to Marcus on Black Horse Island, telling him not to relax the training of the Knight Squad. He also conveyed instructions to Paris to quickly form the Patrol Knights and begin guarding patrols on Black Horse Island. He

wanted to ensure the safety of his territory and monitor everything going on within it at all times.

He then went to the carpentry workshop to complete his task first—the earlier the wheelbarrow was invented, the sooner the construction of the territory could be completed.

The carpentry workshop was still bustling.

Carpenters and Carpenter Apprentices, along with Carving Artisans, were constantly cutting wood, smoothing edges, and carving patterns. Seeing Lord Landlord arrive, they all put down their work and paid respect to Liszt. The steward of the carpentry workshop, smiling obsequiously like a sycophant, flattered Liszt on his arrival.

"Lord Landlord, the quality of the products from our carpentry workshop has been continuously improving. The carpenters from the new serfs you've brought in provided us with many tools from the continent, and now we are assimilating these new tools and striving to create new products to increase revenue."

The term revenue originated from Liszt.

He once told the stewards that generating income was the primary task of every workshop.

Gesturing for the carpenters to continue working, Liszt called over the most skillful Master Carpenters and started to outline his design: "Gentlemen carpenters, you all know how to make carts, right?"

"Yes, Lord Landlord."

"Good, today I have brought a new cart design plan. Here is a sketch. Look closely, it's called a wheelbarrow. It uses only one wheel and can be pushed along, similar to a two-wheeled cart, but it's more convenient and suitable for traversing rough terrains."

The Master Carpenters gathered around the sketch, marveling, "Such a beautiful wheelbarrow, can it really stand up with just one wheel?"

"With two handles for support, it should not fall over."

"Yes, it seems as stable as a cart, but even more compact. With one wheel, it can even be pushed over ridges between fields."

"Indeed, a marvelous design!"

After the carpenters had expressed their admiration, Liszt continued, "The design of the wheelbarrow can vary in form. Look at this sketch, the wheelbarrow has a bin that can hold grain, rubble, sand, etc., and if sealed properly, it can even transport water. Now look at this one, the wooden planks on the sides can stack bags, as many as you need."

He had brought many sketches.

After introducing one, he switched to another: "And this one here, the wheelbarrow is essentially just a few sticks plus a wheel; it can be this simple... Of course, you don't have to design it with just one wheel, a two-wheeled handcart is also possible, like this kind with a bin that, when the time comes, you can just tilt the handles and flip the bin over."

All sorts of wheelbarrows and handcarts.

They were all part of Liszt's designs.

The Master Carpenters greedily eyed each and every sketch—they knew that each type of woodworking tool represented skills worth passing down. The more techniques they mastered, the greater their earnings would be.

"Your next task is to quickly master the creation of the wheelbarrow and handcart and to produce them as quickly as possible for use in the territory."

"Rest assured, Lord Landlord, we will complete the wheelbarrows and handcarts as swiftly as possible," the steward promised confidently, as he was himself a carpenter and knew that making such carts was not difficult.

"Remember to keep it a secret. I do not wish to hear any news of the wheelbarrow or handcart leaking out."

Permanent secrecy was impossible, Liszt merely hoped to keep it confidential for as long as possible. Eventually, when the output from the carpentry workshop increased, he could also take the opportunity to sell them externally and make a profit.

Only when you run a household do you realize the value of every penny.

Earning an extra Gold Coin is always splendid.

Chapter 490 No Way to Salvage

...

In order to obtain the fallen sky ship sooner, Liszt almost stared down the carpenters in the woodworking workshop as they made the unicycle.

With Thorn Ironwood and rubber water, the carpenters only needed to create suitable parts and assemble them to form a unicycle.

However, precision was a big issue.

The first unicycle was created in two days, but it was extremely ugly and not agile enough when pushed.

This already drew Isaiah's amazement, "My Lord, is this a unicycle? It's simply magical; it's more nimble than a flatbed cart, and one person can push it around anywhere. With such a unicycle, serfs would hardly need to expend much effort when transporting goods!"

"It's too rough, not meticulous enough. Mr. Carpenter, continue making them, I want to make a qualified unicycle!" Liszt was not satisfied.

There was no helping it, the Smoke Mission had yet to indicate the completion of the task.

It meant this unicycle was a defective product, not recognized—or it could be said that in Liszt's heart, he had not accepted it. After all, the Smoke Mission had a great connection with the reflection of his thoughts. He even believed that the completion of the mission and the issuance of many missions were a reflection of his inner self.

The power of destiny from the Smoke Dragon mixed with his own spiritual power to form the Smoke Mission.

Whether it was or wasn't the case didn't matter; what was important was that the carpenters had to remake a better unicycle. With the experience from the first unicycle, only minor adjustments were needed for the second one, along with an improvement in the precision of the parts. Thus, without a full day's time, a brand-new unicycle emerged.

When the carpenter pushed the unicycle running smoothly in the woodworking workshop,

Liszt called out the Smoke Mission, revealing a satisfied smile, "Complete the task, reward: the fallen sky ship."

With the task complete, he hurriedly instructed the woodworking workshop to produce unicycles at full capacity, then left the place. Returning to the town's administration, he arranged for the patrol team to increase their search efforts in hopes of finding the fallen sky ship.

Beyond that,

he didn't need any other actions.

Because a new task had appeared, just like last year's New Year's mission: "Another year of hard work has passed, and as a landlord, you finally have the opportunity to relax, enjoy the upcoming New Year's celebration, but still contemplate the development of your lands for next year, prepare for the training of Sky Knights, and plan for the nurturing of Magic Fire Seed, please wait quietly for the end of the New Year's. Reward: Unknown Rewards."

Every New Year's, after the war, there were unknown rewards, and they were always very valuable.

This made him eager to get through the New Year's quickly, but it was only December 26th now, and there were four more days until the festivities.

...

The patrol teams from Fresh Flower Town and Black Horse Island found no trace of the fallen sky ship.

The ones who actually discovered it were a group of sailors involved in the development of the New Harbor—New Harbor Town located at the northwest corner of Black Horse Island was not yet built, but its affiliated New Harbor dock had already started exploring the waters. Even in the chilly and bone-penetrating seawater of winter, it was no more than a winter swim for the sailors accustomed to severe cold.

While they were surveying the depth of the seawater, they discovered a massive sunken ship on the seabed, so they quickly relayed the news to the castle, reaching Liszt's ears.

"A huge sunken ship was found in the waters of New Harbor?" Liszt kept a calm face, but inside, he was extremely excited.

There was no doubt that this sunken ship was the fallen sky ship.

"Philip and his descendants, the offspring of the Child of the Sun, haven't been forgotten. The people of the Child of the Sun civilization sent the sky ship to welcome them home, only it sank." Liszt quickly mobilized the Fresh Flower Vessel, ready to set sail for the waters of New Harbor at Black Horse Island.

At the same time, he took out the drift bottle, using a bit of Old Phil's blood, opened the cap, and poured out the piece of paper written in Sun Script.

...

"The tower has collapsed, Tree City is burning, XX has already perished, and the Child of the Sun shall ascend with the flames. Children that are lost abroad, you are free now."

Comparing the note with the Sun Script, Liszt speculated in his heart, "If the Child of the Sun obviously dispatched the Sky Ship, why would he send a Drift Bottle as well?" There was no need for a drift bottle to send messages if there was a ship to pick up people, unless they knew the Sky Ship had sunk.

But there were still many logical barriers that were unexplainable.

Liszt wasn't in a hurry to guess, as the Sky Ship was soaking in the waters of New Harbor, ready to be salvaged at any time, and secrets could be found from the relics of the ship.

A brand new world was about to unfold before him.

The excitement in his heart was imaginable.

Before he set off, he found Sea Sprite Ake reading in the Sea View Villa, "Ake, I've discovered a sunken ship in the waters of Black Horse Island New Port, and I'm preparing for salvage. To prevent any relics from being missed, I hope you will come with me to retrieve all the omitted items."

Ake nodded decisively, "Hmm!"

She wouldn't refuse any request from Liszt.

When they sailed overnight and arrived at the waters of New Harbor in the morning of the 28th, they found Thorn Number being dispatched to salvage the sunken ship.

"My lord, this sunken ship is simply too large—it is like a castle has fallen into the sea. Thorn Number will have difficulty dragging it from the seabed, and our sailors are not capable of diving and cutting the ship into pieces," reported Goltai, "I think we need to assemble more ships to salvage it together."

"Then summon the Fresh Flower Vessel, Pearl, and Mangrove Number over to salvage the sunken ship together," ordered Liszt, with a grand wave of his hand.

He then added, "By the way, Consultant Goltai, I recently received a sum of Gold Coins, about five thousand, which has been allocated for the construction of the new town. There are still a thousand left, and I hope you take these thousand Gold Coins to exchange for three cargo ships to add to the Black Horse Island fleet."

His Gold Coins came from the Levis Couple, who were selling Black Pearls very well and had started making money, so they were able to pay back a part of the debt before the holidays.

They even planned to reserve another batch of Black Pearls, but unfortunately, Liszt had no extra Black Pearls.

With Gold Coins in hand, he planned to purchase ships – trade between Black Horse Island and Fresh Flower Town was getting progressively busy, and without a large number of ships, it would be difficult to meet the demand. He also hoped to train more qualified sailors to form a sufficient number of sea vessels and take part in future Pioneer Mandate wars.

Always borrowing other people's ships made him uncomfortable.

By noon.

The several ships all halted their cargo runs and headed to the waters of New Harbor. After the sailors dived to tie the ropes, the four ships sailed together, dragging the half-buried sunken ship from the seabed. However, to Liszt's frustration, the four ships still couldn't pull the sunken ship out of the silt.

They struggled until evening, but the sunken ship remained submerged, showing no sign of emerging.

Captain Kostor shook his head and sighed, "My lord, the sunken ship lies in a rather deep location, and the dragging power of the ships is not enough; we need more ships involved in the salvage."

After some thought.

Liszt made a decision, "Forget it, let's wait until after the holiday to salvage the sunken ship, now let it stay in the sea a bit longer. After all, it's been submerged for who knows how many years, it's not urgent at this moment. Keep it a secret, and do not reveal the news of the sunken ship here."

"Understood, my lord!"

However, unbeknownst to everyone but Liszt, a large white shell was searching the seabed for the fallen Sky Ship.

The real treasure and secrets were enough for Sea Sprite Ake to salvage.