

## The Mighty 491

### Chapter 491 Grandpa's Congratulatory Gift

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The value of Ach's service sometimes felt so immense to Liszt that what he could give to Ach, and what he got from Ach, were simply incomparable—it was a situation of immense profit.

Nowadays.

The fallen Sky Ship had to be salvaged by entrusting Ach with the task, and any good finds were to be sent directly to the Sea View Villa in Fresh Flower Town.

Then he could return to Fresh Flower Town with peace of mind, ready to attend the annual festival dinner at Tulip Castle. Although he had been granted his own fiefdom, the family ties were still maintained, hence during the festival, all Tulip Family bloodlines had to return to Tulip Castle to attend the dinner.

Unless there were special arrangements, like last year when he spent the festival at Long Taro Castle.

This year, at the Tulip Castle's festival banquet, there would be one more person, no, two more people—Loria Gold Wheat Ear was successfully pregnant, and Liszt was about to have a younger family member born. He was looking forward to the birth of this little baby, perhaps witnessing a new life would help him integrate more into the Tulip Family.

On the 29th, he presided over the year-end summary in the port town.

On the 30th, he presided over another year-end summary in Fresh Flower Town.

On the morning of January 1, Sapphire Year 153, Liszt set out for Tulip Castle, riding the still evolving Loki, accompanied by his Blizzard Beast Squad. He also took along the Corn Minor Elf Mickey because Earl and Lady Penelope wanted to see this little elf.

The birth of every Minor Elf was a huge honor for the Tulip Family.

Loki's speed was extremely fast; his retainers on horseback couldn't keep up, so he let them lead the Blizzard Beasts and walk slowly on the ground. He himself rode Loki, gliding through the low sky. Including rest time, it took merely an hour to reach Tulip Castle.

The sight of Liszt riding a big bird surprised Butler Xi Er Wa, who was directing servants to clear the snow from the streets, "Good morning, Young Master Liszt. Xi Er Wa sends his greetings. I did not expect you to arrive at Tulip Castle so early. You must have started the day very early."

"No, my mount is just fast."

"Ah?" Xi Er Wa did not understand.

Liszt did not clarify, as he was not fond of the acting butler Xi Er Wa. He remembered that the old butler Louis was very kind to the four children of the Earl, but Xi Er Wa favored Levis.

"Have someone feed Loki for me. Remember, Loki likes to eat barley grains, preferably barley, and not too much at a time, three pounds will do. But you need to feed it again every two hours; it is currently growing. Also give it some fruit to eat, the juicier, the better."

"Certainly, Young Master Liszt," Xi Er Wa replied respectfully. "I will go and inform the Lord, Lady, the Young Master, and the Young Mistress of your arrival."

"Xi Er Wa, where is Grandpa Louis? He used to come out to greet me."

"Butler Louis is recuperating from an illness, and the Earl has permitted him to retire. I am now serving as the butler of Tulip Castle. Young Master Liszt, if there is anything you need, just command me."

Louis had fallen ill and Xi Er Wa had become permanent.

Liszt furrowed his brow and decided to visit Louis. He had liked how Louis always greeted him with "Welcome home" whenever he arrived at Tulip Castle. It made him feel not like a guest, but as if he were the true owner of Tulip Castle, with a more homely feeling.

Now, Xi Er Wa had not used the term "home," showing that in his eyes, Liszt was just a guest.

Of course, from the standpoint of a fiefdom, Liszt was indeed a guest of Tulip Castle. He did not reside at Tulip Castle anymore, but it still felt somewhat uncomfortable.

The old butler Louis, after retiring, had moved out of Tulip Castle and into a manor log cabin beside the castle—he could still help with looking after the manor.

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Seeing Liszt tread through the snow, Louis, wrapped in a thick cotton coat, his bloodless face suddenly lit up with a trace of radiance, "I knew the proudest scion of the old master would definitely come to attend the New Year's banquet. Unfortunately, I've fallen ill and can't welcome you in person."

"I came especially to visit you, hoping you'll recover soon," Liszt said with a gentle smile.

Louis's life wasn't bad; charcoal burned in the manor's fireplace, warming the room considerably, and two servants were cleaning—clearly, the Earl wasn't going to let his lifetime-contributing butler spend his twilight years in desolation.

They chatted for a while.

Listening to Louis recount stories from his childhood was heartwarming.

But soon, Levis found his way there: "Liszt, I was wondering where you'd gone. You're here with Grandpa Louis, I was looking for you."

"Young Master Levis, Young Master Liszt, if you have business, please go ahead," Louis said.

"Grandpa Louis, rest assured and recuperate. If you need anything at all, just let me know," Liszt stood up.

Levis said directly, "Don't worry, Liszt, I'll take good care of Grandpa Louis... Let's hurry and have a drink, and also have a good talk about profitable trades. Thanks to your knightly honors, I've made a decent sum this year, hehe."

Black Tulip, Fresh Flower Brew, Black Pearl.

Plus some other trades.

As a channel dealer, Levis didn't earn any less than Liszt, and now his purse was getting fatter. He also grew closer to Liszt, not just because of the money but also because of the talent Liszt had shown—a 17-year-old Sky Knight whose future strength was sure to surpass the Earl's.

How could he not be close to such a dear younger brother?

Family ties are undoubtedly bonds between people, but interests are the eternal theme of social interaction.

"Talk business, brother? You should leave that to Mr. Frank and Consultant Goltai. I don't really care for such things," Liszt replied.

"Now that you're a Sky Knight, you indeed don't need to worry about these small businesses," Levis smacked his lips, quickly realizing he was no longer on the same level as Liszt—he remembered the times when Liszt used to pull him into business talks, and now he didn't give them a second thought.

Surely different strengths bring different perspectives.

He quickly changed the subject, "Where's your Corn Minor Elf? Did you bring it? Grandmother has mentioned it several times... And thanks to your knightly glory, the gift grandmother is sending us this year is still a potted plant! I've received several potted plants from her, and not a single Elf Bug to be seen!"

Everyone had grievances about Lady Penelope's potted plants.

Only Liszt was content, having already obtained a Dragon Kui Bug and a Fig Bug from Lady Penelope, gifts of considerable value.

"Oh, right." Levis added, "Grandpa, Uncle, and Cousin have all sent you gifts to congratulate you on becoming a Sky Knight. They're in the castle, do you want to see them now?"

Liszt immediately said with anticipation, "Gifts to congratulate me? Let's go have a look."

Receiving gifts is always joyful, especially when they're from Nobles relatives; who knows their value. Entering Tulip Castle, servants soon came with three boxes.

Chapter 492 The Feather of the Phoenix

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Three boxes, three gifts, Liszt opened the first box with eager anticipation.

This box was a congratulatory gift from the Meioubao Couple and Angela. Although the box seemed large, upon opening it, it was mostly filled with packing shavings. Only in the center of these shavings was a smaller box. Once he opened this smaller box, the gift inside was immediately revealed.

"It's a sapphire pendant," Levis said, standing by his side. His knowledge was anything but superficial, and he directly recognized the gift, "It must be sapphire magic equipment that has been energized by a magic array to amplify strength!"

The sapphire produced by the Sapphire Dragon contained a mysterious power—strength amplification, increasing the user's strength significantly. Additionally, gemstone items generally have a common effect—enhancing the casting effect of magic. Different magic arrays can trigger different gemstone effects.

Given that it was a gift for Liszt, it naturally wouldn't be for the amplification of magic, but definitely for enhancing strength.

"Indeed, becoming the son-in-law of a grand duke is different; owning a Sapphire Dragon at home means the gifts you receive are sapphire magic equipment." Liszt was very satisfied with this gift. The value of gemstone equipment was extremely high, worth at least a thousand or two gold coins.

His grandfather, Marquis Merlin, had given him the Crimson Blood Sword in a similar manner.

Speaking of which,

he hung the sapphire pendant around his neck without any hesitation. He energized the pendant with his Dou Qi, quickly establishing a connection between their essences. He then felt an overwhelming strength spontaneously arise in his body, stirring under the stimulation from the sapphire pendant—as if he could kill a magical beast with a single punch.

Once he put it on, he had no intention of taking it off again.

He then proceeded to open the second box which was a congratulatory gift from the Mesiro Couple. Upon opening it, he took out an exquisitely crafted cloak.

Red on the outside, black on the base, with golden thread along the edges—it looked quite luxurious.

This was no ordinary cloak but a piece of magic equipment. According to the accompanying letter, it was meticulously woven from the fur of a Low-Level Beast with a mantle of fur. Just this cloak alone took the fur from ten such beasts, and not even an Earth Knight's attack could tear it apart.

Its value was not low, but it was not exceptionally high either, roughly worth four or five hundred gold coins.

Liszt was quite satisfied; after all, it was just a relative's gift for congratulations, so a gift worth four or five hundred gold coins was already quite precious.

Last was the gift from his grandfather, Marquis Merlin, which, like the one from the Meioubao Couple, consisted of a box within a box. Eventually, he opened the small box to find it contained only a feather.

Before he had a chance to examine what kind of feather it was,

Levis exclaimed in awe, "Oh my God, Liszt, your grandfather is too good to you! That is a Phoenix Feather! From the legendary Sub-dragon 'Phoenix'!"

"A Phoenix feather?" Liszt was also startled.

He had heard of Phoenix, said to be a superior dragonkin magical beast—a Sub-dragon—born from flames, possessing dragon blood.

But the Phoenix was just a mythical creature, with no solid evidence to prove its existence in this world. Phoenixes are depicted in some knight novels, but more often it is the Phoenix Feathers that are portrayed.

No one has seen a Phoenix, not even in knight's novels where it has yet to make a straightforward appearance. However, its feathers are frequently featured in these stories, generally depicted as the essence of Flames.

For a Knight of the Fire Attribute, obtaining a single Phoenix Feather could tremendously aid in their training, akin to a tiger growing wings.

It could significantly boost the training speed of Fire Attribute Dou Qi!

For Knights of other attributes, a Phoenix Feather was quite useless; but for those of the Fire Attribute, it was a treasure surpassing millions of others.

No one had ever priced a Phoenix Feather in mere currency, but it was certainly calculated in terms of Dragon coins.

Just this single Phoenix Feather could probably be sold for several Dragon coins, which is to say, tens of thousands of gold coins, more valuable than even a Little Elf Soldier.

Almost comparable to a Dragon Bone Weapon forged from Dragon Bone.

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"Is this really a Phoenix Feather?" Li Si Te cradled the feather in his hand, feeling the surging Fire Attribute Mana, and couldn't help but swallow hard, "The gift Grandfather sent me is truly precious, I shouldn't accept such a valuable gift... But I can't bear to send it back!"

"Of course you should keep it, it's a Phoenix Feather after all, and you are a Fire Attribute Knight, it's something you simply can't miss! Moreover, since Grandfather gave it to you, why wouldn't you accept it!" Levis exclaimed, his behavior slightly uncontrolled due to the gift's immense value.

"That's right, since Grandfather gave it to me, I must accept it!" Li Si Te said solemnly.

At the same time, his mind was particularly clear. Grandfather's lavish gift was not just a congratulations, but also a form of entrustment—hoping that he would help the Long Taro Family more. During the festival at Long Taro Castle, Marquis Merlin had expressed this sentiment, given that the Long Taro Family was quite thin in members.

Regardless of whether there was such a gift.

Being of the Long Taro Family bloodline, he would definitely help the Long Taro Family whenever he could.

Now that Marquis Merlin had sent such a precious gift, and considering the kindness he had shown from a young age, Li Si Te couldn't escape this responsibility, both emotionally and rationally.

"Huff!"

He turned his gaze to the Phoenix Feather in his hand, still feeling somewhat incredulous. A Phoenix Feather, from a Sub-dragon Phoenix, was now truly before him.

Before this.

The existence of a Sub-dragon was still just a legend, with no one able to prove it.

Now it seemed there was no need for any more proof. The powerful surge of Fire Attribute Mana from the Phoenix Feather was enough to show that it was not much weaker than Dragon Bone.

But.

When Li Si Te carefully examined the Phoenix Feather, he suddenly noticed that this "feather" didn't quite seem to be a real feather. Instead, it resembled some kind of fiery red gemstone shaped like one. The texture, upon touching, was also very hard, almost like wire, grippy and difficult to deform.

"Is this really a feather?" he couldn't help but ask aloud, "Levis, do you think a Phoenix Feather is really the feather of a Phoenix? It doesn't seem to be a real feather."

"Let me have a look."

Levis carefully took the Phoenix Feather and observed it seriously: "I can't be sure either, it really doesn't look like a real feather... But then again, we've never seen a Phoenix, nor do we know what a Sub-dragon looks like. Maybe this is just how a Phoenix Feather is supposed to look. Anyway, as long as it works for you, it's a real Phoenix Feather!"

Indeed, that was the logic.

No matter whether it fell from the body of a Phoenix or was naturally formed as some kind of gemstone, as long as its effect was still the same as the legends described, then it was a real Phoenix Feather—the surging Fire Attribute Mana was proof enough that it was authentic.

Tucked into his chest.

It was like placing a furnace in his bosom, full of warmth.

...

A moment later.

In the upstairs living room, the whole Tulip Family sat together, examining the Phoenix Feather on the table. The Earl was even using a magnifying glass, bent over and carefully observing the patterns of the Phoenix Feather—this magnifying glass was a byproduct of Li Si Te's invention of the telescope.

"I can't determine whether it's truly the remains of a living creature. At least compared to Dragon Bone, it shows more signs of being magical in nature, and it might very well be a product of concentrated Magic Power, like the gemstones produced by Dragons."

The Earl lifted his head and shared his analytical conclusion.

Seeing this, Li Si Te nodded: "If that's the case, the existence of a Sub-dragon is still in question?"

Chapter 493 You Should Go Rest Now

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Dragon——Flying Dragons.

Super Dragonkin Magical Beast——Sub-dragon.

Other Advanced, Intermediate, Low-Level Dragon Breed Magical Beasts——Dragon Beasts.

Plus one Dragon Breed Beast, they constitute the taxonomy of dragons and dragon-related creatures.

Flying Dragons represented the pinnacle of power in this world, standing at the top of the food chain, with few creatures capable of threatening their existence; Sub-dragons were legendary species with many descriptions, but no one had ever seen them in person;

Dragon Beasts, although rare, did exist, and Liszt's Landwalker bird Loki was a Low-Level Dragon Beast.

Loki's bloodline evolution had not yet been completed, perhaps it could eventually become an Intermediate Dragon Beast.

Dragon Breed Beasts generally existed in the form of tribes, such as the Blue Blood Treasure Horses bred by the Sapphire Duke, the Black Blood Treasured Horses and the Dragon Breed Cows raised by Liszt.

In short, items like the Phoenix Feather, which resembled a gemstone, could not prove the existence of a Phoenix.

After showing it to his family, he immediately took the Phoenix Feather back and kept it in the Gemstone Space. To him, it was a priceless treasure, and he couldn't be too cautious with it. So much so, that he didn't even plan to study the Phoenix Feather at Tulip Castle but instead, waited until the holiday season was over to go back to his territory and study it slowly.

This year's holiday season was relatively lively.

The family exchanged gifts, which were common items like food and clothing, with no valuable goods involved. The gift from Lady Penelope was still one of her meticulously cared for potted plants, a pity that Liszt hadn't found any potted plants harboring Elf Bugs while he toured her balcony.

Those two Elf Bugs were indeed once in a lifetime.

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"I've read 'The Earth Chronicle of Liszt' which you wrote, many of the experiences in cultivation are clear and notable, many methods are inspiring to me,"

the Earl said in the study, chatting leisurely with Liszt face to face.

It was uncertain when it began, but Liszt's visits to the study had gradually become more frequent.

Of course, a lot of the time was spent on awkward small talk, and this evening was no different. After discussing some trivial matters of life, the two simply began exchanging their insights on cultivation.

Liszt replied, "I didn't expect it to inspire you."

"I always wondered how you became a Sky Knight in such a short period, contradicting my understanding of cultivation. However, through the notes, and your exchanges with Levis and Lidun, I've finally come to understand the reason."

"Oh? Father, what reason have you understood?"

"You have a profound understanding of cultivation, an understanding that is even deeper than mine, a Sword Saint. We often think that talent in cultivation is shown through bloodlines, but it's not really like that. A person's vision and understanding can also determine their talent."

The Earl then began summing up his discoveries—he talked a lot, blah blah blah, but in essence, he was saying that Liszt was smart, taking fewer detours in cultivation.

It was hard for the Earl to justify it for him.

Of course, Liszt wouldn't refuse such kindness, and he nodded in agreement: "That's right, Father. My bloodline is the same as yours and my brother's, not outstandingly talented. But I think more about cultivation, and this thinking has helped me open the doors to a new world of cultivation."

"So, I believe that in the future, we father and son should exchange more. I have a wealth of experience in the practice of a Sky Knight, and you have a keen insight into cultivation. More exchange between us can greatly benefit both sides, and who knows, in a few years I might become a Completion Level Sky Knight."

"I too hope to help you reach Completion soon," Liszt said.

"So, have you figured out any clues about Sky Knight cultivation recently?" asked the Earl.

Liszt answered, "I am currently adjusting to a new level of adaptation to Magic Potions, and at the same time, I'm also exploring the secrets of practicing from the Advanced Dou Qi Manual."

"If there's anything you don't understand, feel free to ask me."

"I will," said Liszt.

"Take a closer look at the 'Sword Saint's Chronicles' that your grandfather gave you. I often borrow and read it from Levis. Indeed, it contains many valuable experiences to reflect upon."

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"In fact, I've already memorized the 'Sword Saint's Chronicles.'"

Earl felt somewhat embarrassed, "Um..."

Liszt continued to boast, "I love reading, and I have a good memory. In fact, I've also memorized the 'Rising Sun Blaze' Secret Manual. I think instead of keeping frequently used knowledge in books, it's better to store it directly in one's mind, ready to be accessed at any time."

"Um..."

"I don't like magicians, as they are always causing destruction, but I admire their determination to research the truth. I also think using magic books to spread knowledge is a very good method. The best way to understand something is to record and study it."

"Um..."

"I do the same. I research the interactions between magic potions and Dou Qi, the interactions between drugs and the body, reasonable methods of cultivation, and I'm even researching new Dou Qi manuscripts. I believe if our predecessors could create Dou Qi manuscripts, then I surely can create them too."

"You're planning to create a Dou Qi manuscript?" Earl exclaimed.

"Father, it's not hard to understand."

Liszt casually took a sip of milk, "If drug consumption can be summarized to suit one's personal constitution, why can't Dou Qi manuscripts be summarized to suit one's personal style? Everyone's combat style is distinct and their bodies are different too. The Dou Qi manuscripts of our ancestors might not fit me perfectly."

Earl sat in his seat, holding a glass of red wine, continuously sipping.

Liszt was still going on and on. Now that he was a Sky Knight, it was a rare opportunity to converse with an Earl who was also a Sky Knight, naturally, he wanted to indulge in the exchange, "When I was at the Earth Knight stage, I was eager to break through to Sky Knight, so I had no time to create a Dou Qi manuscript. Now that I have become a Sky Knight, I should contemplate more carefully, and create a Dou Qi manuscript that fits me."

This was the truth.

Before, when he was weak and felt insecure, he was desperate to use drugs to cultivate.

Now that he had become a Sky Knight, and even the shadow of his future dragon mount was taking shape, he naturally didn't need to hurry and could cultivate more patiently.

He was prepared to continue his long speech.

Suddenly, Earl interrupted, "It's getting late, Liszt. It's time to go to rest, and don't forget that today is the festival. Relax appropriately and don't always think about cultivating. I approve of your ideas and hope you will have greater breakthroughs... I'm proud of you, my son."

Although slightly disappointed, Liszt still stood up to take his leave.

Earl was left sitting alone in the study, looking glum. He poured himself a full glass of red wine and gulped it down.

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Returning to his room to rest.

Liszt couldn't seem to fall asleep, partly because he was waiting for the unknown reward that would be given after midnight for completing the Smoke Mission, and partly because the Phoenix Feather always tempted him, making him eager to take it out and play with it.

The fiery red feather, about the length from the middle finger joint to the wrist, was slightly curled with a translucent luster.

This was a flight feather.

Flight feathers, along with tail feathers, are large feathers that cover the body of birds and are considered primary feathers. The structure of a primary feather includes the shaft, the rachis, barbs, and barbules, and this Phoenix Feather had these features. However, its barbs were not soft but had many small, crystalline protrusions.

The barbules were also robust, similarly adorned with crystal-like protrusions.

"No matter how you look at it, it doesn't resemble a real feather, more like the fossil of some feather. Is it really from a phoenix?" Liszt began to recall the knowledge he had about phoenixes.

Sub-dragon phoenixes are different from the phoenixes of Chinese legend.

More akin to the Western legend of the immortal bird, in essence, it is a Fire Attribute Magical Beast.

Its Serpent Script pronunciation and meaning are also unrelated to a phoenix, but Liszt habitually compared it to one — because its Serpent Script meaning is 'great bird born from flames'."

#### Chapter 494 The Tiny Dragon in the Flames

The legends of this world.

The phoenix lives for five hundred years; when it approaches death, it gathers many branches to burn itself to ashes. From those ashes, a new phoenix will be born, and the cycle continues endlessly.

There are also legends that after a phoenix dies, worms will breed within its bones, consuming one another until finally, a new phoenix emerges.

Of course, there are tales that phoenixes reside in volcano craters, reborn from the deceased fire dragons.

"A five-hundred-year cycle, this sounds somewhat similar to the legend of the Valley of Dragons Virginia told me about. Legends say that the Valley of Dragons is where dragons reincarnate. Aged dragons return to the valley to set up the secrets of their reincarnation... It seems these legends all share a connection,"

For legendary creatures, humans probably can only imagine them with miraculous attributes like reincarnation and immortality.

He placed the Phoenix Feather on the table and then had a servant bring paper and a pen to start writing a letter. The letter was addressed to Marquis Merlin, expressing gratitude and hinting that he would look out for the Long Taro Family while also inquiring more about the Phoenix Feather from the Marquis.

From where it was obtained, whether there truly were phoenixes, and so on.

After finishing the letter, he lit a candle, scooped a bit of rosin to melt, and poured it on the seal of the envelope. Then he took out a rectangular seal with "Lis" engraved in Serpent Script, pressed it onto the rosin, leaving a unique mark. He handed it to the servants of Tulip Castle, asking them to help send the letter.

Afterward.

He began to focus on studying the Phoenix Feather, handling it in his palm, feeling its warm texture. Because the Phoenix Feather was incredibly precious, he was always extremely careful and studied it bit by bit. He lost track of time in his study, and before he knew it, it was nearly twelve o'clock.

Having roughly figured out the external properties of the Phoenix Feather, he decided to channel Dou Qi into it to activate the feather and attempted to use the Phoenix Feather to accelerate his Dou Qi cultivation.

When Dou Qi touched the Phoenix Feather, Liszt could feel the temperature in the room soar by ten degrees in an instant.

The Phoenix Feather immediately seemed to ignite—not with real flames, but with surging Fire Attribute Mana, releasing in a form that flowed like flames. It then entered Liszt's meridians through the cycle of Dou Qi, aiding in expanding the driving force of his Dou Qi.

"The effect is somewhat like being high on drugs!"

Liszt's eyes sparkled as he carefully manipulated this new Magic Power, transforming it into his own Dou Qi. The new Dou Qi had a clear boundary with the Dragon Dou Qi already in his body, but as it circulated continuously, the boundary began to blur, attempting to merge—the nature of his Dou Qi was to merge after all.

The newborn Dou Qi would undoubtedly become stronger.

However, as this still unmerged Dou Qi flowed through his meridians towards his heart,

an unexpected twist occurred!

The Magic Fire Seed located in his heart became stimulated by the fresh Dou Qi, suddenly erupting in violence. It exerted a massive attractive force, ravenously devouring Liszt's internal Dou Qi. Almost in the blink of an eye, his internal Dou Qi was emptied, leaving his body weak and powerless.

Only his brain remained clear, filled with sheer terror: "What's happening? Is there a conflict between the Phoenix Feather's Magic Power and the Magic Fire Seed?"

Can a mountain not hold two tigers?

So, did the Magic Fire Seed fly into a rage?

Mixed with fear and anxiety, Liszt felt as though he was succumbing to magical backlash, his condition was very bad. Dou Qi is the source of a Knight's power; once it disappears, a Knight will certainly become an ordinary person. However, he couldn't resist as the Magic Fire Seed residing in his heart was beyond his control.

"Raising a dragon within one's body was truly a poor move!" he began to regret, wishing he could dig out his heart, find the Magic Fire Seed, and crush it to pieces.

But soon another change occurred. After absorbing all of the Dou Qi from his body, the Magic Fire Seed did not stop. Instead, it continued to devour—without Dou Qi in his body, it turned towards the Phoenix Feather in Liszt's hand.

The intense suction force, traveling along his meridians into his hands, actually began to swallow the magic form of the Phoenix Feather's flames.

These flames seemed to want to resist.

But they were unable to struggle and were swiftly absorbed into the meridians of Liszt's hands. A scorching, stabbing pain spread across his hands, then continued to assail his entire body through the meridians until it reached the heart, making it feel as though his entire heart began to spasm. The excruciating pain was almost numbing.

He very much wanted to pass out, but the continuous improvement in his physical constitution made it impossible for him to faint.

He could only feel the pain consciously, "What in the world is happening, what exactly is going on, why is the Magic Fire Seed rebelling! Could it be that the Phoenix Feather is stimulating the Magic Fire Seed!"

He could only distract himself from the pain by thinking.

He wanted to activate the Eye of Magic, but without any Dou Qi to circulate, he could only watch his hands with his naked eyes. The flame of the Phoenix Feather on his hand kept "drilling" into the skin of his palm. As the Magic Fire Seed continued to absorb, the flames grew smaller and the luster of the Phoenix Feather dimmed.

He didn't know how much time had passed, for him, it felt as long as a century.

Finally.

The Phoenix Feather in his hands completely extinguished, losing all of its luster, then slowly shattered into powder disappearing between his fingers before it even touched the ground, turning completely to ash.

"My priceless treasure, the Phoenix Feather... just like that, it's gone?"

Liszt wanted to cry, but no tears would come. Even before he had begun his cultivation, the Phoenix Feather, worth several Dragon coins, completely vanished without a trace.

Before he could cry,

a strange sensation rapidly emerged, spreading from the heart—the absorbing power of the Magic Fire Seed had disappeared, and in fact, he couldn't even feel the Magic Fire Seed anymore. Only the unusual feeling at the position of his heart tugged at his brain, creating a certain sensation...

It was as if something had come to life!

"Oh!"

A childish voice sounded in his mind, ending all the pain in his body and also giving him a sense of mind connection similar to that with a contracted Elf Bug—as if the emotions of a naive, newborn, and fragile life, occupied a corner of his soul.

"Is this..."

Liszt was somewhat befuddled.

At the same time, the warmth at his heart began to move quickly, traveling along his meridians to his palm in no time. He looked down, and his gaze immediately caught the flame that spontaneously ignited in the palm of his hand, with no burning sensation or the sting of flames, only a faint warmth.

This flame quickly twisted, forming a tiny flying creature.

With wings like those of a bat, a slim body with two sturdy hind legs and two short forelimbs, a constantly twitching tail, and a slightly cute long-horned head.

Clearly the form of the Magic Little Fire Dragon!

"Oh!"

The Magic Little Fire Dragon opened its mouth, uttering a faint but real roar, suddenly pulling the bewildered Liszt from his trance back to reality, completely awake.

"Magic Little Fire Dragon?"

"No, wrong. It's even more solid than the Magic Little Fire Dragon, with more texture and vitality. Is this a young Fire Dragon?"

Chapter 496 Call Me Big Brother

The Fire Seed state of the Little Fire Dragon was clearly not a true young dragon yet.

It meant that the anticipated Fire Dragon had not truly been born, and there was still a significant distance before becoming a Dragon Knight. Yet the mere Fire Seed state of the Little Fire Dragon had already scared Liszt half to death.

Maintaining it now required such a vast amount of resources; what if it truly hatched, becoming a tangible Little Fire Dragon? Would that not lead to bankruptcy?

"How exactly do other Dragon Knights ride dragons?"

"Could it be that Dragon Knights can suppress the fortune of a nation, not because a dragon's strength can protect a nation alone, but because it requires the resources of an entire nation to sustain it?"

Thinking like this, it seemed to really be the case; basically, dragons were controlled by the various countries of the continent, and there were no known cases of private dragon ownership.

"The most crucial point is that the dragons of these countries seem to be Gemstone Dragons and Metal Dragons, with only one or two being Elemental Dragons," his thoughts became hazy, and even more melancholic, "The Fire Dragon is an Elemental Dragon, and most Elemental Dragons are Evil Dragons who do not produce goods and can't contribute to me. Wouldn't sustaining it be even more expensive?"

Gemstone Dragons could produce gemstones, and selling those gemstones was absolutely a big profit; Metal Dragons could produce metals, which were resources coveted by nations.

What could a Fire Dragon do?

Produce volcanoes? Or fuel furnaces?

However, just as this idea arose, Liszt had a flash of inspiration: "Perhaps it could indeed fuel furnaces? The current Fire Dragon Brick Factory, and the public baths, are both powered by Fire Dragon Magic Power. If my Little Fire Dragon grows, couldn't it provide an even greater supply of Fire Dragon Magic Power?"

Fire Dragon Magic Power was a high-efficiency energy source, clean and pollution-free.

If used properly, it might replace coal, oil, natural gas, and start a new energy revolution!

"Thinking about it this way, the Fire Dragon is quite useful after all, and the combat power of Elemental Dragons is stronger. Once I mount the Fire Dragon, couldn't I easily beat the

Sapphire Dragon? Perhaps even seize the entire Duchy of Sapphire, and best of all, capture the Sapphire Dragon as well?" Liszt indulged in this wild fantasy for a moment.

He slowly calmed his emotions.

Regardless, the Fire Dragon was already incubating within him, and he could at any moment realize his dream of becoming a Dragon Knight.

If resources were insufficient, he would strive to farm and earn money; if his strength was lacking, he would continue to accumulate energy and bide his time.

Countless Completion Level Sky Knights, despite preparing all the resources, failed to find a dragon and died in discontent. Compared to them, he had already completed the most important step; the rest was just preparation. Having the Smoke Mission and many industries, prosperity was only a matter of time.

"Little Fire Dragon, Little Fire Dragon, I'll definitely raise you up!" Liszt squinted his eyes, entertaining another thought, "And if there are no other dragons, I'll have to form a contract with you, and share half of your lifespan with me, making me a Dragon Domain LandLord."

The Little Fire Dragon probably needed to grow for more than a hundred years to reach a modest size.

But Liszt didn't have that much lifespan to wait; becoming a Dragon Domain LandLord was an essential step—unless the Little Fire Dragon suddenly matured into adulthood.

Of course.

Everything was still too rushed for now. First, he needed to find a way to incubate the Little Fire Dragon. Hopefully, the incubation wouldn't take tens of years. He focused his attention, summoning the Smoke Mission again to check the new mission.

"To incubate the Fire Seed state of the Little Fire Dragon into a true Fire Dragon, a massive amount of resources is needed, but don't forget the legacy left by the Fire Dragon. That is the true nourishment to raise the Little Fire Dragon. Please feed the Fire Seed state Little Fire Dragon once. Reward: Amber with Magic Power."

The content of the mission brought him a quick insight: "The legacy of the Fire Dragon? That definitely refers to the Fire Dragon Magic Power within the volcanic glass! Certainly, this Fire Dragon Magic Power will help the development of the Mini Little Fire Dragon... After all this time, it still comes down to draining my Fire Dragon Magic Power."

Collecting Fire Dragon Magic Power was not easy; last time, in order to activate the Dragon Bone Magic Array and incubate the Magic Fire Seed, he had already exhausted most of the Fire Dragon Magic Power mined on Black Horse Island.

Now, these reserves of Fire Dragon Magic Power had to be used to feed the Mini Little Fire Dragon.

There might not be any left by the end.

The Fire Dragon Jar filled with Fire Dragon Magic Power was in his Gemstone Space. He didn't choose to start feeding it now, after all, this place was Tulip Castle, and if the Fire Dragon Magic Power leaked, it would be troublesome. He didn't even pay attention to the reward of the Smoke Mission, the Amber with Magic Power.

He calmed his mind and began to sleep.

...

Early the next morning, he left Tulip Castle.

Upon returning to his own domain, Liszt couldn't wait to take out the Fire Dragon Jar and draw out a bit of Fire Dragon Magic Power to try how to absorb it.

In fact, it wasn't troublesome at all. When he let the Mini Little Fire Dragon out, the little guy immediately smelt the "flavor" of the Fire Dragon Magic Power.

It kept crying out "oh ho", "oh ho," emanating a strong desire.

Liszt didn't give it the Fire Dragon Magic Power right away but tried to tame it as he had tamed the Blizzard Beast—this age was probably the most suitable for education, as it wouldn't be so easy once it grew up—he didn't know how to ride dragons and could only grope his way forward.

"Do a somersault, and I'll give you Fire Dragon Magic Power."

"Oh ho!"

"Do a somersault, and I'll give you Fire Dragon Magic Power."

"Oh ho!"

"Do a somersault, and I'll give you Fire Dragon Magic Power."

"Oh ho!"

After several repetitions, the Mini Little Fire Dragon somewhat reluctantly did a somersault and got a bit of Fire Dragon Magic Power as a reward from Liszt. It opened its mouth, the Fire Dragon Magic Power was sucked dry in one gulp, leaving nothing behind. Then from its body, a bit of impurity magic power was released, mixing into Liszt's Dou Qi.

He felt a very slight improvement in the quality of his Dou Qi—this was probably the process of advancing to Dragon Dou Qi.

"Fan your wings, and I'll give you Fire Dragon Magic Power."

"Oh ho!"

"Lift your hind leg, and I'll give you Fire Dragon Magic Power."

"Oh ho!"

"Stick out your butt, and I'll give you Fire Dragon Magic Power."

"Oh ho!"

"Sing a song, and I'll give you Fire Dragon Magic Power."

"Oh ho!"

"Sing, Fire Dragon Magic Power."

"Oh ho!"

"Sing, Magic Power."

"Oh ho!"

Finally, the Mini Little Fire Dragon, anxiously pacing around, still opted not to sing. Liszt had to give up, "It seems that you indeed can't sing. Well then, lick my finger and I'll give you Fire Dragon Magic Power."

The Mini Little Fire Dragon had no choice but to stick out its tongue and lick Liszt's finger, after which it was given a large clump of Fire Dragon Magic Power.

All morning, Liszt did nothing but happily feed the Mini Little Fire Dragon, establishing a bond with it through training. It seemed that the Mini Little Fire Dragon possessed dragon's pride, disdainful of Liszt even though it was nurtured within his body.

But for the Fire Dragon Magic Power, it had to lower its proud head—life always manages to smooth out the edges.

Gradually, all the Fire Dragon Magic Power from a Fire Dragon Jar was fed to the Mini Little Fire Dragon, making it comfortably belch and then retract into Liszt's Dou Qi meridians, scurrying off to sleep soundly near his heart.

It was satiated.

The Smoke Mission was also completed.

"Mission complete, reward with Amber containing Magic Power."

Chapter 497 Amber of the Package Era

The amber containing magic power was quickly delivered into Liszt's hands without requiring his concern.

"Viscount, this is a peculiar stone that the serfs responsible for the expansion of Fresh Flower Port Square found while leveling the Rocky Beach," Isaiah personally brought a transparent yellow stone to the castle, "It is as transparent as a gemstone, and there is actually an Elf Bug inside it!"

An Elf Bug?

Liszt swiftly took the palm-sized flat stone, its yellow color bright and decidedly transparent.

Most wondrous was that inside it was a plump Elf Bug, curled up into the shape of a doughnut, looking vividly lifelike. There were bits of leaves and other impurities around it, and the overall shape confirmed that this was indeed amber, a reward from the Smoke Mission.

"Is this the amber that contains magic?" Liszt quickly cast the Eye of Magic, examining the piece of amber.

He immediately saw a faint swirl of Magic Radiance, chaotic in color, and it was actually emanating from the Elf Bug. The Elf Bug wrapped in amber had stripes of yellow and black on its body—it was unclear if that was its original appearance or if it changed color within the amber.

This surprised him: "An Elf Bug turned into amber can still possess magic power?"

As far as he knew, amber was the result of pine resin falling and being buried underground for millions of years, fossilizing under heat and pressure to form a gem-like stone. Many

insects caught on the trunk of pine trees when the resin fell become encased and form exquisite fossils.

However, amber on Earth usually forms between forty to sixty million years ago, because it takes a very long time for pine resin to fossilize.

How long it takes for amber to form in this world was unknown to Liszt.

But it certainly couldn't be a brief process; otherwise, it would merely be rosin, not amber.

After playing with the amber for a while, Liszt asked Isaiah, "Apart from this stone, have any other stones been found at the site?"

"Not so far."

"Continue the search, it's best to turn over all the sand and stones in that area, to see if there are any other similar stones."

Isaiah asked, "Viscount, what kind of stone is this? I've never seen it before."

"Amber is a stone formed from pine resin after tens of millions of years of change. Do you see this Elf Bug? I suspect it's an Elf Bug from tens of millions of years ago."

"Tens of millions of years ago?" Isaiah exclaimed in astonishment.

Human history in this world was unclear even a few hundred years back; the sparse early records that did exist were all attributed to the Moon Empire, confusing and unclear. The idea of what this world was like tens of millions of years ago was simply unimaginable. Even Liszt was puzzled about whether humans here had evolved or not.

To say they evolved, then how did magical creatures like Elves and Dragons evolve?

And Sea Serpents, according to Ach, she was born within a shell—there seems to be no apparent evolutionary link between shell-dwelling Sea Serpents with a humanoid form and humans.

Therefore.

No one knows what this world was like tens of millions of years ago.

"Have the serfs continue to search for amber like this, perhaps they will find more things from tens of millions of years ago encapsulated within... The falling pine resin wrapped up things from that time, and then it was preserved indefinitely, just like this Elf Bug preserved in the amber," he told Isaiah.

Curious as well, Isaiah replied loudly, "Yes, Viscount, I will personally supervise the serfs in their search for amber!"

After the Administrative Officer left, Liszt continued to toy with the amber.

And he began to ponder.

He always believed that each reward from the Smoke Mission was valuable—except for that Wind Falcon, Juan Fu, that damned bird that never returned. He should have slaughtered and eaten it when he had the chance.

"Since the Smoke Mission has delivered this piece of amber and specifically mentioned that it contains magic power, what exactly does that mean? Could this be a piece of natural magic equipment, like the Black Pearl? No, that's not right; the magic doesn't come from the amber itself but from the Elf Bug within it. Yet, the Elf Bug should have already merged with the amber, right?"

Tens of millions of years of immersion.

The amber and the object it encloses have long since become inseparable, leaving only the original structure behind.

"So, what use is this chunk of amber, as an ornament?" Li Si Te shook his head, making a decision, "Better let Chris study it and see if she can find any valuable clues... It's perfect timing since she's about to become the second Grand Magician under my command!"

The advancement of Chris to Grand Magician had not yet occurred, but it was imminent.

Because the Smoke Mission had already tugged at the thread of fate.

"Mission: Chef Bawel from Fresh Flower Town Tavern is very interested in the 'tofu' reward issued by the Landlord, but despite trying various bean products, he cannot produce tofu, which has exhausted all his savings. However, he is not disheartened and plans to continue his research on tofu. Reward: One Grand Magician."

Tofu was one of Li Si Te's great frustrations.

He knew tofu was made from beans, but what exactly is gypsum; he never understood. He had issued a reward early, hoping someone could make a soft jelly-like food from beans.

However, more than a year had passed, and still no chef had completed this research. Yet it had led to many pleasant surprises—fermented bean curd, soy milk, bean sprouts.

Now.

It seemed that the dawn of tofu production had arrived, and without hesitation, Li Si Te supported Bawel with ten Gold Coins to continue his tofu research. He also shared all his knowledge about tofu with Bawel, hoping this would help him produce the long-awaited tofu sooner.

And that Chris Truth would advance to Grand Magician all the sooner.

Among the magicians in his territory, apart from Chris, there was only Paris—and Paris clearly was not ready yet, leaving Chris the one about to advance.

...

In the Magic Workshop.

Due to the scarcity of magic potion raw materials, Chris only needed to set aside seven or eight days a month to produce the Magic Potions from the local output. She spent the rest

of her time studying Advanced Magic and Magic Arrays—essentially, Advanced Magic is just more complex Magic Arrays.

"Viscount, what brings you here?" Chris seemed surprised; Li Si Te had only recently collected magic potions before the New Year.

Li Si Te smiled, "Are you still working on Advanced Magic?"

"I am studying the Black Pearl and Pink Pearl. Both types of pearls are natural Magic Arrays, which provide a lot of inspiration for me, and I have begun to try making them into Magic Equipment."

"The Black Pearl and Pink Pearl are indeed excellent research materials, but I've brought you another type of precious material that might give you new insights."

With that, Li Si Te took out the palm-sized, flat, round piece of amber and handed it to Chris.

Just at first glance.

Chris exclaimed in amazement, "What is this, a gemstone? It's so beautiful! I've never seen such a gemstone before, and it even has an... Elf Bug inside?"

"This is amber, a wonderful mishap from tens of millions of years ago that formed a treasure," Li Si Te explained the origin of the amber.

To call the amber a treasure was not an exaggeration.

For enclosed within the amber was not merely some kind of bug, but the essence of an era.

#### Chapter 498 Opening a Treasure Chest with Blood

Chris was so enamored with the Elf Bug Amber that she set to study its secrets immediately, which would take time. Liszt did not linger long in the Magic Workshop; after returning to the Castle, he began attempting to cultivate.

Having just advanced to a Sky Knight, his Intermediate Dou Qi had been newly born as Advanced Dou Qi and continued to evolve into Dragon Dou Qi, which made his cultivation plan rather choppy, and he had not groped much clue into it so far. He needed to wait for his body to stabilize before he could record the data properly.

However, there was no problem with cultivating "Rising Sun Blaze".

The techniques in the Advanced Dou Qi Manual were very vague, and this High-level Fire Attribute Dou Qi manual contained only seventeen techniques in total.

They were generally divided into two tiers, one tier of common techniques and another of charged techniques.

There were twelve common techniques, and five charged techniques, which were Full Sun Wheel, Rising Sun Ascend, Scorching Sun Sting, Setting Sun Drop, and Crimson Dawn Burn respectively.

The Advanced Dou Qi Manual had no Ultimate Mystery Technique.

The twelve common techniques were not too difficult, and with Liszt's memory and comprehension skills, it wasn't going to take much time to learn them. In fact, he had already begun researching these twelve common techniques when he was at the stage of an Elite Earth Knight, even though he couldn't wield them with Intermediate Dou Qi, simulating them was still possible.

Now, all he needed was to put them into practice, cultivating with ease and calm.

However.

The charged techniques were much more difficult, involving the operation mechanism of Advanced Dou Qi, which required a lot of practice and attempts to truly cultivate successfully.

Liszt had not yet mastered any charged technique for the time being.

Thus.

Time quickly moved on to the evening, and after dinner, Liszt immediately rushed to the Sea View Villa—Ake, who was salvaging the Sky Ship, should have returned by now.

Upon his arrival at the Sea View Villa, it was indeed the case.

Ake was waiting at the door to greet him: "Brother, you have returned."

"I have been back since this morning. When did you get here?"

"At dusk. By the way, brother, Ake has moved all the valuable things from that sunken ship over here." Ake led Liszt to another room, which was piled with a bunch of tattered items, "They're all here, and many chests can't be opened yet."

"Chests?"

Now the mention of chests inexplicably excited Liszt.

He first organized all the chests, placing them aside without immediately opening them. These chests were covered with dense patterns almost identical to those on the drift bottles used for messaging by the Child of the Sun, forming somewhat abstract patterns vaguely identifiable as forests.

In the forests, there were mountains, rivers, bears, eagles, fish, and some abstract human figures, as well as some strange instruments, bows, and arrows.

No locks.

Clearly, these kinds of chests probably required the blood of Old Phil from the Tanners' Shop.

"I'll have to collect some more blood from Old Phil later, the more I stock up, the better. However, it seems that the middle-aged widow found by Old Phil is probably pregnant?" Liszt thought, as he hadn't been paying attention to Old Phil recently because the drift bottles were not very useful.

After all, he had already stockpiled quite a bit of blood.

If the middle-aged widow found by Old Phil was really pregnant and gave birth, then there would be no concern over the bloodline of the Sun Descendant.

After organizing the chests, the remaining tattered items were some damaged utensils that could just about be identified as basins, buckets, longswords, bows, sticks, armors, ropes, etc. There were also stones embedded in the damaged utensils, likely once gemstones, now dim and lusterless.

"How long must these have soaked in the sea to turn gemstones into stones?" Liszt used the Eye of Magic to discern that this pile of broken items had no magic reaction.

From this, he could infer that the date of the Sky Ship's sinking was definitely not recent, at least several hundred to a thousand years ago.

"If it wasn't within the last hundred or so years, then it means the Sky Ship wasn't here to pick up the Sun Descendant, which doesn't conflict with the emergence of communication drift bottles... But why did this Sky Ship sink near the waters of Black Horse Island hundreds of years ago?"

Black Horse Island was formed by a volcano created from a fallen fire dragon's descent and eruption.

Liszt wondered if the death of this fire dragon had anything to do with the Sky Ship—perhaps the Sky Ship had come to excavate the fire dragon's remains; or maybe the Sky Ship had encountered the fire dragon in battle, and both had been damaged, sinking here.

With this thought in mind,

he asked Ake, "Ake, are there any signs of damage on the sunken ship?"

"Don't know, brother, half of the sunken ship is buried in the seabed mud, Ake only cleaned up the ship cabin. But the part that's out of the mud, the main structure seems to be

undamaged; it's just that many of the ship planks are gone. There are also lots of fish and shrimp living inside."

It was normal for parts of a structure that were not sturdy enough to decay after having been submerged for so long.

"Then, did you see any human bones on the ship?"

"Seems not, the ship cabin is very clean, there are only some boxes."

Hearing Ake say this, Liszt immediately ruled out the possibility that the fire dragon and the Sky Ship had both suffered in a mutual battle. Given the fire dragon's power, if a battle had occurred, it could have possibly torn the Sky Ship to shreds.

He suddenly asked again, "Right, Ake, is there anything different about that sunken ship compared to my ships?"

The Sky Ship and ordinary ships should have significant differences.

After pondering for a moment, Ake replied, "It seems there's no mast, Ake is not sure, brother; the sunken ship is too old, and its hull is covered with various corals."

Liszt didn't press the issue, as he was going to lift the Sky Ship sooner or later.

So he simply said, "Ake, you go rest, I want to study carefully what's inside these boxes."

"Mm, Ake will read now. Recently, Ake has been working hard to learn about magic arrays."

"Good, my dear Ake."

"Hehe."

...

Having sent the Sea Sprite Ake away,

Liszt directly placed one of the boxes into the Gemstone Space, and then, inside the Gemstone Space, he smeared it with Old Phil's blood. However, to his surprise, there was absolutely no reaction when the blood was applied.

"What's the matter?"

"Is everything in the Gemstone Space at a standstill, even such reactions involving blood?"

Liszt waited for a brief moment, then decided to take the box back out. Once out, indeed, the reaction began instantly. The patterns on the box, strands after strands of magic power lines appeared, forming a series of dynamic images—bears, eagles, humans, mountains, running water, flashing by one after another.

In the end, it seemed as if the setting sun had slammed down on the lid of the box.

With a click,

the box opened.

Learning from the experience of salvaging treasure from sunken ships in the past, Liszt quickly put the box back into the Gemstone Space to avoid the items inside being exposed to the air and oxidizing or decaying on contact.

He stored it in the Gemstone Space,

before extending his senses into it, starting to observe the contents of the box in another way. To his considerable surprise, what was packed inside were seeds, lots of them.

Seeds of some plant.

Seeds faintly imbued with magic power.

He couldn't help exclaiming, "Magic Medicine Seeds?"

#### Chapter 499 Druid Transforms into a Bear

This was a box of seeds shaped like fava beans, but they were certainly not fava beans, for their colors were dazzling: black, white, red, yellow, purple, green, blue, gray... all in single colors, yet each differed from the others, and there were far more colors than those of a rainbow.

Some seeds could be seen with a faint magic power through the Eye of Magic, a chaotic magic without any color attribute.

But most of the seeds did not shine with magic radiance.

"These should be seeds of the same plant species, with those possessing magic power being Magic Medicine Seeds and those without being ordinary seeds?" Liszt swallowed, but soon denied his own guess, "That's not right either; even among the fava beans of the same green color, some have magic power while others don't. The same is true for other colors."

The fava beans of the same color, presumably of the same species, exhibited forms both with and without magic power.

Moreover, not all magic beans with magic power showed the same intensity. Liszt even found that a few beans had nearly imperceptible magic power.

"These... Could it be that the magic power has leaked due to being stored for too long, resulting in their current state? Does this mean that these beans were once Magic Medicine Seeds?" With this thought, his excitement surged, the prospect of so many varieties of Magic Medicine was like striking it rich.

But his enthusiasm quickly diminished, and his brows furrowed.

"Having Magic Medicine Seeds is all well and good, but without the corresponding Elf Bug, how am I to cultivate them?"

The growth of Magic Potion plants relies on the influence of Cordyceps, and once separated from the Cordyceps, the Magic Potion would soon lose its magic power and revert to ordinary plants. This box of Magic Medicine Seeds was clearly not any plant species Liszt already knew, and naturally, there were no corresponding Elf Bugs.

Thus, the idea of planting Magic Potions was nothing but a pipe dream.

It felt like a bucket of cold water had been poured over him from head to toe.

Chilling to the core.

"Was this all just a fleeting joy?" He paused for a moment, then quickly regained his composure, as there were still twelve other boxes to check slowly.

Maybe there would be Elf Bugs in the others... which didn't seem likely, as Elf Bugs didn't have such long lifespans.

He opened the second box in the same manner, immediately storing it in the Gemstone Space and proceeding to inspect it—this box, too, was full of seeds, but they were flat and round. Golden in color, and about the size of a little fingernail, they were also Magic Medicine Seeds.

Some had magic power, some did not.

The third box contained seeds; the fourth box, seeds... until the tenth box, all were Magic Medicine Seeds. Each of these ten boxes contained different seeds, all of which were species Liszt had never seen before. Some resembled beans, others grains; some were as large as fists, while others as tiny as sesame seeds.

The sheer number and variety of Magic Medicine Seeds should have been a cause for ecstatic joy.

But the more Liszt looked, the more stifled he felt—given seeds without Elf Bugs, it was like seeing a feast he couldn't eat, utterly frustrating!

Only three boxes remained.

With a resigned heart, he opened the first, and this time, the box did not contain Magic Medicine Seeds, but books. Book after book were neatly stacked, piled up vertically, and on the spine were complex characters—he recognized at a glance that this was Sun Script.

And he could even make out quite a few of the characters.

After all, reading Philip, Descendant of the Sun's Diary hadn't been for naught.

"XXX Sun Tower XX construction XX?" Liszt read the title of one of the books. While he didn't understand all of the Sun Script, he could guess the general idea; it seemed to be a book on how to construct the Sun Tower. Then he looked at the next book, "XXX transformation XX bear X..."

The following several books had a similar template: "XXX transformation XX eagle X", "XXX transformation XX leopard X", "XXX transformation XXXX" and so on.

...

...

Many Sun Scripts, Li Si Te couldn't recognize, so he could only guess, "These first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth books, seem to be about shape-shifting. Could it be that the Child of the Sun can transform into bears, eagles, leopards, and the like?"

He pulled out one of the books titled "XXX Shapeshift XX Bear X". The book was well-preserved and showed no signs of decay.

The cover was very soft and delicate, feeling like some sort of tree leaf, and the pages within were also very thin, much like the strip of paper he had found in the Messaging Drift Bottle. On the first page, there was a beautifully colored painting; if it weren't for the traces of drawn lines, Li Si Te would have almost thought it was a photograph.

In the painting was a huge bear with brown fur and large fangs.

As he continued to flip through the pages, the following sections were filled with dense Sun Script texts which Li Si Te found he couldn't read, despite learning some Sun Script from "Philip, Descendant of the Sun's Diary". Indeed, he recognized a few Sun Scripts, but he did not understand them when they were connected.

"Dizzy, let's switch to the next one."

The next book's first colored painting depicted a dolphin, so its title should probably be "XXX Shapeshift XX Dolphin X". The one after that depicted a walking tree, so it was named "XXX Shapeshift XX Tree X".

Another book followed, featuring a painting of a fat bird that seemed incapable of flight, walking instead. Li Si Te had never seen it before and could not determine what it actually was. He couldn't even find a comparable species; it had a posture like a penguin but looked like an overly obese owl.

"Just call it Owl Beast then, it's all translated names anyway, doesn't matter if they are accurate or not."

Thus, this book was named "XXX Shapeshift XX Owl Beast X", from which it could be known that the Child of the Sun's shape-shifting magic included transformations into bears, leopards, eagles, dolphins, trees, and Owl Beasts.

"Shape-shifting magic, this reminds me of the 'Druid' profession. It seems that Curtis Truth mentioned Druids in his leftover notes, ranking them alongside magicians, liches, alchemists, and so forth. Perhaps the three Sun Scripts at the front of the book title are the words 'Druid'."

""Druid Shapeshift XX Bear X"?"

He could no longer guess the remaining Sun Scripts in the book title, so he put down the book rather quickly and continued browsing. However, for many of the following books, he couldn't recognize a single Sun Script, let alone guess their meaning.

...

The penultimate chest contained more books.

This made Li Si Te somewhat conflicted. He enjoyed reading, but Sun Script was a foreign literature to him, and with his limited vocabulary, he couldn't understand it.

He was not an archaeologist who could spend a considerable amount of time studying these books to collate and summarize, to determine the meaning of every Sun Script.

Therefore.

These books were just like those Magic Medicine Seeds to him, seemingly very precious but actually utterly useless.

"There's only one last chest left, don't tell me this one also contains Magic Medicine Seeds or books," Li Si Te said nervously as he opened the final chest.

Instantly.

The contents of the chest came into view.

They were neither Magic Medicine Seeds nor Sun Script books.

Instead, it was a broken scepter in two pieces, a golden scepter, with one piece being a metal rod intricately carved with dense patterns, and the other piece an adornment resembling the Sun bursting with light. Right in the center of the radiant Sun was a shattered, large golden gemstone.

Even within Gemstone Space, where it was impossible to see directly with the naked eye, it still gave him the illusion of being "blinded by the light".

...

## Chapter 500 The Glass Greenhouse of the Castle

The golden Sun Scepter, although broken in half, still allowed a glimpse of its once magnificent form. This was definitely an artifact of extraordinary value, and its owner must have been a person of towering power and influence.

Liszt reached out and picked up one half of the scepter.

It was a rod, with a metallic texture, but it was not clear what metal it had been made from. It felt moderately heavy in hand, perhaps slightly lighter than a similar iron rod. The pattern on it was very regular, with one ring nestled within another, yet it was a mystery what it intended to convey.

At the very end of the scepter was a hexagonal prism one finger in length.

On the cross section of the break, there were jagged notches, not as if it had been chopped or smashed, but as though the break was caused by some kind of stress.

"So it's not made of a single metal, but a metal rod cast in layers," Liszt concluded as he looked at the colors on the fractured surface.

Because the fracture surface contained changes much like growth rings.

In the center was a transparent triangle, only as thick as a finger, resembling some kind of crystal. Surrounding it was a circle of silvery-white metal, encasing the crystalline triangle. Beyond that layer was gray metal in a hexagonal structure. Then there was metal of a light blue color, also in a circular structure.

The outermost layer was golden metal, circular as well, and about as thick as a baby's arm.

These five structured layers had clear color boundaries, yet were so tightly arranged and even in thickness that they nearly fused into one. Such casting technology exceeded Liszt's knowledge. At least the Duchy of Sapphire didn't have an Iron Knight capable of forging metal with such precision.

He put down the lower half of the Sun Scepter and picked up the upper half.

The tip of the upper section where the sun burst forth in a structure of radiant light was hard to describe. Inside, there was a circle with an irregularly shaped gem, the size of an adult male's fist, embedded within. The gem wasn't perfectly round but an irregular meteorite shape, transparent, with the clarity of a diamond.

Regrettably, the gem was already cracked, the largest crack as thick as a fingernail.

Even so, this golden gemstone continued to "blind the eyes", implying how dazzling its brilliance must have been when it was intact.

Outside the inner circle lay another circle.

This outer circle's shape somewhat resembled the Moon Gold Wheel design from "The Legend of Shushan", circular but with a slight gap, like a crescent moon. Arranged on this crescent-shaped outer circle were larger and smaller representations of "light", depicted by metal pins.

They varied in length, arranged without any clear pattern, but the pins slanting at forty-five-degree angles upward and downward were the longest.

Both the inner and outer circles were made of the same golden metal as the scepter handle.

"What kind of level does this divine artifact belong to? Is it a weapon or magic equipment? Is it a scepter symbolizing status, or a magic wand wielded by a magician?" Liszt matched the two halves of the scepter together, the fractured surfaces aligning perfectly, but without any reaction.

In this world, as far as he had observed, magicians did not wield magic wands.

They might wear some magic power amplifying equipment, but they did not need to wave a magic wand and then chant a magic spell.

As for the weapon equipment rank of the Sun Scepter, Liszt was likewise unable to determine it.

Based on the information he currently had from knight novels and magic books, the most top-tier divine artifacts were the Dragon Soul Soldier — weapons forged from dragon bone infused with the dragon's soul, their power astounding. Following those were the Dragon Elf Weapon and the Dragon Tooth Soldier, but all three types of weapons had never appeared in the Duchy of Sapphire.

Beyond those were the Greater Elf Warrior and Dragon Bone Weapon.

There was one Greater Elf Warrior in the Duchy of Sapphire, the Grand Duke's own sword — the Wailing Cage Sword.

As for the Dragon Bone Weapon, during the battle at Iron Hoof Island, the sword in the hands of the Marquis of Bull, which emitted blue flames, made Liszt wonder if it was a Dragon Bone Weapon.

After that came the Little Elf Soldier and Gemstone Weapon, both of which Liszt possessed — the Swift Shadow Bow and the Crimson Blood Sword.

"Judging by the material used to make the Sun Scepter, it's at most the level of a gemstone weapon, but the jewel embedded in it is a bit on the larger side."

Typically, gemstones are quite small, and one the size of an adult male's fist is rare indeed.

Moreover, its golden color also differs from that of regular gemstones. Liszt had seen similar-colored topaz before. During the New Year's celebration at Long Taro Castle, his grandfather had given Cousin Rolie a topaz pendant, but the color of the topaz was more yellow than gold.

Regrettably.

This golden gemstone had already shattered, and even the Eye of Magic couldn't detect a trace of magic power in it. It had become a useless gemstone.

...

Liszt packed all thirteen chests into the Gemstone Space.

Even though he couldn't understand the books and didn't know how to plant the seeds, perhaps their value would be revealed in the future. As for the Sun Scepter, he planned to keep it, even though it was no longer functional. He could repair it when the opportunity arose—just for show, it still had some allure.

Apart from the contents of the chests, the other items Ach retrieved had no value.

Not to say they were worthless; they might have great archaeological value—but archaeological value still meant nothing to Liszt for the time being.

"Ach, I'm taking the chests with me. You should rest early and not stay up late."

"Mhm."

Leaving the Sea View Villa and returning to the castle, Liszt was not tired. The Mini Little Fire Dragon kept snoozing at the spot over his heart and wouldn't wake up anytime soon.

He glanced at a book written in Sun Script, which might as well have been a celestial tome, and soon felt his eyes swell.

He sighed and put the book away, "Better go to sleep, then get up tomorrow and set up a glass greenhouse. I'll start planting those Magic Medicine Seeds!"

No sooner said than done.

Early the next morning, he had a batch of glass from the Fire Dragon Brick Factory brought over—glass had now officially entered production, continuing the cooperative approach with Tulip Castle, and profit-sharing negotiations were underway. Glass that could be produced in large volumes would surely impact the crystal market.

The pricing was hard to pin down.

With the discovery of quartz ores, Liszt had sent people to various parts of Coral Island to discover these mines, ensuring an ample supply of raw materials.

Even though the glass still contained impurities and wasn't completely transparent.

Making a glass greenhouse was nevertheless effortlessly within reach. He instructed the servants to use wood and rubber to bind and secure the glass, soon constructing a modest

glass greenhouse in the castle's garden. Next, Liszt picked a selection of seeds without magic power from the Magic Medicine Seeds and began to sow them.

Watering and fertilizing, waiting for them to sprout.

To maintain the indoor temperature, he also placed a Magic Little Fire Dragon in the glass greenhouse. With the Magic Little Fire Dragon providing warmth, the temperature inside the greenhouse could easily stay around ten degrees, which was suitable for the seeds to germinate.

"I hope that the seeds that have lost their magic power can still sprout."

He wanted to see what kind of plants these seeds would yield. Once he knew the types of plants, he could buy the corresponding Elf Bugs and then plant the Magic Potions. Even without the corresponding Elf Bugs, he could cultivate them generation by generation, as there was a chance an Elf Bug might emerge.

Then, he could once again plant the Magic Potions.

Liszt couldn't help but commend himself for his cleverness.