The Mighty 511

Chapter 511 The Hesitation of an Old Friend

She toiled for a year and became an Earth Knight.

Emily's talent was undeniable; even the Smoke Mission was amazed by her. As for her training, Liszt had already made his considerations. He planned to cultivate Emily as a future Sky Knight, for she had such talent and was at the right age to be promoted to Sky Knight.

In this world, there were no female Dragon Knights, but there were quite a few female Sky Knights, just not yet in the Duchy of Sapphire.

Within the cultivation system, women were inherently at a disadvantage, and most noblewomen were expected to bear children, which hindered their training. As tools for political marriage, they also received less support from their families. Even the two daughters of the Sapphire Duke were no exception—they received scant resources for cultivation, if they ever thought about training at all.

After all, cultivating was no easy feat; it involved enduring much hardship, unlike the comfortable life of noble ladies attending balls and engaging in romantic pursuits.

"Emily, I am very pleased that you have become an Earth Knight within a year,"

"My lord, I still need to work harder."

"It is right to work hard. You were born a commoner and are a woman. Only hard work can take you to greater heights. You are a follower I value, with mighty talent. I can invest resources to nurture you. But without the desire to become stronger, no one can guarantee your future."

Emily replied earnestly, "Please rest assured, my lord. I will double my efforts and will not let you down!"

"Rest well these next couple of days and stabilize your Intermediate Dou Qi. I will select a suitable Thunder Attribute Dou Qi Secret Technique for you and also increase your nutritional standard."

"Thank you, my lord!"

The twelve-year-old girl soon left from beneath the apple tree.

Watching her retreating figure, which was beginning to show grace, Liszt couldn't help but be filled with emotion: "The strength of the domain continues to grow; I am making progress, and so are others... Ach and Chris have already become Grand Magicians, and Emily has become an Earth Knight."

For a Viscounty to give rise to two Grand Magicians and a Sky Knight—such power was unprecedentedly strong.

A moment later.

After feeding the Mini Little Fire Dragon and looking at the empty Fire Dragon Jar, Liszt began to feel disconsolate.

Only some areas of Black Horse Island still had unmined Volcanic Glass, enough to produce the Fire Dragon Magic Power for at most three more Fire Dragon Jars before being completely depleted.

If the Mini Little Fire Dragon continued to require Fire Dragon Magic Power, he would have no choice but to divert the supply from the Fire Dragon Brick Factory and the Glass Workshop. However, he was not yet willing to shut down those operations, even though he had ordered the workers to experiment with the Charcoal Kiln.

He was preparing for the day when the Fire Dragon Magic Power would be exhausted.

After all, in order to become a Dragon Rider, Liszt would spare no expense—once a Fire Dragon was conceived, would there still be a shortage of Fire Dragon Magic Power?

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The next day.

Once Goltai received the letter announcing Liszt's appointment of Charles Trap as head of the security force, the Smoke Mission was completed.

"Mission completed, reward 'Aris's True Herb Classification'."

That afternoon, returning from abroad, Elkerson True brought a fresh batch of Magic Books, along with three simple types of Common Magic that he had found with great effort. After receiving his desired reward, he hastily left Fresh Flower Town, ready to enjoy himself thoroughly at the brothel in Coral City.

Hence, Liszt easily found 'Aris's True Herb Classification' among the pile of Magic Books.

"A professional book on herbs?" Liszt opened the book and became interested upon seeing its contents, "This magician named Aris True chose to study herbs that can cure diseases instead of studying magic power. It seems he is a scholar in the mold of Li Shizhen."

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Li Shizhen authored the monumental work on traditional Chinese medicine, the Compendium of Materia Medica, and is rightly considered a medical saint.

Although Aris True's Herbs Classification is also rich in content, it clearly cannot compare to the Compendium of Materia Medica. Looking at the records on the index page, it lists approximately one hundred and twenty types of herbs, each accompanied by an illustration. In contrast to the Compendium's thousands of medicines, it seems rather meager.

In this world, it is still considered a significant advancement since in a society supported by magic power, knights and magicians have no incentive to delve into medicine.

The bodies of knights and magicians constantly improve with magic power, making them less susceptible to illness.

As for the commoners, their life and death are of no concern to the noble knights and magicians. Only Liszt, with the soul of a modern person, cared more about the survival of the common people. Then, by accident, he met a magician who also cared about the commoners and authored this book on medical magic.

He called over another retainer knight, Philip: "Take this book of magic to Consultant Goltai and have him arrange for a few copies to be made. Place this book in the Craftsman Institute of the Knight Academy as one of the teaching textbooks."

"Yes, my lord."

Following his command, Philip departed, taking with him the book of magic whose cover had already been torn. Next, Liszt hid in his study and began to tear the covers of all the remaining magic books, seeking the possible Dou Qi Secret Technique.

After confirming that none of the magic books contained any hidden Dou Qi Secret Techniques,

he lacklusterly engaged in his new Smoke Mission.

"It's somewhat ironic; the Smoke Mission really is a reflection of my inner world, an image that I had fantasized about just a few days ago, now appearing in the form of a mission."

Looking at the changing Smoke Serpent Script before him, his expression was awkward.

"Mission: Li Weiliam is a mountain peak in your heart waiting to be surpassed. Although you are still young, your strength is no longer inferior. Work hard to cultivate the Rising Sun Blaze, and by defeating Li Weiliam, you will witness the splendid expression on his face. Reward: The lingering of an old friend."

Although it was embarrassing, the content of the mission coincided with his thoughts.

In Coral Island and its surroundings, the only one who could serve as his opponent and accept a challenge was the Earl. Now, with five charging moves in the Rising Sun Blaze—Full Sun Wheel, Rising Sun Ascend, Scorching Sun Sting, Setting Sun Drop, Crimson Dawn Burn—he has only yet to learn Crimson Dawn Burn.

The challenge could be issued at any time.

"But what does this 'lingering of an old friend' mean?" Liszt puzzled over it, unable to understand. Having crossed into this world, he hadn't made any friends in two years, merely accepting followers continuously.

However, his predecessor did indeed have some friends.

Most of these friends had already come to Black Horse Island to settle and had become his followers, leaving only a few who had not come, but they could hardly be considered old friends—Liszt didn't regard them as friends at all.

"I don't have any old friends. If you talk about an old flame, perhaps Duniko Hyacinth could be considered one, but I heard she has already married, becoming the wife of an Earl's son... Although Rona Sally Golden Wheat isn't married, the naive love from the past has already scattered with the wind."

He did not expect these two women to entangle with him again.

Similarly, he could not think of any old friends of his own.

"Never mind, if I can't figure it out, I won't think about it. When I challenge the Earl and defeat him, I will naturally know who the old friend is."

He unsheathed the Sky-Cleaving Greatsword with a decisive motion, his heart afire: "Cultivate, become stronger, I want to be the strongest on Coral Island!"

The new waves push the old waves, and the old waves die on the beach!

Now.

The era of Liszt is about to dawn on Coral Island!

Chapter 512 Departure to Tulip Castle

Spinning, leaping, I soared to the sky.

The training of Sky Knights is entirely different from that of Earth Knights. Earth Knights are inseparable from the "Earth," while Sky Knights yearn for the "Sky."

With continuous practice of "Rising Sun Blaze", he had already managed to control his flight one hundred meters up in the air and unleash powerful Dou Qi techniques. By using the forces of diving and plummeting, he could strike enemies on the ground, crushing a Knight Order on his own.

At the same time, Liszt did not forget "Multi-Arrow".

Archery executed with Advanced Dou Qi was even more terrifying.

His control also greatly strengthened. Originally, with Intermediate Dou Qi, he could only master the Triple Arrow realm, but now he was able to control the Multiple Arrow realm. With one hand drawing four arrows, he could freely combine the flight paths of the arrows and still hit his target with unerring accuracy.

The Ultimate Mystery Technique—Multiple Phantom Arrow—could be executed instantaneously, without the need for long charge-up times.

And one day, Liszt gradually discovered that since his Advanced Dou Qi had upgraded to High-level Fire Attribute Dragon Dou Qi, the power greatly increased while the dispersion rate significantly decreased. From the moment the arrow was shot to the point it hit the target, the Dou Qi he attached to the arrow would not completely dissipate.

This allowed him to control the arrow from start to finish, greatly enhancing its threat.

He could even detonate the Dou Qi at the last moment for an additional increase in power.

"The arrow's power of an ordinary Sky Knight is 1 point, with the addition of Dragon Dou Qi, mine is at least 3 points!" Although he had not seen other Sky Knights shoot arrows, with his level of control and detailed analysis of combat power, the margin of error was not large.

Thump!

He fell from the sky, the Dou Qi stored in his feet interacting with the ground rebound, allowing him to steadily control his body. He did not damage the ground, no more than an ordinary person jumping off a wall.

He stowed away the Swift Shadow Bow.

Drawing the Sky-Cleaving Greatsword, he quickly went through the twelve standard techniques of "Rising Sun Blaze". Normal techniques had no fixed routine and could be randomly combined; these techniques were more like a guide to the movement of Dou Qi rather than a combination of powerful moves.

"This Dou Qi Manuscript is somewhat inconsistent with the nature of the Dou Qi inside my body, especially now that I have Dragon Dou Qi and not just pure Fire Attribute Dou Qi."

While practicing the moves, he could still afford to let his mind wander, "When I have free time, I must revise this Advanced Dou Qi Manual or even compile a completely new one that suits me." He had previously mentioned to the Earl in a conversation that he would write his own Advanced Dou Qi Manual.

At the time, it sounded boastful, and he had taken no action since.

However, now, he truly felt that others' Dou Qi Manuscripts were not perfectly compatible with his Dou Qi, preventing him from leveraging his full combat power.

He couldn't compile a new manual quickly.

For the time being, he could only continue to practice "Rising Sun Blaze".

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Black Horse Island.

The heavy snow had stopped, and sunlight cleaved through the clouds. The melting snow chattered away in every corner of the island. Standing amidst the thorns in Thorn Town's Thorn Garden, Liszt took out a Jade Box, allowing the newly contracted Thorn Bug to crawl onto his hand.

He gently called out, "Little one, release the Cordyceps."

The Thorn Bug opened its mouth, and a beam of light spat out, transforming into a seed that fell into the center of the Thorn Garden. Then, a new thorn bush swiftly grew at a visible pace... This was a Thorn Bug born from a Rapid Growth Magic Thorn, and unlike the plain grey common Thorn Bugs, this one was a light shade of purple amidst the white.

It was a bit more beautiful.

But as long as it was a Thorn Bug, the plants it affected were all thorns.

Based on Liszt's knowledge and observations of Elf Bugs, the area they influenced was limited to the plant's "genus"—domain, kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, species being the genus.

The species is the most basic classification of creatures.

The genus is a collection of closely related species.

Alfalfa is a genus that includes species such as purple alfalfa, sky blue alfalfa, and even the shrubby wooden alfalfa. Alfalfa Bugs affect all these species of alfalfa.

However, beyond the genus, the Elf Bug can no longer influence.

For example, barley and wheat are both part of the wheat family but belong to different genera, so the Barley Bug cannot affect wheat, and the Little Wheat Bug cannot affect barley.

When a similar plant mutates to produce a Magic Potion, it is equivalent to the emergence of a new species. The Rapid Growth Magic Thorn is a new species, but still belongs to the Thorn genus. It and the common Thorn, Rapid Growth Thorn, Rapid Growth Poison

Thorn, Rapid Growth Spiky Thorn, and Rapid Growth Iron Thorns are all closely related species, all affected by the Thorn Bug.

Similarly, the mutated varieties of Corn Grass such as Valley Corn, Oil Corn, and Stick Corn also belong to the Corn genus—on Earth, they probably fall under the genus of maize, but here, they fall under the Corn genus as defined by Liszt.

Cordyceps were placed.

The Thorn Bug obviously weakened a lot.

Liszt placed it back into the Jade Box and instructed Charles, the Captain of the security team that followed: "The security team must take good care of the Cordyceps in the Thorn Garden. After the spring, I may move Jela's Cordyceps here as well. The Thorn Garden will be a key cultivation area in the domain."

"I understand, my Lord. Rest assured, the security team will guard all the Cordyceps and workshops," Charles said full of ambition. He was once a wandering Honored Knight from outside the territory who gave up his title to follow Liszt back into the fray.

The changes to the territory and the strength of the Landlord now filled him with great content at his decision back then.

Moreover, he was entrusted with an important role, becoming one of the three group leaders.

He knew he couldn't compare to Marcus's tough connections, to Paris's strength and high beauty, so being appointed as the Captain of the security team was an honor of the highest order.

The only repayment for the Landlord's trust was diligent work!

After encouraging Charles a few words,

Liszt left the Thorn Garden and headed straight for New Harbor Town. By now, New Harbor had been mostly built and was capable of berthing ships. Next to New Harbor, a

rudimentary shipyard had been constructed, and that sunken Sky Ship was in the shipyard being refitted into a sea-going vessel.

Without professional Shipbuilders in the domain, the shipwrights could only mimic other sailing ships to design this Sky Ship.

"My Lord, welcome to inspect the progress of the shipyard," said the Steward managing the shipyard, a former Earth Knight from the Eagle Kingdom who had a keen interest in shipbuilding.

"How is the progress of the Sunset?" Liszt inquired.

The Sunset was the name of this new ship, and currently, there were a total of seven seagoing ships that had been launched from Fresh Flower Town.

These were the Fresh Flower Vessel, Thorn Number, Mangrove Number, Pearl, as well as three newly launched ships, Corn, Rubber, and Serpent Blood. The names commemorated Mickey, the Corn Minor Elf, the triplet Rubber Bugs, and the Intermediate-level Sea Monster, the Six-Headed King Serpent.

"The main repair work on the Sunset is nearly complete, and we're contemplating how to retrofit it. The hull is simply too large, making the design complex, and it will need at least three masts to provide power. Our shipwrights only have experience with two-masted ships and find it difficult to design a three-masted structure."

"Then organize a group of shipwrights to study the Tulip Family's three-masted sailing ships, understand their structure; I will arrange this matter."

"Thank you, my Lord."

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Having inspected the shipyard,

Liszt had no further hesitation; he returned to Fresh Flower Town to rest for the night. The following day, February 17th,

he donned his rarely worn Mithril Armor, lined with serpent skin, and draped in a red faced black cape with golden edges. He carried the Swift Shadow Bow on his back and the Sky-Cleaving Greatsword at his waist. He also wore a Sapphire Pendant, an Amplification Bracelet, and a Stabilizing Ring. Riding the Landwalker bird Loki, he called for the Blizzard Beast Squad.

Followed by the Retainer Knights and footmen,

he stepped through the snow that had yet to melt, heading towards Tulip Castle. He had already successfully practiced the five charging moves of "Rising Sun Blaze" and was brimming with High-level Fire Attribute Dragon Dou Qi.

It was time to challenge the current ruler of Coral Island—Sea Wave Sword Saint Li Weiliam Tulip.

Chapter 513 On the Shoulders of Giants

"Why did you think to come today? I thought you would be so busy on Black Horse Island that you wouldn't even have time to attend Lidun's Knight advancement celebration,"

In the study, the Earl was somewhat surprised by Liszt's visit.

His jesting carried a hint of dissatisfaction with Liszt for not attending Lidun's Earth Knight advancement banquet. Of course, it was just a slight dissatisfaction.

Liszt smiled, "I have indeed been very busy recently. Black Horse Island's grand development has countless matters that require my attention. But now things are on the right track, and I have more free time. So I thought to enjoy a lunch at Tulip Castle and also to seek some cultivation experience from you, Father."

"Seek my advice, huh..." The Earl's heart skipped a beat, a bad premonition emerging in his mind, "In the path of cultivation, you have always had firm opinions. Do you really need my guidance?"

"Yes, you are a Sword Saint Level Sky Knight, while I am just a common Sky Knight. With your guidance, I can avoid some detours and find the most correct path to cultivate,"

"It is correct for you to have such cautious thoughts."

"I've always believed that by standing on the shoulders of giants, I can see further."

"Hmm, that's an interesting saying."

"On the path of Dou Qi cultivation, the wisdom of predecessors is undoubtedly as vast as giants. We cultivate the Dou Qi Manuscripts they have left behind, continuing the Dou Qi levels they had traversed. If we cannot conquer this giant, if we cannot climb up from their shoulders, then it means failure."

The Earl frowned, that uneasy feeling resurfacing—This guy clearly came to ask for advice, so why is he preaching me these grand truths?

Liszt also quickly realized that today was not for idle chat; he decisively got straight to the point, "Father, to me, you are like a towering giant, and also the one I aspire to surpass! Today, having made some progress in 'Rising Sun Blaze,' I wanted to ask for your guidance in actual combat."

"Guidance in actual combat?"

The Earl was stunned, then nodded his head, his expression complex, "I thought you really came to seek my advice, but it turns out you just want to challenge me... You challenged me once when you were an Elite Earth Knight, it seems that after becoming a Sky Knight, your confidence has swelled."

Liszt's expression remained calm, "I haven't become arrogant, I just yearn to understand my true strength."

"Very well, I also want to see clearly, just how much strength my most outstanding son possesses that I am not aware of." The Earl stood up resolutely and left the desk, "Go wait for me in the manor, I'll change into my gear."

"Yes, Father."

Liszt turned and left, heading to the manor to wait patiently.

Meanwhile, back in the castle, Li Weiliam called his personal servant, "Bring me my battle gear, I need to change."

As the servant returned with a pile of gear, Lady Marie approached, "Dear, are you planning to go out today? You've even taken out your armor."

"No, I'm just going to have a sword duel lesson with Liszt."

"A sword duel?" Lady Marie was surprised, "Was that his purpose for coming today, to ask you for a sword duel lesson?"

"Yes."

Lady Marie did not fully understand the duels between Sky Knights; she was the quintessential noble lady of a manor adept in socializing and stewardship, but clueless about cultivation, "Let Lidun watch from the side. He is already an Earth Knight, and watching the fight of a strong knight will certainly help his cultivation."

"The combat of Sky Knights does not offer much insight to an Earth Knight. My lady, what Lidun needs is to solidify his foundation, not combat experience. Even if Levis does not accompany Loria to Golden Island, standing here, I would not allow him to watch. Earth Knights and Sky Knights are at different realms."

"Alright, I'm just being overly concerned. I just hope that Lidun can grow up faster, dear, you must know his talent is second to none."

"I understand, do not worry."

The Earl comforted Lady Marie with a few words and continued to change his equipment while she helped him adjust his armor before accompanying him out of the Castle.

By this time, Liszt was already mounted on the back of the Landwalker bird Loki. Seeing Li Weiliam emerge, he quickly said, "Father, the Rocky Beach to the north is quiet and uninhabited, making it suitable for real combat. I'll go ahead." With that, he directed Loki to set off and in the blink of an eye, he vanished into the horizon.

Lady Marie watched the direction in which Liszt disappeared and sighed softly, "Is there really a Son of Glory in this world? One Bloodline Fruit created Douson, and another created Loki. His fortunes are unbelievable... All these years, you've been seeking an Intermediate Magical Beast, yet you've never found one."

The Earl did not wish to continue the conversation.

He simply had his Retainers bring his own steed, a horse with the mixed bloodline of a Magical Beast and a Tinder Panther — the Panther. He mounted the horse and pursued in the direction Liszt had left.

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Rocky Beach.

Liszt stood with his hands behind his back, watching the surging Sea Waves by the shore, quietly adjusting his physical state. What was to follow would be his first sword battle since becoming a Sky Knight, and it would also be of the highest quality.

Clip-clop, clip-clop, clip-clop.

The Earl soon arrived.

There were no Retainers, no Servants, and no spectators. On Rocky Beach, there were only Coral Island's two Sky Knights, facing each other.

"Father, Liszt challenges you!" He slowly drew the Sky-Cleaving Greatsword, and the surging Dou Qi within his body began to circulate.

The Earl didn't waste words and drew his own Longsword, one adorned with a Topaz and a Green Gem; both shimmered brilliantly: "Let's start!" The sword was called the Ever-Resilient Sword, derived from the two gemstones with the effects of tenacity and enhancing stamina attributes.

Boom!
A whistling sound cleaved through the air as Liszt mobilized his Dou Qi, transforming into a streak of light rushing towards the Earl. A basic move from "Rising Sun Blaze" had astonishing offensive power.
In an instant, the Sky-Cleaving Greatsword arrived in front of the Earl.
The Earl's eyes flickered slightly, and the Ever-Resilient Sword was raised promptly to strike the Sky-Cleaving Greatsword accurately. The Dou Qi from both their blades erupted luminously, red and blue reflecting one another. Before the supremacy of their Dou Qi could be determined, their blades parted, and each swordsman stepped back.
Then Liszt launched another sword strike, and the Earl met it with his sword as well.
Clang!
Clang!
The fiery red Fire Attribute Dou Qi and the blue-white Water-Attribute Dou Qi intertwined with each continuing test attack, gradually twisting together and consuming one another.
Liszt continued to test with his attacks. His fighting style could be described as fierce, relentless when gaining the upper hand. Discovering the Earl's resistance was not as formidable as imagined, he could no longer restrain himself and intensified the output of his Dou Qi, ready to shift from testing to a frenzied barrage.
On the other side, the Earl furrowed his brows amid the probing.

Before his words could fade,

He had fought countless times under Pioneer Mandates, with countless sword battles, against opponents strong and weak. Some favored entanglement while others valued bursts of power, yet their Dou Qi paled in comparison to Liszt's more enduring and ferocious Fire Attribute Dou Qi in front of his own Water-Attribute Dou Qi.

Even more alarming was the fact that every strand of Liszt's Dou Qi demanded he release even more of his own Dou Qi to negate it.

After just a few probing skirmishes, his Dou Qi was nearly as taxed as if he were employing powerful techniques: "How can this be, my Dou Qi is actually being crushed!"

Chapter 514 The Sword Saint in the Past Tense

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The Earl was shocked in his heart.

However, Liszt felt great. He went all out, barely giving the Earl time to react. High-level Fire Attribute Dragon Dou Qi clung to the Sky-Cleaving Greatsword, rampaging wildly.

Taking advantage of the slowed dissipation rate of Dou Qi, he almost filled the surrounding area within tens of meters with Dou Qi.

"Full Sun Wheel!"

He roared inwardly, and the Sky-Cleaving Greatsword danced like a round of glowing morning sun, intensely compressing the Dou Qi. In the next tenth of a second, it ignited all the surrounding Fire Attribute Dou Qi. With a rumbling explosion, a vast sea of flames surged toward the Earl.

The blue-white Water-Attribute Dou Qi was compressed to just a few meters in front of the Earl.

Facing such roaring flames, his Dou Qi simply could not cause the qualitative change to transform into seawater. It could only evaporate continuously within the flames, and when he wanted to replenish it, he had to face Liszt's relentless assault. He was pressed into a state of passive defense, an embarrassing situation.

He wanted to counterattack, but he couldn't break through the pervasive flames.

This caused his anger to accumulate more and more in his heart, feeling not as if he was receiving instruction from Liszt, but rather being suppressed and beaten by Liszt, as if being locked in a steaming cage, completely embarrassed.

However, having been through countless sword battles, his embarrassment did not lead to his capitulation.

If he couldn't outlast in Dou Qi consumption, he focused on defense, patiently looking for opportunities. Finally, he found a flaw in Liszt's overwhelming assault and immediately unleashed a powerful attack. Water-Attribute Dou Qi, along with the Ever-Resilient Sword, brushed aside the attack of the Sky-Cleaving Greatsword.

Then his Dou Qi burst forth, and his body soared a hundred meters into the sky with a whoosh.

Leaving the area of flames, it was truly like the vast sky after a storm, where the birds could fly freely. The howling cold wind cooled his face, quickly cooling his flushed face from the near-boiling flames.

The refreshing sensation stimulated him to shout, "Liszt, my son, the real battle of the Sky Knights has just begun!"

But before he could get into position, he saw in the corner of his eye four streaks of fiery arrows coming straight for him.

One in front, one behind, one to the left, and one to the right. They sealed off his space for nimble evasive maneuvers. After all, being in the high altitude with no support, it was difficult to avoid the arrow attacks.

"Arrow techniques are hardly lethal against Sky Knights!" The Earl calmly and effortlessly swept a circle with the Ever-Resilient Sword, ready to block.

However, the next moment, when the Ever-Resilient Sword touched the arrows, they suddenly exploded.

The power was not very strong, but it was entirely unexpected. Never had he seen arrows from such a distance still imbued with Dou Qi. Therefore, with one careless move, the Earl

was close to being knocked out of the sky by the explosion of the Fire Attribute Dou Qi, and the chaotic blast almost caused him to fall. Even though he stabilized his form in time, his brow hair was singed by the flames.

"My hair!"

The Earl's recently cooled face quickly reddened again, visible to the naked eye.

However, before he could get enraged, Liszt, who had quickly put away the Swift Shadow Bow, pushed off the ground, his Dou Qi spewing out as he too soared into the air. He became a red rocket shooting straight for him, the Sky-Cleaving Greatsword waving in the air, as the move "Rising Sun Ascend" suddenly struck the Earl.

The next second.

The Earl let out a cry as he flew towards the distant sea in free fall.

Liszt adjusted his form, pursuing the Earl, not planning to give him any chance to counterattack. He had entered the state of a sword battle, immersing his whole heart in this fight. He was well aware that his opponent was a powerful Sword Saint, and only by going all out could he defeat the other party.

Even in a real combat drill between father and son, there should be no holding back in a sword battle.

Stronger fighters always go all out in battle.

"Setting Sun Drop!"

The charged move from "Rising Sun Blaze" was released again. Liszt, catching up to the Earl, delivered another fierce blow. Even though the Earl had adjusted his posture midflight and was prepared to meet the attack with his strongest fighting power, he was still heavily struck by the blow. The exploding Fire Attribute Dou Qi was not something his Water Attribute Dou Qi could resist.

There was a fundamental disparity in strength.

"Why is this happening!"

With a thought of incomprehension flashing through his mind, the Earl fell towards the ground like a plane crash. He didn't understand why, even though he had taken to the skies, starting the fight in the way of the Sky Knights, he still couldn't block Liszt's attacks. His Water Attribute Dou Qi, known for its toughness, crumbled before the Fire Attribute Dou Qi.

"I am a Sword Saint! It shouldn't be like this, my Dou Qi should be denser!"

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Thud!

In the critical moment before landing, the Earl twisted his body and fiercely stomped on the rocks of Rocky Beach, shattering them to pieces. Using the reaction force and the bursting Dou Qi, he once again leaped into the air.

Just barely avoiding Liszt, who sought to accelerate his attack by falling.

Boom!

The Fire Attribute Dou Qi exploded on the ground, blasting all the rocks within dozens of meters around the impact site. After missing his strike, Liszt didn't pause for even a moment, swinging the Sky-Cleaving Greatsword again and unleashing Dou Qi that jetted out dozens of meters from the blade.

"Crimson Dawn Burn!"

The Dou Qi, transformed into flames, caught the Earl mid-leap, instantly dispersing his Water-Attribute Dou Qi, preventing him from ascending further.

"Scorching Sun Sting!"

Surging forward, in sync with the Sky-Cleaving Greatsword, within one breath he was upon the Earl who had just landed. The flames became a drill, effortlessly destroying the Earl's hastily released blue-white Dou Qi—from start to finish, the Earl's Dou Qi never managed to undergo transformation, never induced any natural phenomena.

Every clash of Dou Qi was crushed by the Fire Attribute Dou Qi.

Moreover, he had to release multiple times more Dou Qi just to ward off the seemingly slow but actually swift erosion of the Fire Attribute Dou Qi, a situation he had never encountered in countless sword fights.

Crash!

The Dou Qi was blasted apart once more.

The Earl attempted to release his Dou Qi again but was already too late, for the Sky-Cleaving Greatsword pierced through the flames toward his neck. Just one inch more, and it could penetrate the skin. He could even feel the sting and burning sensation on his neck—the pressure created by the sword tip compressing the air.

He faintly sensed the threat of death.

This was a profound sense of helplessness, an emotion he had almost never experienced in his career as a Sword Saint—his duels usually ended with him conquering his opponents, and even in the few defeats, he could easily escape.

This time.

It was a crushing defeat, almost without the strength to fight back, passively taking hits from start to finish until his Dou Qi collapsed.

The Longsword at his throat.

No more tactics at his disposal.

...

At the critical moment.

The Sky-Cleaving Greatsword halted and slowly retracted.

The sky full of flames also rapidly dissipated, revealing the handsome face of the youth panting heavily, "Father, you were careless." Liszt, suppressing his rapid breathing, broke the silence with a calm voice.

His eyes shone like the stars, and his face once again bore an expression of nonchalance as if nothing mattered.

Inside, however, he was ecstatic, having thought that it would be a tough battle. Who could have imagined it would instead be an overwhelmingly one-sided domination? The Sea Wave Sword Saint, whose combat strength was ranked in the top ten throughout the Duchy of Sapphire, was so easily defeated by him—he couldn't even manage to escape.

In one explosive burst, the battle was over.

Winning decisively, he had become the strongest person on Coral Island.

There were no words to describe his feelings at that moment, it was simply exhilarating. Had it not been for the complex expression on the Earl's face, he would have burst into loud laughter. For now, he had to lower his head while sheathing his Sky-Cleaving Greatsword, struggling to suppress his urge to smirk.

Still, he sneakily observed the Earl from the corner of his eye.

On the Earl's face, emotions like anger, frustration, fear, relief, excitement, and confusion surfaced one after another, continuously changing and contorting, creating a conflicted, twisted expression of embarrassment.

After a good while of this flickering.

He looked painfully at the sky and stuttered, "Yes... I was careless."

Chapter 515 An Old Friend Visits My Humble Abode

Had the Earl been careless? No.

But at this moment, father and son didn't need to communicate with their eyes; they understood each other's silence and proceeded as if the Earl had been careless. Liszt didn't say he had won, so the Earl didn't need to admit he had lost.

Each found their own steeds and led them, walking slowly.

The Earl gradually calmed his emotions, whether he could accept reality or not was another matter. The one who had defeated him was not someone else—it was his son. This meant he couldn't stay upset forever. Every father harbors the hope that their children will surpass them, hoping the next generation will be stronger.

Liszt had achieved this.

He had no reason to feel discouraged.

But for him to become cheerful immediately was likewise not easy, especially since he had grown accustomed to being the strongest in Coral Island. Apart from the Grand Duke, who might succeed at dragon riding, Li Weiliam feared no one—not even the Sword Saints at the Completion Level. If he couldn't win, he could always flee.

What was unbelievable was that in front of Liszt, he didn't flee.

"I can no longer assess your growth... I am forty-six this year, in the prime of life; you are eighteen, not yet having celebrated your birthday... I remember you once said your goal was to ride dragons. Every young person dreams of dragon riding, and it's only in middle age that they give up such unrealistic fantasies. As for you..."

The Earl looked at the dashing Liszt, wanting to say something but then held back.

He believed Liszt had a chance of riding a dragon, yet every Sky Knight at the Completion Level harbored hopes of dragon riding, but where could they find the right dragon?

So, there was no need to say these things.

He bowed his head, lifting his gaze to see the few strands of hair that had been singed by the fire. It wasn't very clear to see, and without a mirror, he could only feel with his hand. The feeling wasn't good, especially at the hairline on his forehead, where there seemed to be a slight recession.

This sudden change in his otherwise calmed emotions made his tone particularly harsh: "Liszt, do you know what people fear most when they reach middle age?"

"What?" Liszt asked absentmindedly.

"The hairline!" the Earl said sharply, "Even the Grand Duke, with his daily nourishing diet, cannot stop his hairline from receding! As your father, I do not have a handsome appearance, so my hairline is my only solace!"

Liszt was baffled, "Ah?"

"But you've hurt it."

"Father, your hairline doesn't give off an unattainable impression, my Dou Qi flame only burned off a strand of hair, it didn't damage the hairline."

"Is that so."

"Yes."

"Alright, I forgive you," the Earl sighed in relief and then asked, "I am very curious, why is it that my Sword Saint Level Advanced Dou Qi couldn't block your ordinary Advanced Dou Qi, even showing signs of breaking upon contact."

"Perhaps it's because I have an extraordinary talent," Liszt replied with a slight concentration, a bit helplessly.

He hadn't anticipated the battle to be so one-sided, the oppressive effect of the Dragon Dou Qi on ordinary Dou Qi, was horrifyingly strong. Otherwise, he would absolutely have restrained himself a bit more and reduced the chance of exposure; he wasn't ready to share the secret of the Little Fire Dragon with his family yet.

When it comes to dragon riding, one cannot be too careful.

Once exposed, one can imagine that the Grand Duke would not let him go, he would try every possible means to seize the Little Fire Dragon—the allure of dragons, particularly that of young dragons, cannot be overstated. After all, young dragons are the easiest for a knight to bond with, achieving the status of a Dragon Knight.

Dragon Knights, the pinnacle of power in the world.

Who wouldn't be captivated!

Fortunately, the object of his sword battle was the Earl, his own father, and even if there were some secrets, he could easily brush them off, "My Dou Qi is rather special, possessing a strong corrosive nature, and my fighting style is all about overwhelming and explosive attacks. Once I seize the initiative, it's an endless onslaught of strikes."

The excuse was a bit far-fetched.

But the Earl did not delve further, firstly because he was not in a good mood, and secondly, he didn't want to interrogate his son too thoroughly. Especially since Liszt had the strength to crush him, in this world where the strong are revered, even though Liszt was only his son, he still deserved a great deal of respect.

"You have not yet reached the Sword Saint Level, have you?"

"Not yet."

"When can you advance?"

Liszt pondered, "It's hard to say; I'll aim for within a year."

Upon hearing this, the Earl paused for a moment, then swiftly mounted his horse and, leaving behind the words "I am proud of you," he rode his Panther Horse towards Tulip Castle.

The Earl sped away.

Meanwhile, Liszt rode Loki leisurely along the tranquil path. His gaze was locked onto the void ahead, where what appeared as coils of invisible smoke to others—after defeating the Earl, he had summoned the Smoke Mission, eager to find out the identity of his old friend.

"Complete the mission, reward: the Formless Dragon's lingering."

"The Formless Dragon, is it really the Formless Dragon?" Upon discovering the Formless Dragon, he was both shocked and delighted, as the Formless Dragon was a treasure-bringer; the Space Gem had been of great help to him. What puzzled him, though, was, "Why is the Formless Dragon considered an 'old friend'? When did I ever form a bond with it?"

The last time the Formless Dragon visited Fresh Flower Town, it ate two cows and then left with a roar.

Liszt had hidden in the tunnel all along, not daring to show his face.

"Such behavior hardly qualifies as friendship." However, after mulling it over for a moment, he did recall why the Smoke Mission would refer to the Formless Dragon as his old friend—it was because of the knight's novel "The Adventure of Ranger Griffe", which was the primary source of information about Formless Dragons.

In the book, the protagonist Griffe used Smoked Grass and beef to attract the Formless Dragon and claimed that the Space Gem was a token of their telepathic friendship.

Now understanding the meaning of "old friend."

Liszt closely examined the Smoke Serpent Script before him.

"Mission: The Formless Dragon is lingering just outside the territory. It does not remember where it specifically was when it bathed in the fragrance intoxicating to dragons, eating the delicious beef. Perhaps the moment you ignite the Smoked Grass, it will descend once again. Reward: Formless Dragon's gift."

"It's actually forgotten the coordinates of Fresh Flower Town; this presents a tremendous opportunity. I can prepare meticulously to maximize the harvest. I believe 'the Formless Dragon's gift' will be more abundant than last time."

Last time, the Formless Dragon's gift included a Space Gem, four Dragon Breed Cows, and a few other cows that were affected.

This time.

Liszt intended to carefully plan the setup to maximize the benefits brought by the Formless Dragon—he had seen the dragon's majesty and understood that he couldn't keep the Formless Dragon there permanently. He could only try to reap as many benefits as possible.

"According to my previous notes on dragons, for a dragon to infect other species with its bloodline, it needs to be in a state of excitement. Apparently, gemstone production also requires it to be excited... when the Formless Dragon visits again, I need to make it feel 'completely at home' and thoroughly excited!"

The more excited the Formless Dragon, the more Space Gems it would likely leave behind, and the stronger the infective power of its bloodline would be.

Licking his lips.

Liszt's eyes shone, "Ideally, I'll exhaust it until it can't even stand!"

Chapter 516 Alternative Species for Dragon Bloodline

After returning to the castle, no one mentioned the outcome of the sword duel; since neither of the parties involved brought it up, others simply assumed it was a sparring session between father and son.

Since it was just a sparring session, there was no question of victory or defeat.

However, the Earl still felt a bit embarrassed, especially when Lady Marie asked, "Dear, why is there a bit less hair on your forehead? It looks like it's been singed by fire?"

Fortunately, Liszt cleverly extricated the Earl from the awkward situation, "I'm sorry, Lady Marie. When father was instructing me, I accidentally exerted too much force, causing my Dou Qi to burst and burn off a wisp of father's hair... Thankfully, it doesn't affect the hairline at all, really not at all."

Lady Marie smiled, "You are both Sky Knights, with powerful attacks. You must be careful when practicing."

Liszt nodded, "Please rest assured."

"We will certainly be cautious, my lady, you need not worry," the Earl chimed in before swiftly changing the subject, "Today's schedule seems to involve accompanying mother to watch a comedy play, why didn't you go? If you don't want to watch the play, invite mother over to chat with Liszt for a while."

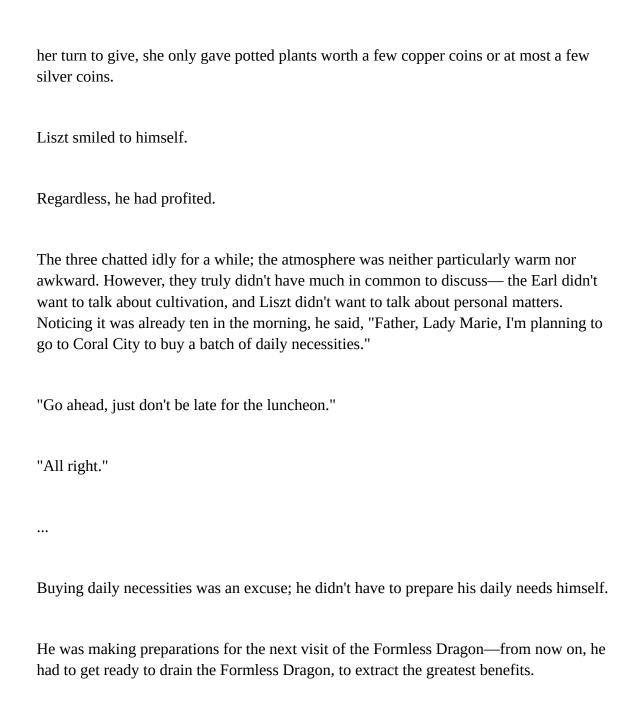
"Mother didn't ask me to accompany her; she went to the flower market today to choose some potted plants. Recently, she gave away a batch of potted plants as gifts and needs to restock with a new batch."

"She really treasures her own potted plants. Apart from the two Elf Bugs that Liszt received, none of the other potted plants have ever produced Elf Bugs... By the way, the potted plant she gave to Lidun, do you think it looks like it might bear an Elf Bug?" the Earl said helplessly.

Ever since two potted plants had respectively nurtured a Dragon Kui Bug and a Fig Bug, Lady Penelope had become obsessed with her own potted plants, believing that the ones she cared for were the best gifts for bearing Elf Bugs.

Her gifts were always potted plants.

This caused dissatisfaction among many, as they felt the old lady was simply too stingy to spend money—on her birthday, others needed to give her valuable gifts; but when it was



"The Formless Dragon loves the scent of Smoked Grass; I need to prepare a garden of Smoked Grass for it. Ideally, a dense pile of dry Smoked Grass, lit at the same time to form a grand smoky stage. I believe the Formless Dragon will be so intoxicated by the scent of Smoked Grass that it will be unable to extricate itself."

Smoked Grass is a special product of the domain, so he didn't need to worry too much about it.

At most, he would use different methods to extract the scent of Smoked Grass—burning dry grass to create smoke, crushing tender grass to make a spray, and concocting some Smoked Grass sauce to apply to food.

"The food must be beef, and live cattle need to be prepared: adult cows, calves, all are necessary. Cooked beef also must be readied, braised, pan-fried, deep-fried, boiled, and a varied assortment of seasonings can't be omitted. I must ensure the Formless Dragon fully enjoys the allure of a complete beef feast!"

The domain did not raise beef cattle, so these would have to be purchased from the livestock market on Coral Island, and a chef proficient in cooking beef would need to be hired to help in the domain.

He wrapped himself in his cloak.

Passing through the foul-smelling streets inconspicuously, he appeared at the Fresh Flower Caravan's Coral City office.

Buying beef was naturally not something he needed to do personally; the caravan leader Abagon was listening to his orders: "All varieties and sizes of cattle, as well as chefs proficient in cooking beef, Abagon, this is the most important task you need to accomplish in the next three days."

"I understand, Lord Landlord."

Three days was the time Liszt had set for preparations.

It was too short to make full preparations, but he feared that if he waited any longer, the Formless Dragon might slip away or visit early. Should it arrive early without proper preparations in place, not only could it lead to significant losses for the territory, it might also expose the secret of the Formless Dragon.

By then, there would certainly be endless trouble.

Therefore, he only gave himself three days to fully prepare: "Abagon, there's one more thing. Chefs who can cook various meats like lamb, horse, pork, and chicken must also be hired." Just because the Formless Dragon favored beef did not mean it wouldn't enjoy other meats.

Liszt did not believe that the Formless Dragon could survive on beef alone.

According to the Dragon Rearing Manual he had once obtained from the desk of the Marquis of the Bull, dragons were carnivorous creatures, and different dragons had preferences for different foods. Some dragons would even eat stones or wood, seeming to have particular tastes, but most preferred meat.

The Formless Dragon was clearly carnivorous, and while beef was a favored food recorded in The Adventure of Ranger Griffe, it was no guarantee that the Formless Dragon wouldn't eat other meats.

That's why Liszt wanted a bountiful meat feast to fill the Formless Dragon's belly and conquer its taste buds.

And that wasn't all.

He also instructed Abagon to collect various alcohols from the market, to serve as a complement to the meal for the Formless Dragon—should it happen to get tipsy, wouldn't that be... exciting to just think about.

•••

After having lunch at Tulip Castle,

Liszt hurried back to Fresh Flower Town, dispatched a large batch of Smoked Grass from the storeroom and transported it to Black Horse Island—he had decided to set up the dining table for the Formless Dragon in the open wilderness of Black Horse Island—many places on the island were free from serf activity, making them very suitable for contact with the Formless Dragon.

He also had serfs uproot a large number of fresh and tender Smoked Grass, especially the high-quality ones growing around the Cordyceps.

The serfs, wearing thick masks, pounded the tender leaves into juice, sealed it in glass bottles, and sent it to Black Horse Island.

As for Liszt himself, he chose suitable livestock overnight, prepared to be infected by the Formless Dragon's magic power and acquire dragon bloodlines.

"The bloodline magic power released by the Formless Dragon must be very limited, otherwise the world would be full of dragon breed creatures, so there's a limited number of chances for infection," he mused.

Firstly, the Dragon Breed Horses were already in existence, with the Black Blood Treasured Horse population slowly growing; there was no need to occupy more slots.

Secondly, there were already Dragon Breed Cows, but their number was small, with only four coming from close kin, which wasn't conducive to future breeding—taking two or three pregnant cows could help increase the number of new Dragon Breed calves.

Next, poultry like chickens, ducks, and geese were relatively small in size and probably required less magic power; he could choose some females along with their incubating eggs to bring in bulk.

Then, since pork was going to be a main source of meat for the territory, having a batch of Dragon Breed Pigs was clearly necessary; he could bring a few pregnant sows.

Furthermore, he could select a batch of Green-headed Duck eggs to take with him; creating Dragon Breed Green-headed Ducks would surely be wonderful.

"We can basically guess that embryos are the most susceptible to infection by dragon bloodlines... So, should I also bring a group of adult individuals?" he wondered, thinking of Douson and the Eight Tiny Ones, turning them into Intermediate Dragon Breed Magic Beasts would definitely greatly increase their might.

However, the last visit from the Formless Dragon did not evolve the adult cows into Dragon Breed Cows, which shows that the bloodlines of mature organisms were already set and hard to infect.

The Earth Matron was already reproductively isolated and could no longer breed, essentially dashing any hope of Douson's offspring becoming Dragon Beasts.

"Besides, to turn Douson into a Dragon Beast would probably require a lot of bloodline magic power... I have so many species needing infection that I really can't spare much magic power for Douson... Nevermind, they have already achieved greatness, so this time let's not consider the Blizzard Beast,"

He shook his head, unwillingly gave up, and continued to think about what other species needed to be taken.

Chapter 517 The Picnic Proceeds

Liszt ultimately did not add any new species to the list of those infected.

He was somewhat worried that if the Formless Dragon was not as excited as he had imagined, the bloodline infection magic power released might not be enough to infect many species.

"Besides, I already have a Little Fire Dragon of my own. Once this chap breeds, creating some dragon-related species should not be difficult. There's no need to rush the process." Formless Dragons, difficult to capture as they are, should be exhausted for resources if possible, but even if they can't be, it's not a big deal.

The Mini Little Fire Dragon lived in his heart, giving him ample confidence.

By now, he had completed the list of species to infect—he had three pregnant dairy cows, two pregnant sows, ten incubating Green-headed Duck eggs, a hen currently laying eggs and five chicken eggs, a duck currently laying eggs and five duck eggs... Well, okay, the domain does not raise geese for the time being.

"The ducks and chickens must be confirmed to be the healthiest ones, and their eggs must be fertilized!" The next morning, before the ship was loaded, Liszt repeated the selection criteria.

"Don't worry, Your Lordship. These batches of chicken and duck eggs are from the best hens and ducks currently incubating, and we've even brought their nests in cages with them."

"Make sure the dairy cows and the pigs are well-protected and not injured."

"Understood."

The cargo ship, with all the prepared materials, raced towards Black Horse Island and finally arrived before nightfall. Liszt had already arrived at Black Horse Island ahead of time on the Fresh Flower Vessel. The picnic spot he chose for the Formless Dragon was located north of Green Tea Town, which is at the northernmost tip of Black Horse Island.

This area is an extension of the grassland of Ice Grass Hill. There were originally some scattered shrubs, but since the mining of Volcanic Glass, all the shrubs had been dug up and burned as firewood.

The cultivated wasteland had started to sprout a few weeds as the temperature hovered around zero degrees.

The snow had just melted, making the area quite muddy, but Goltai, having received notice the night before, had already brought the serfs over for construction—they mainly came to dig tunnels. Liszt had the blueprint sent over by ship overnight, requiring the excavation of a cross-shaped tunnel with a round one in the center.

The cross-shaped and round tunnels neatly divided the picnic spot into northwestern, southwestern, and northeastern areas.

Liszt also requested the placement of eight fire points for Smoked Grass above the round tunnels, where he could hide and light them one by one, releasing the smell of Smoked Grass. Meanwhile, directly above the center of the cross-shaped tunnel, where the dining table would be situated.

All the food and drinks would be placed here.

The Smoked Grass Juice in sealed glass bottles would be personally sprinkled around the dining table by Liszt, along with several large pots that would be continuously cooking Smoked Grass. An entrance to the tunnels right below the table allowed Liszt to hide easily within and transition through the cross-shaped passages to the round ones.

In the four areas of the picnic spot, wooden houses would be built to house the sows, dairy cows, chickens, ducks, and Green-headed Duck eggs, evenly distributing the bloodline infection magic power released by the Formless Dragon when excited.

"My lord, may I know what all these tunnels and items you have brought are for?" Blair, responsible for arranging the Chefs to prepare the food, asked out of curiosity.

Liszt dismissed him casually, "I need to practice Advanced Dou Qi here; this is a special training method. You do not need to ask too much, and remember to keep it a secret, understand?"

Blair's spirits immediately lifted, "Understood, Your Lordship!"

He had no idea what Advanced Dou Qi was or how to practice it, but whatever Liszt said it was, he believe it. The same went for everyone else—they took Liszt's word for it as the reason for the training methods of a Sky Knight surely differ from those of the average Knight.

Even if there were some doubts, no one dared to question Liszt.

Thus, including the half-day of busyness before, after a total of three and a half days, the picnic site had completely transformed. The center of the ground, covered with dry straw, was laid out with row upon row of delicious food, interspersed with jars of fine wine, as well as living old bulls, young bulls, dairy cows, calves, and newborn bull calves.

Additionally, there were piles of sealed glass bottles, all filled with Smoked Grass Juice.

The dawn's sunlight shone upon the earth.

Liszt came alone to the picnic site.

Everyone, including his mount, was miles away from here. He soared high into the sky, speeding on his journey, checking on the pigs, cows, chickens, ducks, and eggs in four different areas waiting to be infected, ensuring everything was normal. Then, with the last bit of Fire Dragon Magic Power, he fed the Mini Little Fire Dragon until it was full.

He made sure it wouldn't sense the Formless Dragon's Magic Power and cause a fuss—he couldn't predict what might happen when dragons met and had to avoid it as much as possible.

"Almost there."

"Once I ignite the Smoked Grass around me, the Smoke Mission will be complete, and the Formless Dragon will arrive soon; there isn't much time left for me."

Liszt took a deep breath.

He donned his mask, conjured the Eye of Magic, and carefully observed the skies to ensure the Formless Dragon had yet to appear. Then he grabbed a sealed glass bottle, quickly opened it, and flung the juice around the picnic table. He also opened a jar of sauce made from Smoked Grass and smeared it onto some of the cows.

Next, he threw tender Smoked Grass into a pot of boiling water.

The disgusting smell spread, causing Liszt's stomach acid to rise, even with the mask; he almost vomited. The cows smeared with sauce foamed at the mouth and nearly fainted from the stench.

Fighting back the urge to throw up, he splashed out the last bottle of Perpetual Grass Juice, pulled out a Flame Striker, and lit a large bunch of Smoked Grass next to the table.

Looking up at the sky, the Formless Dragon still hadn't arrived.

But he didn't dare linger. He quickly dove into a nearby tunnel, lifted a prepared stone, and sealed the tunnel shut. He then ran along the tunnel, racing towards the circular tunnel and lighting the Smoked Grass fire points along it in succession. He completed all these actions within five minutes.

Even with the physique of a Sky Knight, such exertion left him sweating profusely.

Finally, he hid in a bunker, ready in advance, peering through a window at the picnic table not far off and the sky above it.

The air was filled with the scent of Smoked Grass.

The flames crackled as they burned, thick smoke billowed up into the sky, accompanied by the sounds of cows mooing, pigs grunting, chickens clucking, and ducks quacking.

"Come join the feast, old friend," Liszt said, having already removed his clothes tainted with the smell of Smoked Grass and thrown them into a water tank in the bunker.

He called out the Smoke Mission.

Noticing the completed prompt, "Mission complete, reward: Gemstone of the Formless Dragon."

"Still a Gemstone of the Formless Dragon? Aren't the dragons infected by the bloodline included in the reward?" Liszt wondered, though he didn't dwell on the question.

The last time, the four Dragon Breed Cows that were infected through the bloodline weren't counted as part of the Formless Dragon's gifts—it seemed bloodline infection required time to ferment.

The smoke gradually morphed before his eyes, forming new Serpent Script.

Just as he made out the content of the script, Liszt's gaze froze in an instant.

"Mission: The Formless Dragon has arrived; its aura fills the entire sky. For you, well-prepared, it is a giver of riches, but its arrival will also trigger the rampage of the Little Fire Dragon in its fledgling flame form. Please calm the Little Fire Dragon. Reward: The Rebirth of the Fire Dragon."

Chapter 518 I Want to Ride It

The rebirth of the Fire Dragon.

Seeing this reward, Li Si Te couldn't help but breathe rapidly. Ever since the resurrection from the dragon bone, he had been anticipating the birth of the Fire Dragon time and again. Yet, it started with creating a Magic Fire Seed, followed by a budding Magic Fire Seed, and then to the form of a Little Fire Dragon; it was constant back and forth without coming to be.

Although the nurturing of the Fire Dragon was convoluted, the benefits it brought were evident.

By relying on Dragon Dou Qi, he was able to use the level of a common Sky Knight to overwhelmingly crush Sky Knights of the Sword Saint Level, his strength astonishing.

And now, the Little Fire Dragon that had dwelled within his heart for so long was finally about to be born.

Dragon!

A true Dragon!

"Considering the relationship between me and the Mini Little Fire Dragon, have we formed the 'contract' of a Dragon Knight?" he mused, suppressing the surprise that flashed through his mind.

Regardless, given his own painstaking nurturing, after the Little Fire Dragon was born, it shouldn't turn its back on him. If it dared to be ungrateful, Li Si Te would dare to slay the dragon on the spot, earning the title of a hero—killing a newly born dragon should also count as being a Dragon Slayer.

He didn't have much time to ponder.

Looking up, he saw signs of Magic Power in the vision of the Eye of Magic. In the sky above the distant sea, a point of chaotic grayish-white Magic Radiance appeared, drawing closer by the moment until he could clearly make out its shape, unmistakably the Formless Dragon that Li Si Te had profoundly memorized.

It wasn't large in size; compared to the Sapphire Dragon, it was actually quite small.

Its body was only as big as a single cabin, and with wings spread, it only grew by the size of two cabins, more slender than the dragons in the illustrations of Knight's Novels, with a very long tail. Its bat-like wings, two short and thin forelegs, and the slightly sturdier hindlegs, along with a striking row of dragon horns were all prominent.

Unfortunately, once Li Si Te closed his Eye of Magic, he could no longer glimpse its form. He could only use the Eye of Magic again to outline its shape through the Magic Radiance emitting from its body.

The light at the position of the teeth was the brightest, with all forty-two dragon teeth clearly visible.

There's a reason why it is said that within the dragon's teeth resides its soul.

"It's finally here!"

Li Si Te's mind was inexplicably complex.

Following the trail of smoke from the burning Smoked Grass, the Formless Dragon spiraled down from the sky, reducing its height, and before it even landed, the frightening Dragon Might spread out, making him shiver with fear.

"Wu yi ya!"

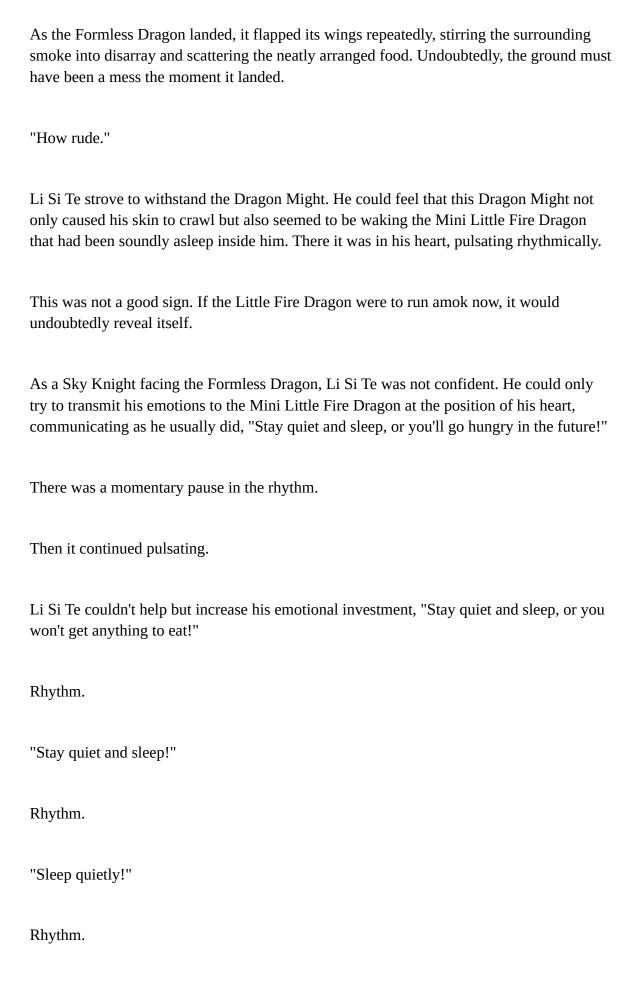
A strange, shrill, skin-crawling howl accompanied the Formless Dragon's descent, emanating from not far away.

Li Si Te indeed broke out in goosebumps, a sense of panic rising within his heart for no reason, "Even though I have become a Sky Knight now, I still can't resist Dragon Might; my body naturally produces a stress response. It seems Dragon Might is a form of higher-level Magic Power that's invisible and intangible but very real."

While the Eye of Magic could see the Magic Power within the dragon's body, it couldn't see Dragon Might—of course, it was debatable whether or not Dragon Might was Magic Power.

Whoosh!

Whoosh!



"You're looking for death, aren't you?"

"Oh ho."

The Mini Little Fire Dragon, half asleep and half awake, let out a submissive sound and then stopped its rhythm. Liszt finally breathed a sigh of relief and continued to watch the Formless Dragon—the beautiful, rude creature that had started to feast on several live cows tied to stakes, seemingly with a preference for the younger calves.

It seemed to have no particular fondness for the cooked meat around it.

With a casual tear of its claws on the wings, a calf was screamingly dismembered and then stuffed into its large mouth where it crunched and chewed. It was unclear how its tongue cooperated with its teeth, but soon enough, it spat out a pile of cow bones devoid of any remnants, with superb efficiency.

After finishing off the calves, it issued a sharp, high-pitched dragon's chant: "Wuu yiiyaa!"

Within the bunker, Liszt's eyes swirled with starry brilliance: "This call seems a bit excited; does it look like it's having a blast?"

The Formless Dragon dining at the table had no idea that someone was secretly watching it eat. Perhaps it had sensed Liszt's presence but simply had no interest in searching for a bug hiding underground—however, judging from its eating habits, it was still very vigilant, occasionally lifting its head to look around.

It also glanced over in Liszt's direction a couple of times.

The last time the Formless Dragon visited, Liszt had noticed this behavior, but he didn't give it much thought. This time, however, he had a different association: "As a presence at the top of the food chain, the peak of power in this world, what does a dragon have to be wary of? Even if it is another dragon, it's just a fight, right?"

Dragons are not social creatures; it is almost impossible to find two dragons together.

Does a creature without natural predators need to be so vigilant while eating?

Liszt did not know, but he suspected that the Formless Dragon's vigilance was due to the existence of something that could threaten it.

To pose a threat to a dragon...

Touching his chin, he thought: "Perhaps the Formless Dragon is just a young dragon?" If it were a juvenile, then such vigilance would make sense. With a hundred-year juvenile period before growing up, its strength would certainly not be strong enough, necessitating caution and care.

"Its body is indeed very small compared to other dragons, which easily measure tens of meters in length; including its tail, this one is barely under ten meters."

By that measure, its size was just a few sizes larger than a Landwalker Bird, even standing on the ground without looking up, Loki might be slightly taller than the Formless Dragon—after all, Loki had Long Legs.

Watching the Formless Dragon, having finished the calves and now searching for cooked food on the ground, scraping around aimlessly with its legs.

A fiery idea suddenly crossed his mind: "If it's a juvenile, could I possibly capture it? I am a Sky Knight, and I have Dragon Dou Qi. It's just a young dragon, why can't I conquer it? Those Dragon Knights, before they had dragons to ride, with the strength of a Completion Level Sky Knight, managed to conquer dragons!"

"Others can ride dragons, so can I!"

He was shocked by his own thoughts, yet he couldn't suppress them. He had always thought that he esteemed safety above all else, but whenever crisis and opportunity coexisted, a surge of adventurism would emerge from deep within him.

"Ride dragons!"

"Ride dragons!"

"Ride dragons!"

This thought arose and was almost uncontrollable.

However, just as he was about to leap out and sprint towards the Formless Dragon, his heart suddenly constricted as if someone had grabbed it with their hand. The Mini Little Fire Dragon started to rage, causing him to grunt in pain involuntarily, and all thoughts scattered. Only the tense emotion remained, comforting the Mini Little Fire Dragon.

"Sleep quietly!"
"Oh ho!"
"Sleep quietly!"
"Oh ho!"

"Make noise again and I'll kill you!"

"Oh... ho." The Mini Little Fire Dragon quieted down once more.

Liszt also exhaled a turbid breath, his gaze on the Formless Dragon gradually becoming lucid, and he couldn't help shaking his head: "If it weren't for the Little Fire Dragon getting in the way, I would have succeeded in riding the dragon by now, damn it!"

Chapter 519 Kiss Me on the Lips Now

"Wuu yii ya!"

The smoke was swirling around, and within a few kilometers, likely all was the peculiar smell of smoked grass; the sounds of cows mooing, pigs squealing, and chickens and ducks calling from the wooden house could no longer be heard.

It was unclear whether they had been knocked out by the smell of the smoked grass or fainted from the Formless Dragon's Dragon Might.

Through the smoke, the Eye of Magic could barely make out what the Formless Dragon was doing. After it had finished eating the calf, it became picky, biting something on the left and then throwing it away and doing the same on the right. It was uncertain whether it had eaten any other food or not.

Occasionally, it would lick the wine in the water jar but didn't seem to immerse itself; it appeared to have no love for fine wine.

"Wuu yii ya!"

Suddenly, it raised its head with another sharp call.

The intent was not clear; it was unknown whether it was enjoying the meal or feeling bored. However, since it didn't leave and was still picking food here and there on the table, it seemed that it wasn't bored and was still enjoying the picnic. Then, it was seen to suddenly focus on a particular food and started to devour it.

It simply sat on the ground, continuously grabbing food with the claws on its wings and stuffing it into its mouth.

It occasionally stuck its head into a jar full of wine, constantly licking with its tongue.

"That's good, with wine and meat, this meal must make you feel completely relaxed; get excited quickly!" Liszt pressed his hand against his chest, his gaze firmly fixed on the Formless Dragon. The Little Fire Dragon's frenzy was almost too much to suppress, but he had to keep it under control and dared not reveal his struggle, "Leave the gemstone, release your bloodline magic power, then, you can leave gracefully!"

He was feeling conflicted now.

He hoped that the Formless Dragon would happily enjoy its picnic and then leave behind the treasure, yet he also wanted it to leave soon so that he could deal with the increasingly troubling frenzy of the Little Fire Dragon.

The Mini Little Fire Dragon's mood was more excited than ever before.

It was an excitement like that of being drunk and going on a rampage.

"The Formless Dragon isn't excited yet, but you are getting ahead of yourself. Wait until I have a spare moment, and then I'll teach you how to be a dragon," Liszt reasoned.

Taking deep breaths and circulating his Dou Qi, he had to divert half of his attention to suppress the Little Fire Dragon's rampage. Time slowly ticked away in this standoff, and a quarter of an hour had already passed. On the other side, the Formless Dragon had been eating, drinking, and making "Wuu yii ya" noises for a while.

It definitely got excited, but it was uncertain how much bloodline magic power it could release or how many Space Gems it would produce.

Suddenly.

The Formless Dragon made another "Wuu yii ya" call, left the dining table on foot, used its wings to maintain balance like a bat crawling. Its crawling direction, however, was toward the fortress where Liszt was. It hadn't crawled more than a few steps before suddenly it spread its wings, pushed off with its hind legs, and flew up in an instant.

"Is it leaving?"

Just as Liszt was thinking this, the Formless Dragon suddenly descended; its landing spot was right where Liszt's fortress was situated. Liszt had barely time to react when the Formless Dragon accurately crashed down five meters in front of the fortress, raising its head and letting out a long "Wuu yii ya!"

Diverting his attention to suppress the Little Fire Dragon made Liszt's reactions somewhat slow. Only then did he remember to retract to the tunnel inside the fortress and make a quick escape.

But as his gaze fell on the Formless Dragon, his feet remained unmoved.

The Formless Dragon in front of him seethed with magic power, undergoing some transformation. He couldn't see its eyes, but he could feel it was staring straight at him.

It was a peculiar feeling, a gaze without hostility.

Moved by a thought, Liszt stopped shifting his feet and dispelled the Eye of Magic, reverting to normal human vision. Upon seeing this, he was astounded to find that the Formless Dragon in front of the fortress was no longer invisible; it revealed its form—like a flowing mercury, shimmering with a faint multicolored light.

"I can actually see the Formless Dragon?"

"It revealed itself to me on its own initiative? What does this mean? Is it like what "The Adventure of Ranger Griffe" described, that I've earned the friendship of the Formless Dragon?" Liszt stood in front of the fortress window, cautiously still, his mind whirring at high speed, analyzing the current situation.

The posture of the Formless Dragon didn't appear as if it wished to hunt.

For hunting, being invisible was the best strategy, unless it intended to play a game of cat and mouse, otherwise, there was no need to reveal itself.

"So, should I step out now and meet it?" Watching the slender shape of the Formless Dragon, yet his feet hesitated to move. A dragon is a dragon, and just standing there, its Dragon Might was so oppressive that he, a Sky Knight, could hardly breathe, let alone engage it in face-to-face communication.

...

One minute swiftly passed by.

The Formless Dragon did not continue to approach the bunker; it merely revealed its body and sat on the ground, watching the bunker. Liszt, however, was struggling within himself, wanting to step out but not daring to do so. He wished the Mini Little Fire Dragon near his heart would act up again to interrupt his impulse.

Yet, at this moment, the Mini Little Fire Dragon was unusually quiet, not making a single move.

"Should I go out or not?"

"With the might of a Dragon, even if I hide in the tunnels, it could easily snatch me out, couldn't it?"

"So, go out?" He gritted his teeth fiercely and made a decision, "Then, I'll boldly step out and present myself with good manners; that way, at least if I am slain by the Dragon, it will be a dignified death."

Immediately after,

he shook off the mud clinging to his clothes and pushed aside the stone blocking the entrance of the bunker. With inner tension and an outwardly calm demeanor, he stepped out of the bunker.

The air outside was thick with the foul odor of Smoked Grass; even wearing a mask, he couldn't resist it.

Feeling nauseous enough to vomit.

Praiseworthy though, was that the disgusting smell somewhat eased his tension, allowing him to relax considerably. The Formless Dragon, five meters away, still fixed its gaze on Liszt. It sat tall, perfectly concealing the rising sun behind it, giving it a golden halo.

Compared to its form sketched by magic power, its current form truly showcased the elegance of a Dragon.

Every line was incredibly beautiful.

Especially its long, triangular head, which possessed a combined elegance of a lady and the dignity of a gentleman. Its eyes were also elongated and did not appear sinister but, on the contrary, exuded an odd enticing power. The pupils were deep black, revealing a touch of human-like quality.

It opened its mouth and softly called out, "Wuu yee ya!"

"It hasn't attacked me; indeed, it bears no malice towards me!" Liszt didn't understand what the other was yelling, but he knew that he hadn't made the wrong decision.

The behavior of the Formless Dragon was friendly.

Thus, he walked towards the Formless Dragon calmly; a five-meter distance required just a few steps, and soon they were face to face, closely observing one another.

"Wuu yee ya."

"What?"

"Wuu yee ya."

"I don't understand."

A Dragon and a man thus commenced to converse.

After a few exchanges, seemingly realizing that Liszt was a simpleton, a hint of "helplessness" flashed through the narrow eyes of the Formless Dragon. Then it quietly lifted its left forelimb, stretched it out, and shook it.

It called out to Liszt once more, "Wuu yee ya."

"What are you doing? Are you asking me to put my face there?" Unprompted, Liszt remembered a short video he'd watched. A man extended his hand, and his girlfriend would promptly place her face upon it. Regardless of what she was doing, whenever the man reached out, she would come and rest her face on his hand.

He didn't know what it meant, but he had been quite annoyed after watching the video.

He detested people who flaunted their affection publicly.

Of course, the Formless Dragon wouldn't be so frivolous, and Liszt understood its intention after a moment of reflection. He then mimicked the gesture by extending his own left hand.

The next moment,

the Formless Dragon lowered its head and drew close to his left hand.

Chapter 520 The Fire Dragon Finally Takes Flight

Open your mouth.

Spit out three gemstones as bright as diamonds, each the size of a fingernail.

That was all the Formless Dragon did. It left Liszt with three Space Gems and then, with a high-pitched "woo Yi ya", kicked with its hind legs, spread its wings, and shot into the sky, never looking back. It didn't turn invisible again, maintaining the appearance of flowing mercury.

The twinkling, multicolored light, like a rainbow, faded in the distance.

Watching the calm sky, Liszt gripped the Space Gems in his hand, feeling a sense of loss. His first close encounter with a true living dragon had just happened and ended like that. His dreams of becoming a Dragon Knight didn't seem to have landed on the Formless Dragon, and he had to go back to cajole the Little Fire Dragon.

"But it's already worth it, three Space Gems, plus the original one, the Formless Dragon gave me four Space Gems!"

The value of four Space Gems was incalculable; in fact, just one Space Gem was priceless. These gems, having their own independent space, were essentially the stuff of legends and couldn't be bought with money. Thanks to the generosity of an old friend, Liszt now owned four.

He could be described as filthy rich.

"I'll wear two on my left hand, two on my right hand, sorted!" he thought to himself delightedly. Of course, he wouldn't make them into rings right now. He still chose to keep them close to his body to prevent exposure.

The Formless Dragon was gone.

Liszt stowed away the Space Gems and walked toward the dining area, carefully searching to see if the Formless Dragon had left any additional Space Gems behind. However, he used his Eye of Magic to inch his way through the chaotic mud field and found nothing.

At this point, he realized something, "It seems that dragons can control the production of their gemstones... And it's very likely that the Space Gems the Formless Dragon dropped last time were intentionally left behind as a meal ticket?"

From the fact that the Formless Dragon had approached him on its own and left behind three Space Gems, it was evident that the Formless Dragon's intelligence was by no means low. It understood that this picnic wasn't naturally occurring but was a deliberate gesture of goodwill from humans. So after eating, it left payment for the meal.

It didn't freeload... ahem, it didn't mooch off.

"Speaking of this Formless Dragon, indeed, dragons seem to lack gender. There was nothing under its belly, no reproductive organs. But it seems, I didn't even find its excretory opening. How does it excrete dragon feces? According to the Dragon Rearing Manual, isn't the excretion of a dragon a liquid?"

The Dragon Rearing Manual had rather detailed descriptions of dragons, including a section on dragon feces.

Dragon feces weren't like the waste of ordinary creatures; it was a fluid-like substance that, once released from the excretion opening, quickly merged with the surface of the ground and formed crystal mines in the nearby area.

One could say,

Many crystal utensils used by nobles are evolved from dragon feces, and even the crystal tableware in Liszt's castle might also have been transformed from dragon feces.

However, like the residual magic power excreted by the Mini Little Fire Dragon, dragons are, after all, extraordinary creatures. Their entire make-up can be explained by magic power—from the breeding situation of the Little Fire Dragon, it is corroborated that dragons are composed of and born from magic power.

Such creatures, even their feces, are valuable products.

Too bad Elves don't excrete feces, or else Elf feces might also be a significant resource.

"So when the Formless Dragon was eating just now, did it not excrete? If it did excrete, there should be crystals under the ground nearby... I wonder what kind of crystals are formed by the Formless Dragon." Crystals are usually accessory minerals to gemstones and have the same properties.

But their quality is much lower than that of gemstones and can only be used as materials for magic equipment.

Once the residual magic power from the dragon is used up, the crystal becomes mere crystal, merely attractive to look at.

. . .

Half an hour later.

He didn't find any gemstones.

He didn't discover any crystal mines either.

Liszt no longer wasted his efforts. He walked into the wooden house to check on the three dairy cows. He found them all fainted, foaming at the mouth, and if they weren't breathing, Liszt would have suspected they were dead. The two fat pigs had also collapsed, surrounded by filth, with nothing but their breath left.

"I hope you'll soon give birth to Dragon Breed Cows and Dragon Breed Pigs... The dairy cows are expected to be due in the fall; it'll be another month and a half before the fat pigs are expected to give birth."

A cow's gestation period is about 280 days, close to nine months. It is now the end of February, and considering the days they had already been pregnant, the calves are likely to be born around September or October. A pig's gestation period is about 114 days, which is about three months and three weeks plus three days, so they should give birth in April.

The good mood brought by the expectation of Dragon Breed Cows and Dragon Breed Pigs was lost upon entering the chicken and duck coop.

That was because Liszt found that the hens and ducks in the cages had died, scared to death or crushed by the dragon might. Only five chicken eggs and five duck eggs were left, unsure if they could still hatch into chicks and ducklings. He covered them with dry straw, planning to take them back and let other hens and ducks incubate them.

The last were ten eggs of Green-headed Ducks, showing no changes—these duck eggs were easily dealt with, just needed some sunlight for hatching, and didn't require a mother duck.

Essentially, that marked the end of the Formless Dragon's visit.

Suddenly.

He once again clutched his chest, feeling the Mini Little Fire Dragon that lived in his heart going berserk again. No matter how he tried to soothe it, he couldn't suppress the rampage.

"Oh!"

The Mini Little Fire Dragon's emotions wildly spilled over, a complex mix of restlessness, excitement, fear, anticipation, anxiety, and urgency.

"Since I can't calm you down, let's let you go berserk, prepare to be reborn!" Liszt stopped trying to suppress it, after all the Formless Dragon had left, and it was very safe here.

He simply welcomed the rebirth of the Fire Dragon.

No sooner had he released the suppression than he felt a powerful sucking force at the position of his heart, just like the last time, the Little Fire Dragon directly drained all his Dou Qi. Then, through the channels of Dou Qi, it rapidly headed towards the palm of Liszt's left hand, as if it were expelling Dou Qi normally.

The Mini Little Fire Dragon burst out directly from the palm, in the form of a cluster of flames.

"Oh!"

The voice was no longer rising within his mind but by his ear, as the cluster of flames swiftly solidified into a small Little Fire Dragon. This Little Fire Dragon could now exist independently of Liszt. It fluttered its wings, slowly circling in front of him, and kept calling "Oh!" "Oh!"

It seemed to be anxiously awaiting something.

"Do you want Fire Dragon Magic Power?" Liszt asked weakly. Without the Dou Qi, he felt very uncomfortable, as if his body was hollowed out—which indeed it was.

"Oh!"

The Little Fire Dragon nodded with almost human-like understanding.

This intelligence was definitely not low, but Liszt sighed and said, "My last of the Fire Dragon Magic Power was already fed to you this morning. There's only a bit left at the Fire Dragon Brick Factory and glass workshop. I'll take you there to get it." Struggling to his feet, he prepared to take the Little Fire Dragon and set off for the port town.

But the Little Fire Dragon was not willing to leave: "Oh!"

Liszt guessed with bewilderment, "Do you want the Fire Dragon Magic Power now?"

The Little Fire Dragon nodded frantically, appearing very anxious: "Oh!"

"Where can I get you some now... Perhaps you could take some medicine in the meantime," Liszt suggested, as he pulled out a handful of Magic Potion from the Space Gem, prepared for his daily practice.

Seeming to understand that the Fire Dragon Magic Power would not be available,

The Little Fire Dragon charged toward Liszt's palm and directly ate all the Magic Potions in Liszt's hand, along with the glass vials, crunching them down.

After eating, it again raised its head to Liszt: "Oh!"

"You want more?"

Liszt, with no choice left, had to take out another handful of Magic Potions... He took out five handfuls in total, handing over all of his monthly supply of Magic Potion, and only then did the Little Fire Dragon, still seemingly unsatisfied, stretch out its tongue of flames to lick its lips.

The next moment.

It soared high with a powerful flap of its wings.

Midflight, the solid flames burst with a bang, creating a rain of fire across the sky. As the dazzling fire rain hit the ground, the form of a bright red Fire Dragon gradually emerged in midair. The Fire Dragon's body was ablaze, but the flames were dying down, and the color was increasingly becoming black-red.

Ultimately.

The flames extinguished completely, and a Fire Dragon covered in black-red scales, flapping its wings and raising its dragon head, let out a resounding roar: "Oh!"

The Fire Seed form of the Little Fire Dragon had finally been reborn, grown into a real creature of flesh and blood.

Now it could be called—a Fire Dragon!