

The Mighty 531

Chapter 531 Extreme Diving Breath-Holding

At the southeast corner of Black Horse Island, there is a barren sandy beach, sparsely dotted with a few wooden huts.

Although it's impossible to grow crops here, the beach boasts abundant seafood resources. The sampan fishing teams from the harbor town often come here to catch seafood, providing food for the territory.

At this moment, Li Si Te, wearing only a close-fitting leather armor and shorts, was personally sitting in a sampan, rowing out to sea.

All his servants stayed on the beach; he had come to explore the Giant Algae Forest beneath the sea on his own. Since he needed to communicate with Sea Sprite Ake at all times, it would be inconvenient to bring servants along.

With Ake to guide him underwater,

they easily reached above the Giant Algae Forest, where he lowered a rope for Ake to secure the sampan.

Before preparing to dive to the seabed, Li Si Te asked, "Ake, although I can swim, it's difficult to exert my strength in the sea. After all, I possess Fire Attribute Dou Qi, so I will need you to guide me a lot."

"Brother, don't worry, Ake will protect you, just like brother protects Ake!"

"Currently, my limit for holding my breath is fifteen minutes. To expedite the exploration, you need to lead me while swimming."

"Hmm."

Ake's swimming speed was very fast. If Li Si Te swam by himself, he would spend most of his fifteen-minute breath-holding time swimming and would barely have any time to explore the Giant Algae Forest.

Taking a deep breath.

Splash.

Li Si Te jumped directly into the sea and, following the currents controlled by Ake, quickly dived towards the bottom. His strong physical constitution allowed him to use his Dou Qi to slow down his oxygen consumption—if the physical rules of this world were the same as those on Earth, where burning and breathing both utilized oxygen.

In this world, ordinary people could hardly hold their breath for a minute, and fishermen who trained regularly could normally hold their breath for three to five minutes.

Any longer would require the use of Dou Qi. On Black Horse Island, there was an Apprentice Knight who often dived, capable of breath-holding while swimming for twenty minutes and thirty minutes while still.

Li Si Te hadn't trained much, but with the help of Dou Qi, his record for breath-holding while swimming was fifteen minutes, and eighteen minutes when still.

The seawater was exceptionally clear. Although the underwater visibility was narrower than on land, it was still possible to see a great distance.

Ake controlled the water flow from within a seashell, carrying him swiftly to the edge of the Giant Algae Forest. Looking out, the entire forest really resembled a forest growing on the seabed. The giant algae stretched straight towards the surface, breaking the sunlight into tiny specks of light.

Their colors were mostly yellow or green.

They looked a bit like kelp.

However, Giant Algae had a single main stem with many long, slender leaves that swayed left and right with the movement of the seawater. Their roots clung to the rocks at the bottom of the sea, with many small fish darting between the algae. Sometimes, the fish would disturb the algae, causing them to entangle with each other.

The seafloor was also dotted with a large number of corals, anemones, and other life forms.

Li Si Te was not in the mood to admire the underwater scenery. He quickly deployed his Eye of Magic, scanning over the algae, but found no glow of magic feedback.

He then patted Ake's shell.

Understanding the gesture, Ake immediately controlled the water flow, taking Li Si Te swimming into the Giant Algae, though mostly staying near the periphery of the forest's nearshore end. The Eye of Magic continuously scanned, searching for the possible presence of Cordyceps. Fifteen minutes passed in a blink, and he did not spot any Cordyceps.

Resurfacing, Li Si Te took deep breaths, giving himself a moment to recover.

Once again, he had Ake take him toward the next area of the Giant Algae Forest underwater. Indeed, the undersea forest was boundlessly vast, with no visible end in sight.

Inside the Giant Algae Forest, the poor lighting and limited visibility made it even harder for the Eye of Magic to observe.

But Li Si Te's nature was all or nothing; he never left anything half-done. Time and again, he extended his search through the expanse of the Giant Algae Forest. Finally, after three hours and on his ninth dive, he saw the luminosity he had hoped for.

The chaotic colors of the light spread over a thirty-meter-long piece of Giant Algae.

It nearly reached the surface.

Swimming quickly towards this piece of Giant Algae, Li Si Te soon found the Elf Bug nestled at the root of the kelp, a yellow-brown Elf Bug. Originally, Li Si Te had thought to let Ach contract with this Giant Algae Bug, but since he had already put in so much effort, he decided to do it himself.

So he took out some Jade Powder and sprinkled it at the base of the Giant Algae.

In the seawater, the Jade Powder shimmered, not easily adhering, but it still successfully attracted the Giant Algae Bug, which slowly swam over to lick the powder.

Then, as it opened its mouth, Li Si Te forced his finger in.

A snap.

A sensation of soul connection came through, he had successfully bonded with the Giant Algae Bug, feeling the little fellow's peaceful, tranquil, and relaxed mood, as if embodying a quietly stretching piece of Giant Algae in the sea.

With the Giant Algae Bug in tow, he quickly surfaced.

"Phew!"

He exhaled deeply, purging his lungs of stale air and breathing in the salty, fishy air above the sea. When Ach also emerged and opened his shell, Li Si Te threw the Giant Algae Bug into Ach's shell, "Ach, take good care of this Giant Algae Bug for me."

"Mhm."

Now, Ach's shell had all but become a little Worm Room for the Elf Bugs, following him around every day.

"After I rest for a bit, we'll head back," Li Si Te said, being kept afloat on the water by a current controlled by Ach, as he recovered his strength.

He also called out to the Smoke Mission.

"Mission completed, reward one Giant Algae Elf Bug."

Three hours of hardship for an Elf Bug was well worth it, although the only regret was that the seaweed crops cultivated by these sea Elf Bugs were still in the ocean. The Kelp Bugs and Laver Bugs' kelp and laver had already become food for fishermen to harvest.

But the crops planted by the Redstone Flower Bug, the Horsetail Bug, and the Inkangle Bug had yet to be utilized.

As for this Giant Algae Bug, whether its corresponding Giant Algae was edible was not known. If it was, it could potentially be harvested by fishermen.

In a daze,

The serpent-like script made of smoke had already twisted to reconfigure its message: "Mission: The Giant Algae Elf Bug seems to be just one facet of the secret of the Giant Algae Forest. This vast Undersea Forest is worth your deeper exploration, to thoroughly uncover its secrets farther and deeper within the forest. Reward: A new variety of Giant Algae."

"Hmm?"

Li Si Te was surprised; he hadn't expected that the Giant Algae Forest mission was not over yet. It seemed to be a chain mission, "What kind of new variety could this Giant Algae be, could it be Magic Medicine?"

No matter whether it was Magic Medicine or not.

The exploration of the Giant Algae Forest had to continue. The morning was already late, and he had arranged with Ach to continue in the afternoon. He then swam to where the Sampan was anchored and rowed himself to shore. Surrounded by his servants, he put on Flack·Abaie and returned to the port town for lunch.

After lunch, a short rest.

The search continued.

This time, Li Si Te and Ach divided the work: Li Si Te mainly scanned the Giant Algae Forest broadly for possible magic light feedback, attempting to find Magic Medicine Kelp, while Ach meticulously distinguished between each piece of Giant Algae, looking for non-magic-medicine mutant varieties.

Chapter 532 Secrets Follow One After Another

Li Si Te had already overestimated the area of the Giant Algae Deep Forest, but as he continued to explore underwater, he was still amazed by the vastness of the Giant Algae Forest.

It was outrageously large, and that afternoon, he and Ach almost got lost among it.

Fortunately, after relentless effort, Liszt's Eye of Magic finally located the radiance of magic feedback, which was a whole patch of Giant Algae emanating Magic Radiance.

They looked almost identical to regular Giant Algae, perhaps just a wee bit finer, but overall they still exceeded the length of twenty to thirty meters. Intermixed with the regular Giant Algae, there was no doubt that this was the new secret hinted at by the Smoke Mission—the Giant Algae Magic Potion.

And it was Giant Algae Magic Potion in large quantities.

Looking at the endless, densely scattered Giant Algae Magic Potion releasing Chaotic Magic Radiance, Liszt involuntarily took a sharp intake of breath.

Then he choked on the water, and Ach promptly reacted, lifting him above the surface.

But he still gulped down several mouthfuls of seawater, continuously coughing on the ocean's surface.

"Brother, are you alright?" Ach asked with concern, patting his back to help him catch his breath.

It took Liszt quite a while to stop coughing, he floated on the surface taking deep breaths, but his mood remained excited, "I'm fine, just choked on some water! Ach, do you know

what I found in the Giant Algae Forest, it's Magic Potion! An entire swath of Giant Algae Magic Potion, as far as the eye can see, all Giant Algae Magic Potion!"

"Wow, Giant Algae Magic Potion!" Ach cheered along.

"Yes, it's the Giant Algae Magic Potion. Recently, I've been in desperate need of Magic Potions, and the ones produced in my territory can't satisfy my use, and purchasing from the outside is very difficult. I never expected the Giant Algae Forest you discovered to be filled with so much Giant Algae Magic Potion!"

Ach rejoiced sincerely for him, "That's great, brother can continue to consume Magic Potion without a hitch."

Liszt smiled proudly.

Warmth radiated from his chest, clearly, the Little Fire Dragon had sensed his emotions and understood that it would soon have Magic Potion to eat.

Sending an emotion of "patience" to it, Liszt took a deep breath and gestured to Ach to continue diving with him to ascertain the extent and quantity of the Giant Algae Magic Potion.

Most crucially, he needed to find the second Giant Algae Bug, "Besides the likes of mushrooms, which are Abandoned Cordyceps, any plant with Magic Potion would have Elf Bugs. This patch of Giant Algae Magic Potion is far away from the previous Giant Algae Cordyceps; that means another Giant Algae Bug must be concealed nearby!"

There are also plants without Elf Bugs that could mutate into Magic Potion carriers, but they would regress to ordinary plants after one or two generations and can't breed.

Diving.

Searching.

Today was destined to be a day of abundance, and Ach soon found a new Giant Algae Bug and its Cordyceps. Then, Liszt once more successfully lured the Giant Algae Bug with

Jade Powder and smoothly contracted it. After the contract, he tossed it into Ach's shell—the sea Elves preferred the environment of the ocean.

Splash.

Breaking through the seawater, floating on the surface, Liszt felt exceptionally relaxed. The sun had already set below the horizon, its afterglow reddening half the sky, and the seawater glowed red as well, like clusters of flames dancing on the ocean's surface.

"Time to go back." Watching the sun nearly disappear, he smiled faintly, "Tomorrow, we'll arrange for the fishermen to come harvest these Giant Algae Magic Potion and clear out the non-magical Giant Algae as well. We'll move the two Giant Algae Cordyceps over here, expanding the growing area for the Giant Algae Magic Potion, letting the ocean cultivate more Magic Potion for me!"

Concentrating slightly,

He soon called up the Smoke Mission.

"Mission completed, reward: Giant Algae Magic Potion variety."

Then he glanced at the new mission, "The swathes of Giant Algae Magic Potion are a tremendous discovery, and they can effectively alleviate your need for Magic Potions. However, it seems the area of the Giant Algae Magic Potion has gone beyond the influence of the Giant Algae Elf Bug. Please locate the other Elf influencing the Giant Algae Magic Potion. Reward: one Giant Algae Minor Elf."

"What!"

At first, Liszt didn't take much notice, thinking that contributing two Giant Algae Bugs and a piece of Magic Medicine Kelp from the Giant Algae Forest was already a very worthwhile harvest.

He hadn't expected the main event to be yet to come.

There were even Giant Algae Minor Elves hidden within this Giant Algae Forest.

He steadied his breathing, suppressed the surge of emotions, and calmly said to Ach, "Have you noticed that the range of the Magic Medicine Kelp seems to have extended beyond the influence of the Giant Algae Cordyceps?"

Ach was very smart and caught on quickly, his big eyes shining brightly, "Brother, are you saying there are other Giant Algae Bugs here?"

"Perhaps not just Giant Algae Bugs, but also Giant Algae Minor Elves. This Giant Algae Forest is really too vast, it's hard to know how many years it has grown and exactly how many Elves it has nurtured," Liszt thought more and more that his line of thought was correct, "Ach, there must be more Elves inside, waiting for us to explore!"

"Brother, shall we continue the search?"

"It's getting dark, the light is dim, and diving again would be very inconvenient... there's no rush, Ach, let's go back for now and resume the search tomorrow."

"Mm."

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Back in the port town, Liszt had already sorted out how to deal with this Giant Algae Forest.

Undoubtedly, when the Magic Medicine Kelp was discovered, it had transformed from an interesting underwater plant into an indispensable strategic resource for the territory.

"With Ach's help, I can easily determine the area of the seaweed, but for the fishermen, the location of the Giant Algae Forest and the area of the Magic Medicine Kelp are difficult to distinguish; they don't have coordinates to confirm it... So I need to help them mark the coordinates of the Giant Algae."

He immediately ordered his servants to prepare ropes and sampans.

Using ropes to secure the sampans, he marked the edges of the Giant Algae Forest and the distribution area of the Magic Medicine Kelp. Of course, this is just a temporary measure. The best method is to learn the maritime cultivation techniques from Earth, using buoys to plan the cultivation fields in the sea.

Regularly harvest the Magic Medicine Kelp and strive to explore the cultivation techniques for the Giant Algae.

"So far, we have yet to determine the full extent of the Giant Algae Forest. Judging from the areas explored at present, this Giant Algae Forest is likely to span tens of thousands of acres," Liszt and Ach had only explored a fraction of the area.

So the next day,

He took the ropes and sampans and spent the entire day not diving in search of the Giant Algae Minor Elves, but busy marking the borders of the Giant Algae Forest.

Setting them every one kilometer, he placed the sampans and had Ach secure them with ropes.

Working tirelessly until nightfall, it took twenty-three sampans to map out the border of the Giant Algae Forest. Then he rode Loki to survey from above the Giant Algae Forest, drawing the positions of the sampans. The result showed that the Giant Algae Forest took on an irregular, elongated shape.

Then, he sketched it to scale on thick paper, and after a rough calculation, concluded that the Giant Algae Forest might span 24 square kilometers, approximately 36,000 acres.

This area was about the size of Fresh Flower Town.

"It's truly immense, it's time to search for the Giant Algae Minor Elves and determine the range of the Magic Medicine Kelp!" Having found the kelp, it was time to send people to harvest it, then take it to the Magic Workshop for Chris Truth to make Magic Potions.

Days without Magic Potions to nibble on.

Were indeed hard to bear.

Chapter 533 This Jade Powder Smells Amazing

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As a powerful Sky Knight, Li Si Te (Liszt) had a strong ability to adapt his body; just two days ago, he could only hold his breath for fifteen minutes, but now he was able to do so for twenty-five minutes.

In the process of searching for Magic Medicine Kelp, the surprises kept growing because the distribution of the Magic Medicine Kelp far exceeded his imagination.

At first, he thought it was just over a hundred acres affected by one Giant Algae Bug and over eight hundred acres affected by one Minor Elf, but now it had reached over a thousand acres, and he still hadn't seen the end of it.

"Based on the normal distribution of elf influences, a Greater Elf influences about 6,000 acres, a Minor Elf around 800 acres, and an Elf Bug around 100 acres, with the fluctuation in their influence not exceeding twenty percent. That is, the maximum range of influence for a Minor Elf wouldn't exceed 960 acres, and an Elf Bug wouldn't exceed 120 acres," he said.

960 acres plus 120 acres equaled 1,080 acres; this meant that under the current known elf influences, the area of Magic Medicine Kelp in the Giant Algae Forest would not exceed this number.

However, even after the area exceeded a thousand acres, Li Si Te (Liszt) had yet to explore the edge of the Magic Medicine Kelp.

"There are still elves!"

"There must be more elves, this is truly amazing, how many surprises will this Giant Algae Forest bring me!" murmured Li Si Te (Liszt), growing more and more excited as he patrolled underwater, monitoring the magic feedback light. He felt that this trip would really make him a fortune.

The azure sea that he had pinned so much hope on had not let him down; the wild magic medicines were growing in patches.

Just at that moment.

Ach suddenly took him to a giant algae, and then she pointed to the base of the giant algae, where, all of a sudden, a yellow-brown Giant Algae Bug was perching on the petiole at the root.

Another Elf Bug!

Li Si Te (Liszt) did not hesitate, he took out Jade Powder, sprinkled it in the water to lure the Giant Algae Bug, and then extended his finger for it to bite down on.

Mind connected, contract established.

The third Giant Algae Bug was secured!

The appearance of this Giant Algae Bug was an unexpected delight, but it did not disrupt Liszt's process of searching for the Giant Algae Minor Elf. He continued to search for the Giant Algae Magic Potion with Ach's help, continuously discerning where there might be Giant Algae Cordyceps—Cordyceps mixed in with the Magic Medicine Kelp were hard to find, given they all emitted a magic feedback light.

Eventually.

It was still thanks to Ach's keen observation.

She patted Li Si Te (Liszt)'s shoulder and then pointed towards a cluster of Giant Algae in front of them. Following the direction of her finger, Liszt could vaguely see a light point that was different from the others. He dispersed his Eye of Magic to observe with his naked eye and found the light point was behind the frond of a Giant Algae.

Although it wasn't clear, that shape was definitely a Minor Elf without a doubt.

Li Si Te (Liszt) quickly gestured for Ach to swim with him towards the Minor Elf, but as soon as they approached, the nimble Minor Elf fled and left the Giant Algae.

The wild Minor Elves were highly vigilant, unlike the Mangrove Minor Elf Nami who was a wild Minor Elf and, upon seeing Ach, would be unable to move and willingly offered a contract. This Giant Algae Minor Elf was different; it had no intention of approaching Ach and disappeared without a trace in the blink of an eye.

"Let's go up," Liszt gestured to Ach to surface.

They took a breath, revitalizing themselves.

He said, "Later, you'll take me to that Giant Algae again. I have observed it; it is definitely the Cordyceps of the Giant Algae Minor Elf. The base is very thick, not much smaller than a water bucket, and although it winds and twists below the surface, its length definitely exceeds sixty or seventy meters."

"Brother, but the Giant Algae Minor Elf will run away," Ach said.

"I will use Jade Powder to lure it and see if it can be attracted, then I'll attempt to initiate the contract. If that doesn't work, I'll need you to control the water flow to bind the Giant Algae Minor Elf so I can then contract with it," he explained.

"Mhm," Ach nodded.

Although she was kind and innocent, she did not have the mindset of 'Minor Elves are so cute; how can we harm them?' In fact, the law of the survival of the fittest had often been a part of her upbringing—being hunted by Sea Monsters wasn't an exception; she often faced them when she was a child.

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So to Liszt, the means of dealing with the elf were quite normal, and the act of killing sea monsters was taken for granted.

She probably wouldn't oppose even if Liszt asked her to kill someone, for her sense of right and wrong differed considerably from that of humans—not to mention, being around

Liszt all the time, one couldn't help but be affected by his influence... ahem, to be tinged with the same hue.

A moment later.

Liszt had fully recovered and returned to the root of the giant algae cordyceps, taking out a powder ground from jade and sprinkling a large patch of it. Jade powder would float with the currents and settle to the bottom in the seawater, but due to density, quite a bit would still adhere to the cordyceps.

No one knows how the jade powder tempts the elf, but the elf certainly loves jade.

As expected.

Without waiting more than three minutes, Liszt noticed the giant algae minor elf cautiously coming back. It hid behind the giant algae's leaves, approaching stealthily, unaware that the magic radiance on its body had already given away its position. Liszt, without a change of expression, pointed out its location to Ach.

Ach nodded to signal she was ready to capture it.

Only then did Liszt relax and take out another handful of jade powder, tossing it towards the location of the giant algae minor elf, though the powder didn't spread far in the water.

Yet the "scent" it emitted successfully attracted the giant algae minor elf.

Two minutes later, it brazenly appeared in Liszt's line of sight, only to retreat and reappear twice or thrice before it started to approach Liszt, licking the jade powder sprinkled on the giant algae cordyceps. It occasionally turned its head to look at Liszt, opening its mouth to emit a vague sound.

The sound was akin to a "gurgle."

It was also amber-colored, crystal-clear like a gem, with a super-miniature piece of giant algae on its head. Its big eyes were very expressive, though its teeth inside the mouth were

quite sharp, giving it a fierce edge amidst its beauty. It had no wings, but had structures like transparent fins on its ears, armpits, calves, and tailbone.

Clearly.

The structure of the minor elves in the sea was significantly different from those on land.

Liszt didn't disturb it, instead just watched it with interest as it licked the giant algae clean of jade powder. Only then did he take out another handful of jade powder and slowly extend his hand towards the giant algae minor elf.

If it were a human child, not even a kindergarten kid would fall for such crude enticement.

However, the other party was just a giant algae minor elf.

After coaxing its head for a dozen seconds and grinning broadly, it quickly swam over and started licking the jade powder by hugging Liszt's hand.

Liszt took the opportunity to quietly stand his middle finger up and slip it into its mouth.

It immediately responded with a bite.

It hurt.

It instantly drew blood from Liszt's finger, but the contract was also completed in a flash. In the moment of heart-to-heart connection, Liszt could feel its wariness, nervousness, and a surge of aggressive emotion, which was quickly replaced by feelings of confusion and affection.

Probably the giant algae minor elf was bewildered—why does this annoying person feel so dear to me?

"Little guy, I've got you now," Liszt said, activating his dragon dou qi to stop the bleeding on his finger and cradling the giant algae minor elf in his palm.

He gestured to Ach to take them to the surface of the water.

The giant algae minor elf, now above water, seemed upset; it didn't like being away from the seawater.

"Gurgle!" The noise it made was clear, resembling a pigeon's call but even more crystalline. Clinging to Liszt's finger, it swayed its body back into the water, soaking in the sea, and then it cheered up, "Gurgle, gurgle, gurgle!"

Chapter 534 Ach Chases the Sea Monster

The Giant Algae Minor Elf, burbling away, became the fourth little minor elf under Liszt's command. Its arrival signified the massive potential of the Giant Algae Magic Potion behind it.

"Three Giant Algae Elf Bugs and one Giant Algae Minor Elf should be able to cultivate at least eleven hundred acres of Magic Medicine Kelp," Liszt said, looking happily at the Giant Algae Minor Elf hanging from his arm and swaying with the waves.

The temper of the Giant Algae Minor Elf was clearly not so gentle.

It wasn't nearly as fond of Ach as it was of Nami. When Ach tried to touch it, it twisted its body to evade, then turned its head and bared its teeth at Ach with a "gurgle!"

It was warning Ach not to touch it.

"Little guy, this is Miss Sea Serpent, do you understand? When I'm not in the sea, you follow her, got it?"

"Gurgle!"

"Stop gurgling. She has some Jade Powder you like to eat too," Liszt signaled to Ach with a look, hinting for her to take out some Jade Powder.

Sure enough.

A mother is she who has the milk.

Once Ach took out the Jade Powder, the Giant Algae Minor Elf didn't hesitate for more than three seconds before rushing over to start eating the Jade Powder that Ach fed it. When Ach reached out to touch it again, it had no reaction whatsoever, just like when Liszt first tempted it.

It simply couldn't resist the allure of the Jade Powder.

"Good thing an elf contract, once established, cannot be undone by others unless willingly released by the owner; otherwise, it could be led astray by others within three days of being raised," Liszt no longer paid attention to the Giant Algae Minor Elf that was munching on Jade Powder and showing a 'truly delicious' emotion and instead started to focus his attention.

He summoned the Smoke Mission.

"Task completed, reward: one Giant Algae Minor Elf."

The next mission followed, "Task: The Giant Algae Forest remains unexplored, in fact, you have only uncovered a corner of the forest and haven't discovered its core secrets. Ach is a good helper, why not let her assist you to dive deeper into the sea and find more secrets. Reward: One low-level Dragon Breed Sea Monster."

"Hmm?"

"Low-Level Dragon Breed Sea Monster?"

"What's going on here? It feels like ever since the Smoke Mission started and I received the Power of Destiny from the Smoke Dragon, I seem to have tied my fate with dragons and dragon-related creatures?"

Dragon-related creatures include flying dragons, sub-dragons, dragon beasts, and dragon breed beasts.

Liszt has come into contact with flying dragons, including the Light Dragon from the Maple Leaf Duchy, with Paris being the Black Dragon Childe of the Light Dragon; the Sapphire Dragon, the guardian dragon of his nation, which he saw once on Iron Hoof Island; the Smoke Dragon, which he has never met, but the Smoke Mission is always there.

He'd met the Formless Dragon twice, who brought him four Space Gems, and it could be considered an old friend by now.

Lastly, the Fire Dragon that died on Black Horse Island and the Little Fire Dragon Leo that was born from the remains of the Fire Dragon's skeleton, which constantly cries out "oh ho, oh ho," clamoring for magic potions.

Sub-dragons, he had only encountered one, and the situation is somewhat unclear—Marquis Merlin had given him a Phoenix Feather, which the Little Fire Dragon swallowed before he could even warm it up. Afterward, when Liszt wrote to Marquis Merlin to ask about the Phoenix Feather, he learned that this feather was the only one confiscated as part of the Long Taro Family's Pioneer Mandate.

Loki is a dragon beast.

Banpo Cattle, Estuary Pigs, and Black Blood Treasured Horses are all dragon breed beasts.

Now, one more low-level Dragon Breed Sea Monster will be added, which is a type of Magical Beast and can be considered a dragon beast.

"A sea dragon beast—what species could it be? A fish, or a whale? Or maybe a crab, lobster, shellfish, starfish?" No matter what, the exploration of the Giant Algae Forest is still incomplete, and even the extent of the Magic Medicine Kelp has not been clearly determined.

In this undersea forest, elves still exist.

And perhaps even more explosive secrets!

But for today, there's no more time to search; unbeknownst to him, the sunset had already fallen upon the sea. Liszt prepared to take the Giant Algae Minor Elf back with him, but

the Giant Algae Minor Elf was reluctant to leave the sea. If it were just an Elf Bug, then it would be taken away just like that.

Alas, it was a Little Minor Elf with independent thinking and could no longer be simply regarded as a farming tool.

"Then you shall stay the night with Ach," Liszt did not force the Giant Algae Minor Elf to leave the sea. However, he had already planned that when he built the new castle in the future, he would definitely construct a sea Worm Room in the canals that connect to the sea beneath the castle, to provide shelter for the elves of the ocean.

Before parting,

Ach, holding the Giant Algae Minor Elf, suddenly asked, "Brother, what name will you give this Giant Algae Minor Elf?"

"A name...?"

After pondering briefly, Liszt made a decision, "Let's call it Fizz. The meaning of this name is Tide Spirit, and it is an ocean elf born alongside the tides."

"Fizz," Ach offered no comment on the name.

What she focused on was another piece of information in Liszt's words, "Brother, since Fizz and the others are ocean elves, then what is Ach? Brother, you said that Ach was the ocean's elf." When she asked this question, the Little Sea Monster felt a bit dejected.

Perhaps the original title of the ocean's elf was exclusively hers.

Liszt smiled gently, stroking Ach's deep blue hair, "Ach, you are a Sea Serpent, and Sea Serpents are the elves of the ocean; Fizz and the others are farming elves, simply living in the ocean, but inherently they have no direct connection to the ocean."

"Mhm, hehe."

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After parting with Liszt,

Ach, with Fizz in tow, continued to meander through the Giant Algae Forest; she was a Sea Serpent, and the ocean was her realm to roam at will. She planned to continue searching to see if she could encounter new elves, to reduce the workload for Liszt.

At that moment,

Her vision blurred.

A colorful fish swam past through the Giant Algae Forest, and Ach's eyes lit up, "It's that huge dolphin!" She had initially chased this Sea Monster, which resembled a dolphin, and that was how she had discovered the Giant Algae Forest. However, she ended up allowing the Sea Monster to escape without capturing it.

Now, she directly followed, determined to hunt the Sea Monster once more.

Using the Giant Algae as cover, Ach's white giant shell quietly trailed the Sea Monster from afar. The relaxed Sea Monster hadn't noticed her, swimming leisurely around, occasionally chasing after the fish in the vicinity. It was completely carefree, treating the Giant Algae Forest as if it was its playground.

Little did it know, danger was approaching.

However,

Just as Ach was about to make her move and hunt the Sea Monster, she suddenly stopped, hiding behind a few strands of Giant Algae, keeping her form concealed and quietly observing— in her view, the dolphin-like Sea Monster seemed to want to attack a strand of Giant Algae.

Yet before it could get close, a faint yellow Light swept across its body, and then tiny strands of Giant Algae grew on its skin, entwining it.

The Sea Monster had no choice but to dash towards the nearby rocks to scrape off the Giant Algae.

Then, not giving up, it circled around, trying to attack again, but was repeatedly blocked by the yellow Light. In the end, completely covered with Giant Algae, it reluctantly swam towards the depths of the Giant Algae Forest.

"It's a Giant Algae Minor Elf, a Giant Algae Minor Elf!" Ach was very surprised; she had just contracted a Giant Algae Minor Elf with Liszt an hour ago.

She had not expected to encounter another one so soon.

The clever Ach immediately remembered that Liszt had said the area of the Magic Medicine Kelp was vast and not yet fully explored. So, encountering another Giant Algae Minor Elf was not strange. She firmly memorized the location of the Cordyceps where this Giant Algae Minor Elf resided before chasing after the colorful Sea Monster.

Unfortunately,

The figure of the Sea Monster had already vanished.

Chapter 535 The Battle Between Fizz and Tam

The Rainbow Dolphin Sea Monster vanished without a trace, and Ach grew a little anxious.

It wasn't that she was worried about not being able to hunt it, but rather she feared that the Sea Monster would find other Elf Bugs and eat them. In the current Giant Algae Forest, three Elf Bugs and two Little Minor Elves had already been discovered; it was difficult to guarantee that no other Elf Bugs would be found. All the elves of the entire Giant Algae Forest belonged to her brother Liszt.

They couldn't be spoiled by the Sea Monster.

After a careful search, she still couldn't find any trace of the Sea Monster, so she could only comfort herself, "The Sea Monster probably didn't target the elves; it might have just been curious about them... I've never heard brother mention any animals that feed on elves, nor have I read about it in books."

Besides, discovering an Elf Bug was also very difficult; the Sea Monster might not actually be able to find a second one.

"Sea Monsters don't have the Eye of Magic," she murmured as she swam gently through the Giant Algae, feeling a little regretful, "What a pity that Ach is not a Knight and doesn't possess Dou Qi, unable to cultivate the Eye of Magic. Otherwise, Ach could help brother quickly find all the elves and Magic Potions in the sea."

"The Eye of Magic" is a Dou Qi Secret Technique, which only Knights can cultivate; Magicians naturally cannot.

She searched in circles.

Night had completely fallen.

She returned to the spot where she had seen the new Giant Algae Minor Elf for a while before leaving the Giant Algae Forest and swimming toward Mangrove Island.

On Mangrove Island, Nami was holding a Green-headed Duck that had hatched just a few days ago, waiting for Ach's return. Sometimes Ach would take Nami with her, but now with the responsibility of taking care of the duckling, Nami spent half of the nights on Mangrove Island. It also liked Mangrove Island very much, as it was born there.

When she saw the seashell emerging from within the Mangrove Forest, Nami immediately put down the duckling, flew up excitedly, and called out "Peep" as she rushed towards the seashell.

By the time Ach flew out of the seashell, Nami had just crashed into her arms.

"Nami, Brother Liszt brought you a new friend," Ach said.

"Peep."

"Blurp!" Without waiting for Ach's introduction, Fizz emerged from the shell, baring his teeth at Nami. His sharp teeth instantly frightened Nami into hiding in Ach's arms.

"Fizz, you are not allowed to scare Nami."

"Blurp!" Fizz turned and bared his teeth at Ach again. Although having a 'mother' was important, this did not mean that Fizz would bow to Ach...

Unless she took out the Jade Powder.

Smack smack.

Having received the Jade Powder, Fizz no longer provoked Nami and quietly licked the Jade Powder. Nami, getting bolder, began to size up Fizz and occasionally peeped at Ach.

Ach explained softly, "It doesn't have wings because it's a Little Minor Elf from the sea. The Little Minor Elves in the sea have fins instead of wings. See its fins? Don't they look a bit like Ach's fin wings?" Ach's fish fins were also transparent behind her ears and back.

In fact, the sprites of the sea and the elves from within the sea shared great similarities.

A moment later.

Fizz had finished eating the Jade Powder, and upon seeing Nami looking at him, he started baring his teeth again. However, now that Nami knew it couldn't fly, she was no longer afraid and peeped as she turned and flew away. In a flash, she had taken two peanut toffees from her Cordyceps leaf.

"Peep."

She handed one of the peanut toffees to Fizz.

"Blorp?"

Fizz paused, sniffed with his nose, then reached out his hand and accepted the peanut toffee. Seeing Nami bite down on hers with a crunch, he too mimicked and crunched on it. However, after just a couple of bites, he spat out the peanut toffee and threw away the candy in his hand.

Again, he started baring his teeth.

Nami pouted and turned back to communicate with Ach with a "peep." Then Ach took out some Jade Powder and handed it to her. She immediately grabbed the Jade Powder and flew towards Fizz for the second time—and as expected, Fizz eating the Jade Powder was not at all resistant to Nami.

Nami let herself be petted on the small patch of giant algae atop her head.

Ach watched from the side, finding the whole affair quite amusing. Nami truly was a clever little minor elf and quite adept at making friends.

...

"Another giant algae minor elf?"

The next morning, after meeting up with Ach, Liszt was utterly shocked, "Just as I suspected, this giant algae forest harbors too many elves... Anyway, can we still find that rainbow dolphin you mentioned? I'm really interested in it. If possible, try not to hunt it but capture it."

His astonishment at the minor elf soon gave way to suspicion that the rainbow dolphin could very well be the low-level dragon beast sea monster hinted at by the Smoke Mission.

A large fish with colors of the rainbow, looking similar to a dolphin, fit the profile of a dragon beast — the landwalker bird Loki also sported rainbow feathers.

Regardless.

The search for the new day began with Ach leading him straight to the cordyceps of the giant algae minor elf. It was the same routine with the same result, the gluttonous giant algae minor elf couldn't resist the temptation of the jade powder, and Liszt took the opportunity to extend his finger for a quick contract with a smack of his lips.

After surfacing, Liszt was quite proud of himself, "Ach, these little elves really are easy to tempt."

"Brother, if it were Nami, she definitely wouldn't be lured so easily," Ach recounted in detail how Nami had befriended Fizz the day before.

Is that so? Nami is so cute... however, I disagree with you. Perhaps without my intervention, Nami would approach me on her own and contract with me, just like she voluntarily contracted with you."

Ach was momentarily taken aback.

Suddenly, it seemed likely that that was the case, given that Nami naturally enjoyed making friends.

While they were talking, a commotion arose from the shells — Fizz and the newly arrived giant algae minor elf couldn't see eye to eye and had started to scuffle in the water, exchanging punches and bites in a fierce fight.

"Stop!"

Liszt immediately commanded them to cease, and while the two little elves dared not disobey, they still glared at each other, baring their teeth and grimacing. Although they were both born in the giant algae forest, and their species and appearances were similar, the two little fellows were clearly not of a sociable nature, daring to brawl upon their first meeting.

Such fiery tempers!

"From now on, you are forbidden to fight and even more forbidden to bully any elf! Did you hear me, Fizz, and you... you'll be called Tam, which means king of the river. As for why you should be called that, given your hot temper, you're bound to be the tyrant of the castle's canals."

Fizz and Tam continued to glare at each other.

The power of the contract prevented them from rejecting Liszt's orders, and they no longer dared to fight.

...

Time ticked away, and the day came to an end.

The bounds of the magic medicine kelp were finally determined to be approximately two thousand five hundred acres in size, although not every acre was covered with magic medicine kelp — many regular giant algae were also mixed in.

The yield of these magic medicine kelp would definitely not be less than that of the rapid growth magic thorn. Liszt had observed through the Eye of Magic that the magic medicine kelp was not only enormous, but also had a high concentration of magic power. The amount of magic potion that could be extracted from a single plant was incomparable to ordinary magic potion.

"Ach, we need to keep searching within this magic medicine kelp. According to my calculations, there should be at least two more elf bugs, and I have a rough idea of their locations."

Previously, Liszt had ridden Loki to carefully map out the distribution of the magic medicine kelp and the locations of the four cordyceps.

Based on the positions of these four cordyceps and circling their reach, he found that they wouldn't cover all the magic medicine kelp. In the areas outside of the cordycep's range, he speculated carefully and concluded that there had to be two more elf bug cordyceps to account for the spread of the magic medicine kelp.

This was a calculation derived from scientific method.

The accuracy was high.

Liszt gazed out over the vast sea, thinking to himself, "The mission isn't complete, which means the core secret of the giant algae forest has yet to be discovered. So, is it about finding all the giant algae elf bugs, or is there some other secret I need to uncover... Could it be possible that there is a giant algae greater elf lurking in there?"

Chapter 536 Harvest and Experiment

The Giant Algae Forest was distributed in a long strip, covering a total of approximately 36000 acres, with the western end close to the seashore and the eastern end far away from the sea.

So far, Liszt had explored the area at the western end near the sea, which was about one third or around 12000 acres, of which approximately 2500 acres were covered in Magic Medicine Kelp. Further east, the water was gradually getting deeper, reaching depths of 80 meters, and the seafloor was uneven, with some areas even exceeding 100 meters.

The fish that lived in this part of the Giant Algae Forest were also getting larger, and ferocious predators such as sharks even lurked on the ocean floor.

Of course.

Even underwater, where Liszt's Dou Qi was not as agile, he could still easily kill the ferocious sharks, especially with the help of Ake, the Water System Grand Mage, by his side.

As long as no Sea Monsters appeared, he would be safe on the ocean floor, "The eastern region of the Giant Algae Forest is not very suitable for marine culture due to the deep water and sharks. It is very dangerous for ordinary fishermen to harvest the Giant Algae here... Even if the territory promotes Dou Qi and ordinary fishermen may be able to have Dou Qi in the future, it would still be dangerous."

A knight's domain is the land and sky.

The sea is not included.

Even knights who possess Water Attributes are restricted in the sea and could easily drown. Not just knights, but Magicians, too, cannot conquer the sea; the human flesh and blood is naturally not suited for action in the sea. Whether one becomes a Dragon Knight or an Archmage, going into the water spells trouble.

This is also the reason why the Duchy of Sapphire tirelessly attacks the mainland—even island nations find it difficult to conquer the sea, let alone those countries on land.

Without the existence of the Sea Sprite Ake, Liszt would also have a hard time developing the sea.

At least until technology evolves to allow for underwater operations, the sea is synonymous with danger. Even on Earth in the age of technology, humans cannot completely conquer the sea. Confronted with the resource-rich sea, they can only look on helplessly. Very few countries are even capable of extracting offshore oil.

However.

With Sea Sprite Ake, the ocean is no longer so mysterious to Liszt.

"Ake, exploring the Giant Algae Forest takes quite a lot of time. Today, we will start by developing the Magic Medicine Kelp. I have redesigned the placement of the Giant Algae Cordyceps; in the future, the planting range of the Magic Medicine Kelp will gradually move toward the seaside... Underwater, cut down all the Magic Medicine Kelp in this area so it floats to the surface; I will send fishermen to salvage it," Liszt instructed.

"Mhm."

Ake was a hardworking and obedient Sea Serpent, never refusing the tasks assigned by Liszt.

Watching her skillfully dive into the sea, Liszt felt quite moved—the Smoke Mission brought him many rewards, the most important of which was Ake. She even surpassed the Little Fire Dragon Leo in his heart. If he had to choose one to give up, he would rather give up Leo.

Of course.

He would never reveal such thoughts to Leo.

Otherwise, Leo might get his fur in a fluff and quite possibly fly away—though it was hard to say, as he was well fed and cared for by Liszt, he might not be willing to leave at all.

...

The operation to harvest Magic Medicine Kelp was quickly underway.

About 600 acres of Magic Medicine Kelp were not in Liszt's planned area and could be cut down.

Distinguishing between Magic Medicine Kelp and regular Giant Algae was not difficult; the ones with longer leaves were Magic Medicine Kelp, and those with slightly thicker leaves were ordinary Giant Algae.

There was no doubt about Ake's working capabilities, and soon large clusters of yellow-brown Giant Algae were floating on the sea surface.

The sampan fishing fleet from Black Horse Island had grown to over three hundred, and Liszt drafted a hundred of them to swarm the surface, searching for Magic Medicine Kelp drifting with the waves, and transporting it to shore. Then, serfs would load the Magic Medicine Kelp onto carts and haul it to the Magic Workshop in Port Town, handing it over to Chris Truth.

It was inevitable that some ordinary Giant Algae were mistakenly cut by Ake in haste, but Magicians had ways to differentiate between the Magic Medicine and ordinary plants.

Liszt did not forget to instruct the official in charge of transportation, "Do not throw away the incorrectly cut ordinary giant algae. Send someone to explore whether they can be eaten and if there is any other value they might have."

If the 36,000 acres of giant algae couldn't be eaten or used, that would be too wasteful.

The preparation for harvesting the 600 acres of magic medicine kelp was slow, as only Ake was cutting it continuously.

Liszt would also dive underwater to harvest as much magic medicine as he could. His diving and breath-holding ability was getting stronger. Now, he could swim underwater for twenty-five minutes without needing to breathe—this was without Ake using the currents to help him, which showed his rapid progress.

First, based on the plan for the magic medicine kelp nursery he had devised last night, he brought the two contracted giant algae minor elves and three elf bugs, and started to transfer the cordyceps. He aimed to transplant them as close to the coastal areas as possible, ensuring that the ranges of cordyceps coverage did not overlap, to maximize planting area.

Then he selected a section where the water depth was no more than twenty meters and marked out an experimental field.

He would experiment with the growth, harvesting, and reproduction of the giant algae.

Based on his understanding of algae, they were a very primitive form of plant; in fact, some algae couldn't even be classified as plants but as primitive life forms.

But in this world, most algae could nurture elf bugs and were naturally classified as plants.

He had previously observed kelp; the leaves of kelp had little bumps. When the kelp matured, the bumps on the leaves would burst, likely containing the seeds of the kelp—he had asked Ake to experiment, and planting a piece of mature kelp into the silt quickly resulted in the sprouting of kelp seedlings.

Giant algae were probably similar to kelp and could also reproduce in this manner.

Moreover, with the help of Fizz and Tam, it was even easier for him to breed the giant algae; they could just let the minor elves reproduce on their own—using jade powder as the driving force.

All minor elves had a "planting" type of "magic."

For example, Jela could casually plant thorns, Nami could easily plant mangroves, Mickey could plant corn at will, and Fizz and Tam could also casually plant giant algae. However, the minor elves were not professional farmers after all; when they planted, they would just scatter seeds without concern for quality, density, or position.

After scattering, they did not attend to them, and all of these steps required human intervention to manage.

Especially during the seedling stage, the seedlings spread by the minor elves varied in strength, with many being substandard. Human-selected and bred seedlings were somewhat more qualified.

The only regret was that the minor elves could not distinguish whether the seeds they scattered were magic medicine seeds or ordinary seeds—essentially, the magic medicine still needed to be bred manually.

Now.

Liszt was not in a hurry to plant the giant algae; his main experiment was with the harvesting of giant algae and their continued growth.

He cut the giant algae in the experimental field into pieces of ten meters, twenty meters, thirty meters, etc., leaving behind giant algae of various lengths to see whether they would die or continue growing. If they could continue growing, then the giant algae could be harvested time and again; if they could not, then it would be necessary to cultivate new seedlings.

As evening approached.

Liszt joined Ake, who had been busy all day, and received good news, "Brother, while harvesting the magic medicine kelp, Ake found another giant algae elf bug."

"Really? Take me to it quickly."

Diving, finding the elf bug, enticing it with jade powder, the contract was successfully made naturally. He had now obtained two minor elves and four elf bugs from the giant algae forest!

He had practically stumbled into an elf nest.

And there was still two-thirds of the giant algae forest waiting for his exploration. The Smoke Mission hinted at more core secrets; perhaps it would indeed be the greatly anticipated greater elf.

"Greater elf, oh greater elf, don't be in a hurry; as soon as I harvest this batch of magic medicine kelp, I'll come looking for you!"

Chapter 537 The Pharmacist of the Magic Academy

"Viscount, the giant algae magic potion you discovered in the sea is truly unbelievable; there's even magic potion in the ocean, and Elves live there too!"

Nighttime.

The magic workshop was illuminated with crystal lamps, with four installed in the workspace alone, brightening every corner. These crystal lamps were all provided by Li Si Te, who had initially handed over many crystals to the crystal craftsman Brad to carve, before turning them into magic equipment.

This included over thirty crystal lamps.

As Chris Truth refined the magic essence from the giant algae magic potion, she conversed with Liszt, who had come to inspect, "This is a remarkable discovery, it's a pity I can't swim, otherwise I really would like to see the giant algae forest you described. Each strand of the giant algae is so huge; the Giant Algae Deep Forest must be incredibly majestic."

"It is indeed majestic. However, the visibility is rather limited underwater, so besides being majestic, it also feels a bit gloomy."

"Yes, sometimes when I travel by boat, looking at the profound blue depths will involuntarily provoke a sense of fear in me, as if the sea could swallow me up at any moment."

"That's thalassophobia." Liszt said with a smile, "The deep sea possesses all the elements that can frighten people: ferocious sea monsters, unknown creatures, oppressive colors, unpredictable weather, being far from the mainland with no help, just a tiny speck in the vast waters, at any moment you could be drowned by the sea—these can all lead to thalassophobia."

In summary, it's just one sentence—God knows what's beneath the water.

Chris didn't quite understand, "Is that an illness?"

"It's not an illness, just a psychological effect. The fear comes from the unknown. With effort to face it, you can largely overcome it."

"It seems I should learn how to swim."

"Indeed, as an islander, it's a bit embarrassing not to know how to swim." Liszt didn't linger on the topic, but after some small talk, he got straight to the point, "How's the production of the giant algae magic potion? Is it superior to land-based magic potions?"

"If we compare the same weight of potions, the yield of the giant algae magic potion isn't excellent, as the magic power it contains is somewhat more diluted. However, each strand of giant algae is tens of meters long, and a few can be refined into one potion. Viscount, you've sent too much giant algae magic potion, and I fear I can't finish it alone."

"Is that so, then I'll stop the harvest tomorrow, and we'll resume once you have some free time."

"Hmm, I estimate that this batch of giant algae magic potion will keep me busy for three days, and I can probably produce about four hundred bottles," said Chris.

The standard dose of magic potion required ten bottles a day for Liszt, and the Little Fire Dragon needed sixty bottles; that adds up to seventy bottles.

Four hundred bottles of giant algae magic potion, without delving into its efficacy, could last for about five or six days.

The giant algae magic potion harvested today was less than one hundred acres.

The six hundred acres of giant algae magic potion ready for harvest could keep him and Leo going with their potions for a month. And the remaining nineteen hundred acres, once harvested, could maintain another three months. This meant that the giant algae forest's magic potion was enough to keep him and the Little Fire Dragon comfortable for four months.

Indeed, it was a fortune!

In those four months, more magic potions would be successively produced in the domain, and with additional purchases from the outside, it's estimated that it could sustain another three months' worth.

That is to say.

This year, there is no need to worry about magic potions.

By next year, the scale of the Flame Mushrooms should have developed.

By then, Flame Magic Potions, Thorn Magic Potions, and Giant Algae Magic Potions will be the mainstays, supplemented by Dark Magic Potions and Ice Flame Potions, as well as the aid of Dragon Kui Auxiliary Medicine. Most of his needs for magic potions will have been solved, with only a small part left to figure out, which should not be difficult to resolve.

With his worries gone, his mood instantly brightened, and all the previous suppressions dissipated.

He suppressed the smile of delight and said gently, "Chris, I am currently in a critical period of my training and need to take a large number of magic potions. So, I may need to trouble you to make more potions during this time... Having you work day and night really troubles me."

"You need not worry so much. As a Grand Magician, my technical manipulation has become more and more precise. Extracting magic juice from the potions is very simple, and the difficulty of turning it into a magic potion is not great. It's just a few fine operations that might take some effort... Viscount, I would like to take on a batch of apprentices."

"Taking on apprentices? That's a good thing. You can choose from the children at the orphanage and the commoners' children," Liszt said, fully supportive with both hands and feet.

In fact, he had long wanted Chris to take on magic apprentices.

The magicians of this era might have some mental quirks, but that's because the goal of pursuing the truth twisted their worldviews. On the Black Horse Island Domain, Liszt would directly intervene in the growth of magicians, ensuring they stay on the correct path of ideology.

He would rather train magicians into scholars who study magic power, runes, and magic arrays.

They don't have to fight on the battlefield. They just need to learn how to produce magic potions, create magic equipment, and conquer various magic array schemes to achieve the integration of production, study, and research.

Chris nodded and said, "At the Grand Magician stage, much of the research work needs to be carried out over a long period and with great detail. One person's ability is very limited... I finally understand why those Grand Magicians from the Goat Assembly trained us common magicians... I plan to start with ten magic apprentices."

"Chris, I have a suggestion for you to consider," he said.

"Please speak, Viscount."

"I want to build a magic academy, no, it should be called a Magic Power Academy. It should be responsible for cultivating productive and research-oriented magicians, rather than seeking both magic and combat. Some students from the Magic Power Academy would specialize in learning how to make magic potions, or even just learn one aspect of

potion-making; while others would learn another aspect; others would learn how to create magic equipment..."

He was thinking of breaking down magicians into assembly line workers.

After all, training a magician not only requires resources but also time. He did not have the patience to wait for several years or even a decade for apprentices to become enlightened and turn into magicians.

Quickly trained assembly line workers are the best choice.

Chris considered carefully and answered, "If we focus solely on producing magic potions, this method is indeed viable, but producing magic equipment is quite difficult, as only magicians can grasp the concept of magic arrays."

"Then let's focus on training students to produce magic potions. In fact, we can classify potion production separately as pharmacology. Students capable of producing magic potions could be called pharmacists, how about that?"

"Pharmacists?" Chris smiled and nodded. "I have no objections and am willing to take on the work of the Magic Power Academy. However, training students is very energy-consuming, so I hope the Viscount can hire a few magicians from elsewhere to assist me in managing the Magic Power Academy."

"No problem!"

Chapter 538 Massive as a Wall

As for the planning of the Magic Academy, Liszt left it to Chris and Goltai's care without any further involvement. Back in his temporary quarters in the port town, he immediately took out the dozen or so Giant Algae Magic Potions that Chris had temporarily completed. He started chomping on the potions one by one and took out thick parchment paper to record his observations.

Only by analyzing the properties of the Giant Algae Magic Potion could he effectively treat his condition and enjoy the potions more effectively.

"Oh ho!"

"Oh ho!"

"Oh ho!"

Little Fire Dragon Leo was fussing on his chest, clamoring for magic potions.

Liszt had no choice but to comfort him, "Easy now, I need to analyze the properties of the Giant Algae Magic Potion first. Once I'm done, there will be plenty for you to feast on!"

"Oh ho!"

"Oh ho!"

Leo kept howling for magic potions, ignoring Liszt's explanations until Liszt took out a few more Giant Algae Magic Potions and fed them to him, barely pacifying him. Only then did he have the opportunity to study the properties of the remaining three Giant Algae Magic Potions.

After writing an entire piece of thick parchment, the basic characteristics were quite clear.

The effects of the potion were chaotic in nature, similar to the Dark Magic Medicine, though not as potent as the Thorn Potion. However, for Liszt and Leo, these were clearly not as beneficial as the Flame Magic Potion and the Ice Flame Potion, as both were Fire Attribute Magic Potions and fitted the man and dragon perfectly.

"It's a pity there's no Dragon Kui Auxiliary Medicine, otherwise I could have tried the combination of the two." After popping the medicines and circulating his Dragon Dou Qi for a while, Liszt found he had nothing else to do.

He didn't go to sleep immediately but continued to write and draw on the thick parchment paper, pondering over the relevant matters of the Giant Algae Forest, mulling over how to best place the Cordyceps for maximal benefit, and the possibility of a Giant Algae Elf's existence.

However, developing agriculture at the bottom of the sea was obviously very challenging.

"It would be ideal if Ach could get a clear grasp of the seabed terrain around here and then improve the location of the Giant Algae Forest, try to enable the Giant Algae to grow towards the shore for convenient management and harvesting... But it's premature to talk about transformations when we haven't even fully explored the Giant Algae Forest yet."

He put away the paper and pen.

Suddenly, he had an idea: "It's very inconvenient to write with parchment paper and a quill pen. Now that I have the ability to protect myself, it is time to invent white paper, and if possible, figure out how to make pencils and fountain pens. It's probably impossible to make rollerball pens and ballpoint pens."

The tips for gel pens and the ball for ballpoint pens are not something that current technology can achieve.

Fountain pens are a bit simpler, but the technology for making them is still quite complex; the easiest to invent is probably the pencil. However, the core of a pencil seems to be made of graphite, and Liszt has no idea where graphite mines are... It seems he will have to continue writing with a quill pen.

Or he could invent the brush pen, which is relatively easy to make and the materials are readily available.

But while brush pens make beautiful Chinese characters, they aren't necessarily more convenient than quill pens, especially since both Serpent Script and Wind Language consist of various twisted lines, and the strokes produced by hard-tipped pens like quills may be more comfortable to write.

"Regardless, if I can find graphite, I should quickly invent the pencil. For now, I will arrange for people to try making brush pens to see whether they are more convenient than writing with quill pens."

And so it was.

A night of good dreams.

...

The next day.

After communicating with Ach, Liszt stopped harvesting the Magic Medicine Kelp and continued the search for the remaining Giant Algae Forest. He also arranged for fishermen to dive in the nearshore waters to harvest ordinary Giant Algae, to make space for planting Magic Medicine Kelp.

Searching for Cordyceps in deep waters.

This was a great challenge, especially since the water pressure in deep-sea areas was immense, posing a significant challenge to Liszt's ability to hold his breath. Unfortunately, he couldn't teach Ach the Eye of Magic, so he had to keep diving and surfacing himself, using the Eye of Magic to scan every part of the Giant Algae Forest.

An entire morning passed, covering thousands of acres, but not finding a single elf.

He rowed back a little disheartened.

He had just come ashore when he was captivated by a piece of news.

Servant Thomas vividly recounted, "Master, many serfs saw lame Billy fall into the sea, about to drown when a rainbow-colored sea monster suddenly rushed out and lifted Billy up, carrying him all the way to the shore. I was standing at the shoreline at the time and saw it all very clearly—it was indeed a rainbow sea monster!"

"A rainbow sea monster? Saving someone and bringing them ashore? Can't Billy swim?"

"Master, many of the newly joined fishermen haven't learned to swim yet."

"Is that so..."

Liszt immediately thought of the rainbow dolphin mentioned by Ach, which he believed to be the low-level dragon beast rewarded to him by the Smoke Mission.

"So a rainbow dolphin might actually save people? This seems somewhat consistent with what I've heard about dolphins on Earth rescuing people who fall into the water?"

Liszt had watched documentaries that claimed dolphins pay great attention and display a selfless enthusiasm to help objects in the water that don't move actively. Many people have claimed they were rescued by dolphins that pushed them to the surface when they fell into the water. There have also been experiments showing that dolphins do the same for dead sea turtles, old air mattresses, lifebuoys, or thick planks.

Marine mammal experts believe this stems from the nurturing nature of dolphins toward their offspring. As mammals, they don't have gills and need to surface to breathe. But young dolphins often can't make it back to the surface in time, so mother dolphins will help them by lifting them up to the surface.

Now.

This rainbow dolphin had done the same, saving a serf who had fallen into the water.

This made Liszt feel a sense of affinity, and he quickly devised a plan to capture it—have someone pretend to fall into the water to lure it to their rescue, then cast a net to capture it.

"However, capturing it now, wouldn't that mean changing the mission?" he called up the Smoke Mission, and seeing that the content hadn't changed, he confirmed that the secret of the Giant Algae Forest was still undiscovered, "If I interfere with the mission now and miss the real secret, wouldn't it be a loss rather than a gain?"

Giant Algae Chain Quest.

It likely involved the Giant Algae Greater Elf, and Liszt did not dare to be careless.

The value of the Giant Algae Greater Elf, even if he were offered a hundred low-level dragon beasts, he would not want to trade.

After all, a dragon beast is only slightly more advanced than a magical beast, but a Giant Algae Greater Elf can cultivate at least 6,000 acres of Magic Medicine Kelp, the value of which is immeasurable.

The reason why the Tulip Family grew powerful, able to support a large family, and train a great number of Earth Knights, was by relying on the Tulip Great Elf to continuously plant magic medicine. Without the Greater Elf, even sustaining a single Sky Knight would be difficult, let alone maintaining large-scale Knight Orders and the consumption of castles.

"Let it be free for a few days, after I find the Giant Algae Greater Elf, I will then tame this rainbow dolphin... Having a dragon kind sea monster as a mount seems very stylish."

With that.

The day passed in a flash.

At dusk, Liszt had left, while Ach, as usual, stayed late, planning to return to Mangrove Island only after the sky went completely dark.

Navigating through the increasingly thick strands of Giant Algae, she kept exploring new regions.

There were fierce sharks that even dared to attack her, but she just controlled the water current to slap them and the sharks quickly fled. As for killing them, it was even simpler. Liszt had told her a method: just flip the sharks belly-up, and they'd quickly pass out.

Ach had tried it, and indeed it was so.

After being flipped belly-up, the sharks would lose consciousness, their lives left completely in her control.

Scaring away the sharks, she then saw a giant starfish and wondered if it was a sea monster. But after approaching, she didn't feel the presence of magic power—it was still just an ordinary starfish.

Just as she continued her search.

Suddenly, a strand of Giant Algae ahead caught her attention.

She couldn't help but open her mouth in surprise, wanting to shout out—the term "Giant Algae" no longer sufficed, it should rather be called an underwater column!

The thick base of the Giant Algae clung to the rock bed a hundred meters deep in the sea floor, almost blending in as one with the rocks, having at least a diameter of two to three meters.

The leaves above were also immense, twisting and turning in the sea, altogether resembling a huge sea serpent.

"Elf Cordyceps!"

Ach instantly realized, "This is Elf Cordyceps, and moreover, it's the Giant Algae Greater Elf Cordyceps that my brother is most eager to find! Only the Elf Cordyceps of a Greater Elf could grow this massive!"

Chapter 539 The Ferocious Giant Algae Greater Elf

Upon waking up and opening the window, I was greeted by the beautiful sunshine.

Another clear day, as April's pages kept turning, the weather on Black Horse Island got better day by day. After the spring farming ended, the serf army had returned to construction, wooden houses in several small towns were rising rapidly, roads were connected in succession, and craftsman workshops started operating one after another.

The transfer of the Cordyceps was also gradually completed.

Now, except for the Apple Tree Cordyceps, the Tomato Cordyceps, and the Venus Flytrap Worm planted in Fresh Flower Town, all the other Cordyceps had been moved to Black Horse Island.

The planting gardens in various small towns were demarcated, and the Cordyceps were settled there.

Even a group of Castle Servants had been divided to stay in the port town, serving Liszt specifically. By the way, they were also adapting to the life in the port town, contributing to the future establishment of the new castle. The number of Castle Servants was just over thirty people, but there were also thirty or forty children interning.

In this world, there was no law against the use of child labor. For the children interning at the castle, whether it was the quality of life or future employment opportunities, there was ample guarantee—many civilian parents wanted to send their own children to intern at the castle.

After a quick wash, without taking a bath.

Since I was going to get into the water anyway, there was no need to take another bath.

After breakfast, it was not yet half past seven, and the fishermen who harvested the Giant Algae by the seaside had already started their hard work. Liszt went to the seaside, jumped onto a sampan, and prepared to keep rowing towards the Giant Algae Forest. At the same time, he habitually summoned the Smoke Mission to take a look.

Just one glance, and he was suddenly astonished.

"Complete the mission, reward: a Rainbow Dolphin."

The reward was not unexpected; he had guessed two days ago that the Rainbow Dolphin being chased by Ach would be his reward, a low-level Dragon-kind Sea Monster.

What was unexpected and surprising was the new Smoke Mission.

"Mission: Ach has already discovered the most central secret of the Giant Algae Forest at the bottom of the sea. It is a huge Giant Algae Cordyceps that belongs to a ferocious Giant Algae Greater Elf. Ach can't even get close to it. You may need a new helper; why not first get a water mount? Reward: a Giant Algae Greater Elf."

"Giant Algae Greater Elf!"

"It's really a Giant Algae Greater Elf! Ach has already found its Cordyceps. Clearly, he has already had contact with it!"

Liszt had been dreaming of this Giant Algae Greater Elf for a while, not even sure if it existed, but now he finally had confirmed information, and one could imagine his feelings. A Greater Elf was a symbol of an Earl Landlord's status; only families with Greater Elves dared to call themselves Nobles.

Now.

Through the Giant Algae Chain Mission.

He would finally obtain a Greater Elf, joining the ranks of the Nobles—if he were to release Leo, he might instantly join the ranks of Dragon Knights, launching an assault at the King; of course, he might also be pinned to the ground by the Sapphire Duke, who would forcefully take Leo away.

Since the Little Fire Dragon couldn't be exposed, a Greater Elf would be his best symbol of status.

Inhale.

Exhale.

He took several deep breaths before he could calm down: "The appearance of the Giant Algae Greater Elf means I can plant over six thousand acres of Giant Algae Magic Potion. But the pressing issue is how to contract it. I've only heard about contracting wild Greater Elves in Knight's Novels, where they usually voluntarily contract with humans."

Knight's Novels are beautiful fantasies, not only do Elves eagerly seek to contract with the protagonist, but even Dragons beg to be ridden by the protagonist, and there's a heap of Noble ladies throwing themselves at the protagonist.

But in reality, Elves that actively contract with humans are very rare.

Minor Elves like Mangrove Minor Elf Nami, who take the initiative, are an exception. The Elves of Giant Algae certainly do not fall into this category. They do not get close to humans, and they do not even get close to their own kind. Before contracting with Fizz and Tam, they both snarled at Liszt and Ach, and without the true Jade Powder, it would have been impossible to make a contract.

Even after contracting, they argued often.

If it weren't for Liszt's strict orders, they probably would have fought each other by now.

And this Giant Algae Greater Elf, described in the Smoke Mission as "ferocious", clearly indicated its temperament.

"The Minor Elves possess the magic of planting, while the Greater Elves' planting magic is even stronger and they already have considerable power. Even Ach can't get close, so I think it must be very difficult to contract with it underwater... I must bring enough Jade Powder, and be prepared for a standoff mentally. Most importantly, I need to capture the Rainbow Dolphin."

The Rainbow Dolphin was a key hint in the Smoke Mission.

Liszt still hadn't completely understood the principles or rules of the Smoke Mission, let alone how powerful the Smoke Dragon's Power of Destiny was, or how it generated connections by manipulating threads of fate. However, following the cues of the Smoke Mission was obviously the fastest way.

In contemplation.

He had already taken a sampan and paddled past the fishermen in the nearby sea, heading further away. Ach had been keeping an eye on Liszt underwater, so she quickly surfaced to meet up with him. The shell opened, and Fizz and Tam swam over with four Elf Bugs, circling around him.

"Brother, you finally came, Ach found the Giant Algae Greater Elf!" As soon as they met, Ach excitedly shared her encounter.

She had accidentally discovered a huge patch of Giant Algae Cordyceps while working overtime.

Upon closer inspection, she successfully found the Greater Elf. It was the size of a baby, the same yellow-brown as the Minor Elves, transparent and shiny all over, like a huge gemstone. It opened the transparent fins on its body and swam joyously and tirelessly around its Cordyceps.

Sometimes when fish approached it, it would simply wave its hand and scatter a ray of Light, and in an instant, Giant Algae would burst out of the fish, turning it into a pile of minced meat.

"It's very fierce. After it spotted Ach, it chased me for quite a distance. Ach didn't want to harm it and was scared it would implant that Giant Algae in me," said Ach in a subdued voice. In a real fight, she could certainly defeat the Giant Algae Greater Elf, but with her hands tied, she could only be chased.

"The Giant Algae Greater Elf is that fierce? Have you tried luring it with Jade Powder?"

"Ach tried, but it just chased Ach away before going to eat the Jade Powder. As soon as Ach approaches it again, it stops eating Jade Powder and chases Ach away again... Brother, this Giant Algae Greater Elf is really fierce, and its big mouth looks terrifying."

The Giant Algae Minor and Greater Elves were all beautifully made, except for the mouth and the teeth inside, which were somewhat frightening.

"If the Giant Algae Greater Elf is not easy to contract, then let's come up with a solid plan to settle it in one strike," Liszt said, changing the subject. "But before that, I plan to catch the Rainbow Dolphin. I saw it save people; maybe it can understand human nature."

"Oh, that big Sea Monster can save people?" Ach said surprised.

Liszt briefly explained the Serf falling into the water and then said, "This way, I'll arrange for a Serf to fall into the water to lure out the Rainbow Dolphin and then try to communicate with it. You just hide nearby. If things go smoothly, that would be great, but if they don't, we'll have to capture it first."

"Okay."

With the plan set, Ach dived and followed Liszt back to the nearby sea area. He found some swimming-capable Serfs and had them pretend to fall into the water to attract the Rainbow Dolphin.

They had no idea where the Rainbow Dolphin was lurking or how far it had gone.

The pretend drowning continued from the morning until the afternoon without a single sighting of the Rainbow Dolphin. Just as Liszt thought it was hopeless, suddenly, a Serf frantically screaming for help in the water was suddenly lifted out of the water by something.

Instantly.

From not far away, Liszt, through his Telescope, clearly saw a Rainbow-colored dolphin beneath the Serf's body.

The dolphin was large, much larger than any he had seen in aquariums on Earth, and it might have been comparable to the size of an Orca. It had the streamlined body typical of dolphins, and its skin color, under the reflection of the sunlight, was shimmering with iridescence.

"To be precise, it actually looks more like a beluga whale."

Liszt marveled quietly, as he subtly rowed his sampan closer to the Rainbow Dolphin. In his sampan, he carried several dozen small fish with an exceptionally delicious flavor—for both people and animals, eating is a primary driver of survival, and using food as a lure is the least technical, yet most effective, method.

As he was approaching the Rainbow Dolphin.

The Rainbow Dolphin, which was originally nudging the Serf towards the shore, suddenly turned around and pushed the Serf towards Liszt.

Seeing this.

Liszt couldn't help but let out a surprised, "Huh?"

Chapter 540 Rainbow Whale Knight

The Rainbow Dolphin, or perhaps more aptly, the Rainbow Whale.

Carrying the fallen serf towards Liszt's sampan, its intention was clear; it aimed to deliver the serf onto the sampan. Liszt made no move, but his body was already tense, ready to leap into the air at a moment's notice and have Ach capture the Rainbow Whale should it dare to attack.

However.

As the Rainbow Whale drew closer to the sampan bit by bit, it showed no sign of aggression, only the earnest effort to save the person. Upon reaching the sampan, it arched its head forcefully, catapulting the serf onto the sampan—Liszt's sampan was rather large, and he himself used his Dou Qi to stabilize it, preventing it from being capsized by the serf's impact.

Seeing that the serf was safely on board.

The Rainbow Whale's head floated on the water surface, joyfully calling out, "Jiyo... Jiyo..." It sounded somewhat like a magpie, melodious and varied in tone, as rich and diverse as human speech.

Feeling its joyful mood.

Liszt relaxed as well, the eight or nine meter long creature appeared to indeed be very friendly towards humans. He quickly grabbed a small fish from the bow and tossed it to the Rainbow Whale.

This type of small fish was a specialty of Pearl Lake, known as Silverstripe, tasty and a staple in Liszt's daily diet.

Upon seeing the small fish, the Rainbow Whale immediately opened its mouth to catch it and swallowed it whole. Whether it savored the taste was unknown, but it seemed to enjoy

the feeding, lingering beside the sampan. It kept its head above water, continuing to gaze at Liszt with its small eyes.

Liszt was not stingy, and threw out another Silverstripe.

"Jiyo... Jiyo..." The Rainbow Whale ate with great excitement, extending its head to the edge of the sampan, mouth open, eagerly awaiting more. It was unclear whether it was delighting in the taste of the Silverstripe or simply the joy of free food.

Its head indeed resembled that of a beluga, with a large, round forehead, and a somewhat large mouth, but few teeth. Its eyes, small in comparison to its body, were situated at either side of its head. The colorful sheen of its skin seemed not the natural color of the skin itself, but rather caused by a layer of oily secretion reflecting the sunlight.

From different angles, the colors constantly shifted.

A rather peculiar secretion.

Utilizing his Eye of Magic, Liszt fed the Rainbow Whale another Silverstripe and took a closer look at its body. The body was full of blue and white magic power, characteristic of the Water Attribute—most sea monsters in the ocean were of the Water Attribute, naturally, given that they were immersed in seawater all day.

That layer of secretion was also teeming with the colors of magic power, and it was very active, constantly in motion.

"This secretion feels like some sort of magic, doesn't it?" Liszt was unsure, but that didn't impede his communication with the Rainbow Whale—with food.

It is said that cetaceans are highly intelligent, second only to chimpanzees, ranking second among animal intelligences. Some theories even suggest that orcas, part of the dolphin family, are smarter than chimpanzees; after all, humans rule the land while orcas rule the seas, and since both are sovereigns, their intelligence likely isn't far off from each other.

Moreover, like dolphins, orcas are friendly towards humans; there are no records of wild orcas ever killing a person.

After a few Silverstripes, Liszt felt that the time was ripe. He couldn't help but extend his hand and stroke the Rainbow Whale's big head.

The Rainbow Whale did not resist; it allowed him to pet its head.

Thus, after a bit of back and forth, Liszt felt that he had established a friendship with the Rainbow Whale, "The Smoke Mission suggests that the Rainbow Whale is a suitable water mount; should I take it for a ride? It doesn't seem very friendly to just hop on. Maybe I'll jump into the water first and then mount it?"

As soon as he thought it, he acted upon it.

He first used the horn to make a sound, alerting Ach to protect him, then grabbed a Silverstripe in one hand and jumped into the sea.

"Jiyo..." The Rainbow Whale immediately started circling Liszt, occasionally brushing against him gently, but it showed no intention of attack.

Its pair of small eyes stayed focused on the Silverstripe in his hand, but it didn't rashly snatch it away.

Seeing this.

Liszt had already realized that he had successfully mounted the Rainbow Whale halfway. He stuffed a silverstripe into the Rainbow Whale's mouth, then groped for another silverstripe from the sampan to feed it. At the same time, he filled his waist pack with silverstripes and slowly hugged the Rainbow Whale, before swiftly flipping over to sit on its back.

He grabbed its dorsal fin.

His body was ready to be flipped over.

However, to his surprise, the Rainbow Whale did not throw him off but instead remained still, emitting a peculiar tone, "Ji yo... Ji yo..." the meaning of which was not entirely clear.

But Liszt quickly produced another silverstripe, still in front of the Rainbow Whale, and with a surge, the Rainbow Whale snapped up the silverstripe and ate it.

It moved slowly on the surface of the water, still not throwing Liszt off.

"Lord Landlord is so great!" exclaimed the serf who had fallen into the water earlier, sitting on the sampan and staring mouth agape at the sight. In just a short moment, the great Lord Landlord had mounted the sea monster, truly worthy of being the great Sky Knight, effortlessly subduing even a sea monster.

Following this, he watched as Lord Landlord rode the Rainbow Whale farther and farther away.

Accompanied by the melodic calls of the Rainbow Whale, "Ji yo, Ji yo," and the hearty laughter of Lord Landlord, they eventually disappeared from sight.

"So great!"

...

Riding the Rainbow Whale, creating splashes on the water's surface, Liszt was drenched from the splashing but still laughed joyously.

Riding dogs, birds, or even dragons was nothing special, but riding a fish was truly cool!

The silverstripes in his pocket had all been fed to the Rainbow Whale, but their friendship, built upon the bridge of silverstripes, was now unbreakable. The Rainbow Whale carried Liszt, roaming freely in all directions.

At that moment, it called out high-pitched, "Ji yo..."

Then, with a dive, it plunged into the water, and before Liszt could hold his breath, he too sank into the sea with the Rainbow Whale.

He was immediately shocked, feeling like he was about to gulp down water.

But the expected choking didn't come; instead, his body was enveloped by a cool sensation, and he was surprisingly able to breathe freely underwater. Breathing wasn't as comfortable as it was above water, but it didn't hinder the intake of oxygen. Once he regained his composure from the shock, he realized that his body was also emitting a rainbow glow.

"Is this... the Rainbow Whale's magic?" Liszt was stunned for a moment, then used the Eye of Magic to see that his body indeed had an active layer of magic, just like the Rainbow Whale's, circulating continuously.

A moment later,

Understanding the principle, Liszt laughed heartily underwater, absolutely adoring the Rainbow Whale—this was a natural aquatic mount that could even help a knight breathe under water. The colored grease-like protective layer was clearly a type of magic, a magic unheard of.

No wonder the Smoke Mission had hinted that the Rainbow Whale would help him contract the Giant Algae Greater Elf.

The Rainbow Whale's magic was essentially granting him the ability to move under water, no longer having to hold his breath until his face turned red and frequently surfacing to breathe.

"Very good!"

He couldn't help but pat the Rainbow Whale's back, shouting loudly, "Well done, Rainbow Whale, from now on you are my best mount in the water!" With the protection layer-like magic, he could now speak freely under water, and his hearing and vision were not impaired at all.

"Ji yo!"

The Rainbow Whale responded with a cheerful call, though it was unclear if it understood.