

The Mighty 561

Chapter 561 Humans and Dragons Reach an Agreement

"Come here."

Liszt waved his hand.

Leo sat in place and only after a while did he slowly crawl over to Liszt. A dragon has four legs and a pair of wings; it can fly, stand on its hind legs, or crawl on all fours like a dinosaur. However, Leo's current crawl was walking with his hind legs squatting, his forelimbs lifted, and his wings on the ground to maintain balance.

His speed was slow, and his posture was strange.

Just like the conflict in his heart, which could be felt through the furrowed scales on his dragon face and the struggling look in his dragon eyes.

He came closer.

Only a meter away, he stopped, swallowing saliva, his gaze unable to drift away from the roasted leg of beef.

It was impossible to know what state he was in while in his magic form, but in his flesh and blood body, he needed to eat bloody food. During the time Liszt had been raising him, he naturally did his homework thoroughly, summarizing clearly everything about the little fire dragon's habits, sounds, and logical thinking.

The intelligence of a dragon was definitely on par with that of a young human, even if Leo was just a newly born youngling.

It was much higher than that of a Greater Elf—the intelligence of a Greater Elf was about equivalent to that of a ten-year-old child, who could speak clearly, communicate normally without obstacles but wouldn't actively contemplate problems.

Animals with higher intelligence were obviously easier to communicate with.

Apart from the barrier of language, the communication between Liszt and Leo could basically be assisted by language, behavior, and emotion, achieving barrier-free communication—Leo could directly understand Liszt's Serpent Script, complemented by facial expressions, to grasp the meaning; Liszt could also infer Leo's intentions from his tone and behavior.

When Leo lived on his chest in his magic form, they could even vaguely sense each other's emotions, making communication more direct.

This was more efficient than relying on the power of a contract to suppress barriers, like with a Greater Elf.

There was no contract between Liszt and Leo, and influencing each other through communication alone was really challenging, especially since Leo was quite stubborn. Without using some means, it wouldn't be easy to tame him.

"Want to eat this?" He held up the roasted leg of beef, made an incision with a small knife, and suddenly the fragrant aroma of the roasted meat intensified.

Leo nodded involuntarily, "Oh-ho."

"It's still the same choices as before, first, starve to death, second, let me ride." Liszt cut off a strip of beef leg, tossing it to the little fire dragon.

The little fire dragon opened his mouth, caught the strip of beef, and gobbled it down.

Then, with a conflicted gaze, he stared at the roasted leg of beef, not responding to Liszt.

Liszt cut another strip of beef leg, fed it to him, then stopped the knife in his hand and asked calmly, "How is it, the taste of the roasted beef leg, your favorite dish? I've prepared a lot here; just let me ride, and when you come out of the volcano after training, there will be beef leg meat waiting for you."

If he hadn't tasted it before, Leo might have been able to resist the temptation.

However, the remaining taste of the two strips of beef in his mouth was enticing him, and he simply couldn't refuse, only able to hug his own dragon head with his tiny front legs, shaking it wildly in an attempt to stop his will from sinking further. But the more he resisted, the less he could change his degraded attitude.

Finally, he let out a huge, reluctant "Oh-ho," his body instantly turning into a flame and rushing towards Liszt.

Boom!

He collided into Liszt's body, lingering at the Dou Qi meridians, staying at the chest area.

Immediately afterward, Liszt felt Leo trying to initiate an emotional exchange—he first solemnly indicated that he would absolutely not accept the fate of being ridden.

"Sure you won't let me ride?"

"Oh-ho!"

"If you won't let me ride, then you can forget about eating meat. I can take magic potions, but I won't let you have any."

Leo expressed dissatisfaction with an "Oh-ho," then released another wave of emotion, suggesting he could help Liszt train in exchange for food.

It was resolutely unwilling to be ridden.

Liszt was somewhat puzzled.

He did not understand why it was so resistant to being ridden; as far as he knew, the Sapphire Duke's dragon had even served as a transport for moving batches of strategic materials back to Blue Dragon Island from the continent—being able to transport goods meant it naturally could carry people, it's just that no one could become its Dragon Knight.

But now this Little Fire Dragon.

It didn't even want to be ridden at all, which was really frustrating.

Directly riding the dragon seemed impossible, so Liszt had no choice but to settle for the next best thing, squeezing every bit of training potential out of the Little Fire Dragon by practicing together.

After repeated negotiations, he agreed to Leo's terms, "I can refrain from riding you for now, but you must help me cultivate with all your effort, no slacking! The Dragon Magic Qi Cultivation Effect must be more than five times the effect I'd get from taking Magic Potions alone, and for Dragon Breath Tempering, you must ensure it's completely out of reach for you!"

"Oh hoo!" Leo cried out with grievance.

"You have no reason to feel wronged. I found the volcano for you, which is like delivering the perfect training ground to you, and I will regularly provide you with Magic Potions to speed up your growth. It can be said that our joint cultivation is a win-win situation. Think carefully with your silly little brain!"

Moments later, Leo agreed, "Oh hoo!"

Then, bursting forth from Liszt's chest and emerging from the flames, it took shape and landed on the beach. Taking the roasted leg of beef that Liszt handed over, it gobbled down the food. Its appetite was huge; one whole Banpo cow per meal was no problem. After devouring one roasted beef leg, it continued to eat the food Liszt handed over.

That included green-haired duck eggs, Fire Rabbit meat, Banpo cow milk, etcetera. To raise it, Liszt had spared no expense.

What he fed Leo was better than what he ate himself.

After Leo had eaten his fill.

He then said, "Leo, stop eating for a moment and come to the seashore with me. I want to introduce you to someone. This person is my kin, and in the future when I return to my estate, she will often come to look after you and bring you food."

"Oh hoo!" Leo rolled his eyes, showing a "don't want to meet" expression.

"If you don't want to go hungry in the future, you'd better meet her."

Thus,

The reluctant Little Fire Dragon, carrying a big chunk of meat, followed behind Liszt to the beach. Ach was already waiting by the sea. Seeing Liszt coming with Little Fire Dragon Leo, her big watery eyes almost curved into crescents, twinkling with many little stars.

"Wow, Brother, this is Little Fire Dragon Leo, right? It's so beautiful!" Ach wanted to get close but didn't dare to.

Leo swallowed the meat in his mouth and immediately let out a roar at the Sea Serpent, showing no affection just because she was a cute, beautiful, and innocent creature. On the contrary, it displayed deep pride and disdain. Perhaps in its mind, Liszt barely qualified as a delivery guy, and all other life forms were mere ants.

Out of respect for Liszt, it refrained from attacking Ach.

But Liszt needed more, he directly stroked Leo's belly and said, "She is Ach. When I'm not on Dodo Island, Ach will be in charge of feeding you. You must not harm her, understand?"

For the sake of future food, Leo reluctantly responded, "Oh hoo."

"As a sign of friendship, let Ach touch you now."

"Oh hoo!" Leo instantly bristled, baring his teeth and snarling at Liszt, flames puffing from his nostrils, a sign of anger when challenged.

Ach hurriedly said, "Brother, Leo is angry – Ach doesn't need to touch him. It's good enough just to be able to see him."

Liszt was somewhat taken aback, not expecting Leo to react so violently, even daring to bare his teeth at him in front of Ach, which signified the daunting task of taming it was far from over.

"It's a bit shy on the first meeting," he said, trying to cover up the awkwardness, and calmly continued, "So first, I'll go practice with Leo. We'll have plenty of time to interact later, and Leo will come to be friendly to you."

"Mm-hmm."

Chapter 562 The Unbreakable Hemp Rope Vine

"Oh... Roar..."

At the edge of the Volcano Crater, Leo hung his head, utterly exhausted. He had been spewing Dragon Breath for a full ten minutes, completely draining his Magic Power to assist Liszt with his Dragon Breath Tempering—this time, there was no acting; he was genuinely so tired that even taking a Magic Potion couldn't revive his energy.

The flames died down.

Shaking off the ash from his body, Liszt let out a long breath of turbid air, having not felt such a satisfying cultivation session in a long time. The effect of today's training session alone was equivalent to half a month of solitary practice. No wonder Dragon Knights are the strongest fighting force in this world, the assistance of a dragon in cultivation was simply too powerful.

Leo was still just a young Dragon that hadn't even reached a month of age after birth.

Without personal experience, one couldn't understand the pleasure and refreshing feeling that came from cultivating with a dragon, so exhilarating and liberating. During Dragon Magic Refining Qi, it felt as if one had just stepped out of a sauna, an indescribable comfort; and during Dragon Breath Tempering, it was like having a full-body massage, with bones being stepped on and cracking satisfyingly.

Seeing the dejected Leo, Liszt knew he had "squeezed dry" this disobedient Little Fire Dragon.

"I probably need five days to digest what I've gained from today's training, as doing it too frequently is more than my human body can bear. After all, I cannot compare to the physique of a dragon," Liszt concluded, as he moved his arms and legs to feel his current physical state.

Thus, he said to Leo, "Rest well, this is the Magic Potion you deserve. I will have Ach prepare a pile of fish for you by the sea in three days. I will come back here in five days, bringing your favorite beef, and then we will continue our training in the same rhythm as today."

"Oh roar..."

Leo responded weakly and silently swallowed the Giant Algae Magic Potion that Liszt had given him.

Patting Leo's belly, Liszt waved and said, "Go on, return to the Volcano and cultivate properly. I don't know how much longer this volcano can maintain itself, so we must make the most of the time we have. With the volcano's magic power, the assistance of Magic Potions, and my training, the time for your growth will be significantly shortened."

"Oh roar."

Leo nodded humanly and then spread his wings to fly. He plunged into the magma inside the Volcano Crater and disappeared from sight. Liszt changed into a new set of clothes and returned to the wooden hut at the foot of the mountain for rest.

...

The next morning, he was awakened by a chorus of "dodo" calls.

"It's the Dodobird, a unique species on this island, which even gave the island its name," Liszt had seen Dodobirds a few days earlier, a kind of bird slightly smaller than a turkey, awkward in appearance and flightless but skilled at burrowing, always hiding in holes at the slightest fright.

No matter what was happening outside, they would keep their heads buried and not come out.

So, when the ancient Sun Descendants ran out of food, they would dig out these birds one by one from their burrows—unfortunately, Dodobird meat was very tough to chew, like eating dry sticks, and was hard to swallow.

Liszt had no interest in them whatsoever.

But to let them keep making noise outside and disturb his serene dreams was unacceptable, especially since he did not want to wake up so early, which put him in a bad mood.

He begrudgingly got up, left the wooden hut, and went to drive away those Dodobirds.

The Dodobirds were about a hundred meters away in the forest, seemingly having a frenetic gathering as if many of them had gone mad.

When he approached, he realized the Dodobirds were not going crazy, but were circling around a thick, black snake—Liszt recognized this type of snake, having hunted one in the Thorn Ridge forest before, a Dark Attribute Magical Beast called Shadow Snake that released the Dark Magic Whirlpool.

On the ground were several puddles of what looked like the corroded remnants of Dodobirds, clearly the handiwork of the Shadow Snake.

But this did not scare the Dodobirds away, as they frenetically circled the Shadow Snake, trying to peck at it—one after the other, hopping and jumping, their short wings flapping like spinning wheels.

Seeing this, Liszt activated his Dou Qi and charged forward, lunging to grab the neck of the Shadow Snake, his Dou Qi instantly enveloping it.

With a gentle push, he stowed it into the Gemstone Space.

Then he kicked the Dodobird with a foot, "Scatter, all of you, stop making noise, a bunch of foul-tasting rubbish." Driving the Dodobirds away, he began to examine the Shadow Snake in the Gemstone Space. In almost just a few breaths, the Shadow Snake was completely devoid of life, dead beyond any doubt.

Aside from Virginia Truth, who was in a soul state and parasitizing a Soul Storage Vessel, no creature lacking a soul could survive in the Gemstone Space.

The fundamental reason, Liszt conjectured, was that the Gemstone Space belonged to a type of "alternate dimension," with incomplete rules that couldn't sustain the existence of souls. Even for Virginia, once the Soul Storage Vessel she parasitized was placed into the Gemstone Space, it would become inert, incapable of even dreaming.

According to Liszt's experiments, Virginia could dream within the Soul Storage Vessel, existing in a state akin to dreaming but not. She could feel the passage of time, though not intensely, but at most could sense a slight difference between a day and a month inside.

But once placed into the Gemstone Space, this sense would become muddled, unable to feel the flow of time.

Therefore.

The ability to erase souls, Liszt used it to hunt—Low-Level Magical Beasts couldn't resist his Dou Qi wrap, so he caught them with certainty.

It was ineffective against humans with Dou Qi and high-level Magical Beasts.

Because Dou Qi would resist, failing to envelop completely and thus unable to be sent into the Gemstone Space.

The complete skin of the Shadow Snake could sell for over a dozen Gold Coins; he couldn't bear to let the Dodobirds peck it to ruins, nor chop it up himself. Conveniently using this method, he directly eradicated the soul, leaving the intact snake body behind.

"Not bad, the Dodobirds are pretty useless in combat, they didn't damage the snakeskin, this is the best quality, should be able to earn fifteen Gold Coins."

The snakeskin could be sold for money, and the remaining parts could be used as snacks to accompany drinks.

Easily pocketing fifteen Gold Coins, any dissatisfaction that arose from his peaceful sleep being disturbed had completely dissipated. Just as he was about to leave, something caught his peripheral vision—a cluster of vines entwined around a Human Skull Tree. Taking a direct look, he saw the vines climbing the trunk, virtually merging with the Human Skull Tree.

On several of the neighboring Human Skull Trees, there were climbing vines as well.

"This... should be the Hemp Rope Vine that's meant to reward me." He quickly realized, and advanced toward the Human Skull Tree. As he drew closer, more and more Hemp Rope Vines became visible ahead.

Indeed, it was a vast patch.

These Hemp Rope Vines weren't Magic Potions, just ordinary plants, with very small leaves and not particularly thick vines. Some bore pale yellow flowers, while others had pods. Without a close examination, it would indeed be difficult to notice the flowers and pods, no wonder it had not been discovered despite being only a hundred meters away from the wooden house.

"What use are these pods?" Liszt picked a few and rubbed open their husks, revealing seed after seed of black, watermelon wedge-like seeds inside, "They're so small, they don't seem edible, perhaps I should collect a sample plant and some seeds to ask others about them."

He was ready to pull down a vine.

The vines were tightly entwined and could not be pulled down, so he decided to forcefully tear them off. However, as he increased his strength, an embarrassing thing happened—the Hemp Rope Vine didn't break at all, and he ended up tearing off a wrist-thick branch of the Human Skull Tree while the Hemp Rope Vine remained unbroken.

"It's too sturdy!"

"It's called Hemp Rope Vine, could it be that its sturdiness is comparable to that of hemp ropes?" Liszt's eyes quickly lit up with the realization. If the effect was indeed like that, the Hemp Rope Vine could be very useful.

Rope has a very wide range of uses in daily life.

The ropes currently used by humans are all hemp ropes, made from flax or sisal, which, while sturdy, are prone to rot. Especially the fishing nets used for fishing in the territory, after being soaked in water for three days, require two days of drying to prevent rot.

"If the effects of Hemp Rope Vine are better than those of hemp ropes, it's definitely a specialty worth promoting!"

Chapter 563 Choosing Sides

"Complete the task, and you will be rewarded with a large stretch of Hemp Rope Vine."

Liszt had exhausted quite a bit of effort to collect three strands of Hemp Rope Vine and a large batch of capsules.

The Hemp Rope Vine awarded from the Smoke Missions was truly extraordinary. The thickest vine was no more than the thickness of two fingers, yet he could not break it no matter how hard he exerted his Dragon Dou Qi. Even those vines thinner than a pinky finger could not be snapped immediately, and the vine tendrils, fine as threads, were also incredibly sturdy.

Even when cutting them with a knife, it was very difficult to sever them, and they were much stronger than hemp ropes in every aspect.

"If they don't rot quickly, they would definitely be a valuable specialty, far exceeding the value of hemp ropes," Liszt was very satisfied with this reward. He planned to plant them on a large scale in his domain to replace hemp ropes, "It's just a shame there are no Hemp Rope Vine Elf Bugs; that would make cultivation a bit troublesome."

The effects of fertilization alone were far inferior to the influence of elves.

However, it was already excellent to have the seeds to plant, so he did not ask for more. He took the specimens and returned to the log cabin to wash up for a moment. In the dawn's sunlight, he mounted the Rainbow Whale alongside Ach and left Dodo Island.

He returned to his domain.

Calculating the time, he had been away from his domain for six days. Including the return trip, he spent a week on Dodo Island. Although the process was complicated, the outcome was positive. The Little Fire Dragon had reached a preliminary agreement, so he no longer had to worry about future cultivation, and as for dragon riding, there was still plenty of time.

In addition, he took a Human Skull Worm and a batch of Hemp Rope Vine seeds, reaping a rich harvest.

On the other hand, Ach had researched the Advanced Magic-Water Vortex Fusion and was pondering other new magics, gaining a deeper understanding of the Magic Array.

It was laying the foundation for her future promotion to Archmage.

Liszt had no doubt about Ach's talent to advance to Archmage; such talent, even if only shown in the Water System, was still astounding.

Of course.

No matter how exceptional Ach's performance was, it was not as fast as Liszt's progress.

He was now a "Quasi-Dragon Knight." In the popular language of novels, he could be described as a Half-Step Dragon Knight. Even though he was just a half-step into the role, he was much stronger than a Completion Level Sky Knight, truly a powerhouse second only to one in the Grand Duchy of Sapphire.

Second in the world.

"Hmm."

"If the Marquis of Bull were still alive and retained the power of the Lich, I likely still couldn't surpass him."

"But the gap to the level where one could take on several dozen Sky Knights is not far now. I feel that I could take on seven or eight Earls at the level of Sword Saints."

His ambition soared to the clouds with full confidence, and he even wanted to spar with the Grand Duke to see how strong a real Dragon Knight was—if the Sapphire Duke had indeed succeeded in dragon riding.

He had speculated more than once about this outcome, "Has the Grand Duke succeeded in dragon riding? Earl and Marquis Merlin seem to speculate that the Grand Duke has succeeded, but... I've been struggling to ride a month-old Little Fire Dragon, which shows how difficult it is to ride an adult dragon."

With the human and material resources of the Sapphire Family, aside from the First Grand Duke who was a Dragon Knight, the following second, third, and fourth generations of Grand Dukes all failed to succeed in dragon riding.

The current fifth-generation Grand Duke had likewise been unable to ride a dragon in the first half of his life; his only chance was through the injury of the Sapphire Dragon, meeting the conditions for dragon riding. It remains unknown why the Sapphire Duke has neither announced his success as a Dragon Knight nor denied his success in dragon riding.

Hence the Grand Duke could be referred to as "Schrödinger's Dragon Knight"—Schrödinger's cat might be dead or alive; the Grand Duke might have ridden a dragon, or not at all.

...

The sea breeze brushed against my face.

Waves tumbled over themselves.

The Rainbow Whale, whether swimming underwater or at the surface, maintained a steady speed of eighty kilometers per hour and could swim continuously for a day and a night. Landwalker bird Loki and Rainbow Whale Ros, both Dragon Beasts, one excelling in explosive power and the other in endurance.

The azure sea was vast and empty.

Only white clouds drifted overhead.

Liszt still pondered over the Sapphire Duke and the Sapphire Dragon; the reason he revisited this matter was due to the new Smoke Mission.

"Mission: The Grand Duke's envoy is visiting Tulip Castle. His presence carries the will of the Grand Duke; this is a choice of allegiance. As a follower, you have one opportunity to choose. Make your decision quickly—join the Grand Duke's faction, or remain with the Earl's. Reward: Blue Blood Knight Suit."

This concerned the choice of faction.

Liszt had long made his decision: he would continue to follow the Earl, aiding him in his pursuit of the Marquisate. Now, he just needed to reply to the Grand Duke's envoy to complete the mission.

A smooth refusal or delay was required; he couldn't afford to offend the Sapphire Duke just yet.

However, deep down, Liszt had no desire to follow the Sapphire Duke—for no other reason than that the Sapphire Duke had a dragon, and he too had a dragon. Everyone was a Dragon Knight, and no one's dragon outmatched the other's. How could a proud Dragon Knight declare loyalty to another?

He would rather continue to follow his own blood father, to avoid such a dignity-damaging allegiance.

"Once I become a true Dragon Knight, possessing the strength to defend myself and capable of triumphing in the Dragon Fight, I will leave the Duchy of Sapphire to carve out my own nation."

"Moreover, perhaps I could even choose to topple the Sapphire Family and dominate the Duchy of Sapphire for myself?"

...

When he arrived at the New Port of Black Horse Island, it had been eleven hours and the evening was upon him.

The officials in charge of the construction at New Harbor Town swiftly came forth to pay their respects. Liszt didn't disturb them and went straight to the dockyard to inspect.

The Sunset, a Sky Ship rebuilt from a sunken ship, was already preliminarily assembled. In about a week, it could probably be put to water for testing. But to truly become Liszt's flagship, braving the waves, it would likely take a great deal of time to experiment and repair.

The person in charge of the dockyard was Captain Kostor. The former captain of a merchant fleet from Little Papa Island had grown into the high-ranking official echelon of the territory.

He not only had to oversee the training of seamen but also the shipbuilding experiments, always busy from dawn to dusk.

"My lord, the Sampan Workshop can now produce single-masted sailboats. Although they can't make long voyages, their efficiency in nearshore operations far exceeds that of ordinary sampans."

"Keep up the great work. The single-masted sailboat is only a beginning; we need to learn to make double-masted sailboats as soon as possible. While refurbishing the Sunset, we must also accumulate experience in constructing three-masted sailboats... I will try to recruit a group of shipbuilding workers from other island's shipyards to fill our technological gaps."

"As you wish, my lord!"

Without staying for dinner in New Harbor Town, he rode a common horse directly to Black Horse Ranch, switched to King of Black Blood Treasure Horses Lightning, and sped off to Port Town to enjoy dinner and a hot bath.

Collected the newly produced Giant Algae Magic Potion from the Mage Tower.

He then learned about the Court Envoy's situation through Consultant Gao Ertai.

The Court Envoy had already arrived at Coral Island three days ago, preparing to represent the Grand Duke on an inspection visit to Black Horse Island and to discuss the allegiance matters. However, since Liszt was not in his territory, the Court Envoy had stayed at Tulip Castle waiting.

"I'll meet with the Court Envoy tomorrow morning and complete the faction choice."

Chapter 564 Honor Inspection

Riding on Rainbow Whale Rose, Liszt sped across the sea for an hour and a half to reach Fresh Flower Port.

Then, switching to the Landwalker Bird Loki, he galloped across the land for an hour before arriving at Tulip Castle.

Setting out at seven, Liszt had already made his appearance in the living room of Tulip Castle by ten. There, he met the Court Envoy representing the Sapphire Duke, a middle-aged man.

"Liszt, let me introduce you. This is Jonas Glaux, Earl of Moonlight City, serving as the Duke's Court Envoy to inspect your territory on Black Horse Island," Earl Li Weiliam said.

Jonas had a head of thick hair and a full beard.

He looked somewhat unkempt.

Liszt knew him, one of the Earls of the Blue Blood Alliance, an old-brand Sword Saint powerhouse of the Grand Duchy. He had met Jonas's daughter, a plain-looking noble lady, Joanna Evening Primrose. She had been a bridesmaid for the Princess at Meioubao's wedding.

At Long Taro Castle, Joanna had not sparingly thrown flirtatious glances at Liszt.

"Welcome, Earl Jonas."

Liszt greeted Jonas, adhering to the standards of noble etiquette. Compared to the bearded Jonas, whether in appearance or in demeanor, he was the perfect embodiment of a noble. Even as the minor Baron of Fresh Flower Town at banquets and other occasions, he always managed to steal the spotlight.

Now, esteemed as a "Half-Step Dragon Knight," his confidence shone even brighter, naturally elevating his aura.

Upon their first meeting, he made Jonas seem inferior by comparison.

Seeing the young Liszt—who inspired envy due to his youthfulness—the bearded Earl felt as though he was the true Noble, while he was just a down-and-out small noble.

However, Jonas, experienced as he was, naturally would not let a young man suppress his own spirit and, assuming the air of an elder, he said warmly with a smile, "Hello, young Sky Knight, Viscount of Black Horse Island, Liszt."

"I heard that you arrived on Coral Island four days ago, Earl. It's a pity that I had left my territory and couldn't receive you in time," Liszt said.

"Don't mind it. Your father has been very hospitable. In these past few days, we have discussed cultivation matters together, which has been very beneficial. Moreover, the Duke had me come as the Court Envoy to visit the beautiful Coral Island as a guest, which has been a rare moment of relaxation," Jonas said with a smile. "I was also hoping to see the Grand Duchy's youngest Sky Knight sooner."

"You're too kind, Earl Jonas. Compared to a Sword Saint like yourself, I still need more experience," Liszt replied.

Such is the way of noble society.

You praise me, and I praise you, Liszt could handle such interactions with ease. Typically, however, he was not inclined to engage in such insincere pleasantries. Now, as a Quasi-Dragon Knight, proud and haughty, he was even less inclined. After briefly exchanging courtesies, he shifted the focus of the conversation back to Earl Li Weiliam.

Yet clearly, as a young and promising man, he couldn't simply be the invisible man.

The conversations always seemed to revolve around him.

Fortunately, they were limited to topics like "glory," "honor," "military achievements," and "titles," which were all handled by Earl Li Weiliam, with the help of his brother, Levis, from time to time. Liszt only needed to maintain a smile and gracefully nod his head now and then.

Not until Lady Marie came to announce the start of the luncheon.

Earl Jonas didn't bring up the matter of his followers—this was his main mission.

In the traditions of the Continental Kingdom and the Duchies, for followers who are close rivals to their lord, the lord would recommend them to their own superior, which is called "Honorary Nomination." This usually happens when an Earth Knight is promoted to Sky Knight, the only time when there is a substantive increase in strength.

Liszt indeed meets the criteria for honorary nomination.

However, Li Weiliam did not honorably nominate him, but the Sapphire Duke directly conducted an "honorary inspection" instead.

This kind of honorary inspection often occurs with the offspring of loyal followers of the nobility and is considered a very honorable action—generally, such inspections are more about conferring titles on the offspring of loyal followers as an act of grace. For someone like Liszt, who meets the criteria for honorary nomination to undergo an honorary inspection, it is quite rare.

After the luncheon.

The group decided that in the afternoon, Earl Li Weiliam and Liszt, along with Count Jonas and several court scribes, would go to Black Horse Island for an inspection.

"Is this your mount, Liszt?" Upon departure, Jonas couldn't help but curiously ask when he saw Liszt riding a magnificent giant bird with long legs, "Colorful feathers, a very beautiful bird, I have never seen one like this before. Is it a low-level magical beast or an intermediate magical beast?"

Loki is an intermediate dragon breed magical beast.

But there was no need to mention that. Liszt simply said, "It's a landwalker bird. When I caught it from the mainland, it was probably still a low-level magical beast. But, I was lucky to find a Bloodline Fruit and I fed it to it, making it an intermediate magical beast."

"Indeed, just as the nobility discussed, you are a Son of Glory... To have an intermediate magical beast as a mount, and a bird-type mount at that, there are not many in the entire kingdom. Even I, once a member of the Hemp Eagle Knights, still keep that old Ashen Hawk that is too old to fly, reluctant to abandon it."

The Hemp Eagle Knights are an elite unit of the Grand Duchy, using artificially trained low-level magical beasts, the Ashen Hawks, as their mounts. The unit is made up of only twenty-five members, primarily tasked with messenger duties.

Four hours later.

The group finally arrived in Fresh Flower Town, though it was not part of Liszt's territory; he had only rented it long-term. Therefore, the group stayed in Liszt's Nameless Castle—since the castle was too small, only Earl Li Weiliam and Count Jonas stayed in the castle, while their entourage and the court scribes stayed in the town.

Before dinner, Jonas watched with enthusiasm as Liszt trained the Blizzard Beasts.

"Earl Li Weiliam, are all these Blizzard Beasts intermediate magical beasts? I heard that Liszt once used a Blizzard Beast to help the First Prince break through the walls of Juniper Castle?"

"You see that largest Blizzard Beast? That's Douson, a Fierce Earth Dog that ate a Bloodline Fruit. Its evolution has been quite outstanding, and it's an excellent intermediate magical beast. The other eight Blizzard Beasts are the offspring of Douson and Fierce Earth Dogs, and although they can also use two types of magic, they are more of an intermediate-between-low-level."

"Douson could still mate with the Fierce Earth Dogs, couldn't it actually produce more offspring?"

"It's quite difficult. It seems only before Douson had completely evolved was it able to impregnate the Fierce Earth Dogs. Once Douson completed its evolution, it could no longer impregnate them, and its offspring, despite also having been bred, didn't have any reproductive capabilities," Li Weiliam said regretfully.

Li Weiliam and Levis were even more enthusiastic about Blizzard Beast reproduction than Liszt was.

As soon as the Eight Tiny Ones turned one year old and became adults, Tulip Castle immediately captured several female Fierce Earth Dogs and sent them to mate with the Eight Tiny Ones.

Alas, despite round-the-clock mating attempts, not a single Fierce Earth Dog became pregnant.

It can be almost definitively determined that the Eight Tiny Ones have lost their ability to reproduce. Strictly speaking, they are similar to mules on Earth—offspring of horses and donkeys—a mule is bigger than a donkey, stronger than a horse, with greater vitality and disease resistance, far outliving horses and donkeys in terms of service life.

Unfortunately, because of reproductive isolation, their pelvic bones cannot open and close, rendering them unable to produce offspring.

Upon hearing this, Jonas sighed, "That is truly regrettable. Such excellent earth attribute magical beasts are very valuable for sieges. If they could be artificially bred, the nobles would definitely be willing to pay a high price to purchase them."

Li Weiliam deeply shared this sentiment, "Indeed, it's a great pity."

Liszt had once promised him and Levis that if the Blizzard Beasts had offspring, he would give a batch to Tulip Castle—now it seems, there's no chance.

Chapter 565 Aquatic Elves and Terrestrial Elves

"Everyone's ready, Rock Grenade!"

Following Liszt's command, Douson led the Eight Tiny Ones to line up and target an abandoned stone house in the distance, casting the magic spell - Rock Grenade.

Boom!

Huge rocks formed in the air, densely bombarding the stone house, and with just one round of casting, the stone house was smashed into ruins.

The spectacle was magnificent; Count Jonas, watching from the side, couldn't help but open his mouth wide, and it took him a while to squeeze out a word, "Impressive!"

The next moment.

Liszt issued another command, "Everyone's ready, Multiple Rock Spikes!"

Boom!

The nine Blizzard Beasts once again cast their magic - Multiple Rock Spikes, conjuring countless rock spikes out of thin air on the vacant ground, dense as a forest shooting up from the earth. The area covered hundreds of square meters. Although the distribution was not uniform, the suddenness and lethality were absolutely strong.

Clap clap clap clap clap.

Count Jonas clapped his hands in admiration, "Having such a Magical Beast Squad on the battlefield can play a role that's not inferior to that of an elite Knight Order, especially in sieges, which are Knights' weakest aspect, where Blizzard Beasts' Earth System Magic can be unimaginably effective."

Earl Li Weiliam nodded. "Earth System Magic indeed shows great strength in destroying buildings; it's a pity we cannot train a second Blizzard Beast Squad."

"I'm truly envious of you for having such an exceptional son. Not only blessed with remarkable talents but also possessing such powerful magical beasts to aid in battle. At many noble gatherings on Blue Dragon Island, people talk about Liszt, regarding him as a rising star. But I'd say, he will soon surpass us."

"He has just been promoted to Viscount and Sky Knight; his territory is yet to be developed, and he has a long way to go before becoming an Earl."

"Perhaps others might need to work harder, but Liszt has already entered the Grand Duke's vision. Maybe it won't be long before you and your son become Earls side by side."

Earl Li Weiliam smiled and didn't respond. Liszt had already made it clear that he was willing to help his father become a Marquis—so the battle merits accumulated over this period would all be transferred to Li Weiliam, who would only collect materials.

After watching the training session.

There was still some time before dinner, and Liszt proposed to lead everyone to the seaside villa to take a look and appreciate his Giant Algae Greater Elf, Pike.

"Pike, come here." Liszt beckoned, and Pike, previously hidden in the water, immediately leaped out onto his shoulder.

Grabbing his hair, Pike greeted him, "Liszt."

Although sea elves are not able to fly and have gills, it does not mean they cannot survive on land.

They simply don't like it.

Pike's temper was still violent, but he no longer resisted Liszt and was willing to follow his commands. Perched on his shoulder, he eyed the unfamiliar people around him with a

malevolent gaze, occasionally baring his teeth and making fierce expressions. However, he managed to restrain the impulse to cast magic.

"Sea Greater Elves are indeed as magical as those on land," Jonas remarked, unphased by Pike, "A glory of Knightly honor, the Grand Duchy hasn't seen anyone bind with a wild Greater Elf in many years... it seems the land elves are all bound, only the sea still harbors them."

"Count Jonas, how much do you know about the sea elves? I would like to learn more," Liszt inquired.

Jonas stroked his chin, "I haven't personally bound any sea elves, or more precisely, they should be classified as aquatic elves, opposite to terrestrial elves. The Grand Duchy's Sapphire Family does keep quite a few aquatic elves; they have no wings, but gills and fins."

"Aquatic... Terrestrial..." Liszt pondered the words without interruption.

Jonas continued, "Aside from these two differences, there is no fundamental distinction between aquatic and terrestrial elves. However, the development of aquatic elves, especially those in the sea, is quite challenging and almost devoid of value. Thus, you are quite fortunate, not only to have acquired a Greater Elf but also to harvest magic potions."

A court scribe took note of this on paper and then said with a complimenting smile, "Viscount Liszt's luck doesn't stop at a Greater Elf; he also has three Minor Elves."

Liszt said with a smile, "My luck has always been quite good."

Having been imbued with the power of the Smoke Dragon, he had scarcely experienced bad luck since his arrival in this world. What others would undoubtedly miss, for him, was a certainty to obtain.

Up to now.

Not once had he failed a mission, and he couldn't help but marvel at the strength of the power of destiny. As a dragon, the Smoke Mission had even managed to involve both the Formless and Fire Dragons. The Fire Dragon could, of course, be overlooked since

Elemental Dragons seemed to be a notch below the Sacred Dragons, but the Formless Dragon was also one of the Sacred Dragons.

He often queried in his heart, "So, am I a special human being influenced by the Smoke Dragon, or has the Smoke Dragon's power completely transferred to me? Otherwise, how could the Smoke Mission involve dragons at the apex of power?"

This question, for the time being, remained unanswered.

And he did not know when the answer would come.

But it did not impede Liszt from now enjoying the benefits that the Smoke Mission brought—his grand enterprise of dragon riding was just a step away, soon to reach the pinnacle of life.

After observing the elves,

On the way back, Jonas said in a joking tone, "Liszt, I'm becoming increasingly optimistic about your future. Perhaps I should introduce my daughter Joanna to you right away."

"I am acquainted with Joanna; when she served as a bridesmaid for the Little Princess, I happened to be the best man for Cousin Meioubao."

"Hmm, since you are already acquainted, that's even better. You are welcome to visit Moonlight City any time."

"I definitely will when I have the time."

This was but a courtesy, and Jonas, understanding with a smile, did not press further. He naturally knew that his daughter was unlikely to catch Liszt's eye—the Marquis families with daughters had probably long been scheming for Liszt, who was now the youngest Sky Knight favored by the Grand Duke.

...

On the morning of April 23rd, Jonas and his party set off for Black Horse Island on the Fresh Flower Vessel.

They only reached Black Horse Port in the afternoon, immediately met with a flurry of construction activity—accompanied by several refurbished old ships being launched, the port's throughput was achieving record highs, necessitating expansion and the construction of larger docks and warehouses.

At the same time, the built-up area of the port town had already merged with Black Horse Port, with various workshops rising from the ground. Following last year's Pioneer Mandate, Liszt had poached many craftsmen from the Eagle Kingdom. Under Liszt's support, these craftsmen started establishing their own workshops.

Admittedly, the population of Black Horse Island was still not significant, with less than twenty thousand, and once allocated across the smaller towns, it became even more sparse. But for a primary development town like the port town, at least five thousand people settled here, with the majority of the island's trade passing through.

The pace of development was naturally rapid.

After exchanging pleasantries with the town officials, the group decided to rest first, planning to conduct a formal inspection the following day. So, the night was spent dining and drinking to excess, indistinguishable from any noble feast.

"To the glory of knights, cheers!"

Chapter 566 Abandoned Cordyceps and the Magic Web

The so-called inspection often amounts to little more than a cursory overview of the territory's general situation, without the possibility of delving into the specifics of the territory's production and population.

"Is that a Mage Tower?" Count Jonas asked, pointing to a building in the distance that rose like a cylinder.

"Yes, it is one dedicated to the service of the Grand Magician, Lady Chris Truth, who has built it. She is not fond of the social gatherings among nobles and has recently been absorbed in researching a certain magic, so she did not attend last night's dinner," explained Consultant Goltai, the guide for the inspection team.

Earl Li Weiliam and Viscount Liszt, obviously not wanting to act as tour guides, left Goltai as the most suitable person for the task.

The appearance of the Mage Tower is somewhat similar to the Leaning Tower of Pisa, totaling five levels.

The base level is the tallest, at nine meters high, housing the Magic Academy; the second through fourth levels each stand at a standard height of five meters, with the second level consisting of rooms for the academy's students and teachers; the third level is a workshop for concocting Magic Potions; the fourth level is a workshop for producing Magic Equipment; and the fifth level, at a height of six meters, is Chris Truth's personal space, including her bedroom, study, and laboratory.

Hence, the total height of the Mage Tower is thirty meters.

Beyond the fifth level, there is also a basement, used for storage.

Count Jonas was a bit puzzled: "Liszt, did you actually build a Mage Tower for the magician without even constructing a castle?"

This was not in line with the usual noble style. While it was indeed important to provide for magicians, in terms of importance, it was secondary to the castles where nobles resided. Within the social hierarchy, nobles were always the most esteemed group, and all luxuries should first be available to them before other classes.

Liszt could not say he was building up the architects' experience, nor could he say it was to win over magicians—due to the Marquis of Bull's dragon slaying incident, the noble opinion of magicians within the country was quite poor.

So he simply smiled, "My castle differs significantly in structure from standard castles, so as the design is not yet complete, the Mage Tower was built first. In fact, I quite enjoy staying in the small castle in Fresh Flower Town and am not in a hurry to move into a spacious, famous castle."

This rationale was somewhat forced; a normal noble would definitely prioritize the construction of a castle, as their defensive and residential qualities are essential to a noble's standing.

However, Jonas did not press the issue further and quickly moved on to the next inspection site.

The next site was the mushroom greenhouses in Mushroom Town. The thousand-acre greenhouse project had been completed and was still expanding, basically reaching a scale of two thousand acres. With the Ice Snow Flame Mushrooms production halting, Flame Mushrooms have been largely cultivated here.

Liszt was also requesting serfs to continue expanding the cultivated area.

And he was already negotiating with The Levis Couple to send serfs to learn the Flame Mushroom cultivation techniques, with plans to promote it on Coral Island in the future—profits per acre of Flame Mushrooms were to be shared with Liszt, with the specific share still under discussion.

"This is the territory's specialty, the Flame Mushroom, a type of Magic Mushroom fostered by Abandoned Cordyceps, with a Fire Attribute. We are endeavoring to increase production," Goltai explained, knowing the formula was kept under strict security, so there was no fear of others stealing it simply by visiting.

Count Jonas looked at the endless stretch of greenhouses and expressed his surprise, "How many acres of Flame Mushrooms have you planted?"

"About two thousand acres, and we're still expanding."

"Two thousand acres? All planted with Flame Mushrooms?"

Sensing something off in Jonas's tone, Liszt frowned and asked, "What is it, Count Jonas? Is there an issue with that?"

"How is the harvest of Flame Mushrooms in your territory, and what about the efficiency of refining Magic Potions from them?"

"We've just expanded our scale; the first batch has yet to be harvested."

Jonas nodded, then said to Earl Li Weiliam, "Earl Li Weiliam, have you not reminded Liszt?"

Li Weiliam was clueless, "Reminded him of what?"

Liszt felt the same way, "Is there a problem with my Flame Mushrooms?"

"Unless there is some unforeseeable issue, the quality of these two thousand acres of Flame Mushrooms will be very poor, and the efficacy of the Magic Potions extracted will be greatly diminished."

"Why is that?"

"It seems your understanding of the Abandoned Cordyceps is indeed lacking," said Jonas with a hint of regret. "Mushrooms, although not restricted by elves, still have a cultivation scale limitation. Within a million square kilometers, generally more than a thousand acres will significantly degrade, and some varieties degrade even if exceeding six hundred acres."

"Is that so?" Liszt was clearly baffled, "But why?"

"As far as I know, the magic power source of Abandoned Cordyceps is related to the Magic Web."

"The Magic Web?" It wasn't Liszt who expressed surprise, but Earl Li Weiliam, "Count Jonas, are you talking about the Magic Web that only Archmages are said to be able to touch?"

"Yes, according to what those magicians say, the world is enveloped by the Magic Web, and whoever touches it can advance to become an Archmage."

Jonas shook his head, "Unfortunately, I can't tell you more because even the Court Grand Mage doesn't fully understand the Magic Web. Nonetheless, it's very likely that the Abandoned Cordyceps are subject to the limitations of the Magic Web, which would explain the characteristic that only six hundred to a thousand acres can be cultivated within a million square kilometers."

The limitations of the Abandoned Cordyceps.

The existence of the Magic Web.

This was undoubtedly a significant blow to Liszt's ambitious plans for his Flame Mushrooms. The total land area of the Duchy of Sapphire was about two million square kilometers, and adding the maritime territory, it was only six or seven million square kilometers. Planting across the entire island nation would yield only a little over six thousand acres at most.

As for Black Horse Island and Coral Island, evidently neither had an area close to a million square kilometers, meaning if Black Horse Island had a thousand acres planted, then Coral Island would have none.

"To think there are such restrictions." Liszt was somewhat at a loss; he had planned to meet the growing demand for Magic Potions by continuously expanding the cultivation of Flame Mushrooms.

Jonas then said, "It is indeed unfortunate, you will need to clear the excess Flame Mushrooms, ensuring only a thousand acres remain... However, the exact amount you need to find out through your own exploration because different Abandoned Cordyceps have varying cultivation densities and species differences, which can affect the Magic Web's restriction."

"It appears that's the only way," Liszt didn't doubt the other's word. The new batch of Flame Mushrooms would soon mature, and then he would know whether the quality had degraded or not.

Suddenly, Earl Li Weiliam asked, "Count Jonas, do you have any Abandoned Cordyceps in your industries?"

"Of course, my Moonlight City grows the 'Blue Pine Mushroom', a type of Water Attribute Abandoned Cordyceps. If Liszt is willing, I can exchange the planting techniques for Blue Pine Mushroom with the planting techniques for Flame Mushroom. Blue Dragon Island is far from Black Horse Island, so there is no conflict between us."

Liszt quickly composed himself.

He responded, "Blue Pine Mushroom, huh? I think such cooperation could be feasible."

Jonas added, "The trade of Abandoned Cordyceps can maximize benefits. I can help you connect with nobles who have suitable conditions for growing Abandoned Cordyceps, and involve them in the multilateral trade of Abandoned Cordyceps."

The restriction of the Magic Web.

This led to limited regions where Abandoned Cordyceps could be cultivated, resulting in each noble wanting to sell their Abandoned Cordyceps to those far from their own lands, with certain terms attached—the most important being to restrict the spread of the Abandoned Cordyceps to prevent them from eventually making their way back to their own area, causing degradation of the species.

However, given the large size of the Duchy of Sapphire, some potential Flame Mushroom customers could always be found.

With Jonas spearheading the effort, Flame Mushrooms could be better traded with other nobles for Abandoned Cordyceps, obtaining more varieties of the species, which was a way to indirectly alleviate the restrictions of the Magic Web.

Chapter 567 Blueblood Knight Order Suit

Magic Web.

A new term that Liszt had never heard before, but now was not the appropriate time to delve into the meaning of the Magic Web.

Liszt was still accompanying Count Jonas, inspecting his own domain.

After the inspection of Mushroom Town, they headed straight for Giant Algae Town, but as both of these small towns were still undeveloped, there wasn't much to inspect. Then they went directly to Red River Town and inspected the Red River Mouth Mangrove Forest, where they saw the already sizable breeding base for Green Caterpillars and Green-headed Ducks.

Green-headed Ducks could use the Water Arrow Spell, and ordinary serfs only took care of their feeding, not the killing.

To hunt Green-headed Ducks, traps were needed, and Apprentice Knights were called to shoot them—of course, so far, except for a few Liszt had killed out of craving, not a single Green-headed Duck had been killed. In order to continuously breed new Green-headed Ducks, only those duck eggs that failed to hatch would be included in the menu.

Within the scope of Black Horse Island, there were three mangrove forests—Mangrove Island, Red River Mouth, and Seagull Island—all of which could be used for breeding Green Caterpillars and Green-headed Ducks.

At noon, they enjoyed a picnic at Horse Ranching Town.

The majestic Black Blood Treasured Horses in the distance were undoubtedly eye-catching, but without careful distinction, no one would know these were Dragon Breed Horses. Liszt had arranged for their identity to be that of Magical Beast breed horses. Count Jonas harbored no suspicions, as dragon-related creatures were very rare. He did not think that an island as small as Black Horse Island could have dragon-related creatures.

However, even if they were just Magical Beast breed horses, they still won Jonas's admiration, "Once this batch of Magical Beast breed horses begins to breed on a large scale, they will surely provide stronger combat power for your Knight Order. Having your own Magical Beast breed horses on an island is a huge fortune."

Horse herds were generally only found on larger islands like Blue Dragon Island and Iron Hoof Island; they were very rare on smaller islands.

It was indeed a rare spectacle to have a group of Black Blood Treasured Horses on Black Horse Island—but having said that, compared to the Grand Duke's Blue Blood Treasure Horses, Black Blood Treasured Horses were of a slightly lower grade in quality.

Count Jonas's entourage carried a majestic Blue Blood Treasured Horse—obviously, this Blue Blood Treasured Horse was part of a Blue Blood Knight Suit.

The tall, majestic Blue Blood Treasured Horse was almost as impressive as Lightning, the King of Black Blood Treasure Horses.

Liszt expressed some performative regret, "It will take many years to raise and strengthen the herd of horses, and the pasture on Black Horse Island is a bit small, not very suitable for horse breeding."

"Selling them externally indeed poses some difficulty; supplying your own Knight Order shouldn't be hard."

"Indeed."

...

Afternoon.

After inspecting the Thorn Plantation along Thorn Town, they went to Green Tea Town to taste several cups of the bitterly flavored green tea. Like many others, Jonas did not instantly take to the taste of green tea, needing time to accept this new tea that was so different from the sweet, rich-flavored milk tea.

Fortunately, the production of green tea was very low at the moment, and Liszt had no urgent desire to promote it externally.

It's best to take things slowly.

The final stop of the domain inspection was established at New Harbor Town. Liszt did not bring anyone to the shipyard but simply took a brief look at the Sampan Workshop.

Goltai introduced, "Count Jonas, esteemed lords of the Court scribes, our Sampan Workshop can produce small sampans and single-masted sailing ships, but we do not yet have the technology to make double-masted or triple-masted sailing ships."

"That must be bought from Nobles."

"The technology is too valuable, and the domain does not currently have the extra financial resources to purchase it. We buy old ships to refurbish. Currently, trade is only between Coral Island and Black Horse Island. Sometimes we go to Beer Island, so shipbuilding technology is not an acute need. We might not need it for a long time."

"Yes, you may purchase from the Sapphire Family's shipyard."

Liszt said, "Actually, I would like the Court's fast sailboats, but unfortunately, the Grand Duke does not sell to outsiders. I can only use slow-moving merchant ships to transport goods, which delays time and wastes efficiency."

Everyone desires fast sailboats.

However, the Sapphire Family firmly controlled the technology for building three-mast sailboats and did not disseminate it, ensuring that no one on the high seas could contend with the Sapphire Family. The technology for two-mast sailboats was also exclusively owned by the Duchy of Sapphire, which prevented the Continental Kingdom from competing with the Sapphire Family for naval dominance.

In situations where the Dragon Knights could not be deployed, the kingdoms on the continent could only passively take hits.

And so, the honorable inspection of the territory came to an end.

Bathed in moonlight, the group returned to the harbor town, and in the temporary accommodations, just before the start of the banquet, Count Jonas finally got to the heart of the matter.

"Earl Li Weiliam, I have come to Black Horse Island on behalf of the Duchy of Sapphire to conduct an honor inspection of your follower, who is also your offspring, Viscount Liszt. Now that the inspection of the territory is finished, everything on Black Horse Island is improving steadily and meets the Grand Duke's standards."

"You have worked hard," acknowledged Li Weiliam with a nod.

Jonas continued, "Now, on behalf of the Grand Duke, I ask you whether you are willing to accept the Grand Duke's recruitment of Viscount Liszt?"

Li Weiliam responded, "I accept the Grand Duke's recruitment of Liszt, and if Liszt wishes to follow the Grand Duke, I sincerely hope that he can contend for glory on the Grand Duke's behalf."

"Then, Viscount Liszt, you have already met the standards for a follower chosen by the Grand Duke during the honor inspection. Are you willing to accept the Grand Duke's recruitment?"

Liszt calmly replied, "Being esteemed by the Grand Duke is an unparalleled honor for me. However, I hope to delay this for a few years. Right now, I wish to help my lord and father, Earl Li Weiliam, earn more military achievements and bring more glory to our family."

Jonas was not surprised.

From the casual conversations they had earlier, he had already indirectly learned from both Li Weiliam and Liszt that Liszt wished to help Li Weiliam contend for the title of Marquis.

This was a very good excuse, and no one could raise an objection to it.

"I respect your choice, and I believe the Grand Duke will understand it as well," Jonas said, nodding to his followers behind him, and then added, "Regardless of your choice, it does not affect how much the Grand Duke values you. As the youngest Sky Knight in the Grand Duchy who has proven himself on the battlefield, you deserve the glory of a Blueblood Knight."

He paused for a moment.

He then solemnly stated, "I hereby confer upon you, as the representative of the master of the seas, the lord of all islands, the great Sapphire Duke, Liszt Tulip Viscount, lord of Black Horse Island, the honor of membership into the Blueblood Knight Order!"

"I thank the Grand Duke! Liszt is willing to contend for glory for the Sapphire Family!"
Liszt bowed deeply in gratitude.

Receiving his Blue Blood Knight Suit.

A suit of exquisitely crafted Mithril Armor—Blue Blood Armor; a finely forged Fine Gold Longsword—Blue Blood Knight Sword; a Knight's Spear with a shaft made of rock-wood, the tip crafted from a mix of Fine Gold and Mountain Copper—Blue Blood Knight Spear; a set of Mithril half-body horse armor—Blue Blood Light Horse Armor; a bow and arrow made from special wood—Blue Blood Riding Bow.

And a previously known Blue Blood Treasure Horse—this was a mature male horse, already gelded.

One by one, he took the Blue Blood Knight Suit.

Liszt officially became an honorary member of the Blueblood Knight Order, holding a title of honor. The suit he received was certainly much more than the typical knight's suit, but for a Sky Knight who no longer needed to charge into battle and had shifted to sword fighting, the equipment represented more of an honor.

"My task is now complete," Count Jonas clapped his hands, marking the end of the ceremony.

Liszt handed his suit over to his followers to keep and gestured to everyone with his hand: "The banquet is ready. Count Jonas, father, please be seated."

Chapter 568 Nodes in the Magic Web

"Completion of the task: Reward with the Blue Blood Knight Suit."

Once the faction made a choice, the Blue Blood Knight Suit naturally came into their possession, and a lively banquet immediately ensued.

Count Jonas, on the second day after the dinner, April 26th, set off to return to Blue Dragon Island.

He also arranged to convene all the nobles suitable for trading Abandoned Cordyceps, on June 10th, a month and a half later, to come to Black Horse Island for the technology trade of Flame Mushrooms.

Prior to his departure, he made another request, "Viscount Liszt, the new-style food prepared by your chef, Mrs. Abbie, is simply too tempting. I hope to bring a team of chefs to learn some special dishes from Mrs. Abbie during the Abandoned Cordyceps trade."

"Earl, since you are taking care of the Abandoned Cordyceps trade for me, the exchange of chefs naturally goes without saying. Feel free to send chefs to learn, and I believe Mrs. Abbie would be happy to spread them far and wide, except for those few dishes that can be passed down to offspring."

Gourmet food does not make money.

Besides some private dishes, which are included in the exclusive menu of the Castle, most of the gourmet dishes have been handed over to the restaurants in Fresh Flower Town and the port towns for public business. Tulip Castle, Falcon Town, Shattered Stone Castle, and Beer Castle have all sent chefs to learn dishes from Mrs. Abbie.

Liszt did not mind Count Jonas took these dishes to Blue Dragon Island, finding the idea of spreading these home-cooked dishes quite interesting.

At least as the dishes spread, the names of Fresh Flower Town and Black Horse Island would also become widely known.

Broadening his reputation.

...

"Task: Under the effect of the contract, and with the teaching of Sea Sprite Ake, the Giant Algae Greater Elf Pike has become increasingly humanized and has evolved into a Greater Elf that can communicate normally. Why not help it break through a vocabulary of one thousand? Reward: A migratory flock of flamingoes."

This was the latest task.

After sending off Count Jonas and his party, the domain finally settled down. Liszt did not rush to expedite the progress of the task, trusting in Ake's teachings to Pike.

He also did not pay attention to the reward for the task—after more than two years and completing over one hundred and ten tasks, he had become numb to the rewards.

After all, the rewards were certain to be obtained sooner or later, so there was no point in worrying before getting them.

As long as they were not chain tasks, the content of the rewards was not worth fretting over.

Early in the morning, he arrived at the Mage Tower and met Chris Truth, not bothering with pleasantries, and directly took out three magic casting plans recently written by Ake.

One was Advanced Magic-Water Vortex Fusion; one was Common Magic - Water Strike Cannon; and one was Common Magic - Ring of Water.

Water Vortex Fusion had been witnessed by Liszt himself and ranked among the top in terms of lethality in all systems of high-level magic; Water Strike Cannon was like a high-pressure water gun attack with average power; Ring of Water was special, summoning a ring of water to revolve around the body, which could automatically defend against attacks.

"Viscount, where did you get these three Water System magic spells from? I have never seen this kind of magic, not even heard of it. Looking at their casting plans, they seem very novel," Chris, who came from the Goat Assembly and was quite knowledgeable, mentioned after looking over the casting plans, judging the three Water System magic spells to be creative.

Liszt spoke indifferently, "I traded for them from outside, they might not be held by magicians of the Duchy of Sapphire."

Chris solemnly put away the casting plans, "It seems that they were created by magicians from the other side of the continent. I need some time to study and learn them; they are quite interesting."

"Chris, let's put the matter of magic aside for now. I've come today to ask you, have you ever heard of the Magic Web?"

"Magic Web?"

"Yes, the Magic Web," Liszt meticulously explained the limitations of Abandoned Cordyceps in relation to the Magic Web, "I am currently instructing my people to research whether the quality and scale of Flame Mushroom cultivation are related. If there truly is a connection, then the existence of the Magic Web might be beyond doubt. After all, it concerns the advancement of Archmages, and I think you should pay more attention to it."

Chris shook her head, "I apologize, but up until now, I've never heard of the Magic Web. Even though it's unlikely that I'll have the opportunity to advance to Archmage in this lifetime, I still wish to research it... Viscount, I would like to take charge of investigating the relationship between Flame Mushrooms and the Magic Web."

"That would be fine, you are a Magician, and your perception of Magic Power is keen, so I am assured leaving this task in your hands. Moreover, in a month and a half, I will trade new batches of Abandoned Cordyceps with other nobles, and you can take over the research then."

"Thank you, Viscount."

...

Leaving the Mage Tower.

Liszt was still pondering matters related to the Magic Web, feeling that there was something extraordinary about it, and that Abandoned Cordyceps were merely one demonstration of its functions.

Even Elves and Dragons might be related to the Magic Web.

"In many legends, an Archmage is described as a powerful Magician who can single-handedly fight a Dragon. It's clear to see that elevating from a Grand Magician to an

Archmage is similar to a qualitative leap from a Sky Knight to a Dragon Knight. Perhaps this leap in quality is related to the Magic Web?"

According to the basic information supplied by Jonas, the Magic Web envelops the whole world.

"So could the Magic Web be seen as a rule manifestation within the domain of Magic Power, just as Earth operates on pure physical laws, representing the Magic Power rules?" He let his imagination run wild, "Why can Elves farm, and why are they the only ones who can cultivate Magic Potions? Could it be because Elves are a node of the Magic Web?"

They utilize nodes to channel Magic Power, thus cultivating Magic Potions.

Similarly, why are Dragons so powerful? Could they also be nodes of the Magic Web, allowing them to influence physical laws—Gemstone Dragons producing gemstones, Metal Dragons producing metals, Elemental Dragons producing volcanoes, strong winds, etc., and Sacred Dragons even impacting fate or accessing other dimensions?

Thinking this way, it really does seem plausible, at least the logic holds up.

However, Liszt lacked any evidence to prove this, and he wasn't even able to "touch" the Magic Web, so naturally, he didn't know what it truly looked like.

"Perhaps to start researching the Magic Web, we must wait for Ake's advancement to Archmage?" he wondered, riding the Landwalker bird Loki towards the seaside Castle, ready to share the news of the Magic Web with Ake—Regarding whether Ake could ascend to Archmage, he still harbored strong confidence.

The little Sea Monster's talent in Water Magic was truly terrifying.

After arriving at the seaside Castle.

Ake was teaching Pike to speak, capable of multitasking as she studied a book of Magic on the side, which made her extremely happy.

"Ake, I have some information related to Archmages to share with you. It is said that our world is surrounded by the Magic Web, and to ascend to Archmage, one must touch the Magic Web... The details are sketchy, but the restrictions of Abandoned Cordyceps are a manifestation of the Magic Web, and I suspect that Elves and Dragons might actually be nodes in the Magic Web."

"Magic Web? Archmage? Nodes?" Ake was evidently intrigued.

"Have you ever seen a spiderweb?"

"Yes, I have."

"Each strand of a spiderweb converges at certain points—those are the nodes. If we consider a spiderweb as a network transmitting information, then the nodes are where all information from the nearby strands is collected. Extending this to the Magic Web, could the locations where Magic Power interacts with reality be the nodes?"

Having finished, Liszt added, "Of course, this is just my personal speculation. Don't be too quick to believe it, lest you be misled by me."

He did not know if the Magic Web was similar to the internet or if his own knowledge provided any enlightenment; in this area, there was little he could assist with, and the Magicians must explore the Magic Web on their own.

Chapter 569 The Secret Seat of the Dragon Knight

The Magic Web was a new discovery, neither Chris nor Ach had explored it, so the two of them needed to search on their own. But Liszt, inspired by internet nodes, had his own set of conjectures about the Magic Web.

On the spot, inspiration burst forth, and he prepared to write a speculative book on the relationship between the Magic Web, Elves, and Dragons.

Although he was a true Knight — a Half-Step Dragon Knight.

That didn't hinder his achievements in the field of Magecraft. The two books involving magic theory, "Three-Phase Magic Array and Reality Interaction Theory" and "The Unification of Triangular Theory and Magic Array Structures", were enough to secure his position within the circle of "Truth."

Even Chris and Ach, both Grand Magicians, gave ample affirmation to his theories.

This was much more significant than what those ordinary magicians were fumbling with, such as nonsensical alchemy or enhancing Fireball Technique, because his writings looked at the essence through the phenomena. It was like Einstein's treatise "The Theory of Relativity" in the physical sciences, a study of theoretical physics.

He, on the other hand, pursued the study of theoretical magic power.

Nowadays, he had yet another new theory to put forth and was preparing to take time to write the book "The Conjectures on the Nexus of the Magic Net, Elves, and Dragons".

Maybe in a thousand years, many Grand Magicians would rely on this magic book to advance to the level of Archmage.

Perhaps humanity could use this book to mass-produce Elves and Dragons.

"No, this book can be written, but must not be published; like my previous two treatises, it can only circulate within my domain. This knowledge isn't ready to be disseminated. If it were to inspire magicians from other lands, it wouldn't be a good thing." Fundamentally, Liszt still distrusted magicians.

He certainly didn't want to repeat the mistakes of the Sapphire Duke and the Sapphire Dragon, to have another dragon-slaying incident caused by a magician.

Time whisked by.

Before even starting on his new work, he rode the Rainbow Whale Rose alongside Ach to Dodo Island. Upon arriving, he summoned the Little Fire Dragon Leo at the volcano crater.

"Oh hoo!"

Flames burst out of the lava, forming a Fire Dragon clad in black and red scales.

It might have been an illusion, but Liszt noticed that, having not seen Leo for just a few days, he seemed larger. After consulting Ach, it was clear that Leo indeed grew larger. It was evident how crucial a volcano, alive with magma, was for the growth of a Fire Dragon.

"Eat up, this is beef transported from Red Crab Island. To get you your favorite beef, I've bought all the available cattle on Coral Island." As Leo ate, Liszt took the opportunity to stroke him lovingly, to deepen their bond.

Without looking up, Leo responded: "Oh hoo!"

"There's hardly any beef left on Coral Island now, I had to buy it at a high price from Red Crab Island. It's not easy to feed you. And I only come here to train with you every five days; once I receive the Pioneer Mandate, I may not even be here for months. Without my support, how could you live so comfortably?"

Perhaps language didn't have as much effect as food, but long-term, subtle influences would definitely have a brainwashing effect, making the Little Fire Dragon Leo eventually accept him.

He had come to see.

Dragons were too proud by nature, even juvenile ones retained an intrinsic aloofness.

To succeed in Dragon Riding, one needed to deepen the bond over years, gradually softening the Dragon's pride, eventually becoming partners who fought side by side.

Even then, he vaguely discovered something, that there was a flat spot on the back of a Dragon, right at the scapula, which seemed ideal for riding — possibly related to Dragon Knights — to be precise, likely a "contract" spot. Once mounted, unexpected changes might occur.

As for why he thought so.

It came to him as he reflected carefully, after his enthusiasm for Dragon Riding cooled down.

Because when he had seen the Sapphire Duke riding the dragon at Juniper Castle, he had clearly observed that the Sapphire Duke was standing on the dragon's back, not sitting. Whether it was the Sapphire Dragon, the Formless Dragon, or Little Fire Dragon Leo, the neck and shoulder areas of these dragons all had a spot suitable for riding.

The Duke didn't need to show off, standing on the dragon's back instead of sitting in the right spot.

"So, the Duke might not have become a Dragon Knight at all, but rather, he might exist in another way—as the Dragon Domain Landlord!" Liszt speculated in his heart.

Years ago, when Annute Lanbao sought to become the Dragon Domain Landlord, with the annihilation of him and the Magic Goat Family, it's likely that the technology to be a Dragon Domain Landlord had fallen into the hands of the Sapphire Family.

Perhaps the attack on the Sapphire Dragon by the Marquis of Bull and the magicians of the Goat Assembly, which left it gravely wounded and transformed into a Lich, prompted the Duke to pick up this technology and become the Dragon Domain Landlord. That would explain the scene where he turned the tide of battle, sending the Marquis of Bull back to his original form and capturing him.

However, Liszt could not guarantee his conclusion was correct.

He had never seen what a Dragon Knight looked like, so whether the Duke standing on the dragon's back represented a Dragon Knight or a Dragon Domain Landlord was hard to say.

But this did not prevent him from coveting the spot above Leo's shoulder blades.

He could now touch Leo's body at will but couldn't climb on and ride yet, so uncovering the secrets of that spot would still take time.

"Whether riding up there establishes the 'contract' of a Dragon Knight will surely be discovered by me one day!"

His heart was burning with passion.

Yet his reasoning remained calm, not rushing to ride the dragon.

After making sure Leo was well-fed and content, the training officially began. He started with Dragon Breath Tempering, pushing Leo to the brink of exhaustion. Then he gave the dragon a short rest and a snack of magic potions. Next, he merged with the flame and absorbed it into his body, performing another exercise—Dragon Magic Refining Qi—and continued to consume Magic Potions to enhance his Dragon Dou Qi.

"Oh-ho!"

After a night had passed.

Feeling refreshed, he bid farewell to Little Fire Dragon Leo and officially concluded this round of training. At the foot of the mountain, he collected a large batch of Hemp Rope Vine seeds before leaving Dodo Island.

The Hemp Rope Vine sample had already been studied, with tensile strength comparable to iron wire of the same thickness and great flexibility. Especially with advice from a master who knew how to make hemp ropes, it could be treated with oil to prevent decay and maintain the vine's flexibility. It definitely could replace hemp rope and become an important resource.

So he planned to plant a large batch of Hemp Rope Vine in his domain, add more fertilizer, and strive to cultivate an Hemp Rope Vine Elf Bug at some point.

"Ach, have you seen those two Advanced Magical Beasts, the Water Explosion Giant Whales, since last time?" Liszt asked, gazing at the calm and vast sea.

He had named those two gigantic whale Sea Monsters Water Explosion Giant Whales and identified them as Advanced Magical Beasts—believing he was the discoverer, and under Earth's academic rules, the discoverer had the naming rights. The name was based on the Sea Monsters' Vacuum Water Burst Magic.

These were only the second Advanced Magical Beasts he had seen.

Ach shook his head, "No, they might have left already. Didn't you say that whales can migrate thousands of miles in the ocean, Brother?"

"Indeed ... what a pity to have only glimpsed an Advanced Magical Beast and missed each other in a fleeting moment," Liszt sighed.

He had watched documentaries where some whales migrated from tropical seas to Antarctic waters, and some even swam from the Pacific to the Atlantic. Other documentaries claimed that whales are social animals, though the range of their 'group' might span hundreds to thousands of kilometers.

It was a rare opportunity to see an Advanced Magical Beast that passed by in a flash.

However, what he didn't expect was that within a couple of days of returning to his domain, the Giant Algae Greater Elf's vocabulary had broken through a thousand words, then the Smoke Mission was completed, and the new mission was related to Advanced Magical Beasts.

Chapter 570 The Contest of Water and Fire

"Task completed, reward: migration of the flamingo flock."

There is nothing much to say about the task reward, but what caught Liszt's attention was the new Smoke Mission.

"Mission: The migration of the flamingo flock has attracted the predation of an advanced magical beast. Although it is currently diverted by the Purple Sand Crocodile, it may invade your territory at any time to continue preying on the flamingos. Please hunt this magical beast to protect the safety of your territory. Reward: a variety of Abandoned Cordyceps."

Those Abandoned Cordyceps were something Liszt was about to receive anyway; using them as a reward for the Smoke Mission seemed somewhat cunning.

Nevertheless, he was captivated by the content of the mission.

"Flamingo flocks can actually attract the predation of advanced magical beasts?" He was startled by this revelation. Unsure of the combat power of advanced magical beasts, but recognising they should not be underestimated, "It seems this advanced magical beast has been lured away by the Purple Sand Crocodile, which means I can prepare at leisure... Perhaps I should visit the Purple Sand Crocodile first."

Knowing oneself and the enemy ensures victory in a hundred battles.

Now that the Smoke Mission even provided the whereabouts of the advanced magical beast, there was no reason not to investigate—being a Dragon Knight now, he wouldn't be too embarrassed to face an advanced magical beast, as long as he understood its way of fighting, he could gauge the overall strength comparison.

"The Purple Sand Crocodile, that intermediate magical beast, the Earl probably can't keep it contained anymore."

In order to have magical beasts breeding continuously on the island, producing new magical beasts, the Earl had neglected the Purple Sand Crocodile. Unfortunately, it seemed that all these years, the Purple Sand Crocodile had not found a mate to reproduce with and produce new Purple Sand Crocodiles.

After returning to his territory.

Soon he received a report from Goltai: "My Lord, a flock of strange birds with red feathers has come to the Red River Mouth Mangrove Forest on our island. These strange birds are capable of spitting fire system magic—Fireball Technique—and are fighting with Green-headed Ducks for the Red River Mouth Mangrove Forest, having already killed several Green-headed Ducks."

"These are flamingos, how have you dealt with them?"

"Captain Pàlīsī and Captain Marcus each led the knights in an attempt to capture those strange... flamingos. However, there are too many flamingos, and several knights have been burned. For now, we've barely managed to let the Green-headed Ducks and flamingos each occupy half of the mangrove forest, but they have not stopped their ongoing fight."

"I'll take a look, by the way, have you figured out how to deal with this?"

"Captain Pàlīsī believes that the flamingos, like the Green-headed Ducks, are attracted to the Green Caterpillars. Perhaps we can catch all the flamingos and throw them onto Seagull Island to breed. We have also released a large number of Green Caterpillars on Seagull Island, which have been very successful in breeding, and we haven't introduced Green-headed Ducks there yet."

"It's a very good solution, let's do that," Liszt nodded in approval.

Flamingos were a new magical beast, and there was still no knowledge on how to breed them properly; it would be better to send them to Seagull Island to develop and slowly figure out the breeding techniques.

Moreover.

The advanced magical beast was after the flamingos, and if it was powerful, it might reduce its disturbances to the Black Horse Island by feeding on Seagull Island.

When he arrived at Red River Town, it was almost dark.

The patrol led by Pàlīsī and the knight order led by Marcus were still trying to capture flamingos—as the serfs continued to feed, the Green-headed Ducks had basically stopped being afraid of humans, so there was no need to capture the Green-headed Ducks.

"My Lord!"

"My Lord!"

The knights saluted Liszt one after another.

Waving his hand to indicate that they needn't be over-courteous, Liszt directly asked, "Captain Marcus, Captain Pàlīsī, what is the situation here?"

Both captains were covered in duck and bird feathers on their Mithril Armor, looking somewhat disheveled.

Marcus reported, "We estimate that there are roughly over five hundred flamingos that have invaded the mangrove forest, mostly adult flamingos; the mangrove forest had more than three hundred adult Green-headed Ducks and over four hundred juvenile ducklings; so far, we have confirmed the death of over thirty Green-headed Ducks and more than twenty flamingos, though the ducklings have all run away."

Pàlisī added, "The patrol is responsible for capturing the flamingos, and so far, we have caught over fifty, most of which are injured."

The flamingos with their beaks and legs bound were placed inside the cage nearby.

Their fiery red feathers, their black and huge beaks, as well as their slender legs, made them look a bit like cranes or storks.

"Keep a few to taste, send the rest to Seagull Island, let them live there," said Liszt as he changed into a set of armor, "The remaining more than four hundred flamingos, I will capture with you all. We must not let them destroy the Green-headed Duck breeding ground that has been so hard to build up."

"Yes, my lord!"

A Dragon Knight personally capturing low-level magical beasts was like using a cannon to shoot mosquitoes—an overkill.

But there was no choice; allowing the knights to capture the flamingos at their slow pace, who knew how long it would take. It was likely that the flamingos could have wiped out the Green-headed Ducks before they finished—the territory has over ten Elite Earth Knights, who alas cannot fly and could only shoot arrows at flying magical beasts.

The flamingos seemed very suitable for large-scale breeding and domestication; no one was willing to shoot them down.

So Liszt took matters into his own hands.

Dragon Dou Qi circulated.

His form, like a sharp arrow, shot straight into the sky, and a flamingo in flight, before it could react, was caught by the beak, then he grabbed its legs. Tucking the flamingo's head under its wing, Liszt threw it directly towards the knights on the ground.

The knights on the ground instantly caught the flamingo, which couldn't struggle free, tied it with rope, and stuffed it into a cage.

Before they finished with this one, Liszt had already caught another flamingo and threw it down in the same manner. In a short moment, the Liszt hanging in the air seemed like a deity descending from the heavens, wreaking havoc among the flock of flamingos.

When the flamingos realized what was happening, they began to shoot Fireball Techniques at him.

However, Liszt withdrew his Sky-Cleaving Greatsword with a backhand motion. With a simple Dou Qi move, he shattered those small fireballs and landed gracefully on the ground.

After taking a brief breather, he soared into the sky again. In one round trip, he captured a dozen or so flamingos.

After three hours, the sky was completely dark. Liszt, using the Eye of Magic, saw the magical power of the flamingos lighting up in his field of vision like bulbs; thus, they couldn't stop his capture at all. Nearly three hundred flamingos were caught by Liszt, with only a hundred or so escaping, not knowing where they fled to.

"Captain Marcus, once any flamingos return, continue to capture them. The caught flamingos, those seriously injured and unable to heal on their own, send them directly to the castle to stockpile food. For those with minor injuries and those unharmed, send all to Seagull Island to nest there."

"Yes, my lord!"

Liszt shook off the soot and feathers from his armor. Even though he was a Dragon Knight, he had still been grazed by the flamingos' Fireball Techniques a few times, but it was only his clothes that were damaged.

"My lord, your strength is growing stronger," Paris couldn't help but murmur softly while escorting Liszt toward the harbor town.

The gap between her strength and Liszt's was getting wider and had reached an insurmountable chasm.

Liszt looked at his Black Dragon Childe and Light System Mage follower with a bit of sentiment. The formidable thief who once was his important bodyguard—who would have thought that in just over a year, he would no longer need any protection from others.

"How is your progress with Light System Magic?"

"Strong Light Bullet, Light Dust, and Refraction, the three Common Magics, I have completely mastered. Unfortunately, there are no more Common Magics to learn. Now, I only have the Advanced Magic—Shadow Projection to study, but it's too difficult. Chris has explained the Dynamic Magic Array to me many times, yet I still have no clue."

"Take your time... Are you still being eroded by the Light Dragon's magical power in your body?"

"After learning Light System Magic, it has slowed down, but the root problem has not been solved. I probably have about ten years of life left... When I first met you, my lord, I sensed I had ten years left to live. Now, a year and a half has passed, and it still feels like I have ten years left, so I've already gained back a lot."

Paris laughed carefreely.

Her intelligence might not be outstanding, but her personality was indeed cheerful.

Liszt glanced at her and said softly to comfort her, "Don't worry, I will solve the problem of the Light Dragon's magical erosions for you. I believe this won't be too difficult for me." As a Fire Dragon Knight, he was confident that as long as he understood the workings of Dragon Magic Power, he would be able to solve the drawbacks of the Black Dragon Wraith.

Heartily laughing, Paris responded, "Thank you for your concern, my lord. Actually, this is quite alright. I get to live another ten years, and in these ten years, I probably won't be troubled by age."