

## The Mighty 661

Chapter 661 Heh Heh

The study was quiet, the weather in September not as hot as in August; all windows had already been replaced with glass, making the room particularly bright.

The Earl seemed to hear Liszt talking about something, but his mind was no longer on that channel.

Many fragments of time emerged in his mind.

There were memories of his youth, when he first saw the Sapphire Dragon with his father's guidance, and of the shock that came with it; there were also moments of joy when Melissa gave birth to their second son, strengthening the line of the family he had been working all his life to glorify, to see the Tulip blossom on Sapphire.

Indeed, thanks to his efforts, the Tulip Family's reputation gradually spread over Sapphire, and nobles great and small came to know of such a family, of such a Sea Wave Sword Saint.

However, he didn't know since when,

perhaps it started when Liszt came of age and decided to branch off.

The accomplishments he had been so proud of seemed to become more and more laughable. He became a Sky Knight at twenty-three, and as the offspring of a minor noble, he was already considered a genius. However, his younger son, whom he had abandoned and never sponsored with any resources, became a Sky Knight at eighteen.

He continued his family's legacy, raising one Greater Tulip Elf and twelve Little Minor Elves. Yet Liszt casually found a Greater Elf and a bunch of Minor Elves while swimming, and the number of elves produced by his modest estate almost matched the harvest Coral Island could achieve in ten years.

He had longed for an Intermediate Magical Beast as his mount since his youth but never succeeded in acquiring one. Liszt, on the other hand, raised a bunch of Intermediate

Magical Beast Blizzard Beasts, found a group of extraordinarily bred Black Blood Treasured Horses, and then there were the flying Landwalker Bird Loki and the diving Rainbow Whale Rose.

Most importantly, he was now forty-six, and Liszt was only eighteen.

In a live combat drill at the beginning of the year, he, a powerful Sword Saint, was pressed and beaten by Liszt, barely able to fight back. He convinced himself to accept this, to accept the reality that his son was stronger than himself. He also convinced himself to accept that his son was the Son of Glory, naturally blessed by the honor of knighthood.

As a result,

suddenly, Liszt became the inheritor of the Ghost Swordsman Inheritance, with the power to directly defeat a formidable Domain Knight.

Regardless, the Earl believed and tried hard to convince himself to be proud of his son, proud that his son could achieve such immense honors in battle—especially when the Grand Duke personally promised to let him pick from the three seats of Feudal Marquis of Iron Hoof Island, he truly felt the exceptionalness of the son he had brought into the world.

The achievements that the Tulip Family would need generations to accomplish were so easily realized.

This was already the perfect ending—he would rise to become the Marquis of Bull Tail, Liszt would rise to become the Marquis of Iron Hoof Island, and the Tulip Family would branch out, continuing as two separate marquis families.

But,

now he heard something else.

"Dragon Knight?" The Earl felt as if the foundation he had painstakingly convinced himself of, that shaped his worldview, outlook on life, and values, crashed down with a thunderous collapse.

All that was left was confusion.

He was confused that everything he had struggled for in life, in the face of the news that Liszt had become a Dragon Knight, had become laughable material.

What did all those struggles, that persistence, that resilience add up to in front of a Dragon Knight!

Tea from his cup spilled onto his clothes.

He seemed not to notice, like an old man, lost in the memories of his life experiences—the joys and sorrows, the partings and reunions. It was as if only by hiding in these memories could he live like a real Sword Saint, strong and admired by countless others, bearing the fate of revitalizing his family.

He didn't have to face the reality of this overwhelming, suffocating shock.

Until a voice like a clap of thunder rang out by his ear: "Father!"

He suddenly snapped out of his reverie, and with a jolt, spilled the rest of the tea. Watching Liszt, who was waving his hand in front of him, his thoughts had not yet fully cleared, "What?"

"Your tea has spilled."

"Oh, it's fine, go on." He put the teacup on the table, looked down at the water stains on his chest, took a deep breath, and his brain struggled to return to normal, "Where were we? Ah yes, you said you are a Dragon Knight, right?"

"I had already explained once, Father, you must have been distracted," Liszt said with a hint of helplessness. Who could have known that just the news of a Dragon Knight would startle the renowned Sea Wave Sword Saint like this?

The Earl, pushing aside his muddled thoughts, said, "Then let's hear it again."

"I have gained the recognition of a Fire Dragon and have become a true Dragon Knight. My strength has become so formidable because I have been training with the Fire Dragon, and my Dou Qi has evolved into Dragon Dou Qi. Now my power is increasing at an incredible rate, and were I to face the Marquis Nuta again, I'm afraid I could resolve him with a single move."

"How would you compare to the Marquis of Bull?"

"Easily crushed."

"The Grand Duke almost pulverized the Marquis of Bull in a single encounter. Do you think your strength is comparable to the Grand Duke's?" After a few deep breaths, the Earl's thinking had returned to normal, the bewildered look gone from his face.

Picking up the fatherly authority once again.

Only, the water stain on his chest was quite noticeable.

Liszt nodded, "When the Grand Duke crushed the Marquis of Bull, the Marquis of Bull had already been attacked by a hundred Sky Knights and was at the end of his rope. I dare not say I can absolutely defeat the Grand Duke but, to fight him to a draw should not be too big of a problem."

The Earl didn't respond immediately.

Instead, he started idly tapping on the table with his hand, lost in thought.

After a moment, he looked at Liszt seriously and said, "Then, since you are already a Dragon Knight, where is your Fire Dragon?"

"I have hidden it away, but, I can let you, Father, feel the might of my Dragon Knight's Dragon Might!" Liszt smiled, mentally connecting with Leo, and instantaneously drew upon Leo's strength, unleashing waves of Dragon Might throughout his body—not exercising his full power, just within the confines of the study.

But it was just this simple release of Dragon Might.

The Earl suddenly felt goosebumps all over his body, as if his chest had been hit hard, air trapped in his stomach as if he might suffocate at any moment.

"Yes!"

"This is the feeling, Dragon Might!"

"As intense as the Dragon Might of the Grand Duke and the Sapphire Dragon!"

When the Dragon Might dissipated, the Earl swallowed, feeling bitter yet excited, forcibly suppressing the fluctuations in his emotions, and asked in a hoarse voice, "Liszt, when can I see your Fire Dragon?"

"Anytime you are free."

"Huh? There's no need to communicate in advance?"

"Father." Liszt spoke calmly, "I am a Dragon Knight. The Fire Dragon is my battle companion, with mutual recognition. When I call it, it will appear. I do not need to negotiate for its cooperation like the Grand Duke used to do with the Sapphire Dragon."

The Earl suddenly banged on the table, "I understand now... However, I need some time to cool down and organize my thoughts. Let's talk in detail after dinner."

"I'll go have a chat with my brother. Take your time to think, Father," Liszt said as he stood up and left the study, leaving the Earl to his silence.

The door closed.

The Earl's gaze remained on the door, but a sly smile suddenly formed on his lips, "Heh, a Dragon Knight!"

Chapter 662 The Bull's Promise

The banquet atmosphere was harmonious.

Lady Penelope was particularly lively; although the old lady's body was no longer as robust, her spirits remained high. Although she didn't yet know that Liszt was a Dragon Knight, her son had already been confirmed as the Marquis of Bull Tail and her grandson was also very likely to become the Marquis of Iron Hoof Island, which made her mood all the better.

Perhaps in the Duchy of Sapphire, there was no woman of greater honor at this time apart from the duchess and the two princesses—even the princesses were not as honored as this elderly lady.

Of course, while the Grand Duke was in power, the status of a princess was revered.

But once the First Prince ascended to the throne, the princesses were nothing but two sisters who had married off early, and as soon as the First Prince had his own offspring, the current status of the princesses would be even lower. Generation after generation, they would either become part of the landholding nobility or merge into the blue-blooded nobles, no longer able to rely on the Sapphire Family.

She ate the fluffy steamed eggs, jesting, "We need to be careful in the future; many nobles will probably bring their daughters and visit Coral Island."

"Indeed, we must be meticulous, as it is Liszt's life event," Lady Marie chimed in.

Loria also smiled in agreement, "Lineage, appearance, and character must all be carefully investigated; the most important thing is Liszt's own choice."

Liszt was simply enjoying his dinner, not responding to the three ladies' concerns about his marital affairs. He had no desire for noble maidens, for with his current status, he needed not rely on marriage alliances to strengthen his position.

The Earl knew of Liszt's identity as a Dragon Knight.

Therefore, regarding the choice of Liszt's marital partner, he had a clear idea in his mind and said directly, "You needn't worry about this matter. Let Liszt make his own decision

about whatever noble maiden comes to visit, understand?" In his view, Liszt, who had a dragon, would best fit a marriage with a princess, befitting his status.

Dragon Knights, with the supreme combat power atop the world, have always been the preferred choice for princesses of various countries.

"You are now the Marquis of Bull Tail, and you're in charge of the Tulip Family," Lady Penelope said drily. "It's always been you making decisions on your own, and I haven't seen you make any good choices either."

Having said that, she cast a slight glance at Lady Marie, the insinuation clear without being spoken aloud.

Lady Marie continued to smile as before, as if she hadn't understood the hidden meaning in Lady Penelope's words.

...

Just like that.

After the banquet.

The Earl spoke with Liszt again in the study, "Now that you've become a Dragon Knight and have had the dragon for quite some time, when did it all start?"

"Leo was discovered by me on Black Horse Island; he's a growing juvenile dragon, but as an Elemental Dragon, his strength is very formidable. Basically, my strength surged as soon as I advanced to be a Sky Knight, because I have been training with Leo since then," Liszt replied.

"So Leo is the Fire Dragon?"

"Yes."

"No wonder I was defeated so miserably by you in that live practice drill back then." It seemed that because he had been defeated by a Dragon Knight, the Earl quickly got over his past defeat and was now able to talk openly about the loss, "I wouldn't have thought that the Tulip Family would have a Dragon Knight."

Liszt smiled, "The glory of the knight favors me."

The Earl paused for a moment, then smiled as well, "The glory of the knight favors me."

He then turned serious and asked, "Leo is still a young dragon, what plans do you have? The growth cycle of a dragon is measured in centuries."

"I am exploring the cultivation methods of a Dragon Knight. Actually, the best way would be to get the 'Dragon Knight Dou Qi Secret Manual' from the Grand Duke, so I could reference the First Grand Duke's cultivation methods to quickly enhance my power... Now I can only independently explore, which is slower."

"The Grand Duke will definitely not give away the 'Dragon Knight Dou Qi Secret Manual' easily."

"I don't count on the Grand Duke. As long as he can tolerate me developing my strength peacefully, I will leave the Duchy of Sapphire and seek to establish my own nation on another overseas island."

"You want to establish a nation overseas?"

"I can't possibly overthrow the Sapphire Family and seize the Duchy of Sapphire to establish a nation. The Grand Duke hasn't mistreated the Tulip Family; I don't wish to commit such a betrayal against my landlord," Liszt said, although the excessive profits from war had once driven him to charge into battle, the basic rules still had to be followed.

Since the Sapphire Family didn't target the Tulip Family, the Grand Duke would always be the Earl's landlord, and as a follower, betraying one's landlord was a despised and immoral act. To commit regicide on top of that would utterly ruin one's reputation.

Even if people feared the power of the Dragon Rearing Family in the future and dared not speak openly, they would still curse the family as regicides behind their backs.



"Starting a nation from scratch is not easy. You need the support of a kingdom at the very least. I thought you would choose to establish a nation on the continent."

"I prefer to develop on an island. Many find islands desolate, but for me, developing an island is not difficult."

"Developing a nation is no simple task, you must realize that, especially since the Fire Dragon is an Elemental Dragon and does not greatly aid in resource production."

Resources would not be an issue as long as Liszt could secure the Formless Dragon as well.

Even with Leo as his only dragon, it did not mean he couldn't develop productive forces: "Father, I believe Elemental Dragons also have great potential for production. I have already begun to explore the uses of the Fire Dragon; on Black Horse Island, glass making, charcoal burning, and brick and pottery production all utilize the power of the Fire Dragon."

With further exploration, the power of the Fire Dragon could be the driving force for the transition from agriculture to industry, after all, it is equivalent to an unlimited source of energy.

If they could develop steam engines or internal combustion engines, an industrial revolution might be sparked at any moment.

However, the energy needed to spark an industrial revolution is immense. Now that Liszt, as a Dragon Knight, enjoyed the tremendous power that came with it, he didn't have much motivation to propel an industrial revolution. He was keener on riding his dragon to explore this wondrous world and uncover all its mysteries.

Father and son outlined the future nation that would belong to Liszt in this way, word by word.

But no matter how beautiful the blueprint, it needed to be built step by step. For now, the most important thing was to ensure that Liszt could develop peacefully until the day he could establish his nation.

"Father, it is not convenient for me to meet the Grand Duke. I hope you can maneuver with the Grand Duke, dispelling his notion of courting me as a follower. Otherwise, even if the Grand Duke doesn't personally try to seize Leo, other kingdoms' Dragon Knights might wage a Dragon Slaying War against me, just as it was fraught with difficulties when the First Grand Duke established our nation."

"Don't worry, it's just some greedy slander... I will tell the Grand Duke directly that I need you to help the Tulip Family develop so we can secure our foothold on Iron Hoof Island. At the very least, I can negotiate that for the next ten years you don't have to pledge allegiance to the Grand Duke... Is ten years enough for you to develop to the point of self-preservation?"

Liszt nodded, "It won't take long. I will shake this sea, ten years is more than enough... Father, as long as I succeed in establishing my nation, when the time comes to divide our household, the Tulip Family will have the status of the Marquis of Bull in the Duchy of Sapphire. That is my promise."

Nobles value propriety, even between father and son. After division and separation of houses, interests must guide their conduct.

Hearing this, the Earl patted Liszt's shoulder with relief, "Good!"

Chapter 663 The Earl Meets the Dragon

Father and son talked in the study for a full two hours, then they called in Levis, and the three of them continued to chat for another two hours.

They mainly discussed issues such as the distribution of materials and the tally of military exploits, including the follow-up work on purchasing serfs and all aspects of the Tulip Family's takeover of Iron Hoof Island and Bull Tail City.

"I will lobby the Grand Duke for a five-year harvest period, during which Coral Island will still be under the rule of the Tulip Family. You need to accelerate your plans too, as Black Horse Island may also only have a five-year harvest period," said the father.

"Five years... that is enough," Liszt expressed his understanding.

The fact that the Earl could obtain a five-year harvest period for Black Horse Island and exemption from loyalty to the Grand Duke for ten years was already enough for him to arrange his plans.

A particularly important point—Ach could advance to Archmage at any time.

Once Ach advanced, then by combining the strength of a Dragon Knight and an Archmage, they would have nothing to fear in a dragon-slaying battle. An Archmage's power could match a dragon in a duel; even if Ach was a bit weaker, he could tie up a part of a Dragon Knight's combat power, leaving the rest to Liszt.

He always regarded Alonso Xiankelai as a hypothetical adversary.

Considering Alonso was a Bronze Dragon Knight with a reproductive Metal Dragon, which might be even weaker than the Sapphire Dragon in its prime, in about two years, Leotaur developed enough to challenge a Bronze Dragon alone.

A confident expression was always on his face, and even more so within, "Besides, I have the Smoke Mission to aid my growth, and my strength will rocket up!"

Midnight.

Resting in Tulip Castle.

Touching the pattern of the great Fire Dragon that Leo had turned into, illusory smoke floated before his eyes.

"Mission: Clearly, you have successfully ridden a dragon and become a true Dragon Knight, the world is yours to roam, but it's undeniable that Leo is still young, and the next step in your training is still unclear. Please suppress your showy mood, explore humbly the next method of training. Reward: One Archmage."

The mission was not complete because he had not yet found a method of training.

He checked the mission mainly to judge whether revealing the news about Leo to the Earl counted as a showy mood.

Since the mission had not failed, it apparently did not qualify as showing off.

"Although the Earl was shocked, my original intention wasn't about showing off, but rather planning and strategizing for the future... Once the Grand Duke officially tallies the exploits, the Earl will become the Marquis of Bull Tail, and the Tulip Family will have a large amount of arable land, likely leading to the relocation of many Coral Island serfs to Iron Hoof Island."

The relocation of Coral Island serfs would lead to a decline in population, inevitably affecting Black Horse Island's commercial trade.

Therefore, he needed to plan as soon as possible, purchasing more ships and developing his own shipbuilding industry to open up maritime trade channels—ultimately assembling an enormous fleet to establish new island nations.

"It's time to start preparing for the Adventure Fleet with Yevich!"

While everyone was thinking of conquering the continent and the skies, he was set on conquering the oceans.

Suddenly.

He thought of his maternal grandfather, Marquis Merlin, "I wonder how Marquis Merlin's health is, with the Long Taro Family being the main force in the iron ore heist this time, earning considerable military exploits, Mesiro's position should be more stable... It's a pity that Cousin Meioubao's issue with producing an heir is a problem."

He had a favorable impression of Marquis Merlin; despite being looked down upon in the Tulip Family, his grandfather had valued him highly, and this kindness was worth repaying.

Moreover, his relationship with Cousin Meioubao was also good.

"Perhaps I should take a trip to Red Crab Island when I have time, to see Marquis Merlin and borrow the Court Fast Sailing Ship from the Long Taro Family to see if I can work out

the Three-Masted Ship Technique... If in the future the Long Taro Family can't establish themselves in the Grand Duchy of Sapphire, I could take them to my country."

Regardless, he did not want the Long Taro Family bloodline to be extinguished, nor did he want to be replaced—with his current power, he could prevent certain things from happening.

"It's a pity that 'adoption' isn't a common custom in this world. When noble bloodlines are extinguished, their lands are simply reclaimed. If adoption were an option, I'd suggest Levis and Loria have another son to adopt to Cousin Meioubao to inherit the Long Taro Family's territories."

No matter what.

He still planned to find more foods and herbs that could enhance male fertility to give to Mei Oubo.

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The next day, early in the morning.

The Earl rose early, fully dressed and ready to go.

As Liszt got up to wash and have breakfast, the Earl paced restlessly by the gates of Tulip Castle, clearly anxious and agitated.

It wasn't strange for him to behave so, for Liszt had promised him that today he would show him the true form of Fire Dragon Leo.

Dragon!

The Earl inhaled the fragrance of the tulips deeply, trying to calm himself, but he just couldn't settle down, "Dragon! It is Liszt's dragon, and it is as if it is also the Tulip Family's dragon. Who could have imagined that my son, Li Weiliam, would be a Dragon Knight standing at the pinnacle of the world!"

Not far away, several servants were walking the Landwalker bird Loki in the garden.

Every time he saw this colorful big bird in the past, he was extremely envious, but this time he felt no jealousy at all, "It's just an uncommon Magical Beast. It's nothing compared to a dragon... I wonder if Liszt will encounter some more powerful beasts, then he can catch one for me!"

This little favor, surely Liszt would not refuse.

It suddenly dawned on the Earl that his many years of dreams were surprisingly simple to achieve, "Having a Dragon Knight son is wonderful."

As he waited with smoke nearly coming out of his ears,

Liszt finally finished his breakfast and stepped out of the Tulip Castle's gates, greeted the Earl, and then climbed upon the Landwalker bird Loki, speeding off with the Earl to the uninhabited wilderness. Three-thirds of Coral Island had been cleared, but one-third had not.

Half an hour later, they arrived at the foot of an uncultivated hill.

"This place is secluded enough, and no one will notice the dragon's trace, so how will you call Leo over?" the Earl asked excitedly.

Liszt just smiled without a word.

Instead, he stretched out his right arm, with his palm open and facing outward, mentally connecting with the Little Fire Dragon Leo, "Leo, come forth in the manner we've planned!"

After receiving Leo's response,

He added a line for himself, "Come forth, my partner Leo!"

Boom!

As the Earl's pupils dilated in an instant,

Flames rose from Liszt's arm, the fire not scorching his clothes but shooting straight out, instantly turning half the sky red.

Then from within the flames, a majestic dragon's roar sounded, "Oh!"

The next moment,

The flames exploded, filling the sky with fire.

As the flames were about to die out, the sinister and magnificent red-black dragon gradually revealed its perfectly curved form. It was the twenty-meter-long Little Fire Dragon Leo, whose fiery outline solidified and landed on the fading flames.

He lifted his head high, casting a disdainful glance at the Earl, then turned his head to look at Liszt.

Liszt grasped one of its scales, leaping onto the Dragon Tooth Platform, and proudly exclaimed, "Father, I am the only true Dragon Knight in the entire Duchy of Sapphire!"

The Earl's mouth fell open as he watched Liszt, majestic and commanding atop the dragon's back, and was utterly dazzled.

Chapter 664 Hundred Meter Wingspan

Seeing the Earl's envy and shock, Li Si Te felt extremely proud. At the current stage, his Dragon Knight identity couldn't be revealed; he could only show off in front of the Earl for the time being.

However, just as he was about to ride Leo into the sky, he suddenly remembered that his Smoke Mission required discretion, and he had to restrain his urge to boast. To prevent mission failure, he had to suppress his desire to soar into the skies, dismount from Leo's back, and signal for Leo to return quickly.

"Oh-ho!"

Without much ado, Leo transformed into a huge blaze, engulfing Liszt. When the scorching flames dissipated, Liszt stood unharmed in the same spot, and Leo had reverted to the shape of a flaming dragon pattern on his chest. Using their mental connection, Leo communicated with Liszt.

"The appearance fee is at least ten magic potions!"

"No problem, perform well, and you won't miss out on your share of the magic potions," he responded mentally.

He then turned to the Earl and said with an air of nonchalance, "Father, I've summoned Leo back. It doesn't like to perform at random, despite being a young dragon, it still possesses a dragon's pride. Unless it gives its consent, no one can command it."

"I understand, I understand."

With a touch of regret, the Earl nodded and then eagerly asked, "So, has Leo been living inside you all this time?"

"This must be one of the dragon's magical abilities, an indestructible flesh and blood body that can also turn into a clump of magic power and attach to a knight," Liszt did not elaborate. There were some secrets he did not want to disclose publicly or perhaps, like the other dragon-rearing families, he was beginning to consciously keep secrets for the sake of dragon rearing.

After all, the secrets of dragons are safer when held by a select few.

Otherwise, if all knights around the world were to seek dragons, wouldn't that create chaos and directly undermine the foundation of the dragon-rearing families?

The Earl also understood this principle, so he didn't pry further but changed the subject, "Leo looks much smaller than the Sapphire Dragon. Can its combat strength really compare to that of an adult Sapphire Dragon?"



"There is definitely a gap, but the cultivation methods of Dragon Knights and Dragon Domain Landlords are different. Dragon Domain Landlords focus more on seizing the dragon's lifespan rather than strength, whereas Dragon Knights and dragons cultivate and progress together... Domain Landlords are like one plus one is less than two, but Dragon Knights are one plus one is greater than two."

"As long as you know what you're doing, don't reveal it casually when it needs to be concealed. This is the foundation for our family's rise to power. Once we establish our nation, a single Fire Dragon might well protect our family for a millennium!"

"I understand. In fact, I've never regarded the Grand Duke and Sapphire Dragon as my opposition. I believe that once we declare nationhood, a Dragon Slayer War is inevitable, as these kingdoms will not allow more forces to divide the resources. Among them, Summit Marquis Alonso Xiankelai is my most likely opponent in the Dragon Slayer War."

"I've also investigated Alonso; he rides an adult Bronze Dragon, a Dragon Knight that the Eagle Kingdom has cultivated over the past decade. However, the Bronze Dragon is said to have experienced several generations of Dragon Knights and is in its dragon prime. Are you sure Leo can catch up to it within a few years?"

"Father, Elemental Dragons are different from Metal Dragons and Gemstone Dragons; they are naturally adept at combat. Moreover, Leo is just a juvenile and already has a wingspan of twenty meters, it won't take long before it surpasses the Bronze Dragon in size!"

When Leo was born, it had a wingspan of about ten meters, which was not large compared to the fifteen-meter wingspan of the Formless Dragon; but a few months later, Leo's wingspan had reached twenty meters, significantly larger than the Formless Dragon. After devouring the Dragon's Intent left by the remains of the Fire Dragon, and then the Dragon's Intent accumulated by the Dodo Island Volcano, its growth rate was undeniably rapid.

Based on the remains of the Fire Dragon Bones found on Black Horse Island, an adult Fire Dragon's wingspan might exceed 100 meters, making it one of the largest wingspan among all known dragons.

Liszt didn't have much data at hand, but he still compiled a chart recording the size data of dragons.

An adult Fire Dragon might have a wingspan of 100 meters, which is the largest known so far; an adult Light Dragon approximately 80 meters, based on estimates from Black Dragon Childe Paris; an adult White Maw Iron Dragon 60 meters, as encountered by Yevich Water Peanut; and an adult Sapphire Dragon 50 meters, as witnessed by Liszt himself.

An adult Light Green Gemstone Dragon has a wingspan of 45 meters, also encountered by Yevich; while an adult Brass Dragon has a wingspan of 30 meters, again encountered by Yevich.

Finally, the Bronze Dragon with a wingspan of about 30 meters, as heard by Blood Servants from purebloods in the Black Knight Family.

The data might seem rudimentary, but it offers a glimpse into the dragons' sizes.

Elemental Dragons are the largest in terms of size, Gemstone Dragons are moderate, and while there are Metal Dragons like the White Maw Iron Dragon with a 60-meter wingspan, most are 30-meter Bronze Dragons or Brass Dragons.

Physical size may not represent combat power.

However, it often takes two to three Dragon Knights to jointly slaughter an Evil Dragon, which indicates that Elemental Dragons, as represented by Evil Dragons, must be significantly stronger than Metal Dragons and Gemstone Dragons.

"Of course, these are just my personal speculations, unsupported by theoretical data, and can't be counted as reliable. I'll try to keep a low profile, and without making thorough preparations, I absolutely won't rashly provoke conflicts," Liszt, though somewhat carried away, has not lost his reason.

Dragon Knights can be cultivated!

Other Dragon Knights may train for over a decade, and even if their dragon's combat power is a bit weak, the gap can be filled through training. Just as Sky Knights have the ordinary, Sword Saint, and Completion Level tiers, if Dragon Knights have similar rankings, Liszt, who just started Dragon Riding, would definitely be brutally beaten.

Therefore, he still needed to follow the instructions of the Smoke Mission, to restrain his urge to show off and to discreetly explore ways of cultivation.

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On the way back, the Earl finally regained his usual composure.

He had seen dragons before; every trip to Blue Dragon Island for meetings offered him a chance to see a Sapphire Dragon. Hence, the presence of a Fire Dragon couldn't shake him too much, the greater impact was that this Fire Dragon belonged to his son.

Adjusting his mindset.

He soon came to terms with it.

His gaze towards Liszt now contained a few different shades, perhaps one day he would submit to Liszt and swear allegiance to him.

Upon returning to Tulip Castle, Liszt did not linger and immediately requested to take his leave. A pile of matters awaited him in his domain, especially the allocation of military merits. He could exchange all of his military merits for supplies, but his followers needed these merits to advance in ranks.

Becoming a Noble is every Knight's dream.

"You are busy with affairs; I won't hold you up if you need to return. However, you must come over to grandmother's place and pick a potted plant to take back with you!" Lady Penelope said.

"Didn't you give me a potted plant a few days ago when you went to Fresh Flower Town?"

"That was a few days ago. Now, I've decided that every time you come to Tulip Castle, you must take a potted plant from me,"

"All right."

There was no need to decline such an offer, and besides, he was also quite looking forward to Lady Penelope's potted plants. He ascended to the balcony, the Eye of Magic sweeping around, but unfortunately, he did not detect any glows of magic power and had to randomly choose a lush-looking potted plant to take away.

Thus.

The Landwalker bird Loki galloped away, and in less than half an hour, he was back in Fresh Flower Town—the Retainer Knights following behind him were still weaving through the roads, long used to Liszt's hurried comings and goings.

Just as he returned to his Nameless Castle, he received a report from Butler Carter: "Master, there was a riot in the Worm Room last night. Jela and several Little Minor Elves had a conflict that led to the room being filled with Thorns and other plants... It finally subsided only after several Earth Knights intervened,"

Liszt was immediately alarmed, "Jela is all right, isn't she? My elves weren't injured, were they?"

"Jela and the elves only have some minor external injuries,"

"That's good to hear," Liszt breathed a sigh of relief, then fixed a stern expression, "These little brats are flipping the heavens while I'm away. It seems they need a good tidying up!"

#### Chapter 665 Celebration Ceremony

Upon reaching the second floor of the castle, the walls were pockmarked and uneven, clearly the aftermath of last night's battle between the elves. Liszt's arrival was quickly sensed by these elves, and they began to crawl out of their boxes one after another, calling out to Liszt.

Jela seemed to know she had done wrong, lying at the edge of her box, looking pitifully at Liszt and emitting a wronged cry, "Wuwa."

Liszt ignored her and scolded sternly, "Everyone come over here and line up on this table for me."

"Gurulu."

"Wuwa."

"Jigu."

"Ula!"

The little elves flew out from their respective Worm Rooms and gathered at the table designated by Liszt, standing in line. They touched each other in a friendly manner but also glared and bared their teeth angrily. The elves varied in color and appearance, as well as in personality and temperament.

"Quiet, no one move!"

After completely subduing the minor elves, Liszt then said to Butler Carter, "Mr. Carter, identify those who started the trouble last night, those who got into the fight, and assess the degree of each one's responsibility, big and small. Make sure not to cover for anyone."

"Although the minor elves are very cute, they indeed need to be taught a lesson, my lord, I won't cover for any of them," Carter said, his gaze fixed on Thorn Minor Elf Jela.

And Jela was glaring back at him.

But Carter was unfazed by the threat and directly accused, "All the strife was provoked by Jela..."

Jela cried out to stop Carter's snitching, "Wuwa!"

But Liszt quickly pressed her head down with his hand, signaling Carter to continue.

"Jela was the first to start the altercation, followed by the Coptis Minor Elf, who not only fought with Jela but also dragged the other minor elves into it."

"Ula!" The Coptis Minor Elf yelled to express her grievance.

Carter pointed out each minor elf's responsibility one by one; apart from a few mild-tempered minor elves like Corn Minor Elf Mickey, the rest had all been involved in the brawl. After understanding the situation, Liszt's gaze swept over the line of elves on the table and finally settled on Jela.

"Jela, for instigation, violence, and continued use of force, the greatest responsibility lies with you. Your punishment is to be grounded for a week, no, to be confined to your box for a week, it must be solitary confinement!"

"Wuwa!"

"Talk back again, and the confinement will be extended."

"Wu... wa..."

"Good, make it eight days of confinement!"

Jela opened her mouth but finally dared not make any more noise.

Liszt continued to announce, "Coptis Minor Elf, for fighting, continued use of force, and escalating the situation, you bear the next greatest responsibility, five days of confinement for you!"

The Coptis Minor Elf learned her lesson and didn't make a peep.

The other brawling minor elves varied from one to three days of confinement. Thus, the minor elf brawl incident was neatly resolved, and Liszt's authority was further consolidated. The confinements would likely serve as a lesson for them, especially the hot-tempered Jela, who needed it the most.

...

Having dealt with the affairs of Fresh Flower Town.

Before retreating to explore the methods of Dragon Knight cultivation, Liszt headed to the port town to summon all his followers to assemble at the Knight Academy's Knight's Square.

In the presence of the small town's residents, a grand celebration ceremony was held.

Knight and Magician alike, as well as standout figures from other professions, were invited to attend and watch, packing the vast Knight's Square to the brim.

In an office of the square's administrative building, Marcus was waiting for Liszt to check the list for this settlement of battle honors.

Liszt trusted Marcus quite a lot; he didn't question the list but was ready to increase some of the rewards. Rich and willful, he didn't mind sharing more profits with his followers, as these followers would become the important foundation for his nation-building in the future.

"Okay, I've looked over the list. Is everything ready for the ceremony in the square?"

Paris, responsible for maintaining order, answered him: "My Lord, everything is properly prepared, we're just waiting for you to go and announce the start of the ceremony."

"Then let's go."

As he led everyone out of the administrative building, a thunderous applause erupted across the square, with many shouting slogans like "Lord Landlord," "My Lord," "May the glory of the knights favor you," and so on.

He was already accustomed to such noise.

Liszt, without any reaction, walked up to the podium, took his place in the very center, swept his gaze over the excited, frenzied crowd, and lowered his hand to signal them to quiet down.

Suddenly.

All sounds ceased, leaving only steady or rapid breathing in the space.

This was the authority of the landlord: a word, a gesture, could control everything. Such a delightful sense of power made Liszt drunk with joy, unable to extricate himself.

"My subjects, welcome to the Pioneer Mandate victory ceremony."

Instantly, cheers erupted once again, rolling like a tide, roaring for a full minute, until they completely quieted down upon Liszt's second gesture for silence.

Liszt spoke again, "My followers, welcome to share with me the joy of victory. I hope the glory of knighthood will always favor me, my followers, my territory, and everything thriving within it."

He didn't give his followers time to cheer.

He continued, "During this Pioneer Mandate, thirty-one knights perished on Black Horse Island. They were dear comrades, close partners, loyal followers. They were the children of Black Horse Island, and its knights. We must not forget what they have sacrificed. Let us observe a minute of silence for them."

For one minute all was quiet, save for the distant barking of dogs.

The minute of silence ended.

The ceremony continued, and Liszt, foregoing any more polite but unnecessary words, pulled out the prepared list and read aloud, "I've said it before—glory belongs to me, and I am with you. Now is the time to share that glory with you! The following names are being granted the title of Honored Knight for their battle achievements..."

Whoosh!



All the knights in Knight's Square began to breathe rapidly, even though most knew that they didn't have enough battle honors to be knighted, their hearts still raced.

"Marcus Wheel..."

The first name on the list was Marcus. Liszt smiled as he watched his former family tutor, now the leader of the Knight Order, climb the podium with trembling, excited steps.

He then kneeled on one knee, performing the knightly gesture of loyalty.

Liszt nodded slightly and continued to read names: "Charles Trap."

Leader of the security team, a knight once down on his luck who drifted to Coral Island and volunteered to give up his noble title to follow Liszt. His eyes filled with tears, he strode onto the podium and kneeled next to Marcus, also performing the knightly gesture of loyalty.

Afterward, Liszt continued to read seven more names, and the podium was a sea of kneeling figures.

Finally, he read the last name: "Griffin Straw Stack."

One of the first knights to follow him, born an orphan and only a Common Earth Knight. Relying on the spirit of fearless charge during knightly assaults, and the luck favored by knightly glory, he achieved battle honors not inferior to those of an Elite Earth Knight.

So it was.

Ten Honored Knights were officially ennobled, and Black Horse Island saw the birth of its first nobles.

Chapter 666 Girlish Heart

The celebration ceremony was undoubtedly a success.

The ennoblement of ten Honored Knights ignited everyone's aspirations for nobility, while the Gold Coin and material rewards for the Earth Knights made every commoner green

with envy and students' eyes red with desire, wishing they had been the ones fighting on the battlefield—even the knights and officials who stayed behind received rewards, but far less than the battlefield knights.

It was precisely this imbalance in rewards that made all knights long for the battlefield, ignoring the solemn moments previously observed for those who had fallen.

Following the ceremony came the banquet.

On the eve of the banquet, Liszt gathered the ten Honored Knights in the administrative conference hall. In the center of the hall was a massive four-square-meter sandbox, with the complete topography of Black Horse Island mapped out to scale, including towns, rivers, and roads all clearly visible.

"Gentlemen, this is the sandbox map of Black Horse Island. You have become Honored Knights, and I will reward you with land. From today onwards, you will all be Landlords with your own territories... most of the waste land is marked with red lines, and you may choose your fiefs from there."

The fiefs of the Honored Knights were generally centered around villages and settlements.

All ten Honored Knights, including Marcus, stared intently at the sandbox map.

Liszt actually didn't like the feudal system. The land in his hands could yield the greatest output; once given to others, it was hard for him to intervene freely.

However, he had a plan in mind.

He delivered his prepared remarks: "The era of Black Horse Island as a fief is running short on time. As my father is set to go to Iron Hoof Island and rise to the rank of Marquis, I will also follow him there to manage a new fief. Therefore, Black Horse Island is just a transition."

The Honored Knights watched Liszt, awaiting what he would say next.

"I offer you two options, one is to manage the fief on your own, with no difference from the previous Noble lands; the other is to hand over the land to my Territory Officers for unified management, and you will receive a share of the profits from the land each year, free from the tediousness of direct management."

What he ultimately wanted to establish was a titular fief system—where knights would still enjoy the privileges from their fiefs but would not be involved in management.

Like shareholders of a company, no meetings, no voting, no involvement in the operations, just waiting for the dividend distribution when the time comes.

Of course.

If this system faced resistance, it didn't matter, for one day he would establish his own country. Then, he would find an island as large as Blue Dragon Island to serve as a family enterprise, while other barren islands would be left for the ennobled nobles to manage. Everyone would play their part, and it would be interesting to see who would become richer.

However, the anticipated resistance did not arise.

All Honored Knights chose the second option, to hand over their territories to the Territory Officers for unified management—they were not foolish, aware that following in Liszt's footsteps was far more important than a few pieces of land. Moreover, they knew that Black Horse Island was bound to be handed over eventually, and even if managed well, it would be difficult to pass on to their descendants.

Most importantly, all the towns on Black Horse Island were not only free from the dirty and chaotic environment but, on the contrary, well-equipped, clean, and tidy, which made them far more livable than the countryside.

These knights had grown accustomed to living in towns and thus did not care much for the rural life.

Upon understanding this.

Liszt couldn't help but smile: "As expected, living in a city for too long makes one reluctant to return to the countryside. People always prefer to migrate from less developed areas to more developed ones, but the reverse seldom happens. The towns of Black Horse Island are paragons of civilization, making everyone long to stay."

...

The celebration ceremony concluded successfully.

The atmosphere in the territory flourished with the birth of the new nobility. The students of the Knight Academy, without the need for instructors to urge them on, all diligently practiced their knight lessons, fantasizing about the day it would be their turn to enter the battlefield and achieve victories that symbolized the highest glory.

Everyone was aware that their lord was the Son of Glory, the brightest new star among the Sapphire nobility.

The title of Viscount was just a brief transition; the position of Earl was within easy reach, and rumors suggested that even becoming a Marquis would be simple for Liszt—because strength represented potential for the future, and he was already recognized as the second strongest in the Duchy of Sapphire, second only to the Grand Duke.

The knights wished they could practice twenty-five hours a day.

The officers worked just as hard. Compared to officers from other territories who could only gain merit on the battlefield, Liszt declared that officers who performed exceptionally in the daily governance of the territory could also earn military achievements. With the possibility of gaining merit and rising to nobility without going to battle, how could the officers not be diligent?

Thus, a day ended.

The next day, he took another full day to inspect his territory.

He visited the Magic Academy to review the work of the three Grand Magicians, the training of the Blood Servant, the study progress of the twin sisters Lucy and Ruth, and

discussed his latest research on the Magic Web with Chris Truth—actually, it was Ach's latest research.

Of all the caster professions, Ach was undoubtedly the one Liszt trusted the most, closely followed by Chris Truth.

If possible, he hoped that Chris would also aim for the title of Archmage—though it would probably be difficult, as Chris's talent fell far short of Ach's.

He then made a trip to visit the Knight Academy.

He discussed the formation of the Adventure Fleet with the interim knight course instructor, Yevich Water Peanut, and visited the two captive Sky Knights, Garcia and Fox, who were also temporarily instructing. The letter for the captives' ransom had been sent out, all that remained was to see when Alonso would pay the ransom.

Afterwards, he went to personally guide Emily in her training.

Emily was temporarily learning knight courses from Yevich, Garcia, and Fox, three Sky Knights. Moreover, she was enhancing her Dou Qi capacity scientifically through the consumption of medicines provided in "The Earth Chronicle of Liszt." The young girl had immense talent and an even more terrifying diligence.

Her training was almost like self-torture—every day, apart from eating, drinking and sleeping, all her time was spent in training.

"It's best to combine work with rest, Emily. Don't ruin your health, and make sure to relax appropriately," Liszt said seriously as he patted the girl's head.

Towards Emily, he felt a mix of paternal and mentor-like sentiments.

This young female slave was someone he had personally watched evolve step by step from an ordinary person into today's Elite Earth Knight, all in just over a year.

However, when urging Emily to relax, he always felt somewhat embarrassed.

He considered his own training to be serious, but in comparison, he seemed like the epitome of laziness and lack of ambition—every day, apart from eating, drinking, and sleeping, a significant portion of his time was spent enjoying himself, with only two or three hours devoted to real training.

If the weather was bad or his mood was off, he might even train for only half an hour.

Shaking her head, Emily replied, "My lord, I must seize every second to make myself stronger as quickly as possible! I hope to aim for Sky Knight before my menstruation begins!"

Her menstruation was expected to come around at the age of fourteen. With the year ending soon for her current age of twelve, that meant she had about a year and a half left.

Liszt wanted to ask her if she knew what it meant to be a Sky Knight at fourteen, but ultimately, he didn't pose the question, deciding to wait and see—for according to the regulations of the Eagle Kingdom and Steel Ridge Kingdom, a Sky Knight under sixteen could join the Dragon Knight reserve program.

As for a Sky Knight at fourteen, the odds of riding a dragon were evidently much greater!

#### Chapter 667 Local Area Network

Emily's talent was indeed powerful, and she possessed the determination to practice diligently. Liszt had no reason to stop her—knights recover quickly as long as they are well-nourished, and don't face the risk of overtraining and crippling themselves like ordinary people do.

If she could really make a breakthrough to become a Sky Knight.

Then he would have the only female Sky Knight follower in the Duchy of Sapphire, which was a rather exhilarating honor. Moreover, her entire career was sponsored by Liszt, meaning she belonged wholly to Liszt. Even if she became ennobled in the future, she would still be a noble of the type found in the Blue Blood Alliance.

The Blue Blood Alliance was a "private military force" of knight order belonging to the Sapphire Family.

Perhaps in the future, Liszt would also need to establish his own family's private military force—the Burning Legion. As for why such an ominous name, it was because he had a Little Fire Dragon Leo that could burn endlessly, so naturally, it would be called the Burning Legion.

And such a name gave him an inexplicable thrill as if he had become the ultimate Boss.

In any case, Emily was a huge potential stock worth investing in, just like the twin Magic Apprentice sisters, Lucy and Ruth, all of whom were targets indicated by the Smoke Mission. In Liszt's view, it probably meant that these three had "Hero Templates," and if nurtured properly, would become powerful "heroes."

Liszt couldn't teach Lucy and Ruth, the magic knowledge, but he could guide Emily in knight training.

While he was immersed in teaching, many Magic Plants and Magic Plants from the Child of the Sun civilization that had been transported from villas by the sea in Fresh Flower Town were now shipped to Black Horse Island and carried to the Magic Academy. Most of the research material translated by Ach also arrived by ship.

Now these materials and Magic Plants would be handed over to Chris Truth, who would arrange for the magicians at the Magic Academy to work together to tackle Natural Magic.

The three Grand Magicians confined to the Magic Academy could also participate in this research—a study deemed by Liszt to be of little value.

The growth rate of the Magic Plants was severely below expectations, taking years to mature and over a decade to become high-yielding. Even with high yields, they couldn't make up for the initial magic resource consumption. The conditions for casting Natural Magic were very stringent, especially for transformation Natural Magic, which required the bloodline of the Child of the Sun.

So, while Ach focused on researching the Magic Web, Liszt decided to entrust these Magic Plants and Natural Magic to the Magic Academy for further study.

It would enrich the knowledge of the magicians, diverting them from researching topics they shouldn't, and should there be a breakthrough in Natural Magic, all the better.

In any case, the civilization of the Child of the Sun rapidly caught the attention of many magicians, led by Chris, and even vampires like Mary Dawnbreak became involved in studying Natural Magic—mainly interested in researching Druid transformations, which shared a similar magic essence with their ability to transform into bats.

"Actually, for these magicians, I should issue more research topics to help them transform into scholars!" Liszt knew that the magicians at the Magic Academy were focused on studying Natural Magic, and he had some new ideas.

Originally, he intended for Chris to make the Magic Academy a "technical college" type, training workers who only knew how to refine Magic Potions and create Magic Equipment. But now it seemed that publishing some interesting topics for research might genuinely turn the Magic Academy into an integrated "university" of education, research, and application.

"The magicians in this world are too enamored with magic power itself, unable to extricate themselves, while knights are solely fixated on charging into battle, all overlooking the technical value of magic power itself."

On the way back to Fresh Flower Town.

He was still pondering this issue, "Can I treat magic power as a kind of energy source? Since it is possible to create various combat and auxiliary Magic Equipment, why not apply Magic Equipment for civilian use, such as making a magic-powered electric fan... However, magic storage is a problem."

Magic Power must be guided by magicians to form powerful magic.

For things like Magic Equipment, knights and magicians also need to use Magic Power to activate the Magic Arrays within them.

"Regardless, this is an excellent idea. I'll have Chris pay more attention to this aspect... It is said that during the height of the Moon Empire, they could build a Magic Teleportation Array that reached the moon. I wonder if I can get the magicians to research the Teleportation Array, and if they could make a successful breakthrough?"



They could probably research until their hair turned white.

...

The affairs of the territory were settled.

It would probably take another month or two to prepare for the promotion to marquis, so there was no need for Liszt to worry.

He had just received a letter from his cousin, Mei Oubo.

In the letter, Mei Oubo congratulated him on becoming a powerful Ghost Swordsman and the second strongest person in the country, and thanked him for the often-sent invigorating and energizing foods and medicines. Lastly, it mentioned that Marquis Merlin's health had improved, and if conditions allowed, the marquis would like to come to Black Horse Island to celebrate the annual festival with him this year.

Liszt instructed a servant to bring paper and pen and quickly wrote a reply—the content of the letter was rather simple, just expressing his intention to find time to visit Red Crab Island soon.

After writing the letter, he had one of the Retainer Knights send it to Tulip Castle on his behalf.

Then he announced that he would go into seclusion.

Seclusion did not mean locking himself away completely; it simply meant declining social engagements and putting aside the administration of the territory to focus solely on eating, sleeping, and cultivation.

The main place for his seclusion was the seaside villa.

He planned to have Ach assist him in studying the next step in the Dragon Knight's training methods—as one could probably deduce from the Smoke Mission, dragon-riding training and Ach's advancement as an Archmage were related, and there might be

significant lessons to learn. Ach had mentioned before that a knight is like a mini Magic Web.

If the real Magic Web is the internet, then a knight himself might be a local area network.

"Ach, do you think if a knight's Magic Web expanded indefinitely, would it eventually become a Magic Web similar to the real Magic Web?" he tried to provide Ach with some inspiration.

On Earth, the existence of the GFW meant that China's internet was essentially a large local area network.

But for most people, this large local area network was practically no different from the internet; aside from not being able to browse foreign websites, it was fully functional.

The Magic Web properties of a weak knight were very faint, akin to a small local area network made up of a few connected computers. Now, as a Dragon Knight, Liszt's Magic Web properties should be very close to a real Magic Web, similar to this large local area network of China.

Perhaps by thoroughly studying his operating principles as a Dragon Knight, Ach could truly touch the essence of the Magic Web.

Therefore.

In the following period.

He was engrossed in intensive research on the secrets of dragon-riding with Ach.

He often traveled to Dodo Island, released Little Fire Dragon Leo, and would ride Leo as he followed Ach's arrangements for various trials. Although he had not yet discovered new cultivation methods beyond Dragon Magic Refining Qi and Dragon Breath Tempering, his skills in dragon riding combat had become exceedingly proficient, especially since Leo's Magic Power was connected to his Dou Qi.

The power of his attacks multiplied by several geometrical magnitudes.

A single use of the Crimson Dawn Burn could redden half the sky, and a Scorching Sun Sting could directly create a meteorite crater on the ground. Three Arrows Released Together was even more powerful than missile launches.

Every time he rode a dragon, a thought would automatically surface in his mind, "I am very strong!"

Chapter 668: Morse Code

The autumn leaves turned yellow.

In the blink of an eye, September had passed, and October arrived with ease.

The cool weather swept through, bringing down rustling leaves, and Liszt, who had been in closed training for half a month, had made rapid progress. His Completion Advanced Level Fire Attribute Dou Qi was almost fully evolved into the higher-tier Dragon Dou Qi, and it was only a matter of time before it could evolve into the level of Dragon's Intent.

By then, he felt that he might be able to switch between the Dragon's Intent form and his fleshly body at will, just like Leo could.

Of course, whether this was possible was unknown.

This was merely his guess, as he had never seen a real Dragon Knight and had not received any information on the training of Dragon Knights, so he had no way to judge.

"Ach, how should I classify the Dragon Dou Qi?" Liszt asked the Sea Serpent who was busying over books, sketching and writing.

Ach lifted his head and pondered for a moment, "Brother, let's not classify it for now. The evolutionary information of Dragon Dou Qi is not sufficient. We need to organize more data to better delineate its levels."

"Alright."

Liszt was somewhat disappointed, as he enjoyed setting standards for things.

He remembered hearing on Earth that first-class enterprises set standards, second-class enterprises build brands, and third-class enterprises make products. He hoped to become a pioneer who sets standards, rather than an imitator who follows in the footsteps of predecessors... At least in the Duchy of Sapphire, he could be a pioneer.

He then asked, "So in the research over this period, have you summarized any clues about the training of Dragon Knights and touching the Magic Web?"

During this time, he had been cooperating with Ach and hadn't done much thinking on his own.

He had been more focused on figuring out the combined attacks with Leo.

Leo itself did not know magic.

Its battles relied more on biting, ramming, breath attacks, and the most commonly used Magic Power Shock.

These simple attack methods were enough to shatter any obstacle in their way. When its wings flapped to unleash the Magic Power Shock, the endless flames it conjured could incinerate everything within a hundred meters. Even when it released Dragon's Intent, the surroundings would instantly turn into a landscape of molten lava.

However, Leo was reluctant to release Dragon's Intent at will; it was a key factor in its growth, and once a bit was used up, it took a long time to replenish.

When it becomes an adult and its Dragon's Intent is abundant, it might easily cause volcanic eruptions just by revealing its power a little.

But Leo's way of attacking was rough, barbaric, primitive, impulsive, consuming a tremendous amount of power, which might only achieve a small objective. What Liszt needed to do was to guide with his own Dou Qi, helping Leo improve its attack efficiency, and perfectly execute their combat power in tandem.

Once Leo's attacking power was no longer wasted but highly concentrated, its strength naturally doubled.

He conceptualized this as a new form of training and named it—Dragon Force Focus. However, this method of Dragon Force Focus did not receive acknowledgment from the Smoke Mission, and the mission remained incomplete.

With Dragon Force Focus not being acknowledged, Liszt then worked hard to develop another new training method. By making use of the mental harmony when riding dragons and the long-distance mental connection when not, he continually refined his and Leo's Spiritual Power and established a set of methods related to thought shielding and message transmission.

It was somewhat similar to Morse code, so he named this brand-new communication method—Dragon Heart Electrical Signal.

Unfortunately, the Smoke Mission still did not acknowledge the Dragon Heart Electrical Signal.

Nonetheless, Liszt himself believed that, whether it was Dragon Force Focus or Dragon Heart Electrical Signal, both were worthy of being recorded in his "Liszt's Dragon Knight Training Complete Manual" as a family heirloom to pass down through generations—if nothing unexpected happened, this book would be his latest work following "Liszt's Dragon Rearing Manual."

He just had not started writing it yet.

These two training methods were the best answers Liszt could come up with recently, but unfortunately, the Smoke Mission just did not acknowledge them, so he could only seek help from Ach.

I didn't hold out much hope; the research time was too short. It shouldn't have made much progress this fast.

But Ach nodded and said, "Brother, based on the resonance phenomenon you told me about, plus Ach's research on the magic array, there is already some clue. However, some experiments need to be designed to verify Ach's ideas. If they are correct, Brother's Dragon Knight training method can be determined."

“Really!”

Liszt was overjoyed and said, the rambling aside, his little sea monster was reliable:  
“Quickly, what’s the idea?”

“It’s the resonance idea,” Ach explained. “Brother and Leo can connect their Dou Qi and minds, but the connection frequency hasn’t been overlaid. If it can overlap and resonate, a special effect might be achieved... Brother and Leo might even assimilate with each other during the resonance.”

Liszt understood the principle of resonance, but he was puzzled about another issue:  
“Assimilate?”

“Assimilation of magic power, perhaps Brother will soon be able to switch between Dragon’s Intent and flesh as easily as Leo does.”

Liszt breathed a sigh of relief: “I thought you meant Leo and I would merge into one, becoming half-human, half-dragon.”

“Hehe, no, Brother. Have you ever heard of a Dragon Knight and a dragon growing together?”

“Right, then focus on designing the experiment. Strive to obtain results soon. I have a feeling that if this training method is successful, you might also be promoted to Archmage because of it!”@@novelbin@@

Ach pondered: “Maybe so. If Brother can resonate with Leo, why can’t Ach touch the Magic Web through resonance?”

Then she fell into deep thought.

Liszt didn’t disturb her and quietly left the room to go to the adjacent pool worm room. The Giant Algae Greater Elf was floating comfortably on the water, sleeping soundly. When Pike didn’t open his mouth, he really looked like a huge, yellow-brown gemstone. The little Minor Elves of Giant Algae next door were also sleeping, all very pretty.

They were fortunate, as Minor Elves, to have their own names.

The Minor Elves who followed had not even grasped a name. Especially the two Little Sea Monster Minor Elves left by Yevich Water Peanut, both called Water Peanut, indistinguishable from each other—provided some Jade Powder every day, the two Water Peanuts could sleep beautifully all day, pretty easy to care for.

After watching the elves for a while, he stood up and left the seaside Castle to return to the Nameless Castle.

Preparing to have lunch and take a nap, Butler Carter reported to him: “Master, the White Paper Workshop has delivered the latest batch of paper. The boxes have been placed in Master’s study.”

“Let’s take a look.”

Entering the study.

Opening the box, Butler Carter presented a stack of yellowish-gray paper sheets with trembling hands as if he was holding rare treasures.

Compared to the stinky and thick hide paper, these new-style paper sheets indeed could be considered treasures.

But Liszt casually took a few sheets, felt them with his hand; they were very rough. Shaking his head, he said, “Not up to standard. Tell Lavaigne at the White Paper Workshop to continue improving the process. Don’t think about fooling me with a bunch of subpar goods! Also, burn this batch of paper directly, leave none behind.”

The paper was still in a secret stage, absolutely not to be leaked, and any subpar goods were directly burned.

His standards for the paper mill’s products needed to be such that they allowed for smooth writing and were not prone to decay; they didn’t need to be as high quality as fine writing paper, but they couldn’t be too poor either. Once the white paper was made, there would be

further research on toilet paper—although it was comfortable to wipe with cloth, it somehow lacked a certain feeling.

Watching as Carter personally threw all the sheets into the fireplace to burn.

Liszt suddenly thought of something and asked, “Regarding the ransom for Garcia and Fox, haven’t people from the Eagle Kingdom come to negotiate yet?”

“Not yet, Master.”

He nodded and said no more, but he was very puzzled: “Strange, wouldn’t the two Sky Knights just give up like that? Could it be that Alonso as a Dragon Knight is so extravagant that he doesn’t even care about his Sky Knight followers? Or is there some reason for the delay?”

Chapter 669 Conversation Fails to Engage

Liszt began to harbor numerous suspicions about Alonso's delay, while Garcia and Fox, the two Sky Knights, were even more embarrassed. It was indeed a bit awkward and disheartening for a landlord not to inquire about his followers.

Moreover, information from the Steel Ridge Kingdom had already been conveyed to Tulip Castle; when Liszt led his men to capture Trapped Dragon Mountain, Alonso Xiankelai was at the remote northern border of the Eagle Kingdom, confronting the Dragon Knights of the Steel Ridge Kingdom, but no direct conflict had occurred.

About a week after Trapped Dragon Mountain was captured, Alonso still appeared on a battlefield, which was about a month ago from now.

"Does that mean Alonso might not have returned to Impact River Plain?"

"That's what father thinks too; it's possible that the news about the Trapped Dragon Mountain Iron Mine hadn't spread at all, so Alonso had no clue whatsoever and thus made no move." The one who answered was Levis, who had personally brought this message and took the opportunity to consult Liszt on some cultivation issues.



Levis was six years older than Liszt, twenty-four years old this year, and just one step away from becoming a Sky Knight.

With "The Earth Chronicle of Liszt" as a reference for cultivation, his progress towards becoming a Sky Knight was smooth, and he should be able to make the transition next year.

The scene of three Sky Knights from one family was about to become a reality.

"Forget it, whether Alonso pays the ransom or not... Brother, when can the family fleet return home?"

"It should be soon, after unloading the iron ore they'll go straight to buying serfs and grain for you. We've also rented about half of the number of ships from our maternal grandfather's family fleet, and a third from my father-in-law's family fleet. A total of eight hundred merchant ships are engaged in the serf trade, which should be enough to meet your needs in one trip."

Liszt's military achievements this time were too substantial, so he spent lavishly, directly purchasing ten thousand tons of grain and forty thousand serfs.

As long as the grain supply could be met, his demand for serfs was unlimited.

After all, it wouldn't be easy to acquire a large number of serfs after the establishment of the kingdom; the serfs of the Duchy of Sapphire were obtained through trade over time. Many serfs' bloodlines were either from the Eagle Kingdom or the Steel Ridge Kingdom and only after several generations overseas did they completely bear the Sapphire label.

He must stock up enough population for his future nation.

Not only did he need to accumulate population, but the Tulip Family also needed to—the Earl was about to be promoted to the Marquis of Bull Tail, with his fiefdom expanding more than tenfold. Without serfs, how could it be developed? Fortunately, there were still many serfs cultivating in the Marquis of Bull Tail's land, and by paying Gold Coins to the Grand Duke, he could acquire these serfs.

After taking a sip of tea.

Liszt expressed his hope, "I hope the fleet arrives soon, the Domain Elves are growing in number, but there aren't enough serfs to cultivate the land!"

"Cough cough..."

Levis, who had been pretending to taste the tea, heard what Liszt said just as the trend of tea tasting was slowly catching on among the nobles of Coral Island. The tea went down the wrong way, and he nearly didn't catch his breath, struggling mightily to suppress the coughing fit.

Liszt looked at him in surprise, "What's the matter?"

Levis hastily waved his hand, "Nothing; it's just that I don't like the bitter taste of tea. I prefer sweets, desserts, and all things sweet."

"I thought you had already accepted tea; had I known, I would have asked the servant to bring you milk tea instead."

"Now that everyone has started drinking tea, not doing so seems a bit out of place." Levis didn't want to dwell on this topic, "By the way, before I left, father asked me to ask you about when you will be able to put together the Sky Manual. He's about to go to Blue Dragon Island to attend the knighthood promotion ceremony and hopes to take the manual with him to Blue Dragon Island."

Previously, Liszt had compiled "The Earth Chronicle of Liszt," which had become an heirloom of the Tulip Family.

Afterward, when he chatted with the Earl, he mentioned that he had achieved Perfection in Dou Qi and planned to write a book called "The Sky Chronicle of Liszt" to record the scientific cultivation methods of Sky Knights—even though his own cultivation process as a Sky Knight was not scientific at all, as he had been relying on dragons to cheat.

That didn't prevent him from summarizing the method of achieving Perfection in Dou Qi.

He had already promised to send the "The Sky Chronicle of Liszt" to the Earl as soon as it was finished, to help him strive for the Completion Level of a Sky Knight.

"It's a pity."

Shaking his head, he said at that moment, "I have been quite busy recently, so I have not continued the creation of the Sky Manual. Tell my father not to be anxious; by the time he returns as a Marquis, I should probably have finished the manual." With so many books he needed to write, he really didn't have the time to start.

He felt a little guilty for not meeting the Earl's eager expectations.

He added, "However, I noticed that my father's mount doesn't come from a superior bloodline, so I've decided to gift him a Black Blood Treasured Horse from among the fine breeds I have raised. Bring the Black Blood Treasured Horse to my father when you return." By now, there was no need to keep Black Blood Treasured Horses a strict secret anymore.

It was only necessary to ensure that the bloodline of the Black Blood Treasured Horses was not spread outside, just as the Sapphire Family strictly kept the bloodline of the Blue Blood Treasure Horse to themselves—the Earl was well aware of Liszt's status and wouldn't use the Black Blood Treasured Horse for breeding, but merely to maintain a certain level of splendor, considering his own Magical Beast breed of Panther Horse was truly shabby.

"Black Blood Treasured Horse, are those the magnificent black steeds?" Levis's eyes glistened, "Liszt, my dear brother, could you also send one to me?"

Liszt smiled faintly.

And at once, Levis wore a radiant smile.

The next moment, however, Liszt said, "That won't be possible."

"Ah?"

"The Black Blood Treasured Horses are for breeding the herd; you'll have to put that thought aside for now. In the future, when the herd has grown, I'll send you as many as you want," he explained.

"Alright then," Levis had no choice but to accept reluctantly.

Now, once Liszt made a decision, it became an iron law that no one could oppose.

Looking at his brother Levis's languishing expression, Liszt simply ignored him, "By the way, how is the Temperature Calming Pearl I sent as a supplementary birthday gift working out?" After returning from the Pioneer Mandate, he had directly given out three Temperature Calming Pearls, one each to the Earl, Levis, and their grandmother.

"It's working wonderfully; it's not hot during the day nor cold at night, and we no longer have to worry about Richard getting cold at night."

"That's good to hear. It's getting late; do you plan on staying here overnight?" he asked.

"I need to head straight back."

"Then you should hurry up and take the Black Blood Treasured Horse back with you; otherwise, you won't make it to Tulip Castle before nightfall." Since he had little else to talk about with Levis, Liszt simply urged him to return, "I also have some urgent estate matters to attend to, so I can't keep chatting with you."

Just moments earlier, Butler Carter had reported to him that the key cows being cared for at the Banpo Cattle Farm had begun to give birth.

The offspring were not ordinary calves but Banpo Cattle—true Dragon Breed Cows!

The mixed-breed piglets from the Estuary Pig breeding program were already fit for the dining table, while the Banpo Cattle would take another year or two to produce real Dragon Breed Milk.

Black Blood Treasured Horses, Estuary Pigs, Banpo Cattle.

These were the livestock industries that needed focused management and had absorbed much of his dedication.

#### Chapter 670 Testing the Ice-Sealed Sword

It was said to be an inspection of the Banpo Cattle Farm, yet there wasn't much to inspect; the cows birthing calves were very healthy, as were the calves themselves.

Liszt personally fed the cows a few bundles of hay as a form of solace.

Afterward, he asked someone to slaughter a mixed-breed Estuary Piglet from the Estuary Pig Farm, as he wanted to eat roast suckling pig at dinner.

Standing on the slope of the Black Horse Ranch, looking out at the group of Black Blood Treasure Horses in the distance, Lightning nestled up beside him. He had rarely ridden this King of Black Blood Treasure Horses; most of the time, Lightning leisurely behaved as its own lord, mating with whichever horse it desired.

The herd had birthed many foals, and with herders taking care of these foals, not a single one perished—the population was slowly expanding.

Even larger was the herd of mixed-breed horses, with foal after foal falling to the ground, now numbering in the hundreds. Once these foals grew up, they would be able to arm the Black Horse Island Knights Order. Although their dragon bloodline was thin, they could still be called Dragon Breed Horses and were more robust than Magical Beast horses.

"It's a pity that the Formless Dragon only visits my territory about once a year. Otherwise, if it visited a few more times, I probably wouldn't be short of Dragon Breed Beasts," he lamented.

The reason dragons could infect creatures with dragon lineage was due to the influence of their bloodline magic power.

According to the Dragon Rearing Manual written by the Marquis of Bull, this magic power might originate from the boiling of blood. When dragons are extremely excited, their blood boils rapidly, releasing infectious magic power from their bloodline, which then infects the surrounding creatures, resulting in dragon lineage beings.

But to excite a dragon to the extent that both its mind and body reach that climax-like state is very difficult.

The excitement point of a Formless Dragon is Smoked Grass. A feast of Smoked Grass could make it uncontrollably excited and thereby release bloodline magic power to infect creatures like the Banpo Cattle and Estuary Pigs. It also happens to produce Space Gems. Up until now, Liszt has obtained four Space Gems from the Formless Dragon.

Perhaps due to its youth or its restraint, the Formless Dragon only visits once a year. Even with the attraction of Smoked Grass, it has only come twice in total.

If it frequented more often, not to mention Dragon Breed Beasts, even Space Gems could be wholesaled.

Of course.

In his own "Liszt's Dragon Taming Manual," he speculated that the infectious magic power of dragon bloodlines probably couldn't be released at any time and required a long time to accumulate. Therefore, it's not common for dragons to get excited; once a year is likely a normal frequency. Getting excited too often might harm them.

Besides, if it doesn't hit the exact point of excitement, a dragon might never get excited in its lifetime.

After becoming a dragon rider, Liszt also attempted to understand Leo's excitement needs through mental and emotional harmony. However, Leo did not grasp this concept. Whether it was Smoked Grass, grilled steak, or even being thrown into a volcano crater, nothing could make it joyous, make it laugh, or excite it.

Its excitement point wasn't any of these.

Thus, Leo had never released the power of bloodline infection since its birth.

It might take a long time to figure out how to excite it—referring to the Sapphire Family, aside from the Blue Blood Treasure Horse, there was no mention of breeding Dragon Breed Beasts. It can be inferred that even after more than one hundred and fifty years of exploration, they have never grasped the excitement point of the Sapphire Dragon.

As for Dragon Beasts, they are even rarer. Apart from Liszt, who has two Low-Level Dragon Beasts (the Landwalker Bird has evolved), it's uncertain if anyone else in the Duchy of Sapphire owns another Dragon Beast.

And as for higher-level Sub-dragons (Super Dragonkin Magical Beasts)—apart from the barely evidence of the Phoenix Feather, there is no other proof that they truly exist.

"I wonder if it's possible to artificially simulate a dragon's excitement point to make dragons excited and thus release the infectious power of their bloodline... Maybe this could also be considered a form of training, simply called 'Dragon Blood Infection.' Heh," Liszt idly thought.

Although he knew this couldn't be considered a real training method, he still called out for the Smoke Mission.

Sure enough, the Smoke Mission remained unchanged, still maintaining the same task as before—low-key exploration of the next method of cultivation.

"Hopefully, Ach can verify the resonance theory soon," he hoped.

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After leaving Black Horse Ranch, Liszt rode Lightning to the construction site of Thorn Castle. The foundation of the castle had been poured, and the first layer had started to be laid. With rubber water as the setting material, the construction was effortless, but the detail work was labor-intensive.

The chief commander of the construction project, Jomaya Bangtu, was aware of whom he was building the castle for.

He was personally involved in every step and ensured that the quality met the highest standards—in fact, Liszt had thought about asking him to cut corners, since it was

unknown who the Thorn Castle might be sold to in a few years. But in the end, he didn't speak up; after all, this castle would be his home for the next few years.

Even if he left the Duchy of Sapphire to found a country overseas, this castle would still be the best place to admire his achievements.

The Apple Minor Elf's cordyceps had already been settled in the planned Apple Wonderland; now, many serfs were planting seedlings for the autumn. In two years, this apple orchard would be lush and thriving.

"Thomas, have someone fetch a few fresh well fish for the kitchen, I want to have fish soup for the banquet," Liszt instructed.

"Yes, my lord."

"Also, tell the kitchen to scramble a mix of green-headed duck and flamingo eggs with some Golden Cordyceps." Golden Cordyceps was a type of abandoned cordyceps. Since the trade of Flame Mushrooms began, the production of Golden Cordyceps had been climbing and thriving.

The personal servant Thomas replied, "Yes, my lord."

Green-headed ducks were Water Attribute magical beasts, and flamingoes were Fire Attribute magical beasts. Combined with the Earth Attribute Golden Cordyceps, frying them together produced a unique taste.

Having ordered his dinner, there was still some time until the banquet began.

He thought for a moment and decided to visit the Mage Tower to check on the progress of the magic plants. However, on his way through the Knight's Square, an excited Alvin Eagle Sword approached him: "My lord!"

"What is it?"

"I have fully mastered the Ice Seal skill of the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword!"



"Oh?" Liszt was immediately delighted. Most of the time, the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword was being studied by Alvin for its skills, "Is that so? Come, tell me about it in detail."

As the only Iron Knight in the territory, Alvin had a private office, workshop, and residence at the Knight Academy. He was also not one to stay idle for long and had already cohabited with a young lady, with a wedding date set to start a family.

Of course, Liszt was pleased about this development.

Holding the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword in hand, he patiently listened to Alvin's relentless explanations.

"My lord, you have already properly integrated the Ice Rotation skill, freely converting Fire Attribute Dou Qi into Ice Attribute Dou Qi, which is a prerequisite for the Ice Seal skill. Next, you only need to switch the operating frequency of the Dou Qi to activate the Ice Seal skill—the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword can amplify the operating frequency of the Dou Qi, thereby blocking the Dou Qi resonance of the Dou Qi Domain."

It seemed like a complex operation, but the principle was simple.

The Dou Qi Domain is a form of Dou Qi resonance, it may require precise and complex operations, but the principle remains that Dou Qi resonance forms a domain.

The Ice Seal skill of the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword also had a complex set of operations, but its principle was to use the frequency of released Dou Qi to interfere with the Dou Qi Domain and then use the Ice Attribute Dou Qi to disturb the resonance, achieving the effect of sealing.

With Alvin's guidance.

Liszt quickly mastered the method of executing the Ice Seal skill. With the longsword in hand and the Dou Qi in motion, a clear blue broadsword emitted a buzzing sound. Ring after ring of bone-chilling Dou Qi radiated from the blade and swiftly spread out like waves over the surrounding area.

There was a bit of commotion, indeed causing the air around to drop several degrees.

But the effectiveness was hard to determine.

There was no Domain Knight here to test his sword on, so after executing the Ice Seal skill a few times, he sheathed the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword, thinking to himself, "Sooner or later, I'll have to take part in the Pioneer Mandate; then, when I go to seize Marquis Nuta's Dou Qi Domain Manual, it will be the perfect opportunity to test the sword on him."