

The Mighty 671

Chapter 671: Yu Chou's Protection

Having thoroughly researched the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword, Liszt could hang it on his waist every day, but the blade without a scabbard seemed somewhat awkward.

Therefore, the next task for Alvin Eagle Sword was to craft a sheath for the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword.

Playing with the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword, Liszt suddenly remembered the huge harpoon he had brought back from the Fish Ugly Temple. He had not yet studied the Necrofish Ugly within it. He immediately left the Knight Academy and found an open area by the seaside, from where he took out the harpoon from the Gemstone Space.

The more than five-meter-long harpoon was directly inserted into the sandy mud by the seaside.

Next, Liszt took out the Soul Storage Vessel and tipped it upside down like a teapot, and instantly a stream of glowing smoke poured out, which then formed into the figure of a 36D young woman.

It was Virginia Truth, Curtis Truth's sister.

"Ah, I'm out again, Viscount Liszt, I feel like it has been a long time since we last met," Virginia had grown accustomed to living as a soul.

Liszt smiled and said, "It has been quite a while."

As his strength continued to grow and more magicians joined his territory, his research capabilities steadily increased. However, the role that Virginia, a common magician, could play had become increasingly minor. He had grown reluctant to release her often and even planned to hand her and the Soul Storage Vessel over to Ach for research.

Today, he summoned her with the goal of consulting her on how to summon the Necrofish Ugly from the harpoon and turn it into a weapon to guard him.

He was not particularly interested in the meager combat power of the Necrofish Ugly, but after all, it could cast advanced magic and was considered Grand Magician level. If he could fix it to his flagship, the Sunset, it could provide a significant defense while sailing the open sea.

If they encountered a sea monster or pirates, striking unexpectedly might prove to be exceptionally effective.

“Virginia, you have grown accustomed to being a soul, can you sense that there is also a powerful soul hidden within this harpoon?”

Virginia floated toward the harpoon, and her soul passed through it, then exclaimed in surprise, “I feel a cold breath of death, but the soul power wrapped within is very weak, Viscount Liszt, can you tell me the origin of this harpoon?”

“It comes from the ancient relic, the Fish Ugly Temple. There is a Necrofish Ugly hidden inside this harpoon; it guarded the Fish Ugly Temple but was killed by me. I feel it is hiding inside the harpoon, so I wanted to release it to see if I could subdue it and have it protect the safety of my ships.”

“A Necrofish Ugly? Perhaps I can activate it.”

“That would be appreciated.”

“Are you sure you want to activate it here? It might still try to attack you.”

“Don’t worry, if I could annihilate it once, I could do it twice,” Liszt said with a slight smile. Although last time, it wasn’t he who had acted, but killing the Necrofish Ugly on land was a piece of cake for him.

Virginia spoke no further.

Her soul directly touched the harpoon, and her body flickered with light. The next moment, the same light shone on the harpoon. Then, a twisted green light was projected from the harpoon, which transformed into the towering image of the Necrofish Ugly, ten meters tall. However, compared to its ferocity when first seen, this time the Necrofish Ugly appeared clearly dull.

“Is this... due to not adapting to the land environment?”

“I don’t think so,” Virginia floated next to the Necrofish Ugly, looking like a tiny dot, “Viscount Liszt, I think it’s because you inflicted heavy damage on its soul when you first killed it, causing it now to be soul-damaged and thus devoid of basic consciousness.”

“So, this Necrofish Ugly is now useless?”

“Yes.”

“What a pity for such a grand harpoon; now that the Necrofish Ugly has become dull, it seems nobody can use it anymore,” Liszt shook his head slightly and then said, “Virginia, I’m getting ready to attend a banquet now, please return to the Soul Storage Vessel for now, and we can chat again when I’m free.”

However, Virginia didn’t move, but appeared somewhat hesitant and undecided.

Liszt frowned at her.

She finally seemed to make a decision, “Viscount Liszt, if you wish to command the Necrofish Ugly and this spear, perhaps I can offer some assistance.”

“What kind of assistance?”

“I can replace the soul of the Necrofish Ugly with my own. In the mass of the Necrofish Ugly’s soul-shadow, only the core is the soul, the periphery is some kind of power I am unfamiliar with. Once I take the place of the core soul, I will be able to control the entire Necrofish Ugly.”

Liszt was somewhat surprised but then he said, “If I am not mistaken, the undead are different from souls. The undead include the power from before death, which is transformed into the state of a soul, but the soul itself is not strong. As you have seen, the soul of the Necrofish Ugly has been destroyed, but its power from before death still exists.”

“I understand,” she said.

“So, are you truly willing to replace the soul of the Necrofish Ugly and become such an ugly undead monster?”

Virginia nodded earnestly, “Compared to staying in the Soul Storage Vessel, asleep and unaware of the passing of time, I prefer to have some measure of freedom. The Necrofish Ugly is indeed very ugly, but for someone in my state as a soul, ugly and beauty mean nothing. Viscount Liszt, please let me take the place of the Necrofish Ugly as its guardian!”

A 36D young woman’s soul was about to become the soul of a ten-meter-tall Necrofish Ugly.

It might be a sudden shift in style, but Liszt had no reason to stop her. Rather than confine her to the Soul Storage Vessel, he preferred to grant her the limited freedom of the Necrofish Ugly’s form, “Then, I agree.”

“I am very grateful for Viscount Liszt’s generosity!” Virginia bowed solemnly, and thence, her form determinedly flew towards the tall, foolish-looking Necrofish Ugly.

She plunged into the green light and quickly found the shattered soul, merging with it swiftly.

The next second.

The shadowy body of the Necrofish Ugly shuddered.

Afterward, the light seemed to slightly change. The originally ugly and fierce face of the Necrofish Ugly actually underwent some transformation, gaining an expression resembling that of Virginia’s.

A quarter-hour of silence passed.

The Necrofish Ugly slowly began to speak, “Li...szt... intuition...”

The words were muffled and Liszt couldn’t make them out clearly, but after the Necrofish Ugly adjusted itself, its speech became more distinct, “Viscount Liszt, I have replaced the soul of the Necrofish Ugly.”

“How does it feel?”

“It’s tolerable. I can feel a sense of physical touch that I haven’t felt for a long time,” she said, stretching out her hand to pick up the spear stuck in the ground, “I’ve merged with the fragmented memories of the Necrofish Ugly. Most of it seems blank, with just a few spells left to cast.”

Liszt became interested upon hearing this, “How is it different from a human’s spellcasting?”

“It is somewhat different, but the basic principle remains the same, especially since these spells seem to be advanced magic. I’ve never experienced such a manner of spellcasting before... No, I need some time to adjust before I can cast these spells.” Virginia had only been a common magician in her life, never having experienced dynamic magic arrays, and thus incapable of casting advanced magic.

“You have ample time to adjust. Meanwhile, record the spellcasting procedures. However, can you exist in this state indefinitely?”

“Seems not, my soul is decaying. In another half-hour, I probably won’t be able to sustain the body of the Necrofish Ugly. However, I can enter the spear to replenish my soul’s energy. After gathering enough, I can come out again... By the way, Viscount Liszt, the name of this spear is Tear Staff.”

Even though it is a five-pronged spear, it’s called the Tear Staff.

Chapter 672: Solving the Difficult Problem

Liszt stowed the Tear Staff into the Gemstone Space, and interestingly enough, Virginia was still able to restore her soul power within the Tear Staff as if unaffected by the stillness of the Gemstone Space.

This led Liszt to feel that the stillness within the Gemstone Space was probably a suspension of all things on the material level.

As for the non-material level, or rather, the spiritual dimension, it did not seem to be effective — living things upon entering the Gemstone Space would inevitably face the dissipation of their souls, probably due to the lack of a suitable vessel to contain them. But once there was a vessel like the Soul Storage Vessel or Tear Staff, they could survive.

Perhaps when the day came for him to ride a Formless Dragon, he would be able to thoroughly comprehend the magical properties of the Formless Dragon's magic power.

The banquet.

Relishing the taste of roasted suckling pig, purebred Estuary Pigs were yet to be sampled and for now, it was only the mixed breed Estuary Pigs, but the flavor already surpassed that of ordinary pigs by several multiples. With a delicate texture and rich flavor, the simple seasoning concocted a savory taste that complemented the moderate fat content of the Estuary suckling pig's meat.

Just the smell could make one's mouth water profusely, let alone the taste upon reaching one's mouth.

Accompanied by fish soup from wellfish, stir-fried eggs from Green-headed Ducks and Flamingos, and a variety of other rich ingredients, the meal truly whetted Liszt's appetite.

The value of the food consumed in one sitting was probably higher than the annual expenses of an average commoner.

Such was the luxurious life of a noble, the stronger the Knight the richer the food required, as after all, Dou Qi originated from within the Knight himself and was not drawn from the ambient magic power or the Magic Web. However, compared to other Noble Landlords

who relied on exploiting the commoners for survival, Liszt mainly depended on doing business and the Pioneer Mandate.

The glass business was already booming across Sapphire and spreading to the Steel Ridge Kingdom.

Fresh Flower Brew and Fresh Flower Soap were gradually expanding their sales territory, raking in a fortune daily.

Once the future paper was qualified, it was sure to set off a new sales frenzy, by which time he probably could amass wealth to rival nations with just glass and paper — as a Dragon Knight, he already had enough power to ensure a technological monopoly, which naturally brought exorbitant profits as a monopolistic business.

“Such a life is truly not a waste of a transmigration.”

After the banquet, enjoying several pastries made from Banpo Cattle milk as dessert, Liszt felt undeniably proud of himself.

People have different aspirations, some favor starting revolutions and striving for a world of great unity.

However, he held no such lofty interests; to protect the happiness of the people in his domain and then enjoy life and explore the world was his greatest pleasure.

“The previous small goal of dragon riding has been achieved, now I shall set another small goal — to establish a kingdom within ten years, and become a truly independent and unrestrained grand Landlord!”

Having a goal.

Made him feel an unlimited drive, with a better life beckoning, “As for long-term goals, that would be to contract with an Immortal Dragon, becoming a Dragon Domain Landlord and sharing its longevity. I don’t ask for much, just to live a few hundred or a thousand years more, and I guess my life would be thoroughly satisfied.”

In the past, he thought a hundred years was sufficient, why yearn for immortality?

But now he believes otherwise, too little of such a beautiful life is enjoyed in just a hundred years. He wouldn't want to see Ach reach adulthood only to find himself with wrinkles on his forehead.

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The following day, Liszt continued his seclusion, delving into research and cultivation with Ach.

As Ach was verifying the resonance principles of the Magic Web and encountered a few unsolvable problems requiring assistance, Liszt asked her to write them down, then hurriedly took the problems to the Mage Tower to find Chris Truth for solutions — with four Grand Magicians, eight Vampires, and several Common Magicians, their assembly was indeed luxurious.

No matter how clever Ach was, her knowledge reservoir was still too limited, with almost no contact with humans. Everything she knew about the magical world came from the Magic Books Liszt found for her, naturally in many aspects, she couldn't compare to human Magicians who had traveled far and wide.

Chris received the thick leather-bound notebook and said, "Viscount, I'll arrange for the Grand Magicians to lead their teams to tackle these problems right away."

"Very well, resolve these issues as soon as possible; I urgently need answers."

Liszt simply stayed in the Mage Tower, waiting for the magicians to solve the problems.

However, what he did not expect was that when Chris sought out the three Grand Magicians with the problems, they all responded: "Sorry, no time!"

This was not the attitude of captives.

Liszt immediately asked, "Chris, what are they busy with?"

“They have recently been so engrossed in natural magic that they cannot extricate themselves, spending all their time with those magic plants, even discussing collaborative research into druid transformation magic with Mary and the others,” Chris said helplessly. Once magicians become obsessed with a certain research, their stubbornness is quite terrifying.

Liszt went directly to the three Grand Magicians and said sternly, “I don’t care how much you like natural magic; now, solve these problems for me. If you do, you can continue your research into natural magic. If not, all magic plants and materials will be confiscated!”

“Viscount, our research will be epoch-making; you should not underestimate natural magic so lightly!”

“Yes, once we unlock the secrets of magic plant growth, the world will never lack for grain again! This research has great strategic value; you should fully support us!”

“Druid transformation magic is also a powerful force in combat, even capable of overcoming the disadvantage that magicians can’t take to the battlefield!”

Liszt’s face was expressionless: “First, resolve my problems, then you can study natural magic!”

“For truth, we refuse!”

“If truth can’t be explained for even a moment, we won’t work for you for even a moment!”

“You can detain our bodies, but you can’t imprison the souls that yearn for truth!”

The three Grand Magicians were stubborn as mules, unmoved by Liszt’s threats, unless he used force.

But he was not a man who advocated violence.

He believed more in his own personal charm: “What if I say, in my territory, there exists a descendant of the Child of the Sun; would you be willing to solve these difficulties for me then?”

“Ah?”

“A descendant of the Child of the Sun?”

“The true caster of druid transformation magic?”

The three Grand Magicians immediately put away their shameless demeanor and said with lifted spirits, “Viscount, please tell us where the descendant of the Child of the Sun is; you must understand his importance surpasses everything in the territory!”

Liszt glanced at Chris, then turned to look at the three Grand Magicians: “Solve the problems, and I will bring him to cooperate with your research... Let’s agree beforehand, everything is to be voluntary, no forcing the other party, and no inhumane treatment allowed.”

After all, Old Phil was of an advanced age and could not withstand too much disturbance.

Cooperating by drawing a little blood might be acceptable, but being treated as a guinea pig was clearly inappropriate. Although a landlord had the full authority of life and death over his subjects, Liszt’s morals did not allow him to harm ordinary people who were just trying to live their lives.

After saying these words,

he turned and walked away.

Seeing this, the three Grand Magicians looked at each other and immediately said in unison: “Your Excellency Chris, we are tight on time; let’s hurry and tackle these difficult questions!”

Chapter 673: Clearing the Port

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The three Grand Magicians, in order to obtain Old Phil, a descendant of the Sun, had no choice but to devote themselves to researching the complex problems posed by Ach, with Chris coordinating the overall situation, making the magic research team still very important.

Human resources are finite, and even if Ach were to become an Archmage in the future, she would still need a group of magicians to help her complete various detailed experiments.

In the following three days, apart from practicing, Liszt didn't have much else to do.

He simply contracted the peanut bugs he had nurtured, and along with the oat bugs he'd contracted a few days before, he now possessed 64 elf bugs.

“I always feel that the number of elf bugs being born in my territory can't keep up with my expansion pace, not having that feeling of a new elf bug being born every few days... Could it be that the Power of Destiny from the Smoke Dragon is getting too involved with dragon riding, resulting in a weakening of influence?”

In fact, the birth rate of the elf bugs on Black Horse Island wasn't slow at all—most of the plants were in their first or second cycle of planting and might not yet be adapted to the local soil.

But Liszt felt it was slow, feeling uncomfortable if he didn't find a new elf bug every day.

This goes to show that it is easy to go from frugality to extravagance, but difficult to revert from extravagance to frugality.

Although he hadn't found many elf bugs, he had picked up plenty of pearls. He pried open several golden-lipped clams near Rocky Island, harvesting four sizeable golden pearls; and unexpectedly encountered a few deep-sea Tridacna near Coral Reef's Pearl Lake, from which he obtained a satisfactory batch of black pearls.

He also slaughtered two Fen Hai Luo because he wanted to eat them, not expecting to also find a pink pearl.

Both golden and pink pearls are very rare, so he kept them all for his own use. He kept the larger black pearls for himself as well, while the smaller ones were handed over to Loria to manage the external sales. They agreed on a profit split of thirty to seventy, with Loria taking thirty percent and Liszt seventy percent.

It wasn't Liszt who proposed a larger share, but Loria who volunteered to take less.

Liszt greatly appreciated this gesture—in contrast to the greedy Levis, Loria seemed to understand the art of giving and taking better. Although the profit from black pearls was no longer significant to him, this gesture made him feel comfortable, because it represented respect for his strength.

After all, what was the hard work of becoming a Dragon Knight for if not for status and power?

“Levis has married a good wife. Although his talents are mediocre, and he is still an Elite Earth Knight, he can also be considered a winner in life... Soon, my father will be promoted to Marquis, and he will eventually inherit the title. His wife is of a noble lineage and understands the ways of the world; his son is healthy and lovely, and to top it all off, his brother is a Dragon Knight!”

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October 11th.

The sky was drizzling lightly, and from the morning on, Black Horse Port became bustling with activity. Countless ships waited to dock, but the port was not large enough to handle the throughput, and officials like Goltai had to organize a fleet of vessels to head for another new harbor on Black Horse Island.

These ships belonged to the Tulip Family's convoy transporting serfs and food, totaling more than five hundred vessels.

Two hundred of those were slave ships, each carrying two hundred serfs, totaling forty thousand serfs. With this, the number of subjects within the Black Horse Island Domain would exceed one hundred thousand.

The remaining three hundred were grain ships, each transporting fifty tons of grain, for a total of fifteen thousand tons. This grain, along with the produce from the domain and purchases from nearby islands, would be enough to maintain a normal food supply for Black Horse Island for a year.

Liszt's flagship, Sunset, also returned.

After several voyages, the Sky Ship, which had been patched up time and time again, hadn't shown any signs of damage, and the combination of rubber water with rockwood and Thorn Ironwood for repairs worked very well. However, once docked, Sunset immediately went to the dock for another round of repairs and renovation.

One upgrade was the refurbishment of the cabins, equipping some comfortable rooms for Liszt's entourage.

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One who was equipped with the Tear Staff, and who would henceforth become Virginia Truth, the Necrofish Ugly, had chosen the Sunset as her new home, sailing the waves and guarding the voyage. Liszt no longer kept the Tear Staff in the Gemstone Space, but fully granted Virginia the freedom she desired.

Another matter was that the Sunset needed a new paint job; as a flagship of the Dragon Knight, it must exude luxury amidst its subtlety.

“Viscount, I feel like I can do more,” Virginia, the newly transformed Necrofish Ugly standing by the sea, looked at her ethereal hands, “The undead and soul entities are quite different. I just need to focus my thoughts, and I can make my hands touch solid objects.”

With that said, she casually lifted a giant boulder by the seaside that weighed about a ton: “The Necrofish Ugly's strength was very powerful in life, and objects weighing several tons cannot stop me.”

Liszt, seeing this, was instantly impressed.

Without a doubt, a Necrofish Ugly capable of grasping solid matter is equivalent to a giant serf, adept at heavy-duty work that humans cannot manage.

“Indeed, there is much you are now capable of doing, and most crucially, the Necrofish Ugly can move freely underwater. Virginia, the harbors of Black Horse Port and New Harbor are both too shallow. I wonder if you can help me clear the rocks and silt from the sea bed to increase the ports’ depths?”

“I am at your service, Viscount,” Virginia, naturally calm and grateful for her freedom, thanked Liszt. She had changed her address from “Viscount Liszt” to “Lord Viscount,” the difference in title reflecting a difference in attitude—she saw herself as a subordinate.

Liszt was increasingly pleased with the Necrofish Ugly.

But he soon sighed, “Unfortunately, you can only animate the Necrofish Ugly for half an hour... Resting for a day, you can come out for only half an hour, which severely limits the effectiveness of this Necrofish Ugly body.”

Virginia’s eyes also dimmed for a moment.

However, she quickly regained her spirits: “To see the light for half an hour every day is already a great happiness.”

Liszt, infected by her optimistic spirit, couldn’t help but smile and say, “I will organize the magicians of the domain to research how to extend the undead’s existence time. Perhaps one day you will be able to act freely for half the time and spend the rest sleeping within the Tear Staff.”

Virginia joyfully responded, “Thank you, Viscount.”

“Don’t mention it,” Liszt waved his hand nonchalantly. In fact, the purpose of his proposal was twofold: firstly, to thank Virginia for organizing the Necrofish Ugly’s magic casting plans a few days ago; and secondly, because the longer the Necrofish Ugly existed, the longer it could work.

A ten-meter-tall laborer of immense strength, and especially one that could work underwater, was not easy to come by.

Perhaps with the power of the Necrofish Ugly alone, he could build a castle underwater—the Fish Ugly Temple is clearly a construction of the Necrofish Ugly race.

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And so.

In the following days, workers and sailors at Black Horse Port often saw the harbor become cloudy with bubbles during a certain half-hour period. Mud also rolled in, tainting much of the harbor yellow—having been warned beforehand by officials, they were not too startled.

But exclamations of amazement were inevitable, followed by various slogans praising “Lord Landlord” and “the glory bestowed upon knights.”

The commotion was undoubtedly caused by Virginia working underwater at the port.

She cleared away rocks and mud, converting the harbor into a deep-water port suitable for the largest ships, at least ten meters deep, and capable of accommodating an ever-increasing number of docked vessels as it continued to expand.

“Such efficiency, it’s only been a few days, and Black Horse Port has completely transformed!” Liszt, riding the Rainbow Whale Rose, was inspecting the progress of the port improvements underwater, and he couldn’t help but admire, “If we could catch a few more Necrofish Ugly to serve as laborers, no underwater construction would be too challenging!”

Chapter 674: The Tenacity of a Petty Person

Unfortunately, the Yu Chou race had declined for unknown reasons, probably around the same era as the decline of the Moon Empire, as did magicians.

The cause of the decline remains unknown, but following that, knights rose in response and beneficiaries included Liszt.

If it were still the era of the magician's rule under the Moon Empire, Liszt might not have enjoyed such freedom even as a Dragon Knight.

Suppressing the destiny of a nation.

Having just finished cleaning up Black Horse Port, Liszt received good news. Under Chris's overall command, the magicians at the Magic Academy had smoothly solved Ach's problem—it was only a “problem” for someone like Ach, a theoretical magician with knowledge but no practical experience.

The three Grand Magicians, with their extensive experience, quickly provided constructive suggestions and then solved it all at once.

Liszt quickly sent the solutions back to Tulip Castle by the seaside in Fresh Flower Town and handed them to Ach, “Ach, these problems are solved. How long until the verification of the resonance theory is complete?”

“Big brother, let me check these answers first.”

Moments later, after reviewing the answers and scribbling on thick paper, Ach raised his head and gave a confident answer, “Without any unexpected issues, in about four or five days, Ach can crack the resonance theory and figure out the Dragon Knights' resonance cultivation method, big brother.”

“Great, I'm eagerly looking forward to it!”

Leaving Tulip Castle by the sea, Liszt found Old Phil at the Tanners' Shop and promised him a hefty sum to get Old Phil to agree to go to the Magic Academy to cooperate with the Grand Magicians on a minor experiment. To ensure that the Grand Magicians would not treat Old Phil like a lab rat, Liszt personally followed.

He would not allow the Grand Magicians to engage in live human experimentation at this stage.

Any research that violated human ethics would be strictly halted by him at this stage—before turning the magicians into research scholars, it was essential to cultivate their respect for law and order.

When he brought Old Phil to the Magic Academy, the three Grand Magicians were dumbfounded, “Viscount, you mean the descendant of the Sun is him, an old man?”

“What do you think?”

“Viscount, the old man is of no use. Better to have his descendants come and cooperate with the research.”

Old Phil took the initiative to say, “Your Excellency the Magician, Old Phil has no offspring, I’m sorry to disappoint you.”

“You have no offspring? Why didn’t you get married!”

“Old Phil was too poor to marry before, and only got married recently, but I’m afraid Old Phil is no longer able to have offspring.” Old Phil had already married the widow, and despite being together for a long time, there was still no movement in the widow’s belly—since the widow had been pregnant before, it was likely that Old Phil was the one who was no longer functional.

The Grand Magician Lars asked bluntly, “You’re impotent?”

Old Phil gave a sheepish smile, “Ah, Your Excellency the Magician, I just can’t impregnate my wife, that’s all.”

“That’s easy. Have Cyrille prepare a potion that increases the vitality of your ‘little swimmers’, go home and try harder to have offspring... But first, come cooperate with us for some blood draws!”

The speaker was unintentional, but the listener was intentional.

Liszt chose a quiet room and sent for Grand Magician Cyrille, asking him, “Can you prepare a potion that causes pregnancy?”

“Viscount, there might be a bit of a misunderstanding. I can’t prepare a potion for pregnancy, but I can make one that boosts the vitality of ‘little swimmers’ for elderly males. This potion can significantly increase the vitality of those ‘little swimmers’, even though it does not include the power of virility.”

The meaning was simple: his potion could enhance the vitality of sperm.

Of course, the humans here did not know that the substance wrapped in the essence was sperm. Ordinary people might understand nothing, only knowing that a man and a woman could conceive by joining together. However, some magicians who had studied such content believed that within the male essence was a tiny “little man.”

After the act of love, the little man would run into the woman’s belly, and the woman’s menstrual blood would gradually nourish this little man into a baby.

Cyrille was a proponent of this theory: “I was once a magician serving an elderly noble, whose son died on the battlefield with no one to inherit the title. To prevent the family lineage from dying out, he entrusted me to research a potion that would enhance the vitality of the little man, and I was ultimately successful in helping a new son be born.”

He was talking about the little man.

Liszt directly interpreted it as sperm.

He said immediately, “Cyrille, I want the formula for this potion. Write it down and give it to me right now. I will consider it as your contribution, allowing you to gain your freedom sooner.” He did not want it for himself, but planned to let his cousin give it a try—in case it worked, it would solve a nagging issue.

For such a good deal, Cyrille had no reason to refuse.

He quickly succeeded in writing down the potion formula, as well as all the necessary precautions, filling several pages densely. Liszt glanced at it only once, then stopped paying attention and turned to have a servant copy it and send it to Meioubao.

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Old Phil was also lucky.

His fate was that of a lab rat, but in the blink of an eye, it changed to having experts solve his infertility problems. Perhaps this was the fickleness of destiny: a blessing may depend on misfortune, and a misfortune may conceal a blessing, so behind something good might lurk something bad, but another good thing might also be waiting to descend.

For Liszt, with the Smoke Mission suspected to be the remnant power of a Smoke Dragon, destiny was no longer fickle—he had only good things.

Influenced by him, the people around him also experienced a series of good events.

The Earl was a good example; under normal circumstances, he might have remained an earl for life. But the very next day after Old Phil excitedly returned home to make a little man, the Earl, who had gone to Blue Dragon Island to receive his title advancement, returned in glory as the Marquis of Bull Tail.

The messenger knight arrived at Fresh Flower Town.

Liszt immediately led his retainers and servants to rush to Tulip Castle, a major event for the family.

Passing through Coral City, he saw the entire city bustling with noise. All the commoners headed to the streets, loudly shouting celebratory slogans like “Tulip Family”, “Marquis of Bull Tail”, “Lord Landlord”, “Viscount”, and “knight’s glory favors us”.

Without question, this was an event organized by the Coral City officials to curry favor.

Among the cheering crowd were also many people shouting slogans such as “Lord Liszt”, “Viscount” and even “Young Master Richard”.

Liszt, riding the landwalker bird Loki, galloped to Tulip Castle in just a few strides. The grey and white tall castle of yesteryear was now decorated with tulips of various colors

along its walls, resembling a beautiful castle from a dream. Knights in Mithril Armor stood guard along the road up the mountain.

They saluted Liszt as they saw him.

At the gate of Tulip Castle, Liszt encountered Li Weiliam, dressed in formal attire, wearing the red tassel medal which symbolized the marquisate on his chest and holding a Cultural Stick inlaid with sapphires—starting now, he was no longer the Earl of Coral Island but the Marquis of Bull Tail.

The domain was located in the Bull Tail Domain of Iron Hoof Island, the lord of all territories belonging to Bull Tail City, the seventh Marquis of the Grand Duchy of Sapphire, a grand landlord with real power.

Seeing Li Weiliam standing tall and spirited, Liszt bowed slightly and greeted, “Father, congratulations on becoming the Marquis of Bull Tail.”

Chapter 675: Mission Complete

“My son Liszt, whom I am so proud of, your great efforts significantly contributed to the glory of my title,” said the Earl, no, the Marquis of Bull Tail, as he patted Liszt on the shoulder. There was none of the father’s solemnity, only his tender love. In fact, the Marquisate was entirely earned by Liszt himself.

Looking at his tall and handsome second son, the Earl was filled with emotions that swelled in his belly.

From the moment Liszt was born, resembling Melissa, the Earl had high hopes for him, wishing he would surpass himself; to the disappointment and disenchantment that grew when Liszt became increasingly timid, aloof, and seemed like a lost cause in terms of talent.

Now, every step that Liszt took shook the world, leaving the Earl not only shocked but also in a position to regard him as an equal, if not look up to him.

The Earl’s second son not only maintained his handsome features as always, but his talents had also undergone an earth-shaking transformation.

Everyone returned to the sitting room of the castle.

While the ladies had their own gatherings and chats, the sitting room was filled with the Marquis of Bull Tail's followers. Among these followers, four Viscounts were the leaders—Hereditary Viscount Levis, Viscount Shattered Stone City Jonas, Viscount Trick of Beer Island, and Viscount Black Horse Island Liszt.

During his twenty-year career as an Earl, Li Weiliam had not attracted any Sky Knights, and none of his followers had ascended to become Sky Knights—Liszt was the exception.

However, now that he was ennobled as the Marquis of Bull Tail, perhaps Sky Knights would come to pledge their allegiance in the future.

"I was able to ascend to Marquis of Bull Tail thanks to everyone's united efforts to fight for this honor for me. Ten days from now, I will hold a banquet to celebrate my promotion, and the First Prince as well as some nobility from within the country will come to congratulate... During this period, all of you will send your people to follow my officials to Bull Tail Domain to divide your individual fiefs."

Iron Hoof Island was divided into four parts.

Clearly, the title of "Marquis of Iron Hoof Island" could not be conferred, and no one would want the title of "Marquis of the Bull." Thus, the Grand Duke created and conferred four titles: "Marquis of Bull Tail," "Marquis of Bull Horn," "Marquis of Bull Hoof," and "Marquis of Iron Hoof City."

The domain of Marquis of Bull Tail is called Bull Tail Domain, including three major cities: Bull Tail City, Bull Rump City, Bull Rib City, and ten smaller cities.

Jonas and Trick, lacking substantial military accomplishments, could not ascend to Earldom, so they could only choose a small city.

Liszt, on the other hand, did not even intend to choose a small city. He would eventually leave this place, so there was no need to spend effort building other cities—a single Black Horse Island was enough for him to develop for many years.

“Once you’ve selected your territories, we must start planning the relocation. The Grand Duke has granted me a five-year harvest period, which means we have five years to move out from Coral Island.”

The Marquis of Bull Tail motioned for a retainer to bring out a map of Iron Hoof Island and leisurely said: “Although Iron Hoof Island has been divided into four, Bull Tail Domain requires our new management. The advantages are clear: larger territories, more trade... and the extensive construction previously done by the Marquis of the Bull will be sold to me by the Grand Duke at a low price.”

Except for the absence of Elves to tend the farms and Master craftsmen having been taken by the Sapphire Family, nothing else changed in Bull Tail Domain; even the serfs remained to continue their farming in the same place.

Jonas and Trick studied the map intently, getting ready to first pin down the city they wanted before going for a thorough inspection.

Liszt, holding a teacup, leaned back in his chair, leisurely lost in thought.

The Marquis of Bull Tail stood up and signaled Levis to continue entertaining Trick and the others. He then pulled Liszt aside to the window of the sitting room, ensuring their conversation would not be overheard.

“I have discussed with the Grand Duke. It’s been ten years without an agreement, but the Grand Duke has promised that for seven years, you don’t have to follow him; you can continue to follow me and help secure a foothold on Iron Hoof Island.”

“Seven years will be enough,” Liszt replied.

“^

“By the way, the Grand Duke scolded me for this, thinking I was too selfish. The relationship between father and son should not hold back your progress,” said the Marquis of Bull Tail, not upset by the Grand Duke’s rebuke but rather relaxed. “However, I’ve gently suggested to the First Prince that, in seven years, you will directly follow him.”

“What’s the First Prince’s attitude?”

“The First Prince is very optimistic about you and naturally delighted. You must know that even now, despite your identity remaining concealed, you are still the second strongest in the Duchy of Sapphire, an inheritor of the Ghost Swordsman, a mighty being who has defeated a Domain Knight.”

Liszt’s lips curled into a smile, thinking how the nonsense of the Ghost Swordsman had indeed fooled a bunch of people, “What do the Grand Duke and the First Prince think about my Ghost Swordsman inheritance?”

“The Grand Duke once mentioned that the Sapphire Family wished to purchase the Ghost Swordsman inheritance, but I expressed resistance, and he did not bring it up again. As for the First Prince, he is interested in a future marriage alliance with the Tulip Family.”

“How to form this marriage alliance? With Richard marrying the First Prince’s daughter?”

“The chosen partner for the marriage alliance is your son.”

“But I don’t have a son.”

“Sooner or later you will, won’t you.”

“That’s something for the future.” Liszt had not yet considered marriage or having children. He was someone with aspirations of longevity. Perhaps after establishing his own nation, he would leave an heir to inherit the empire he had struggled to build due to political needs, but there was no such need at the moment.

Enjoying life freely and boldly was the essence of living.

...

The celebration ceremony for the Marquis of Bull Tail was set for ten days later, so Liszt simply attended a lunch banquet at Tulip Castle and had a brief chat before returning to his own domain.

Four days later.

Buried in writing “The Sky Chronicle of Liszt” in his study at the seaside villa, a journal the Marquis of Bull Tail had been eagerly awaiting, Liszt had procrastinated and not found the time to finish it. He had overestimated himself; since his Advanced Dou Qi had been quickly developed through dragon riding, there were many details of training he could not understand, making it difficult to write.

“Perhaps after I visit Red Crab Island and talk with my grandfather, I can fully understand the training details of a Completion Level Sky Knight... For now, let the Marquis of Bull Tail wait a bit longer. He has waited many years already, so a little more time won’t hurt.”

Just then.

Arch suddenly shouted, “Brother, I’ve done it!”

Liszt was jolted, discarded the goose quill in his hand, and rushed straight into Arch’s laboratory.

Arch held a thick piece of parchment with gleeful eyes that screamed “come and praise me,” handing it over to Liszt, “Brother, this is a Dragon Knight training method I designed based on the resonance principle. The training might be a bit complex; it will require you and Leotaur to cooperate closely, adjusting each other’s ‘frequencies’ to achieve resonance.”

“Don’t worry, I might be a bit behind you in theoretical research, but real combat practice is my forte!” Liszt took the parchment and vigorously ruffled Arch’s hair.

He began to study the Dragon Knight training program intently.

Without realizing when it happened, the smoke in front of him gathered and formed a passage of Serpent Script: “Task completed, reward: Archmage Acherlroides Truth.”

Chapter 676: Dragon Knight Resonance

The Smoke Mission made Liszt look up slightly.

Glancing at Ach who was deeply engrossed in thought in the distance, he understood that Ach must have gained some insights while researching Dragon Knight training methods, and would soon be reaching out to the Magic Web.

As for how to reach out to the Magic Web, he had no good suggestions, so he decided not to disturb Ach.

Soon after, the Smoke Mission issued a new task.

“Mission: Perhaps you have neglected Black Dragon Childe Paris for quite some time, but now that you have become a Dragon Knight, deeply understanding the dragon’s power and having the ability to harness it for combat and training, why not help Paris remove the erosion of the Light Dragon’s magic power and restore her normal body? Reward: Paris’s path of cultivation.”

“Hmm.”

Liszt suddenly felt embarrassed, “I almost forgot I have to solve the problem of the Light Dragon’s magic power erosion for Paris. Logically speaking, both the Light Dragon and Fire Dragon are Elemental Dragons, so if a Light Dragon can create a special existence like a Dragon Wraith, then a Fire Dragon should be able to as well. It’s a good opportunity to confirm the method of transformation for a Dragon Wraith with Paris.”

There had never been Dragonkin among humans.

Because the power of the dragon would corrupt everything in a human, and magicians refer to this corrupting force as “Changeling”. A human who was invaded by it would die, and through a certain ritual, they could be transformed into a “White Dragon Wraith” — Liszt considered that White Dragon Wraiths should be similar to Necrofish Ugly, belonging to a kind of undead.

Besides the White Dragon Wraiths.

The power of Changeling could also be transformed into Black Dragon Changelings, which is the current state of Paris.

The Court Grand Mage of the Maple Leaf Duchy originally intended to transform Paris and other rats into White Dragon Wraiths, but a thief stole the notes and came up with a reversal method. They voluntarily offered everything to become living White Dragon Wraiths, successfully doing so, and thus began calling themselves Black Dragon Changelings.

Although they retained their human bodies, after being eroded by the Light Dragon's power for a long time, they would eventually become a part of the Light Dragon's magic power.

What Liszt needed to do now was to extract the power of the Light Dragon and restore Paris's original body.

"However, let me first learn the new Dragon Knight training method before attempting to help Paris recover," Liszt waved away the Smoke Mission and continued to read intently.

After digesting all the content, he stood up and left the seaside villa.

Riding on the Landwalker Bird Loki, he ran to a wilderness and called out Little Fire Dragon Leo, "Leo, we're about to start a new way of training, are you ready?"

"Roar!"

"Very good, let's begin!" He leaped onto Leo's Dragon Tooth Platform, instantly completing a unity of mind, harmonious synchronization, and then both man and dragon began soaring through the skies.

Guided by Liszt.

They began to exhibit resonance between mind and magic power — resonance is just a metaphor; this training method is different from actual physical resonance. Liszt preferred to call it "Dragon Knight Resonance," and he recorded it in the "Liszt's Complete Dragon Knight Training Manual".

Thus, it became a new training method, after Dragon Magic Refining Qi, Dragon Breath Tempering, Dragon Force Focus, Dragon Heart Electrical Signal, and Dragon Blood Infection.

The progress was much faster than Liszt had anticipated.

He had originally thought that this training method involving mind and magic power would be very difficult, because even a slight flaw in the mind could lead to a grave error in the flow of magic power. However, perhaps the powerful effect of the Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruit had erased Leo's evil thoughts, leaving only pure thoughts.

Guiding Leo was not difficult for Liszt at all, as Leo was like a blank canvas, ready for him to paint upon.

"That's right, Leo, keep it up!"

The mental frequencies of the man and the dragon rapidly merged, as if there was me in you, you in me, their thoughts in perfect sync. And with the melding of minds, Leo's magic power and Liszt's Dou Qi mixed together like milk blended with water.

At this moment, he felt like a missing puzzle piece, fitting into the special spot on Dragon Tooth Platform, completing the Fire Dragon's entire magic power circuit. The instant the circuit was formed, Liszt suddenly felt as if he had become a dragon himself, his wings powerfully flapping, the wind whistling by his ears.

His vision became that of the Fire Dragon, seeing a world through dragon eyes that was brighter and more vivid than what humans could see.

If his original vision was HD, then Leo's vision was 4K Ultra HD.

He could not only see this clearer, more colorful new world, but he could even faintly discern the magic power drifting in the air—a pale blue-white glow above the ocean, a faint grey-yellow glow enveloping the mountains, and a light green glow when the wind flowed.

Liszt was so absorbed that he quietly began to use the Dou Qi secret technique—Eye of Magic.

The unexpected occurred; within the dragon's vision, he clearly activated the Eye of Magic, and the world suddenly revealed a different aspect. Everything was made up of magic power, and unlike the coarse magic world he could observe on his own, the world through his eyes now was composed only of magic power.

Whether it was the physical material itself or the magic power, everything was outlined in forms of magic power.

The ocean was Water-Attribute magic power flowing, the sensation of density was the seawater itself, while the glow was the magic power in the seawater.

The glowing magic power, in a granular form, flowed slowly through the dense, solid-like seawater.

The glowing magic power seemed to be subtly settling into the solid seawater, and likewise, the solid seawater was slowly releasing glowing magic power.

“So there's no strict boundary between free-floating magic power and physical matter, they are constantly transforming. Is the release of magic then an acceleration of this transformation process?”

Whoosh!

With a powerful flap of his wings, Liszt plunged into the clouds, surrounded by swirling mists.

The clouds contained Wind Attribute magic power, Water Attribute magic power, and of course, more free-floating Chaotic Magic Power. Everything was dynamic, constantly transforming, even including the transformations between Wind Attribute magic power and Water Attribute magic power. Through the dragon's miraculous eyes and the potent effect of the Eye of Magic,

he observed that when the Water-Attribute magic power rotated with the Fire Dragon's body, a small amount of it changed its glow directly into that of Wind Attribute magic power.

“What enables them to change their properties at will?”

“Perhaps it’s not the magic power itself, but the ‘motion’ in which it resides that changes its properties,” Liszt had a revelation as though an apple had hit his head. “Then why do Knights’ Dou Qi have different attributes? Maybe the initial Primary Dou Qi didn’t have a clear ‘motion’; the more advanced the Dou Qi, the greater its ‘motion’?”

So much so that the Advanced Dou Qi of Sky Knights, due to excessive motion, could even take to the skies and soar.

He looked down.

He saw Leo’s claws, or should he say his “own” claws, composed of red Fire Attribute magic power: “Then, what sort of powerful ‘motion’ capability should the dragon’s magic power, especially Dragon’s Intent, possess?”

Alas, before he could figure it out,

an overwhelming sense of fatigue swept over his entire body, and the next moment, he was back to his own vision, out of Leo’s eyesight. Just like that, about ten minutes of Dragon Knight Resonance had collapsed—his mental magic connection with Leo was still unstable, requiring continuous practice and refining.

Chapter 677: The Giant Shell

Ten minutes of Dragon Knight Resonance had given Liszt an overwhelming sense of magic and wonder, realizing that magic power was omnipresent in this world and that all matter was composed of it.

This fundamentally negated the worldview he had previously held.

However, the materials transformed by this magic power still retained certain physical laws of the material world, which is why he encountered many familiar phenomena. The cold and heat of the seasons, the oceans and mountains, thunder and rain, plants and animals, even the movements of the sun, moon, and stars were all reminiscent of Earth.

After exiting Dragon Knight Resonance, he felt greatly fatigued, and Leo was somewhat weary as well, mainly mentally, though his body remained healthy and energetic.

Nonetheless, this didn't hinder Liszt from continuing to ride Leo through the skies, all the while slowly contemplating, "On Earth, the faster the particles move, the higher the temperature, and the higher the temperature, the faster the particles move. In other words, particle motion is temperature at the microscopic level, while temperature is particle motion at the macroscopic level."

Whether it's the physical laws of Earth or this world's theory of magic, matter, and spirit, there is common ground and they can reference each other.

After all, the external expressions of the two worlds have too much in common.

What he had over the natives of this world was the knowledge from Earth: "So the collective movement of magic particles may manifest as magic, Dou Qi, and all the phenomena formed by magic power... Forget it, this is kind of brain-burning, I'll just describe this to Ake and let her think about it."

Not getting hung up on the obsessive details was one of his consistent strengths.

Dropping these complicated thoughts, he felt much more relaxed and enjoyed the coolness of dragon riding.

"Rest for a moment, and explore when I can enter Dragon Knight Resonance again," he mused, taking out a few magic potions and popping them open then and there. Under Dragon Rider status, there was no difference between his and Leo's consumption of potions, as Dou Qi and magic power had already merged seamlessly, "Dragon Knight Resonance is a method of cultivation, but the state I enter could probably be termed 'Dragon Rider Mode'."

While normally riding a dragon, he could use methods like Dragon Force Focus to unleash the powerful combat ability of a Dragon Knight, but fundamentally, this combat style is still individual for man and dragon, at most mutually amplifying each other's strength.

But once in Dragon Rider Mode, man and dragon were highly integrated, indistinguishable from one another, which inevitably led to a massive increase in combat power.

“I could even apply the Eye of Magic, this Dou Qi Secret Technique, to Leo... Is this because of the way Leo circulates magic power, producing an effect similar to Dou Qi because of the Dragon Rider Mode? Or is the Eye of Magic still my own doing, but magnified due to the Dragon Knight Resonance?”

Whether it was the former reason or the latter.

It was a huge surprise: “Being able to use the Eye of Magic, does that mean I could also use Breath Decay? If I had this Dou Qi Secret Technique, could I reduce Leo’s exhaustion? Furthermore, could ‘Rising Sun Blaze’ be cast with Leo’s help?”

All these awaited his experimentation.

High above, in the blue sky with white clouds, man and dragon popped potions while waiting for their spirits to recover. Liszt could feel the potency of Dragon Rider Mode, and Leo was equally attracted to the magical experience of this mode.

Both were too excited to contain themselves.

...

While Liszt and Leo were heedlessly reveling in the sky.

The Little Sea Monster Ake sat silently pondering inside the house, and Mangrove Minor Elf Nami, who had not been seen for many days, was perched on her shoulder, munching away at a chunk of peanut nougat.

Nami, as one of the few Minor Elves adept at socializing and fond of work, could proudly claim that each piece of candy she ate was earned from her toils. Not only was she responsible for caring for the Green-headed Ducks in both Mangrove Island and the Estuary Mangrove Forest, but she also often visited Seagull Island Mangrove Forest to tend to the Flamingos.

Even though serfs had heavily involved themselves, and the eggs of Green-headed Ducks and Flamingos had entered the artificial incubation system, Nami still had to continually spread mangrove seedlings to maintain the normal development of the Mangrove Forests.

Without this adorable Minor Elf.

The Green-headed Duck eggs and Flamingo eggs that Liszt loved to eat would not have been so readily available.

“Chirp.”

After eating a peanut nougat, Nami let out a soft chirp of comfort, not daring to be too loud for fear of disturbing Ake, who was deep in thought.

However, at that moment, Nami suddenly noticed that Ake stretched out her right hand, seemingly staring at her flawless, jade-like palm. But in the next instant, her delicate fingers, small as spring onions, bloomed with a pale blue-white light. Then, the flesh of her hand began to quietly recede from its natural color.

In its place was a light blue transparent color.

Then the entire hand lost its flesh color as if it turned into blue-white crystal.

“Chirp?”

Nervously, Nami flew up to Ake’s face, wanting to alert her about what was happening to her hand. But feeling Ake’s calm emotions through their mind connection, Nami found herself unable to speak and simply hovered slowly in front of Ake. Nami watched as Ake’s hand, then her whole arm, lost its flesh color.

Next, it was half of her body—her chest, her abdomen—all faded in color.

Then her buttocks and legs followed suit, and even the seawater below her ankles was integrated into this fading, until she had completely faded the entire shell. In the end, even Ake’s neck began to fade, and the body below her whole head turned into the blue-white crystal-like state.

At this moment, Ake lifted her head and seemed to notice Nami's concerned expression, returning it with a slight smile.

A second later, her entire body faded, from shell to hair, all turned into blue-white crystal. This blue-white crystal did not last long; it gradually turned fainter and fainter, and in the end, she seemed to evaporate, disappearing without a trace under Nami's watchful eyes.

“Chirp!”

“Chirp!”

“Chirp!”

Nami could feel Ake's presence through their mind connection, but couldn't find her anywhere. Nami's limited intelligence couldn't understand this situation and could only cry out in panic.

Suddenly.

Ake's voice rang in Nami's ears, “Nami, don't worry, Ake is just using the Magic Web to reshape her body. Do you know? The Magic Web is really magical, it can let Ake become the most basic magic elemental. Wait a while, and the Ake that appears before you will be a brand new Ake.”

“Chirp?” Nami twisted her head, searching, but still couldn't find Ake.

But Ake's voice continued without pause, “Do you know the very first thing Ake wants to do after touching the Magic Web and using it to elementalize and reshape her body? That is to take off the shell. Although the shell is nice, brother always felt it was troublesome, and Ake also finds it bothersome.”

Nami felt the shell was quite good and didn't want Ake to throw it away: “Chirp.”

Ake, who was reconstructing her body within the Magic Web, immediately laughed, “Of course not thrown away. Ake’s shell is a part of her body, it’s like the Cordyceps for you elves. Ake can now retract it into her body, and also release it as if it’s a piece of Magic Equipment, always protecting Ake!”

In the meantime.

Waves rippled through the air in front of Nami, and then pale blue-white lines began to overlap, quickly sketching out a huge scallop shell three meters in diameter. As more blue-white lines filled in every trace of the shell, the color solidified into white.

It was clearly the large shell Ake had before.

Seeing the large shell appear, Nami excitedly shouted, “Chirp, chirp, chirp!”

Chapter 678: Little Feet

The giant seashell fell onto the floor of the house, and Nami flew up, wanting to call Ach out quickly.

But the seashell did not open.

Above the seashell, the air also rippled like water, and soon countless blue and white lines densely sketched out, gradually outlining Ach’s silhouette. This time, below Ach’s ankles were no longer streams of water, but actual feet.

A pair of small and delicate feet.

Ach was only one hundred and fifty-five centimeters tall with a slender figure, yet where it should bulge, it bulged, and where it should curve, it curved, making a very perfect silhouette. The biggest difference from humans was the transparent fin-like ear flaps slanting upward and the pair of transparent fin-like wings on the shoulders.

Beyond that, there were no other differences.

Just like that, from the blue lines slowly sketched out the shape of blue and white crystals, then the crystals gradually took on color, restoring Ach's usual snow-white and tender skin. Several water streams still wrapped around the key parts, hiding the points of intense curiosity and leaving nothing but purity and temptation combined in beauty.

"Jigu!" Nami was very happy, its sea monster Miss had come back.

The new Ach gently landed on the seashell with both feet.

This was her first time standing on solid ground; she couldn't help but lower her head to look at her own feet, the snow-white of her feet, the cute toes, and the sparkling toenails. Originally thinking it would take ten or more years to develop feet, she had now leveraged the power of the Magic Web to reshape them in stride.

She was very satisfied with this transformation in her heart.

Without feet, a sea monster cannot walk on land.

With feet, she could stay by Liszt's side, explore many beautiful landscapes, and live on land. This was the life she had longed for these past two years, and today it had finally become reality, making her feel even more thrilled and excited than advancing to an archmage.

She extended her hand, signaling Nami to stand up with her.

With another gentle wave of her hand, the seashell beneath her feet quickly shrank until it was as small as a matchbox, falling into her other palm.

Curious, Nami flew over, picked up the seashell, and laughed non-stop: "Jigu."

"I'll let you play with it later."

"Jigu."

Nami obediently released it, and Ach gently picked up the seashell and clipped it into her azure blue hair, like a small and delicate hairpin.

The water stream connected right onto the seashell hairpin.

“Nami, let’s go to the sea. Ach can hardly wait to try out the strength of an archmage. Brother has become a Dragon Knight, and Ach can’t lag too far behind. Surely as an archmage, I can help brother, assist him in accomplishing the little goal of founding a nation!”

Without the seashell, Ach still swam incredibly fast.

Especially when her body subtly emitted a blue and white light, it seemed to merge instantly with the seawater; with every movement of her feet, she could appear dozens of meters away at another spot.

The Rainbow Whale Rose originally wanted to follow, but within a few seconds, it had been left behind by Ach.

It had to return to the seaside castle, chirping and yelping, where a special pool had been built for it on the beach to enjoy the most delicious herring—In the Thorn Castle’s Tonghai Canal, it could also indulge in delicious well-fish, with dedicated staff to feed it.

Before realizing it, within a few breaths, Ach had already left Coral Island, reaching the nearby waters of the Coral Reef.

She plucked the seashells from her hair and tossed them onto the sea surface, where they instantly transformed into giant scallops. Then she released Nami from her hand and gestured for Nami to stay inside the shell.

That’s how she stood quietly on the sea surface, where there was seawater she could stand as if on level ground.

With a light wave of her hand, she immediately cast an advanced water magic – Whirlpool Convergence. The next second, the distant sea surface exploded with a bang, lifting a huge wave.

Just this casual strike alone was dozens of times more powerful than any Whirlpool Convergence she had previously cast.

The key was that the consumption of magic power was almost nonexistent. Ach was able to sense the existence of the Magic Web at any time and draw from it to replenish her expended magical power.

Which meant her magic power was almost inexhaustible.

After several experiments, she found that even the most basic water magic – the Water Arrow Technique – in her hands could exert the power of advanced magic. Ever since she had touched the Magic Web and undergone elemental shaping, she felt a qualitative change in her internal magical power, which was different from ordinary magic power.

“Could it be the ‘Extreme Nature Magical Power’ that brother mentioned, similar to the ‘Dragon’s Intent’ in magic power?” Ach shook her head, feeling it wasn’t quite the same, but a specific assessment required further research.

So, following that, the sea area around the Coral Reef suffered quite a beating.

Although Ach was limited by her body and found it difficult to cast magic of other elements besides water, she had mastered too many water magics, including many she created herself and the Necrofish Ugly magic that Virginia had recorded. She could cast them continuously for over ten minutes without repeating any.

After bombarding with water magic for two solid hours, Ach smiled with satisfaction, having gathered enough data to verify the magic power from the Magic Web after elemental shaping.

Subsequently.

She continued to experiment with her innate abilities. As a Sea Serpent, she had the power to control seawater, and after elemental shaping, this ability did not vanish. Instead, it greatly improved.

She stood as the seawater below whirled slowly, lifting her up. With the seawater continually rising, it was as if a Water Tornado was ascending from the ocean, reaching a height of a hundred meters, which was Ach's limit. She pointed her finger, and the Water Tornado tilted forwards at great speed.

Next, she performed like a water-acrobat as various Water Tornadoes carried her around with flair,

then she continued to control the emergence of new Water Tornadoes. At most, she could manipulate ten at once. These Water Tornadoes rolled over the sea, churning it upside down. The whole ocean roared like a tsunami scene, with waves towering one above the other, howling as they spread around.

"Brother said an Archmage could fight a dragon one-on-one. Ach feels that now she too has the capability to contend with a dragon, although she can only release water magic, but at sea, she's really powerful!" Ach clenched her fist, and all the Water Tornadoes burst into raindrops in an instant, filling the sky.

Having had her fill of fun.

And having tested out her brand new abilities.

Only then did she pick up Nami again, retrieved her shell hair clip, and returned to the seaside castle in a flash, like a beautiful mirage through the sea, reaching the shore in just a few breaths' time.

Before, Ach's speed was a hundred kilometers per hour; now, it was likely close to five or six hundred kilometers per hour.

Going from Coral Island to the mainland would be just a matter of two or three hours of travel, truly allowing her to roam the seas freely and unhindered. Aside from the Water Dragon among the Elemental Dragons, there probably wasn't any creature in the sea that could threaten her, and it wasn't certain that even a Water Dragon could harm her.

With this speed alone, no creature could catch up.

Back in her lab, Ach strived to calm the exhilarating emotions from her playful experiments, and after several deep breaths, she returned to her serene demeanor.

She began to stoop over her desk, writing and drawing on heavy parchment.

A pair of fair little feet paddled in the water, as if unsure where to rest, dabbling to the left, dabbling to the right, then stacking one on top of the other.

“Long legs feel so good.”

Chapter 679: Eight Cores and Discrete Graphics

Boom!

Little Fire Dragon Leo’s body twisted and spun in the air, instantaneously unleashing a Scorching Sun Sting, a charging move derived from the “Rising Sun Blaze” Advanced Dou Qi Manual.

Once Liszt and Leo entered Dragon Rider Mode, Liszt quickly discovered that “The Eye of Magic”, “Breath Decay”, and “Rising Sun Blaze” could all be executed on Leo—or more accurately, channelled within his body utilizing Dou Qi. Due to the special state of Dragon Knight Resonance, it allowed Leo to perform them.

A close analogy.

It’s like a comparison between a CPU and a graphics card.

Liszt is like the computer’s quad-core or even octa-core CPU, boasting formidable processing capabilities, but paired with an integrated graphics card. So, no matter how exquisite the Dou Qi operation, only ordinary effects can be achieved. The graphics card can’t keep up and is prone to smoking.

Leo, on the other hand, is a standalone 2080Ti graphics card. Perhaps its CPU is rough, but its graphical performance is top-notch and powerful.

When Liszt's octa-core CPU is matched with Leo's 2080Ti graphics card, they can drive top-tier AAA games. It's a match made in heaven for Dragon Knights.

BOOM!

The ground was forcefully blasted open, creating a crater with a diameter of tens of meters.

Liszt, riding on Leo, landed around the crater, and tendrils of smoke rising from the ashes at the edge of the pit gave Liszt and Leo a mysterious Boss-like aura.

"Now, I understand the strength of a Dragon Knight. Had I not entered Dragon Rider Mode, I fear I would have been hung up and beaten by the Dragon Knight Mode. Fortunately, I hadn't faced a real Dragon Knight before, or else if I rushed in, I would probably be slain within a handful of moves. The battle to slay the dragon would have been a joke."

After a moment of retrospective fear, he quickly came to terms with it.

With the guidance of the Smoke Mission, having entered Dragon Rider Mode before the dragon-slaying battle and blending more hits, I believe we'll become stronger and stronger, building up a more substantial foundation for the fight. Most importantly, the mission is now successfully completed, and Ach will be advancing to Archmage as well.

Combining the strengths of a Dragon Knight with an Archmage, there's nowhere in the vast world we can't reach!

The only unknown is whether there is a dedicated Dragon Dou Qi Manual for Dragon Knights. The Sapphire Family has the First Grand Duke's "Dragon Knight Dou Qi Manual". I wonder if it's a Dou Qi Manual specifically designed to complement dragon riding... It's a shame; despite my self-proclaimed genius and a perspective far superior to the natives, I have yet to create any Dou Qi Manuals."

Thinking back.

Back when he used to brag to Li Weiliam, Levis, and others, he had disdainfully stated that the predecessors' Dou Qi Manuscripts might not suit him and that he could create new Dou Qi Manuscripts at any time.

Resulting in distractions several times, he had succeeded in dragon riding, yet still hadn't created a Dou Qi Manuscript: "Actually, I can't be blamed for bragging; I just don't have the time to research Dou Qi Manuscripts. Who would have thought that after advancing to the Sky Knight for half a year, I would succeed in dragon riding without any room for a breather."

He consoled himself.

He quietly vowed to create a true Dragon Dou Qi Manual based on the actual situation between him and Leo. If time allows, he would also fill in the Dou Qi Manuals for the Earth Knight and Sky Knight stages. First, it would serve as a keepsake, and second, it could enrich the heritage for future generations.

"Moreover, I must acquire the Dou Qi Domain Manual, and also store up more Dou Qi Secret Techniques. "The Eye of Magic" and "Breath Decay" are good, but they are of supportive nature, lacking Dou Qi Secret Techniques belonging to combat nature."

Dou Qi Secret Techniques had not been very useful even when he hadn't yet ridden dragons and claimed to be a Ghost Swordsman. They were more of a boost for competing amongst Sky Knights.

But having some more Dou Qi secret techniques is always good, it can further enrich the family's heritage—no matter how you look at it, if Liszt really establishes his own kingdom overseas, he doesn't want his country to fall into rapid decline within a few generations. At the very least, it should last a thousand years or so, allowing his lineage to spread across the world.

After much toil, it had gotten dark.

Both man and dragon were so hungry their stomachs were growling, so they squatted in the wilderness, one happily gnawing on a large steak, the other drinking Banpo Cattle milk to quench the thirst.

Once Little Fire Dragon Leo had eaten his fill, he was rewarded with a few magic potions as a dessert.

Liszt gestured, asking Little Fire Dragon Leo to turn into a flame and rush into his body: “We’re heading back! After groping through a profusion of new experiences, I must have a detailed chat with Ach. Perhaps these topics, especially the concept of ‘magic particle motion,’ could inspire her advancement to archmage.”

He whistled.

In the distance, the Landwalker bird Loki, who was leisurely grazing, scampered over and carried him like the wind towards Fresh Flower Town.

Unfortunately, after riding a dragon, riding any other mount seemed lackluster to Liszt; the riding experience fell short by leagues.

Still, when he arrived at the seaside villa, he grabbed a handful of secret recipe grains to reward it.

And so,

After a sumptuous dinner at the castle, Liszt headed straight for the seaside villa. The room was brightly lit, and to protect Ach’s eyes during her nighttime reading, studying, and experimenting, he had installed several crystal lamps—money was no longer a concern for him now.

“Ach, I’m back!”

Liszt was ready to push the door open and quickly engage in a discussion with Ach.

But the next moment, the door opened itself, or rather, it was opened by Ach, who stood at the door looking charming, smiling sweetly and saying, “Brother.”

“Ach, you...” Liszt was a bit stunned, as it used to be he who would open the door due to Ach’s difficulties in moving about the room, but this time it was Ach who opened the door for him.

But what's more important is,

Ach was actually standing on the floor.

Liszt's gaze instinctively followed Ach's gaze downward, gliding past the few concealed mysterious areas enveloped in a water trail, past the smooth thighs and calves, and finally resting on a pair of immaculate little feet, so tender it stirred an irresistible urge to play with them.

Ach seemed to get a bit uncomfortable under Liszt's intense gaze, her little feet involuntarily closing together and shrinking back: "Brother, Ach has become an archmage."

"An archmage? You've become an archmage!" exclaimed Liszt in surprise, instantly forgetting about Ach's feet, he scooped Ach up and twirled her around, "Well done, my little sea monster. You are the only archmage in these seas and, as far as I know, in both great kingdoms!"

Neither the Eagle Kingdom nor the Steel Ridge Kingdom had records of an archmage, and whether there were any privately, Liszt did not know. At least, as far as he knew, Ach was indeed the only one.

Given the Magic Web had been shrinking since the era of the Moon Empire, producing a new archmage was truly not easy.

He gently set Ach down on the ground, forcefully restraining his own excitement, trying to appear more composed: "Ach, tell me, what was it like to touch the Magic Web and become an archmage. Also, when did your legs grow out, does this mean you are now mature?"

Chapter 680: Low Magic, High Magic, and Superior Magic

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Whether Ach can be considered an adult is a difficult question to answer.

However, since her promotion to Archmage, her body has already been reshaped through elementalization with the help of the Magic Web, maintaining the independence of her body and spirit while becoming a part of the Magic Web.

“The Magic Web is a very peculiar existence. Ach can’t sense its limits, but it envelopes every corner of the world. You can open a portal anywhere and release magic through the Magic Web, and you can cast powerful Water Magic even on land.”

Ach elaborated on the Magic Web in detail.

Although she had said that the Dragon Knight’s Magic Web was like a mini version of the true Magic Web, the gap between them was as vast as the difference between heaven and earth.

Of course.

Even with Ach’s vivid description of the Magic Web, Liszt’s understanding of it remained very vague. After all, the Magic Web is an extremely abstract existence; it’s difficult to truly comprehend it without experiencing it firsthand. It’s more like a set of rules than a tangible object.

“So the magic power you draw upon now belongs to the Magic Web. Do you think it could reach the level of Dragon’s Intent?” Liszt asked.

Although initially distracted and stirred by desire at the sight of Ach’s fair little feet, his thirst for knowledge and reverence for power quickly cleared the frivolous thoughts from his mind, and he eagerly discussed the Magic Web with Ach, together chasing after the truth.

“It might be different from the Dragon’s Intent you’ve described, brother. But Ach would need to compare Bilio’s Dragon’s Intent with the magic power of the Magic Web to analyze it.”

“That won’t be hard; Bilio has as much Dragon’s Intent as you’d want.” Given the current relationship between Liszt and Bilio, Bilio would not refuse to share his Dragon’s Intent.

“However, you know I’ve been cultivating the Eye of Magic. Now, if you release some Magic Web magic power for me to check, I can see what’s so magical about it.”

Ach nodded.

She then cast the basic Water Magic – Water Arrow Technique.

A water arrow formed in her hand, not shooting out but quietly hovering.

His pupils swirling like a vortex of stars, Liszt had already employed the Eye of Magic, closely observing the water arrow. Blue and white Water-Attribute Magic Power continuously sustained its existence, which was very solid. Unfortunately, without entering Dragon Rider Mode, he could not observe the motion of the magic particles.

But he could feel that the Magic Web’s magic power was distinctly different from ordinary free-floating magic power, dissipating more slowly and being more solid.

“Ach, my initial feeling is that the Magic Web’s magic power hasn’t reached the extreme properties of Dragon’s Intent. It’s more like the normal magic power released by dragons... or to make a more vivid comparison, it should be able to reach my current level of Dragon Dou Qi. I didn’t expect the Magic Web’s magic power to be so formidable.”

Dou Qi is a special type of magic power refined by humans themselves.

Primary Dou Qi, Intermediate Dou Qi, Advanced Dou Qi – this is a complete progression of levels. Essentially, Complete Advanced Level Dou Qi is the ultimate form of Dou Qi.

And Dragon Dou Qi, strictly speaking, no longer falls under the category of Dou Qi, as it is continuously merged and purified with the help of dragon magic power to reach a higher level of magic form.

“Just as you said, the Dragon Knight is like a mini Magic Web.” Liszt’s imagination began to take flight. “Does that mean, then, that the Dragon Dou Qi released by a Dragon Knight essentially shares a great deal of similarity with the magic power of the Magic Web? So are Dragon Dou Qi and Magic Web magic power of the same caliber in terms of magical properties?”

To use the term ‘level’ might be inaccurate.

Describing it as ‘energy level’ makes it clearer.

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“Brother makes a lot of sense,” Ach nodded in agreement. She greatly admired Li Si Te (Liszt) because he had imparted so much wondrous knowledge to her, such as the movement of celestial bodies, the Big Bang, gravitational waves, wormholes, the three laws of thermodynamics, as well as cellular structures and the four major tissues of the human body, and so on.

In her eyes, the breadth of Liszt’s knowledge far surpassed any other magician.

Indeed, that was the case, as the knowledge Liszt brought with him was the culmination of thousands of years of summaries and explorations by Earth’s scientists. Whereas the humans of this world were still indulging in Dou Qi and magic, spending their days either cultivating or at war, relying on elves for farming and dragons for mining minerals.

They had no incentive to develop technology.

The theory of the triangle of material, magic power, and spirit was too encompassing, causing humans not to focus on material technology but to follow the path of magic power expansion—after all, if cultivating alone made them stronger and enabled them to plunder everything, who would want to bother inventing and creating.

Even Liszt, a transmigrator who had basked in the light of modern civilization, was still attracted to magic power and found himself unable to extricate himself from the desire to become stronger.

There was no interest in driving the development of the industrial revolution.

With the easy path of picking up elves and riding dragons to possess everything, why choose to promote the industrial revolution—rather than spend hundreds of years pushing

the industry forward and barely creating something like the atomic bomb that could grow mushrooms, it was better to ride more dragons.

In summary, Liszt could indeed claim the title of a learned man in this world.

After careful comparison between the dragon's magic power and the magic web's magic power with Ach, they concluded that these two types of magic power were essentially on the same level and belonged to the same energy level of magical properties.

“Dragon's Intent is the ultimate nature of magic power, the dragon's ordinary magic power and the magic web's magic power are advanced in nature, other stray magic powers are low in nature...”

The discussion went on until late at night.

Ach summarized, “Other forms of magic power, such as Dou Qi, Blood Magic, Druid Magic, as well as the magic passed down from ancient warriors and ancient magicians, are all branches of low nature magic power; in essence, they are still low nature magic power, while Dragon Dou Qi belongs to a branch of advanced nature magic power.”

Liszt quickly noted in his thick leather-bound notebook, “A Knight's Dou Qi is a cultivation system based on low nature magic power, which transforms into advanced nature magic power when they reach the level of a Dragon Knight; magicians are the same, all kinds of magic are evolutions of low nature magic power, and it is only Archmages that transform into advanced nature magic power.”

From what is known so far, only Dragon Knights and Archmages are involved with advanced nature magic power; other ancient warriors and ancient magicians are still revolving around low nature magic power.

Therefore, during the era of the Moon Empire when the magic web was powerful, magicians ruled the world.

Currently, with the shrinking magic web and the Dragon Knights who have their own mini magic web radiating light and heat, the Knights have begun to rule the world. Compared with the magicians' worship of knowledge, the Knights were a bit more savage in their cultivation, resulting in the prosperity and civilization of the Moon Empire being almost entirely lost after a few thousand years.

“We should classify and define the properties of each level of magic power for easier publishing in the future,” Liszt said in the end. “Low nature magic power will be called Low-energy Magic Power, advanced nature magic power will be called High-energy Magic Power, and ultimate nature magic power, which is Dragon’s Intent, will be called Super-energy Magic Power.”

They will be briefly called Low Magic, High Magic, and Superior Magic.

Earth Knights, Sky Knights, Domain Knights, Magicians, Grand Magicians, Cloaked Bear-wearers, Vampires, these are all Low Magic professions.

Dragon Knights and Archmages belong to High Magic professions.

Moving further up, unless Liszt also cultivates Dragon’s Intent, he can’t advance to a Superior Magic profession. As for how Ach will upgrade the magic web’s magic power to a higher energy level and reach the Superior Magic profession remains unknown.