

## The Mighty 701

### Chapter 701: Battle Between the Dragon Knight and the Magic Conductor

Regardless of whether he was being watched, Liszt went about his business as usual, not letting the presence of Alonso Xiankelai faze him.

All are Dragon Knights here, none need frighten the others.

However, paying close attention to news was essential; Mary Dawn had been arranging for close surveillance of Crazy Ghost Haben for three consecutive days. It was almost certain that Haben, the only vampire, had come to Coral Island and, disguised as a merchant, settled in Fresh Flower Town—unfortunately, he didn't have an "ID card," so he couldn't go to Black Horse Island.

Liszt's territory had long ago implemented a real-name system. All ships coming to and from Fresh Flower Town and Black Horse Island had to have an identity card issued by the office and a temporary pass card.

Temporary pass cards were only issued to nobles invited by Liszt.

Each person had an identity card bearing their basic information, complete with special magic runes. A piece of detection equipment using magic power was used to verify these identity cards, ensuring their authenticity. This project was completed by Chris's Mage Tower under the guidance of Liszt.

Identity cards weren't difficult to produce.

In fact, forging one wasn't hard either; as long as one could decipher the magic runes on the identity card, the materials needed to create a forged card could be easily found.

Of course.

The identity card was merely a simple method to distinguish between residents and non-residents. The true distinction relied on the mutual monitoring and reporting among the residents themselves.

If anyone of dubious identity managed to infiltrate, they would be immediately reported to the patrol team.

Those who reported successfully would receive a monetary reward. Hence, the residents valued this extra income highly and often roamed near their living areas to look for strangers. Crazy Ghost Haben had been reported once before due to his sneaky behavior.

Fortunately, he managed to cover it up with his merchant identity.

Of course, if he truly wanted to go to Black Horse Island, it would be very easy—simply transform into a bat and follow the departing ship. Although there were time constraints on his bat form, if he just waited a few hours in a cargo hold, it would be easy. His goal seemed to be to investigate Black Horse Island over the long term, so he needed a legitimate identity.

Unfortunately, Haben was unaware that his every move was being monitored by his peers, who regularly reported his whereabouts to Liszt.

“Is this guy really targeting me, dawdling around as if he’s on vacation?” Looking at the report that explained how almost every day Crazy Ghost Haben spent most of his time eating and consuming a lot of food, Liszt had his doubts about the man’s professional dedication.

It was completely like a junket with food and drink on the public dime.

“Continue monitoring,” he could only give such an order before he asked about the vampires sent to Iron Hoof Island and Blue Dragon Island if there were any messages back.

The answer was no; the sea route was too long, and the message transmission was very inconvenient.

This had him lamenting, “It would be great if we could dig up the magic array technology from the era of the Moon Empire. Even if we cannot transport people, sending some letters or such would be good.”

Suddenly.

An idea sparked: “Ach has already touched the Magic Web, and I’ve shared with her some basic knowledge about electromagnetic waves and communication signals. I wonder if Ach could rely on the Magic Web to create a corresponding magic array? I don’t ask for it to transport material objects; just transmitting some ‘signals’ would be enough!”

With this thought, he immediately went upstairs to Ach’s laboratory, where Ach was engrossed in an experiment while Chris and the twin magic apprentices Lucy and Ruth assisted her.

“Brother.”

“Ach, Chris, I have an idea; see if you can make it happen.” Liszt immediately shared his concept of a message transmission magic circle, “You are all aware of the limitations imposed by the Abandoned Cordyceps on the Magic Web and have researched a lot of materials. You should understand that the Magic Web can have a long-distance association.”

The Abandoned Cordyceps in the million-square-kilometer area is restricted by the Magic Web, with a limit to the magic power it can draw.

From this alone, it can be surmised that the Magic Web is a whole entity. According to Ach’s observation after touching it, the Magic Web is both a net and a field.

Electromagnetic waves are also a field.

Since electromagnetic waves can transmit electromagnetic signals, there’s no reason to believe the Magic Web can’t transmit magic power signals.

“Brother, your idea is very imaginative, but it requires a lot of research and verification. Ach can’t guarantee successful research on a message transmission magic circle,” Ach replied.

Liszt was open-minded, “There’s no strict requirement; if research is feasible, then we’ll conduct it. If not, we’ll abandon it.”

Ach remained calm, already immune to Liszt’s endless stream of ideas, but Chris exclaimed in admiration, “Viscount, you truly are the knowledgeable scholar Lord Acherloides has praised. Your breadth of thought is impressive, and the message transmission magic circle is a brilliantly creative concept.”

“It’s just so-so. There are many similar small inspirations; I simply choose some that can be put to good use,” Liszt said calmly.

He had become indifferent to minor flattery.

He had Ach hand over the remaining work in the laboratory to Chris and her apprentice, then pulled Ach away from the castle, “Ach, there might be a real Dragon Knight lurking in the dark looking to harm me, so we might encounter a dragon-slaying battle sooner than expected. We must be ready at all times.”

“Ach will protect brother!” the little sea monster said seriously, clenching her fist.

“We need to fight side by side, but before that, I must get you familiar with how to battle. Let’s go to Dodo Island and have a real combat practice session.”

“Okay!”

Fighting Ach had always been something Liszt wanted to do; after all, no amount of solitary practice could rival the profound experience of actual combat. Ach was an Archmage; he was a Dragon Knight—both represented the pinnacle of power in this world, but neither of them had much real combat experience.

Now, with Alonso Xiankelai looming in the shadows, Liszt had to quickly get used to fighting between Dragon Knights and Archmages.

And to help Ach grow quickly.

...

The beach on Dodo Island.

Liszt, riding Leo, drifted leisurely in the sky, while by the seaside a hundred-meter-high water tornado loomed. Ach stood on a white scallop shell, focusing in preparation.

“Are you ready?” Liszt, controlling Leo, flew past the water tornado and asked.

Ach nodded calmly, “I’m ready, come on, brother!”

“Then let’s start!”

As Liszt spoke, his mind quickly merged with Leo’s, synchronizing thoughts and body at great speed, entering Dragon Rider Mode in an instant. Man and dragon became one, indistinguishable from one another, sharing sight, hearing, taste, touch, thought, and even the flow of Dou Qi and magic power within their bodies.

Dragon Eye Trajectory activated; the world began to exist in a different way.

He raised the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword in his hand and swiftly lunged at Ach with Leo, the Dragon Dou Qi surging violently. His first attack was a powerful accumulated move.

“Scorching Sun Sting!”

The Ach outlined in magic power, blue and white, was surrounded by countless glowing blue and white threads leading into the void, continuously drawing magic power from the magic web.

In an instant.

A magic power ring appeared around her body, an advanced Water System magic—the Water Wave Shield, but cast by an Archmage, its defensive power was many times stronger.

The sea beneath the shell began to churn, as numerous thick magic power lines outlined seawater that shot out like rocket artillery, each one targeting Liszt and Leo.

Liszt, with Dragon Eye Trajectory activated, couldn't be deceived by any magic trajectory; Leo nimbly dodged the countless water cannons. However, those water cannons were a feint, and as the seawater brought up by the cannons surrounded Leo, Ach cast another spell, and all the seawater instantly wrapped around Leo like serpents.

Quickly forming a ring and beginning to tear at Leo's body, this was the magic Water Ring Rupture, learned from Necrofish Ugly.

Leo did not fear at all, the Dragon Dou Qi changing from surging to boiling, flames burning on his body as he quickly broke through the restraints of the Water Ring Rupture, approaching Ach above the water tornado.

Liszt, meanwhile, brandished the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword and delivered a powerful attack with all his might.

## Chapter 702: Missing Legacy

Boom!

Liszt's attack struck the position where Ach was located, but Ach took advantage of the momentum to sink into the sea, disappearing from the view of the Dragon Eye Trajectory.

The Dragon Dou Qi slowly dissipated above the sea, and everything returned to calm.

Only Liszt remained, riding the Fire Dragon, patrolling the surface of the sea—although the Dragon Eye Trajectory had strong observation capabilities, it did not have the ability to see through objects; therefore, once Ach sank into the sea, she successfully escaped his field of vision.

“What does Ach want to do, drag out the time because she knows my Dragon Rider Mode has a time limit? That's unlikely—the purpose of our combat exercise is to hone our

fighting skills; there can be no improvement without engagement... Moreover, I can end the Dragon Knight Resonance early and return to normal," he pondered.

Dragon Knight Resonance was now so adept for Liszt that he and Leo could enter Dragon Rider Mode anytime and anywhere without suffering from any time limit drawbacks.

However, just as he considered whether to deactivate Dragon Rider Mode, the sea began to surge again.

Numerous streams of water formed giant blades that rose from the sea, creating a net-like formation that slashed towards Leo with an unmatched momentum, fiercely and rapidly like a violent storm.

High-Level Water System Magic – Blade of Water!

Riding on Leo, Liszt deftly maneuvered through the air among the massive water blades, searching for Ach's figure. His responsive and judgmental abilities greatly enhanced while in Dragon Rider Mode, the Dragon Eye Trajectory now offered a dynamic view, with a clear insight into the trajectory of magic power.

Suddenly.

Within the massive, ascending water blades, a thick, solid column of water shot up with lightning speed—Advanced Water System Magic – Strong Water Column!

This high-level magic, usually reserved for Grand Magicians, was cast by Ach as easily as the most basic Water Arrow Spell—at will and without any concern for the consumption of magic power. And after touching the Magic Web, her deep understanding of Dynamic Magic Arrays elevated her mastery of magic to a higher plane.

All aspects of the magic's power and properties underwent a qualitative leap and enhancement.

Had a Sky Knight, even a Domain Knight, faced such formidable magic, they wouldn't have been able to break through it, and a single round of magic might have sent them off in pursuit of knightly glory.

But the target of the magical attack was a Dragon Knight.

“Very strong, but still not enough to defeat me!” There wasn’t a ripple in Liszt’s heart as his gaze continually swept over the churning sea, using the trajectory of the released magic to lock on to Ach’s figure. “Ach moves very fast in the water, nearly reaching the degree of instant movement, which is a bit troublesome.”

If it were a human Archmage, no matter how proficient in Water Magic, they wouldn’t be able to swim through the sea so effortlessly.

But water control was Ach’s racial talent; the sea was her true home turf, where she was virtually invincible.

And Ach made good use of her talent, hiding in the sea and not showing herself, relying on magic for sneak attacks on Liszt—to be strict about it, Ach was not just a theoretical flower nurtured in a greenhouse; she had hunted many Sea Monsters in the sea. From a very young age, she was able to avoid the pursuit of intermediate-level Sea Monsters like the Six-Headed King Serpent, so it can’t be said that she lacked combat experience.

“Still not good enough!”

With keen observation through the Dragon Eye Trajectory, it didn’t take long for Liszt to capture Ach’s underwater route, analyze their respective positions and travel lines, and find the optimal attack position. Then, in perfect harmony of heart and mind, Leo folded his wings and plummeted like a weightless rocket, piercing through the layers of water blades.

Just as he was about to crash into the sea, Leo suddenly rolled to the side, spreading his wings wide and fiercely flapping them, while Liszt raised his Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword high, sending a Dou Qi attack pouring into the sea.

The Fire Attribute Dragon Dou Qi could still transform and burn underwater, accurately striking Ach, who was rapidly changing positions. When the Dragon Dou Qi came into contact with the Water Wave Shield, it exploded into a violent collision. The collision shattered the Water Wave Shield like glass and forcefully slammed Ach further into the depths of the sea.



The moment the Water Wave Shield broke, Ach took advantage of the impact force and swiftly retreated.

Even as she fell back, she did not forget to raise her hand and released one after another Advanced Water System Magic – Whirlpool Convergence, causing the surrounding seawater to explode tumultuously. Countless streams of magic power erupted chaotically, tearing everything in the vicinity to shreds and successfully blocking Liszt, the Dragon Knight, who already surged back again.

Their vision was obscured by the shattered spray, losing track of Ach.

With a thought from Liszt, Leo spread his wings and flew high into the sky, just as a thick and solid water column burst through the waves, aiming at where Leo had just been.

Just like that.

Ach kept releasing magic, but either missed Leo or failed to inflict significant damage when hitting him. Liszt could find opportunities to attack Ach, but similarly, the seawater reduced the impact of his attacks, proving no major threat to Ach—they were at an impasse.

About half an hour later.

Liszt signaled that the live combat training was over and joined Ach on the beach.

With a “roar,” Leo flew towards the mouth of the Dodo Island Volcano to enjoy the fire attribute superior magic he had just condensed. Liszt and Ach stayed in the small cabin by the sea to carefully review the gains and losses of the live combat training.

“Big brother, the combat power of magicians is clearly weaker than that of a Dragon Knight, not by just a small margin,” Ach’s magic caused too little damage to the Dragon Knight. “If not for the help of the sea, Ach would not stand a chance against you, and in the upcoming dragon-slaying battle with Alonso Xianke, Ach will probably only be able to play a supporting role.”

What she said was true.

Through this live combat training, Liszt also realized that despite the magician's attacks appearing ferocious—often sweeping across a large area—they were not of much significance to the robust physique of the Dragon Knight. Even if Leo took a few spells head-on, he wouldn't be grievously wounded, at most breaking a couple of bones.

The attack power of a Dragon Knight, however, could easily tear apart magic, reaching the magician himself directly.

If this battle had not been at sea, but on land, Ach would likely have been overwhelmed and defeated by Liszt after just a few attacks.

"I also think there's a problem with the combat power of magicians. The magic books mention the ancient magicians who could fight dragons one-on-one. Their attack power shouldn't be so weak... There must be a break in the succession of knowledge. Ach, you have only mastered advanced magic, which Grand Magicians should be able to wield."

Liszt made his own judgment: "Magicians should possess higher-level magic, otherwise they wouldn't have left such a resounding legacy."

"Ach thinks so too, but there's no clue about higher-level magic."

"Perhaps soul research is a good direction. The magicians of the Goat Assembly relied on soul research to severely wound the Sapphire Dragon."

Liszt sighed.

After thinking for a moment.

He made a decision he wasn't sure he should, pulling out several magic books about the soul from his space ring and handing them to Ach: "All these books are collections I've gradually made concerning the soul. Originally, I didn't want you to know about them because soul research is too wicked."

He hoped that Ach could always remain as pure and untainted as she was now, rather than become a crazed magician delving into souls and defiling life and death.

According to legend.

Many of the ancient magicians reportedly became wizards or even transformed themselves into liches after studying the soul. Liszt did not like wizards and liches, always feeling it was a desecration of life—perhaps he was actually worried that magicians through soul research could harm himself.

After all, the Sapphire Dragon was a lesson from the past—just a group of Grand Magicians had nearly succeeded in slaying a dragon, showing the lethal power of the soul.

Seeing Liszt's concern, Ach solemnly took the books, giggled, and said, "Big brother, Ach will always be your little sea monster."

Liszt looked distracted, Ach had never spoken in such a coquettish tone before, but then he laughed out loud: "That's right, Ach will always be Ach, and I will always be Ach's big brother, Liszt!"

#### Chapter 703: Making Acquaintance with the Great One

The Archmage's magic inheritance is incomplete, which can't be resolved overnight, but luckily Ach is still very young.

The aged Sea Monster Yisi, who is over four hundred years old and still in good health, is only forty-three years old; her lifespan is obviously very long.

However, the urgent task at hand is to enhance the combat power for the upcoming dragon-slaying battle.

After serious analysis, Liszt said, "Even though the Archmage's inheritance is missing and your combat power cannot be improved in a short time, also unable to pose a significant threat to the Dragon Knights, focusing on support is a good choice. During the dragon-slaying battle, you will be responsible for containment, and I will stand firm against the Dragon Knights."

“Understood, Ach listens to you.”

The two of them immediately discussed various cooperative attack methods; if the main battlefield is at sea, the combined strength of Liszt and Ach fighting side by side would be very formidable—Ach, unbeatable on his home ground, could deftly dodge the Dragon Knights’ attacks and freely cast Water Magic while standing above the sea.

If the main battlefield is on land, Ach needs to cast Water Magic to assist Liszt while ensuring his own safety.

“It would be best to ensure the battlefield is at sea, only then can we maximize our joint combat power and ensure the outcome of the dragon-slaying battle... There should still be a bit of time, after this we need to practice coordination extensively, striving to achieve an unspoken level of cooperation.”

“Yes!”

...

Liszt thought there was still time, as the lurking crisis was, after all, just lurking and not yet directly in front of them.

But when he and Ach returned to their territory the next day, they were immediately met with a report from Mary Dawn Break, “Lord, there’s been a serious incident!”

As she spoke, the Pureblood Vampire’s face was etched with a worried expression.

“What serious incident?”

“Peggy and Wimbleton have returned from Iron Hoof Island, they detected numerous familiar vampire presences there, and those vampires also detected their presences. According to their assessment, it’s very likely that the Black Knight Family has mobilized the higher ranks, or even all their vampires!”

Including Purebloods and Mixed-bloods, the Black Knight Family has a total of fifty-four vampires.

There are twelve Purebloods and forty-two Mixed-bloods.

Currently, with the Purebloods Tuobert and Fomuir dead, and Mary among the seven Mixed-bloods who have defected to Liszt, this means the Black Knight Family is left with ten Purebloods and thirty-five Mixed-bloods.

“Summon Peggy and Wimbleton here,” Liszt ordered calmly.

A moment later.

Peggy and Wimbleton appeared, recounting in detail what they had witnessed on Iron Hoof Island. Soon after they arrived at Bull Horn City by ship, they sensed the presence of Pureblood Vampires in the city.

“A Pureblood’s heart can amplify the influence of Blood Magic Power, using this feedback of Blood Magic Power to scout the locations of Mixed-blood Vampires, although the influence is mutual, and the Mixed-bloods can also detect the positions of Pureblood Vampires,” Mary explained.

“So when Peggy and Wimbleton sensed the Purebloods, the enemy sensed Peggy and Wimbleton too?”

“Yes, my Lord.”

“How many Purebloods did you sense?”

“We detected the presence of three Purebloods. It’s rare for three Mixed-bloods to act together in the Black Knight Family. And just being in Bull Horn City, we felt the presence of three, it’s imaginable that there are likely Purebloods spread across other cities on Bull Hoof Island as well,” Peggy replied.

Wimbleton added, “It’s also possible these three Purebloods wanted to take a ship out of Bull Horn City to other islands... However, after Peggy and I were discovered, we didn’t dare to stay in Bull Horn City. We snuck into a large ship departing to the outer islands, holding our blood flow still, and thus evaded the Purebloods’ tracking.”

Liszt nodded slightly and inquired, “Do you think it’s possible that the Black Knight Family came for Tuobert and Fomuir?”

“Lord, it’s very possible the Black Knight Family is targeting us.”

Liszt could not confirm or deny this.

But his feeling was different; the Black Knight Family should be aware of his strength, after all, he had defeated the formidable Domain Knights and bore the “Ancient Warrior Inheritance.” It would be difficult for the Purebloods of the Black Knight Family to seek any advantage from Liszt, especially since this is in the Duchy of Sapphire.

He instructed, “Keep a close eye on Coral Island and Black Horse Island, especially you, Mary, you must constantly have the influence of Blood Magic Power active. As soon as you detect any new vampires arriving, report to me immediately... As for that Crazy Ghost Haben, don’t bother to keep an eye on him—bring him directly to me.”

“As you wish, my lord!”

...

The capture of Crazy Ghost Habin went smoothly; as a mixed-blood, he stood no chance of escaping in the net woven by Mary and the other Blood Servants.

His heart was not in his body.

But he couldn’t withstand Mary’s interrogation and spilled everything he knew.

“I did indeed intend to infiltrate Black Horse Island to investigate Lord Liszt, but I came without malice, Lady Mary. I was unaware that you had already pledged allegiance to Lord Liszt. Believe me, this is a misunderstanding,” Crazy Ghost Habin, sensing the pureblood aura on Mary, expressed his confusion and alarm.

“You came without malice, so you mean to say you came with goodwill?”

“To be precise, it is a kind of goodwill. My original task was to contact several family vampires, ah, that is to say, your former superior Lord Tuobert... It was only along the way that I received orders from my superior, Lord Posido, to survey Black Horse Island.” He hadn’t known about Tuobert’s death until now.

But seeing Mary becoming a pureblood, he must have guessed it.

The two pureblood vampires killed by Liszt, only stationed at the Trapped Dragon Mountain Iron Mine, Fomuir, and the Black Knight Family should be aware of their demise. As for Tuobert, who went to Iron Hoof Island to investigate the Goat Assembly, the Black Knight Family knew nothing of his life or death, for from purebloods to mixed-bloods, all had been swept up by Liszt with no information leaked.

Mary continued the interrogation: “And slipping into Black Horse Island is also considered goodwill?”

“You may not be aware, my lady, but the family never entertained thoughts of avenging Lord Fomuir, not even Fomuir’s sister. I don’t know the reason, but I’ve heard that if possible, the family patriarch wishes to forge ties with this Lord Liszt.”

“Forge ties?”

“Yes. You must have been keeping watch over me, so you’ve seen that I was not urgent about my task. I’ve always been indulging in gourmet food. To me, going to Black Horse Island was not a mission, but merely a trip,” Crazy Ghost Habin spoke with seeming truthfulness.

A flicker of puzzlement crossed Mary’s eyes, but it did not interrupt her steady and quiet interrogation: “Then what is the purpose behind the Black Knight Family’s major deployment?”

“Uh, I don’t know. As you’re aware, many of our missions are simply errands we run, with secrets held by the pureblood lords,” he explained.

“Then how many from your family have come?”

“Fatty Pick and I followed Lord Posido here in the first wave; how many more from the family arrived afterward, I’m not sure of that either.”

With the interrogation concluded, they detained Crazy Ghost Habin.

Mary then hastily reported back to Liszt.

After hearing the report, Liszt frowned, “The Black Knight Family patriarch wants to forge ties with me? They know I’ve killed the original pureblood Fomuir yet don’t seek revenge, but instead want to forge ties with me?” It sounded like a joke and made little sense.

“My lord, Crazy Ghost Habin probably didn’t lie, but he also heard about the Black Knight Family patriarch’s intentions to forge ties with you, so we cannot be sure of its truth,” she said.

“But why would the Black Knight Family patriarch want to forge ties with me? If I’m not misremembering, this patriarch named Rommel Black Knight, is a powerful vampire whose strength rivals that of a Top Knight,” Liszt said, shaking his head in disbelief, but then an idea suddenly struck him.

This time, the Smoke Mission presented a choice of allegiance.

At first, he thought he would be forced to make a choice under the pressure of the Grand Duke, but now it seemed to involve Alonso Xiankelai unexpectedly.

“Could the meaning of the Smoke Mission be for me to make a stance between Alonso and the Grand Duke?”

He pondered in silence.

It seemed from the onset that Alonso had been positioned as an enemy in the fight against the dragons because Liszt had killed his vampire servants and seized his iron mines. However, what was overlooked was that both vampires and iron ore were part of the war, and losses on the battlefield were inevitable.



For a Dragon Knight, such losses might not seem too severe, especially when compared to gaining the allegiance of a foremost Ancient Warrior Inheritor, these losses were within acceptable bounds.

“Could it be that Alonso may wish to recruit me as a follower?” he speculated.

“Based on his habits, it does indeed seem possible. Didn’t he hoodwink the Marquis of the Bull into being crippled...”

#### Chapter 704: Eagle Spreads Its Wings

Liszt was puzzled.

He didn’t know what Alonso Xiankelai was thinking, and was even more uncertain what the lurking crisis meant—it was true that Alonso might have designs on the Duchy of Sapphire, but what could he rely on to lay hands on it? The Duchy of Sapphire had dominated the seas for over a hundred and fifty years and was certainly not a small nation that could be manipulated by just anyone.

For the moment, no one could provide an answer.

In Black Horse Island, Fresh Flower Town, only Ach knew about Liszt’s identity as a Dragon Knight.

However, Ach didn’t really understand politics and couldn’t provide Liszt with any reference opinions.

There was another person on Coral Island who knew his identity, so the perplexed Liszt prepared to have a good talk with Marquis Li Weiliam of Bull Tail.

But when he arrived at Tulip Castle, he found out that the Marquis had gone to the Bull Tail Domain of Iron Hoof Island to take over his newly awarded estate.

“Then let Ach take me to Iron Hoof Island,” Liszt decided without any hesitation, asking Ach to take him to Iron Hoof Island directly.

It was a four-day voyage from Coral Island to Iron Hoof Island, but for Ach, it was only an hour’s journey.

The clam served as a submarine.

Liszt and Ach lay down side by side inside it, chatting and resting for a while, and before long they had already reached Iron Hoof Island, hundreds of kilometers away. Bull Tail City was the main city of the Bull Tail Domain, a large coastal city that boasted a castle that had once belonged to the Bull Family—Bull Tail Fort.

The Bull Family was quite brutish when it came to naming things.

The island was called Iron Hoof Island, and due to a particular fondness for “bulls,” all the cities were named after parts of the bull: Horn, Hoof, Tail, Sinew, Spine, Hair, Rump, Rib, and so on. Each city had its own castle, though of course, none could compare to the grandeur of Bull Castle in Iron Hoof City.

The cities and castles not given to followers mainly served as vacation residences for the Bull Family, so Bull Tail Fort was even more spartan than Tulip Castle.

Of course.

Even though Bull Tail Fort was spartan, in addition to the main city of Bull Tail City, the Bull Tail Domain also included two other large cities, Bull Rump City and Bull Rib City, as well as ten smaller cities. Thus, the Tulip Family suddenly gained three large castles with names and ten smaller city castles of varying sizes.

At this moment, the flag raised atop Bull Tail Fort was the red flag of the Tulip Family, signifying that the place now belonged to the Tulip Family.

The guards of Bull Tail Fort were very lax. It wasn’t until Liszt and Ach approached the main gate that a pair of patrolling knights noticed them. Seeing Liszt, the knights hurried over to salute and welcomed the two into the castle.

Butler Xi Er Wa rushed over, anxious and apologetic, “I’m so sorry, Young Master Liszt, Miss Acherlroides, I wasn’t aware of your visit today. The castle is a mess and not yet properly arranged, and no servants have been assigned to guard the door. This is a severe oversight.”

“Where is my father?” Liszt did not care for these details.

“The Master and Lady have gone to Bull Tail City to inspect the transfer of workshops and shops. Please wait a moment, young master and miss; I will send a servant to Bull Tail City to find the Master immediately.”

“Hmm.”

Liszt nodded, wandering around Bull Tail Fort with Ach to take a look at the castle. It was his first time coming to Bull Tail City, his first time seeing Bull Tail Fort. Speaking of which, it was somewhat cold; Ach had the technology for fast travel, and he hadn’t thought to visit the Bull Tail Domain for a tour.

Perhaps subconsciously, he didn’t consider anything outside of Black Horse Island as his territory.

To retreat for three to five years and then build a nation overseas, he wouldn’t have much involvement here, so he didn’t bother to invest emotionally. Just as he finished looking around Bull Tail Fort, the Marquis had already returned: “Liszt, Ach, when did you come over? Why didn’t you give a heads-up?”

“It was a spur-of-the-moment decision. I came to discuss something with you, Father,” Liszt replied.

Lady Marie smiled and said, “You two go and talk in the study. I’ll prepare lunch for you.” Generally, whenever it came to matters involving Liszt and his father, she was conscious not to be in the way and found an excuse to leave.

The study was nicely furnished, and the Marquis somehow acquired a large batch of new books, filling the shelves.

Liszt had not seen these new books before, and he suddenly felt an itch in his hands, wanting to take a knife to slice through the cover, to see if he could find any more Dou Qi Secret Techniques.

Of course.

He restrained himself, gesturing to Ach to flip through the books as he liked and directly began discussing with the Marquis, “My Blood Servant has discovered a large number of vampires from the Black Knight Family sneaking into Iron Hoof Island, and it seems their arrival bodes ill.”

“Vampires sneaking in?” The Marquis frowned, “What is their purpose?”

“I’m not clear on that, but they didn’t come for me; after I killed a Pureblood, they not only did not seek revenge, but Chieftain Rommel of the Black Knight Family even wished to make my acquaintance... I suspect the Black Knight Family’s action this time is on the instructions of Alonso.”

“That’s possible, Fomuir died because of the Pioneer Mandate, this is warfare between kingdoms.”

“Moreover, I have already sent two letters requesting ransom for the Sky Knights, and there has been no response whatsoever from Alonso’s side, which is not normal.”

“Indeed, Garcia and Fox, although both just average Sky Knights, are still young and have the potential to advance to Sword Saint. It doesn’t make sense to just abandon them.” After listening to Liszt’s explanation, the Marquis fell into deep thought, “For Alonso to be ready to recruit you does indeed fit the logic.”

“But what makes him confident that I would abandon my status with the Sapphire and follow him... Even if he is a Dragon Knight, he’s still only a Viscount.”

If Alonso were a Duke and had founded his own kingdom, then he would have been worthy to recruit Liszt.

But he was just a Dragon Knight fostered by the Eagle Kingdom; if he dies, the dragon must be returned, and he has no qualifications to recruit a powerful “Ancient Warrior

Inheritance” like Liszt—how could he possibly give Liszt a status comparable to that in the Sapphire? The Grand Duke was ready to attract him with the title of Marquis.

Just a nod, and the title of Marquis of Iron Hoof Island would be his for the taking.

Alonso Xiankelai, as a Bronze Dragon Knight, might sound mighty, yet his title was only that of Summit Marquis plus Lotus Hill Count.

“Since the Black Knight Family isn’t targeting you, and Alonso is showing signs of wanting to recruit you, does this mean his target is the Sapphire itself?”

“I have had my suspicions too, but with what would he conquer the Sapphire?”

“The Dragon Slaying Battle?” the Marquis said, as ever since Liszt started dragon riding, the thought of the Dragon Slaying Battle had lingered for a long time, “Could it be that Alonso is preparing to fight the Grand Duke?”

“Coming alone to a distant land, isn’t he afraid of being trapped here? Even if a Dragon Knight is powerful, the Sapphire Family could easily flee and hide, making a comeback after avoiding the assault seems not difficult.”

“What if he’s not coming alone, but with a plethora of Knight Orders?” the Marquis suddenly thought, “Initially, you said the descendants of the Marquis of Bull had defected to the Continental Kingdom, and surmised that Alonso was their backer. With the Bull Family’s legacy, they could certainly help the Eagle Kingdom build a fleet.”

“This...”

Liszt wanted to counter, for he’d always felt quite secure being isolated overseas, but what the Marquis said made sense; since the escape of the Marquis of Bull, shipbuilding technology was no longer exclusive to the Sapphire.

The Bull Family had been preparing to slay dragons for more than a day or two.

Which meant they had defected to the Eagle Kingdom long ago, and over the years the Eagle Kingdom frantically built ships and trained sailors, amassing a large fleet of ships, in the thousands.

...

As if to confirm the Marquis's conjecture.

After the midday banquet.

A Knight riding a Falcon Magical Beast descended from the sky, landing at Bull Tail Fort, a Knight from the directly subordinated Ashen Hawk Knights of the Grand Duke. This Knight came from Bull Hoof City and was currently affiliated with the Quicksand City Marquis Nesta Big Flower Hydrangea, stationed in Bull Hoof City; he brought explosive news.

"Marquis of Bull Tail, Viscount Liszt, we have received a report from Rat. The Eagle Kingdom has mobilized a large fleet to invade our Sapphire!"

Chapter 705: Benefits of the Fisherman

"As expected, it just as I predicted."

When the Ashen Hawk Knight who delivered the message had left, the Marquis's face darkened as he looked up at the gloomy sky through the window at a 45-degree angle. It was now December, and the days until the winter snow were drawing near, with temperatures dropping day by day.

He stood with his hands clasped behind his back.

He was not shaken by the news; on the contrary, there was even a hint of satisfaction within him as he reclaimed the dignity of his forebears—the cunning of age outmatched the inexperience of youth. Li Si Te hadn't foreseen the outcome, but he had predicted it accurately. This was experience, this was the way of life, this was why he was able to establish the Tulip Family.

The Marquis turned his head, looking at Liszt with eyes that seemed to sparkle with the confidence of “your dad will always be your dad”: “The Eagle Kingdom’s ambition for Sapphire has been longstanding, and it’s finally reached the point of eruption. The only question is whether the invaders who followed the fleet were led by Alonso.”

“Alonso is a certainty,” Liszt did not meet the Marquis’s gaze, nor did he show any look of admiration, “From the moment Marquis of Bull defected, he was involved in this plan. Without a doubt, he will be the leader of this war... What does the Grand Duke plan to do?”

To see a part and understand the whole.

When the Eagle Kingdom’s fleet began to reveal their whereabouts, many clues merged together in Liszt’s mind, forming a picture that was much clearer than what Li Weiliam could see.

...

Many years ago, the Royal Family of the Eagle Kingdom, harassed by Sapphire, decided to resolve this barbaric little country overseas once and for all.

But Sapphire’s geographical location is unique, with layered seas acting as a barrier, making it impossible to conquer.

As for the dragon slaying battle, the initial battle before the founding of Sapphire failed and it was just as unlikely to succeed afterward. Especially at sea, and with the protection of the Steel Ridge Kingdom, the Dragon Knights of the Eagle Kingdom wouldn’t dare to act recklessly—Dragon Knights don’t guarantee victory over Dragons.

Therefore.

The Eagle Kingdom got in touch with the Bull Family and even earlier with the Magic Goat Family, who were also being maneuvered by the Eagle Kingdom in the background. In any case, the Bull Family was enticed by the Lich plan. By the time of Marquis Bull, it’s very likely he was already heavily involved with the Eagle Kingdom, preparing for

dragon slaying and transformation into a Lich, while also aiding the Eagle Kingdom in shipbuilding.

Alonso was the executor of this plan.

Only, the dragon slaying did not go smoothly, the Sapphire Dragon didn't perish, and the Grand Duke made a stylish entrance by capturing Marquis Bull, so Alonso did not dare to make a move.

He sent Vampires to Iron Hoof Island to find the missing Goat Assembly's Grand Magician, to ascertain the Grand Duke's situation.

Until today.

It was probably because he knew about the Grand Duke's situation, or maybe because their Knight Order was strong enough to conquer Sapphire, or perhaps Dragon Knights of Steel Ridge were preoccupied with something else. In any case, Alonso began the invasion of Sapphire, and the problem brought by Liszt was just a minor nuisance.

Garcia and Fox, as captives, needn't pay ransom. If they conquer Sapphire, there will be no more captive issues.

As for the Black Knight Family, it might be because Alonso expressed appreciation for Liszt, which led Chieftain Rommel to abandon his desire for revenge, wanting to befriend Liszt instead.

And so.

The Smoke Mission issued had tasks of lurking crises and choosing allegiances.

...

"What do you think?" The Marquis was a bit displeased, not seeing the look of admiration in Liszt's eyes, but rather a nonchalant demeanor as if he were the one who had guessed the Eagle Kingdom's attack strategies.



Liszt indeed thought this way.

He disregarded the Marquis's previous conjectures outright, summing up all the clues to form a clear picture, everything under control: "What I think is not important, what matters is how the Grand Duke is going to respond... How does Marquis Nesta expect us to gather the Knight Order to defend Iron Hoof Island, I think we can play along."

"Not take a more proactive stance?"

"How to take the initiative?"

The Marquis said, "Sooner or later you will need to establish a nation, but a grand duchy lacks the support of a kingdom and will find it difficult to develop stability. Should a more dangerous Dragon Slaying War arise, the situation would be unpredictable. As a Dragon Knight, and Ach being an Archmage, you could choose to seek refuge with the Eagle Kingdom, or with the Steel Ridge Kingdom."

"What about the Grand Duke?"

"Ah," the Marquis sighed, "I served the Grand Princess, and the Grand Duke has not mistreated me, but the crisis of the Sapphire is not mine to decide. As a Marquis, I hope to fulfill the duties of a follower for the Sapphire Family as much as possible, but as of today, ordinary knights are no longer able to determine the outcome of wars."

The Marquis could not determine the outcome of wars.

Once the Knight Order of the Eagle Kingdom swarmed into the Sapphire, then the Knight Order of the Sapphire would lose its advantage at sea. Moreover, the Marquis was well aware of why he was able to be promoted to Marquis—it was because of his son's strong performance.

But Liszt could.

He gradually understood what choice meant: "Honestly, Father, I do not like to rely on others, whether it's the Eagle Kingdom or the Steel Ridge Kingdom, neither is worth my

allegiance! If I were to establish a nation, I even want to name it a kingdom right from the start and become the King myself.”

The Marquis looked at Liszt in silence: “Liszt, a kingdom needs to have at least two dragons.”

Liszt’s expression was unreadable: “I know.”

Seeing this, the Marquis did not dwell on whether it should be a kingdom or a grand duchy, but said, “By your words, you would be willing to help the Grand Duke at a crucial moment?”

“I am not one who likes change. I quite like the current position of the Duchy of Sapphire; it is suitable for me to lie low and develop slowly... However, it still depends on how the war progresses. Perhaps if the Grand Duke and Alonso inflicting mutual harm on one another, that would be the best opportunity for my entrance,”

The Smoke Mission provided a stance to choose, but did not specify whether to aid the Grand Duke of Sapphire or to side with the Eagle Kingdom. Consequently, Liszt had a third option—when the fisherman benefits from the fight between the snipe and the clam, he could take Sapphire for his own while the Grand Duke and Alonso are both weakened.

To extract the maximum benefit.

“Do not be too confident, you are still young, you can afford to work steadily and securely.”

“I understand, Father. The Eagle Kingdom is invading, and soon Iron Hoof Island will become the battleground. Be careful here; I will return to my domain with Ach to organize the Knight Order and head to Bull Tail Domain for support. Then we’ll see how the situation develops and how the Grand Duke responds.”

...

There was no delay.

Liszt immediately had Ach transport him back, made brief preparations, and notified the Tulip Family, organizing the Coral Island Knights and the Black Horse Island Knights Order to be ready to march.

Then, along with Ach, he returned to the Bull Tail Domain to wait for the war's arrival.

And they waited three days.

When the First Prince leading the large troop of the Blueblood Knight Order arrived at Bull Hoof City, the fast sailing ships scattered at sea belonging to the Sapphire finally spotted the fleet of the Eagle Kingdom.

A sight too massive to quantify, at least thousands of double-masted sailing ships, along with a few scattered triple-masted sailing ships.

When the news reached Bull Hoof City.

The First Prince immediately convened a meeting. More than thirty nobles, including Marquises and Earls, stood ready for battle, waiting for the First Prince's further instructions.

The First Prince, with a grave expression, surveyed the audience and slowly began, "My father, the Grand Duke of Sapphire, is already en route on the back of the Sapphire Dragon. This is a major crisis concerning the safety of Sapphire's territories, but do not panic, gentlemen. The sea is Sapphire's turf; the invaders of the Eagle Kingdom are destined to meet their end in the azure seawater!"

"Your Highness, what should we do?"

"We shall mount an offensive and engage in naval battle, intercepting the Eagle Kingdom's fleet at sea, ensuring they cannot set foot on any Sapphire island!"

Chapter 706: Old Rival

As the ship set sail from Bull Hoof Island Port, Liszt understood that war had become inevitable.

Moreover, naval battles are brutal. For knights, the cramped space on the ships hardly allows for charging. All they can do is exchange blows from a distance or leap about in boarding combat.

Liszt, accompanied by Ach riding Tulip Family's flagship, the "Tulip," chose not to engage in the fight but to watch as the battle spread over the sea. Once he had decided in his heart to reap the spoils of the fisherman's benefit, war became like a movie to him, where all he had to do was buy a good ticket and find his seat.

"We have an advantage in naval battles. The Sapphire Knights have had no shortage of skirmishes with pirates, and their experience in water combat is something the knights of the Eagle Kingdom, trained in haste, simply cannot match... After all, they haven't been through the baptism of the sea and don't know how to manipulate the surges,"

Li Weiliam stood at the bow, holding a telescope and surveying the entire seascape of battle.

The Dragon Knights had not yet appeared on the battlefield, so at the moment it was just a naval battle between ordinary knights. The Sapphire's Knight Order and fleet were still arriving in succession, and the current number of ships was not large; the Eagle Kingdom, however, had mobilized en masse, with countless sailboats covering the entire sea.

However, their ships were noticeably slow and stiff in maneuvering, especially in front of the Sapphire's numerous fast sailboats, which made them appear clumsy.

Two fast sailboats, working in tandem, approached from left and right. In an instant, a large group of knights leaped from their respective decks and commenced a boarding battle.

Two against one, they easily annihilated a sailboat from the Eagle Kingdom, then the Sapphire fast sailboats quickly moved away and charged towards the next Eagle Kingdom sailboat.

The fleets of the two kingdoms had only just encountered each other for a short time, and already dozens of sailboats had been wiped out, seventy percent of which belonged to the Eagle Kingdom.

The huge disparity in naval battle strength was not only evident in the ships but also in the knights. The rocking decks had no effect on the Sapphire Knights but were extremely challenging for the knights of the Eagle Kingdom. With their combat skills deformed and their bodies unstable, their combat power was directly weakened by thirty to forty percent; how could they compete with the agile Sapphire Knights?

Therefore,

Even though the Sapphire's ships were fewer in number, they far exceeded the Eagle Kingdom in combat effectiveness.

All of this was seen clearly by Liszt through his telescope: "The demeanor of the Eagle Kingdom is magnificent, but their naval battle strength does not match up with their spirit. At this rate, they probably won't make it to shore before meeting their end in this sea area. But it probably won't be that simple, the Eagle Kingdom wouldn't invade so rashly."

"It's the Magicians," Ach, also holding a telescope, suddenly said.

"Hmm?"

Li Weiliam and Liszt both exclaimed in surprise.

Ach put down the telescope and pointed towards the sea ahead: "I feel Magic Power converging; there are many Magicians hidden on the Eagle Kingdom's ships."

No further hints were needed from Ach.

The second wave of boarding combat unfolded quickly, and it was then that everyone realized the invaders from the Eagle Kingdom included not only knights but also a large number of magicians.

In an instant, countless spells erupted over the sea surface, with huge water pillars shooting up, meteorites shooting from the sky, numerous ice lances weaving back and forth, lightning cleaving through the sea waves, and a mass of dark mist devouring everything in sight... Water, fire, earth, wind, lightning, light, ice, and darkness, eight types of magic spells were released in a chaotic mix.

The Sapphire's lead fast sailboats were quickly overwhelmed by the magic.

However, on the Sapphire's fast sailboats, there were also a group of magicians. While the ships maneuvered to avoid magic attacks, these magicians counterattacked the opposing side—especially the ships of the Blue Blood Alliance, where nearly every fast sailboat had a few magicians casting spells in retaliation.

"I thought that starting with the Magic Goat Family, the Sapphire Family no longer put much effort into nurturing magicians, especially after the Goat Assembly and the Marquis of Bull's dragon-slaying incident," Liszt said, somewhat puzzled.

"Magicians are indeed declining, but no matter what, our combat and daily life can't do without magicians. The Grand Duke wouldn't hold a bias against magicians because of one or two magic incidents..." As Li Weiliam spoke, he turned to Ach and instructed, "Our fleet also needs to enter the combat zone. Ach, protect the fleet well."

He issued the order as an elder.

However, Ach did not answer him, simply looking toward Liszt. Only when Liszt nodded did she reply, "Ach will protect the fleet well." As a Sea Monster Magician, perhaps due to her race or maybe because of Liszt's teachings, she had little enthusiasm for humans.

Even though the man was Liszt's father, she only treated him with indifference.

This brought a touch of faint sorrow to Li Weiliam's heart, but he quickly coughed to conceal it, "Please continue to watch the battle. As a follower of the Grand Duke, I will personally join in this maritime warfare! It is the duty of a follower, and I will not choose to flee."

Having said this,

he left the bow with long strides, ready to command the family fleet to fight.

His heart was not flustered in the least, fully displaying the noble qualities of a Knight and establishing the towering image of a father, Landlord, and elder. After all, with a Dragon Knight and an Archmage standing behind him, what was there to fear!

Magic ascended.

Dou Qi surged forth.

The sea battle quickly escalated to a fervent pitch, with innumerable ships sinking to the ocean's surface.

Liszt's own Knight Order and fleet had not yet arrived at Iron Hoof Island; half of the Coral Island Knight Order had not reached either. According to normal message relay and support, it took seven days to travel to and from Coral Island, and only three days had passed, so he was only following half of the family fleet stationed at Bull Tail Domain.

There was no need for his own Knights to wear themselves out in the naval battle.

Even he himself had not made a move.

However, the Marquis of Bull Tail showed valiant bravery, repeatedly soaring and capturing ships, defeating several sailboats with his own power. Whenever there was peril, there would always be a fiery arrow to free him from tight spots, or a Water Tornado to block deadly moves for him. This made him even more reckless, killing joyously in all directions.

Now, with the ships on the sea incessantly releasing surging Dou Qi, the ambient Magic Power around the battlefield had become unstable, and Magic began to decay, turning into Sky Knights soaring through the air.

These flying Sky Knights were undoubtedly the main force in the boarding combat.

"The Marquis's Dou Qi is nearing completion. I didn't expect that just a few days after I gave him the Sky Manual, he would be on the verge of perfecting his Advanced Dou Qi,"

Liszt, employing the Eye of Magic, was tracking Li Weiliam's movements and could naturally see the gradual solidification of his Dou Qi's radiance.

This was a sign of Complete Advanced Level Dou Qi.

"But it's also normal, the Marquis has been famous for his sword for more than a decade; his Dou Qi should have reached a certain point long ago. With the aid of the Sky Manual, breaking through the final barrier is just a matter of course."

He was observing Li Weiliam's combat,

when Ach spoke up to remind him, "Brother, there's a Sky Knight over there who looks very powerful; he can hover in mid-air. Is he what Brother described as a Domain Knight?"

"Hmm?"

Taking up a Telescope, Liszt looked in the direction Ach pointed and saw a familiar figure of a Knight charging toward a Sapphire sailboat. His way of flying was radically different from that of a typical Sky Knight—the usual Sky Knight appeared more like jumping, diving, and gliding, but he was truly flying.

The sort of flying synonymous with Sun Wukong riding on his Somersault Cloud.

The Eye of Magic could see a cloud of Dou Qi beneath his feet.

"Hm!"

Liszt suddenly laughed, "If it isn't my old rival Marquis Nuta! I didn't expect him to be one of the invaders. How I have missed him these many days!"

Chapter 707: Easy Capture

"Signal the Tulip Fleet to sail to the right front!"



When the Marquis decided to personally hunt monsters and level up, Li Si Te (Liszt) became the Tulip's highest commander, instantly ordering the fleet to change its direction of attack.

"I want to catch up with Dimaria Yuhua Stone!"

The fleet swiftly turned the rudder toward Marquis Nuta's ships, and with the protection of Liszt and Ach, the Tulip Fleet hadn't lost a single ship so far and still maintained a full crew. Especially during boarding combat, Ach often released a few spells that easily destroyed the opponent's vessels.

The sea was her territory; whoever she wanted to be subdued had to be thoroughly subdued.

Dozens of Tulip sailboats continued to advance, rushing towards Marquis Nuta, who was brutally destroying ships, and the distance closed so rapidly that there was no need for telescopes to observe. At this time, the Marquis of Bull Tail, who was slaughtering in all directions, noticed the change in direction of his own fleet and immediately returned to the deck of the Tulip.

"Liszt, what's happening? Why has the sailing route changed?"

"Father, look over there."

Li Weiliam looked up and immediately spotted Marquis Nuta: "That is... Dimaria Yuhua Stone, the Domain Knight!"

"Yes, that's him." Liszt took hold of the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword's hilt with one hand, his expression slightly excited, "As a powerful Domain Knight, not only does he possess the Dou Qi Domain Manual but also his family's Dou Qi Secret Technique. As long as I capture him, all of that will be mine!"

The Marquis asked, "Can you take him down without revealing the dragon?"

Liszt raised his head proudly, “Father, you know too little about Dragon Knights.” With his current strength, his physique was strong, his Dragon Dou Qi surged, and he could unleash the Dragon’s Intent with the help of Fire Dragon Leo inside his body. His combat power was so formidable that it was beyond the imagination of ordinary knights.

“Then, I’ll go lure Dimaria.” The Marquis was eager to try; he had never crossed swords with a Domain Knight before.

“Whatever.”

“Good!”

When the two fleets drew close enough to see the expression on Marquis Nuta’s face, the Marquis of Bull Tail suddenly stood up and soared, charging towards the unmatched Marquis Nuta.

The distance was closing in.

Marquis Nuta naturally saw the Marquis of Bull Tail as well, recognizing him as the father of the one who had made him a laughingstock in the Eagle Kingdom. A Domain Knight, a Marquis with high status in the Kingdom, defeated by a youth from the insignificant Sapphire country, was for him a humiliation beyond measure.

His gaze swept around but did not find Liszt.

Marquis Nuta smirked coldly and flew towards the Marquis of Bull Tail. This time, he would rule the Duchy of Sapphire and wipe away his previous shame!

The soaring Marquis of Bull Tail was also brimming with confidence.

So, moments later, the two collided abruptly, their Water-Attribute Dou Qi clashing like two giant waves, scattering raindrops all over the sky.

Then.

A scream seemed to be heard.

The Marquis of Bull Tail plummeted at a speed even faster than his charge.

“Ach, save the Marquis,” Liszt ordered, immediately stirring up his Fire Attribute Dragon Dou Qi, streaking toward Marquis Nuta like an arrow.

Marquis Nuta, having just routed the Marquis of Bull Tail and ready to pursue Li Weiliam to capture him, suddenly noticed a ball of flames rushing towards him. The ball of flames rapidly merged with the figure in his memory, awakening the rage etched deeply in his mind.

“It’s him!”

“Liszt!”

“The Ancient Warrior Inheritor!”

“You relied on archery to launch a sneak attack and were lucky to win once before; now you want to use the same old tricks? Do you really think I, the Surging Waves Sword Saint, am without merit!” Marquis Nuta gripped an ordinary-looking great sword tightly, his gaze fixed on the azure great sword in the hands of the figure of flames, “And my Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword, give it back to me!”

In an instant, numerous thoughts flickered.

Marquis Nuta commanded all his Dou Qi to gather on himself, preparing for a frontal assault to prove his strength.

However, the fiery figure in his vision quickly began to dim, and soon the flames extinguished, instead, a cold icy aura started to gather around him.

Boom!

Furious Dou Qi clashed with the cold ice energy.

But the earth-shattering collision that had been expected did not occur; instead, Liszt casually waved the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword, releasing countless Water-Attribute Dou Qi in a special way, which upon touching the Dou Qi Domain, quickly crystallized the mixed Dou Qi into ice, segregating it.

Through the vision of the Eye of Magic, the previously surging Dou Qi Domain of Marquis Nuta visibly collapsed at an observable rate.

Clang!

The mediocre greatsword clashed with the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword, radiating even more bone-chilling cold, sending ripples outward in waves, sweeping away more of the Dou Qi Domain.

“How can this be!”

Marquis Nuta sensed something was amiss, his power waning like the tide.

Moreover, the most important thing was that Liszt, standing before him, was not pushed back by his power; instead, he displayed even more overbearing strength, hovering in mid-air, battling him.

This left him utterly shocked, “How can you also hover in mid-air? Without a Dou Qi Domain, you can’t fly at all; you can only jump!”

“You guess.” Liszt revealed a smile, not immediately switching back to Fire Attribute Dou Qi but continuing to use the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword’s innate Ice Rotation and Ice Seal skills to deal with Marquis Nuta.

He did not want to immediately crush Marquis Nuta and reveal his tremendous strength, plus it was a good opportunity to familiarize himself with the Ice Seal skills of the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword.

“Impossible! Why is my Dou Qi Domain collapsing!”

“Because I have the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword, which inherently has the effect of an Ice Seal Dou Qi Domain.”

“This...”

“The innate attribute of the Greater Elf Warrior, beyond the comprehension of your intellect, naturally you don’t know the Ice Seal skills,” Liszt said leisurely.

The sky battle was like a walk in the park for him, chatting and fighting simultaneously without any hindrance to his performance.

Countless Water-Attribute Dou Qi overflowed, continuously annihilating the Dou Qi Domain, and within a few exchanges of dialogue, the Dou Qi Domain of Marquis Nuta was on the verge of collapse, leaving him too frightened to speak and get distracted.

Although humiliated,

he began to contemplate retreat, “Liszt! If it weren’t for the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword, you would never be able to face me head-on! Enjoy your arrogance for now, for it won’t be long before the Duchy of Sapphire falls, and I will have you savor the taste of the Great Riverheart Fortress’ prison food!”

Having said this, he fiercely inflated his remaining Dou Qi Domain, propelling himself away at high speed in a desperate escape.

His gaze sharpened.

Liszt quickly abandoned the Ice Rotation skill, reactivating the Fire Attribute Dragon Dou Qi, rocketing after the fleeing Marquis Nuta like a jet: “A distant visitor is a guest, Marquis Dimaria, why not first savor the prison food of the Thorn Castle, I assure you, the flavor is unforgettable.”

“Get lost!”

Marquis Nuta slashed with his sword, cutting through the waves as if cleaving a path of light.

Liszt wielded the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword with one hand, his flames bursting forth to shatter all the light and waves, striking Marquis Nuta on the back.

Splat.

Marquis Nuta spurted blood instantaneously, plummeting down.

But not faster than Liszt's speed.

He grabbed hold of his armor, wrapping the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword around his neck with the hot flames swirling around, forcing the internally wounded Marquis Nuta not to make a move. Carrying him like this, Liszt flew towards the Tulip, while his followers could only watch their landlord get captured helplessly.

The battle may sound complicated.

But in reality, it took only a moment to determine the victor. With the capture of Marquis Nuta, the fight came to a swift conclusion.

When a Dragon Knight takes the field, capture is assured — had it not been for a bit of pretense, a mere glance would have been enough to capture Marquis Nuta.

The gap in strength was too wide.

After tossing Marquis Nuta to the ground, leaving the knights to tie him up with thick iron chains, Liszt greeted them with a gentleman's smile: "Welcome to be our guest aboard the Tulip."

## Chapter 708: Grand Duke's Entrance

The Marquis Nuta, still dizzy and with traces of blood on the corner of his mouth, had just a moment ago been full of spirited pride, eager to redeem his previous disgrace. The next moment, he found himself bound in iron chains, hands and feet alike, reduced to a prisoner at the foot of his captor's throne.

“How can your strength possibly be this formidable!” Having regained his composure, he saw the handsome smiling face before him and couldn’t help but express his panicked disbelief.

Liszt glanced at the ongoing sea battle and said with ease, “My strength improves every day. With the formidable power of the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword, and you merely treading water, it’s only natural that I would capture you.” The chaos of the boarding battle continued unabated despite Marquis Nuta’s slip-up.

Actually, aside from Marquis Nuta,

several other outstanding Sky Knights from the Eagle Kingdom had begun to take control of the battle.

If it were not for the Sapphire’s knights’ familiarity with naval combat, the situation would have likely been completely one-sided by now. The Eagle Kingdom had been planning this surprise attack for a long time, amassing a large number of elite knights. The Sky Knights alone outnumbered the rows of elite Knight Orders, all of them chaotically flitting through the sky.

The advantages of the swift sailboats and expertise in aquatic warfare were fading, and signs of a rout began to appear within the Sapphire fleet.

“I don’t know how you’ve been training, whether the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword comes with its formidable power, or if some Ancient Warrior inheritance has erupted within you.” Marquis Nuta steadied himself again, “But even if you capture me, you cannot change the fate of the Sapphire Family.”

“Is that so?”

“Just wait, the Sapphire will be completely overtaken by the Eagle Kingdom. The Sapphire Family and all you followers will become prisoners of the Eagle Kingdom!”

“I don’t think so. The Grand Duke hasn’t made his move yet. Once the Sapphire Dragon arrives, you all will be sent scurrying.” Liszt feigned youthful arrogance, attempting to draw out more information, “Besides, the sea is the Sapphire’s racecourse. Once the

Sapphire's Knight Order is fully assembled, we won't even need the Sapphire Dragon to annihilate the likes of you."

"Ignorant and arrogant!"

Marquis Nuta wanted to look down on Liszt, but suddenly remembering his current status as a prisoner, he choked on his words and could only turn his head and close his eyes, refusing to speak further.

Liszt continued to bluff: "Get ready for your ransom. As a Domain Knight, your ransom won't be a small sum."

Marquis Nuta smiled calmly: "Heh."

"Do you really think you'll be rescued soon? Dimaria, with my strength, I can race across these seas unimpeded; no one can stop me, meaning no one can rescue you. Only a ransom can secure your freedom."

"Don't waste your breath, soon you will understand how this sea war will end. I am just a small fish in this conflict, and regardless of your strength, you are no different."

"Are you trying to scare me?"

"No." After calming his anger, Marquis Nuta became impenetrable, unwilling to reveal anything, merely repeating platitudes about the Sapphire Family's doom — as a Domain Knight, Marquis Nuta was not hot-headed to fall for simple provocations.

At that moment, Marquis of Bull Tail, who had just been fished out of the sea and changed into clean clothes, walked over. Looking at Marquis Nuta securely bound, he was filled with various emotions.

He thought he was close to perfection, capable of withstanding a few blows from a Domain Knight.

He had not expected to be blasted into the sea upon their first meeting, truly losing face. Luckily, Liszt had retrieved his dignity for him: "Dimaria, I didn't expect us to meet so



soon again. On a different battlefield, you would undoubtedly be a force to be reckoned with, but unfortunately, you're out of your element here."

"Li Weiliam, you've just fathered a good son. You can't even catch a single blow of my sword."

"I've said before, if it were under different circumstances, your words would make me feel ashamed, but now, as you're bound on my ship, such words hold no power."

"They will soon."

"I understand your thoughts; you believe the Eagle Kingdom is destined to win this war, so you don't care that you've been captured. But, sadly, captured is captured. The Tulip Family has a multitude of options, but for you, there's only one," Li Weiliam said with his hands behind his back, absolutely certain of his approach towards Dimaria.

His implication was straightforward.

The Sapphire Duke may be annihilated, but as long as the Tulip Family pledges their allegiance in time, I believe they could quickly become nobles of the Eagle Kingdom. By then, even if Marquis Nuta holds a high position, he would still need to pay a ransom to the Tulip Family to obtain his freedom, because that is what the Tulip Family is entitled to.

Unless the Tulip Family perishes with the Sapphire Family, or becomes captives, Marquis Nuta would be able to regain his freedom.

No matter what, the disgrace of defeat and captivity had already clung to Marquis Nuta and could only be washed away with time; there was no other way.

Seeing Marquis Nuta's face change from pale to flushed with anger.

Li Weiliam finally let out a breath of spite. Regardless of whether it looked glorious or not, he was standing in the winner's position—thanks to having a son who was a Dragon Knight.

They locked the panting Marquis Nuta in the bottom of the ship's cabin.

Li Weiliam and Liszt began to slow down their offensive momentum, preparing to idle and be insignificant bystanders.

No matter if it was Li Weiliam's previous high-flying acts or Liszt's capture of Marquis Nuta, both had sufficiently demonstrated their valor on the battlefield, repaying the Grand Duke's trust. Now, Liszt could use the excuse of being exhausted after a great battle, while Li Weiliam could claim he was seriously injured by Marquis Nuta, no longer needing to fight.

"It's time to retreat. The Blueblood Knight Order's fleet can't withstand the bombardment from the Eagle Kingdom's Sky Knights, and the First Prince's flagship has been hit several times,"

Li Weiliam observed through his telescope and said.

Liszt was just about to agree with the Marquis's opinion when suddenly he felt a sensation in his chest. Little Fire Dragon Leo had sent him a message through their mental link.

This made his eyebrows twitch, and he couldn't help but exclaim with excitement, "Father, the fleet probably won't be retreating after all. The Grand Duke is coming!"

"The Grand Duke?"

"I sense the presence of the Sapphire Dragon; it's not far from us."

"Is that so? It looks like I still have to keep giving orders for this charade to leave a good impression on the Grand Duke." Li Weiliam immediately started directing the fleet to find new opponents to engage with.

Liszt and Ach stood shoulder to shoulder at the bow of the ship.

He hadn't expected the Sapphire Duke to join the battle so soon, as in most knightly wars, the Boss typically appears in the final act.

Regardless, he still held enthusiastic anticipation for the appearance of the Sapphire Dragon. Every dragon was a synonym for power and beauty. Amid such expectant emotions, the originally chaotic battlefield suddenly quieted down, all knights ceasing their present battles.

They turned their heads one after another, looking towards the northern horizon.

The dragon's roar rolled like thunder, and from within a cluster of clouds, a blue dragon suddenly burst forth, its crystalline blue glinting in the sunlight.

Descending from the clouds like this, its very presence sent shockwaves through the entire scene.

“Roar!”

The Sapphire Dragon continued to roar mournfully as it descended over the battlefield. One could faintly make out a figure in blue armor standing on the Dragon Tooth Platform at its neck and shoulders. As for the Sapphire Dragon itself, it was still as tattered as the last time it was seen, missing a forelimb and with half its scales decayed.

Its magic power was still dense and vigorous, yet its body showed no signs of healing.

“Is it unwilling to heal, or unable to heal?” Liszt used his Eye of Magic to closely observe this powerful adult dragon.

At the same time, he clutched his chest.

He tried hard to suppress the burning heat at that spot.

There, Little Fire Dragon Leo was acting very excited, without any emotion of fear, only thoughts of eagerness to try his strength and tear the opponent to shreds.

Chapter 709: Battle of the Dragon Knight

Among the Elemental Dragons often confused with Evil Dragons was the Fire Dragon, Leo.

Liszt found that Leo's nature was proud, domineering, and inclined towards wicked thoughts. Had it not been for the power of the Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruit, Liszt might never have been able to mount its back to this day. Moreover, as evil continued to gestate, there was a chance that Leo might end up inflicting some form of backlash against Liszt, who had hatched and nurtured it.

Although now in harmony with Liszt, routinely purged of its malignant thoughts by him,

its pride remained, as undiminished as ever. It did not even consider a crippled Sapphire Dragon worthy of its attention, let alone tolerate such a dragon upstaging itself.

Liszt had to soothe it, coaxing it back to calm.

To prevent it from recklessly bursting forth and revealing its true form to clash with the Sapphire Dragon, thereby ruining the plan of extracting advantage from the situation.

"Brother, the Sapphire Dragon looks disfigured as if it's been mutilated. Given a dragon's strong regenerative powers, why has it yet to heal itself?" Ach queried, her eyes sparkling with numerous thoughts as she gazed at the Sapphire Dragon in the sky. "Is it deliberate, leaving the scar as a reminder, or is it a wound that can't be healed?"

She shared the same doubt as Liszt.

"It doesn't quite resemble deliberate preservation. If the intention was to keep the scars as a reminder of suffered hardships, then it should have done so before the founding of the nation," Liszt could only analyze thusly. Before the nation's founding, during the battle to slay dragons, the Sapphire Dragon had nearly been killed by the White Maw Iron Dragon.

That was the memory worth etching in its mind.

"Could it be that the soul was damaged, hence the wounds cannot heal?" Ach continued with her questions, but Liszt was unable to provide an answer.

While everyone expected that the Grand Duke arrived atop the Sapphire Dragon to deal with invaders from the Eagle Kingdom, the Sapphire Dragon circled in the sky without showing any intent to descend or drive away the invaders.

“Liszt, what’s the situation?” the Marquis of Bull Tail came over again.

He had been ready to take advantage of the Sapphire Dragon’s appearance to perform a bit of theater, but with the Sapphire Dragon not descending, the naval battle had also come to a standstill.

Liszt glanced at the silhouette of the Sapphire Dragon and the Grand Duke, then looked out to the distant ocean horizon.

He had roughly guessed, “The Grand Duke likely isn’t here because of the fleet. The ships of the Eagle Kingdom will be dealt with by the Sapphire fleet. His target must be Alonso Xiankelai.”

“Alonso is here?”

“I didn’t sense him, my senses are not particularly sharp when I’m not riding a dragon, I can’t detect other Dragon Knights from farther away.”

So he could only wait.

The Grand Duke, too, waited high above the battlefield, riding the Sapphire Dragon.

At that moment, the waves in the great sea were still raging, but the battlefield fell into an eerie stillness, with none of the ships daring to move about under the watchful eye of the dragon overhead. With the Grand Duke not issuing commands, the First Prince, steering the Sapphire fleet, also made no move.

Time ticked away by the minute and the second.

Restlessness rose in everyone’s hearts, even Liszt began to grow impatient. The arrival of the Sapphire Dragon prevented Leo from resting peacefully, unable to ignore the insolent

presence of the ugly Sapphire Dragon flying above, which made him soak through his undershirt with agitation.

“Whether to fight or retreat, just what is the Grand Duke trying to do?” he griped, taking hold of the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword and employing the Ice Rotation Skill to release Ice-attribute Dou Qi to cool himself down, soothing Leo’s restlessness.

The effect of the Ice-attribute Dou Qi was good.

It quieted Leo for a bit.

But before five minutes had passed, Leo grew excited once more, conveying its sensation to Liszt—another dragon was approaching!

“Roar!”

The Sapphire Dragon let out a resounding dragon’s roar, its head aimed at the southern sky, its eyes emitting dazzling blue light.

Following Leo’s psychic prompt, Liszt also looked toward the southern horizon. The blue sky and white clouds seemed no different, but when he picked up his telescope, he quickly spotted a dragon flitting in and out of visibility among the clouds. In a moment, the dragon burst through the cloud layer and flew toward the battlefield.

Its form was now fully exposed to all.

It was a mature dragon of a greenish hue, shimmering with the distinct luster of metal. Compared to the fifty-meter wingspan of the Sapphire Dragon, its wingspan seemed a tad smaller, around thirty meters or so. Its frame was more slender than the Sapphire’s, and its body not as long, but atop its Dragon Tooth Platform sat a knight in black armor.

Without a doubt.

This was a true Dragon Knight, a knight united in spirit with the dragon.

In his hand he held a lance about five meters in length, matching the greenish hue of his Bronze Dragon mount. The spearhead, unlike the typical Knight's Spear, was like a folded, old-fashioned umbrella. One-third of the entire lance was the spearhead, structured as a cone, with the thickest part as big as a knight's round shield.

It inexplicably reminded Liszt of Athena's golden lance in "Honor of Kings."

"A five-meter Dragon Lance, just about right for a Bronze Dragon of that size. I'd love to snatch it and use it in conjunction with Leo... Once Leo reaches adulthood with a hundred-meter wingspan, a ten-meter Dragon Lance would be ideal, but five meters could be passable. There's nothing better for the juvenile Leo now."

He wasn't amazed by the Dragon Knight's presence; rather, like Leo's first impulse to charge out and fight, his first thought was to grab some equipment.

Of course.

The thought was quickly suppressed, and he continued to watch, as a spectator, the standoff between the two dragons and knights in the sky.

...

"Alonso, think carefully about this. To invade our Sapphire territory does come at a price!" Grand Duke Andrew Sapphire's voice boomed.

The expression of the Bronze Dragon Knight, Alonso Xiankelai, from across was indiscernible, his knight's helmet equipped with a mask, yet his voice, deep and hoarse, carried authority: "Do you think I went to all the trouble of drawing away Steel Ridge's Dragon Knights just to come and listen to your threats?"

"So, no chance of a discussion?"

"You never had the right to discuss matters. A crippled Sapphire Dragon and an old man who can't ride a dragon... I'm going to take action now, Duke Andrew." Alonso seemed ready to mock, but ultimately refrained, calmly making his choice and swinging the green Knight's Longsword.

In an instant, man and dragon charged toward the Sapphire Dragon.

Grand Duke Andrew didn't have a Dragon Lance; he wasn't a Dragon Knight, just a man standing on the Dragon Tooth Platform, maneuvering the Sapphire Dragon. Yet he didn't panic facing the Dragon Knight. He calmly drew his own blue greatsword from his waist.

The sword was two meters long.

The blade burst out with a rippling blue flame, like flowing water.

This was a Knight's Longsword never mentioned in descriptions before, unlike the Wailing Cage Sword that Grand Duke Andrew was known to wield, a Greater Elf Warrior weapon of similar grade to the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword, which was roughly one and a half meters long and did not emit blue flames.

Instead, it was the greatsword of the Marquis of Bull that Liszt had seen before, the one he jokingly called the Pleasure of Flame, that emanated blue flames.

And it was speculated to possibly be forged from a forelimb of the Sapphire Dragon.

Regardless of the sword's origin, as soon as the greatsword was drawn, the Sapphire Dragon's body was suffused with a bright blue light, its presence growing even mightier. Then, at that moment, the Grand Duke unexpectedly sat down on the Dragon Tooth Platform. Man and dragon quickly united their souls, and within Liszt's Eye of Magic vision, their Dou Qi and Magic Power merged into one.

“Roar!”

Wielding the greatsword, he charged toward Bronze Dragon Knight Alonso.

In that instant, only a few, including Liszt, could understand—Grand Duke Andrew was also truly a Dragon Knight!

Chapter 710: My Name



“Sly old bastard!”

Liszt cursed impolitely in his mind.

The Sapphire Duke truly was a cunning old fox, keeping hidden whether he was a Dragon Knight or a Dragon Domain Landlord. In the end, Liszt had concluded he must be a Dragon Domain Landlord.

Yet, at the moment of battle, he mounted the Sapphire Dragon, becoming a true Dragon Knight.

“This is entrapment!” Liszt felt a bit unsettled. He was once full of confidence that as long as he succeeded in Dragon Riding, he could easily beat the Duke.

Now, he realized that he was still too young, unaware of the dangers of the world, “Perhaps after the dragon slaying incident, the Duke already had the idea of entrapment, otherwise, he wouldn’t have always posed as a Dragon Domain Landlord. Knowing the ambitions of the Eagle Kingdom, he would naturally take precautions.”

Although guessing after the fact might seem like an afterthought, it wasn’t too late. At least he still had the chance to benefit like a fisherman waiting to reap the rewards—the Sapphire Dragon Knight would ultimately have to battle with the Bronze Dragon Knight.

Boom!

Earth Attribute Dragon Dou Qi collided with Ice Attribute Dragon Dou Qi, and the Bronze Dragon also clashed with the Sapphire Dragon. The giant bodies collided starkly, emitting a dull clutter sound. The light green Dragon Lance struck against the blue flame sword, creating sparks flying with lightning.

Rocks transformed by Dragon Dou Qi and hail rained down chaotically, splashing the sea below with surging waves.

The First Prince had no choice but to command the fleet to retreat, while someone from the Eagle Kingdom began instructing to sail to another area of the sea, still hoping to land ashore.

Boom!

The Bronze Dragon and Sapphire Dragon collided frenetically, Alonso and Andrew kept unleashing Combat Skills, and in a flash, the entire sky was filled with half a heavy earthy yellow and half a chilling blue-white. Rocks scattered, hail pelted down, and the battlefield stretched from east to west without pause, seemingly evenly matched.

The Tulip Family's fleet was also quietly withdrawing, only lagging a bit behind, constantly paying attention to the battlefield in the sky. Marquis Li Weiliam, protected by Dragon Knights and Archmages, was not in the least bit frightened as he watched the rare dragon-slaying battle, exclaiming repeatedly, "Who would have thought the Duke was also a Dragon Knight."

"I never expected it either, that the Duke deceived us all."

"He probably had no choice, for the pressure in his position is hardly less than that on us ordinary knights." Li Weiliam seemed to understand the Duke's actions quite well, but his allegiance was no longer with the Duke, "Liszt, we must now reevaluate our next moves."

"I know," Liszt said, his expression serious.

He wasn't worried at all, for whatever happened, he and Ach together would not be intimidated by Dragon Knights. However, the Duke's Dragon Knight identity brought much uncertainty to the battle situation, and he might not be able to enjoy the benefits of a bystander's advantage after all. One Dragon Knight was more than enough to protect a Grand Duchy.

If before Alonso had a ninety percent probability to defeat the Duke, now at best it was sixty-forty.

With the forces so evenly matched, it was likely that neither side would escalate the battle to the extreme; they'd have a fight, then find an excuse to retreat, each returning to their own homes.

However, the battle escalated in an instant.

All of a sudden, the Bronze Dragon bit into the Sapphire Dragon's neck, and the Sapphire Dragon retaliated by biting the Bronze Dragon's wing, dragon blood spraying into the sea in bubbling torrents.

Alonso wielded the light green Dragon Lance, continuously thrusting to kill the Duke, who in turn swung the blue flame sword in response and roared, "Alonso, we're both Dragon Knights; continuing this standoff benefits no one. Why not stop here? Otherwise, when the Dragon Knights of Steel Ridge return, you will perish here!"

"Enough talk!"

Alonso persisted, not stopping for a moment, "Though this old fox deceived me once, you think I'm new to this? Today is destined to be the day Sapphire meets its doom, and no one can stop it—I said it!"

The light green Dragon Lance overflowed with earthy yellow Dragon Dou Qi, each strike as if lifting a mountain to smash upon the foe.

Boom!

Boom!

The Duke resisted strenuously, grinding his teeth, "Are you mad?"

"I'm just fulfilling the plan to destroy Sapphire!"

"Madman!"

Boom!

Boom!

The battle had reached a fever pitch; both dragons teetered in the sky, bleeding, with no intention to retreat.

Liszt's pupils spun like galaxies, his Eye of Magic tirelessly following the trajectories of both men and both dragons. He could clearly see that neither Alonso nor the Duke were using mere Advanced Dou Qi Manuals or Dou Qi Secret Techniques; they were attacking with moves complemented by Dragon Dou Qi.

This was the Dragon Dou Qi Manual he hoped to innovate.

Brutal, wild, yet when combined with Dragon Dou Qi, it could unleash tremendous attacking power, a clear step above ordinary Dou Qi in combat strength.

Just then, Ach suddenly said, "Brother, I want to collect that dragon blood."

Liszt nodded, "Be careful." Collecting dragon blood in the sea didn't pose much danger to Ach, and the spilled dragon blood was a treasure of immense value—too precious to be wasted carelessly. On land, the blood could merge with the earth to form ores, but in the sea, it was likely a different story.

Liszt was reluctant to use Leo's blood for Ach's experiments, moreover, Leo's blood would directly boil into flames, so the blood of the bronze dragons and the sapphire dragons was the best material for research.

Ach locked onto the direction of the dragon-slaying battle in the sky and quickly dived into the sea to collect the dragon blood.

Liszt was still observing the way dragon knights fought. Being a new dragon rider and a poor one at that, he had to figure everything out on his own. Now that two "teachers" were displaying their skills in a real fight, providing him with rich experience, he naturally didn't want to miss any detail of the battle.

"Roar!"

"Roar!"

The dragons' roars echoed between heaven and sea, carried by the surging waves, as almost all of the ships had retreated from, or more accurately, stayed away from the battlefield. This was because the two dragon knights seemed to be deliberately avoiding the fleet to prevent accidental injuries—their battle was so ferocious that even the aftermath could easily destroy ships and kill ordinary knights.

The winter sun was setting in the west.

In a blink, it was already the afternoon, and the two dragon knights had been fighting with their powerful sustained combat abilities for a full hour and a half. The two dragons were covered in wounds, bloodied and still, there was no victory in sight. The condition of the two riders on the dragon's tooth platform was also starting to deteriorate, their attack moves becoming increasingly disorganized.

The Grand Duke once again roared in anger, "Alonso, do you intend to be buried with me in this sea!"

"You're wrong!"

Alonso suddenly let out a cheerful laugh, "Do you really think I'm fighting to the death with you? Old man, you guard against the Eagle Kingdom at every turn, but did you think I haven't considered this? You can disguise yourself as a dragon domain landlord with dragon knight status, and naturally, I can also feign a lone attack on Sapphire!"

"Hm?" The Grand Duke was suddenly shaken, as if he had discovered something incredible, "You... you have another dragon knight following you?"

With the Grand Duke's shock,

A distant figure swiftly emerged from the clouds on the horizon, speeding towards the still entangled pair of dragon knights, and upon drawing closer, it was indeed another dragon.

A dragon just slightly smaller than the sapphire dragon, with a light green hue.

On the dragon's tooth platform on its back, sat a knight in silver armor and helmet, holding a five-meter long silver dragon lance in hand.

Upon seeing this dragon knight, the Grand Duke bit his teeth and bellowed in anger, "Light Green Sapphire Dragon Knight, Carlo Violet, very well!"

"Marquis Alonso, I've arrived, and my dragon lance is already eager for dragon blood, unable to wait to slay a dragon!"

The Light Green Sapphire Dragon Knight, Carlo Violet, joined the fray with lightning speed, attempting to assassinate the sapphire dragon.

"Roar!"

The sapphire dragon let out a wail of pain.

The Grand Duke, already struggling against Alonso alone, was now being overwhelmed two against one. Escape was impossible as previous exhaustion left no chance to avoid the newly arrived Light Green Sapphire Dragon Knight's entanglement, leaving no choice but to continuously fend off the lethal attacks of the two dragon knights.

Dragon blood dyed the sky red.

The sapphire dragon was on the brink of a grievous defeat, and perhaps even on the verge of being slain.

The battle gripped the hearts of all those watching from afar, the knights of the Eagle Kingdom cheered and rejoiced, while the hearts of the knights of the Duchy of Sapphire sank to the depths.

But standing on the foredeck of the Tulip,

Liszt felt his blood surge, and his entire body seemed to ignite.

“The situation truly changes in the blink of an eye, I assumed the Grand Duke was bound for defeat—a perfect opportunity for me to take over; little did I expect the Grand Duke was merely fishing for the law, having secretly achieved dragon riding; but now the Eagle Kingdom has dispatched two dragon knights, determined to annihilate Sapphire.”

He raised his head, his eyes ablaze, “The Smoke Mission calls for me to make a choice of stance, and the time is now. It is time to let the world know a new dragon rider has been born upon these seas!”

“It’s me, Fire Dragon Knight Liszt Tulip!”

The red-faced, black-based, gold-edged tricolor cloak fluttered in the wind, and the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword trembled ceaselessly.

“Oh-ho!”

A domineering dragon roar resounded in his soul.

The magic form of Little Fire Dragon Leo burst forth from his body in an instant, exploding into a ball of fire in mid-air, which then outlined a twenty-meter wingspan fire dragon amidst the flames. As the fire slowly extinguished, the red and black scales were fully revealed to the astonished gaze of all around.

Disregarding the astonished eyes from the ships around, Liszt leaped up, mounted Leo’s back, and entered Dragon Rider Mode in a flash.

The world became clearer and brighter.

“Oh-ho!”

Leo let out an even more domineering and majestic roar, charging straight towards the entangled trio of dragon knights!