

The Mighty 731

Chapter 731: Astrologer

Securing a Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruit, successfully riding the Light Green Gemstone Dragon, and calming Little Fire Dragon Leo, this journey to Mind Island was perfect.

It was after Archmage Archy told Liszt that all the branches of the Mind Fruit Trees had withered.

He summoned the Smoke Mission, and this time the mission was finally completed: “Mission completed, reward: a Light Green Gemstone Mine.” Indeed, either the Light Green Gemstone Dragon or the Mind Fruit Tree had to perish for it to be considered a success.

“Now this Mind Island may have already started transforming into a Light Green Gemstone Mine. I wonder how many qualified gemstones can be mined, as well as how much associated crystal ore...”

Gemstone Dragons produce gemstones not like the Formless Dragons, which spit out a few gems from their mouths, but through their breath continuously infecting the area, eventually invading the ley lines to create Crystal Mines. Within these Crystal Mines, there will be sporadic distributions of fully developed gemstones and a large amount of lesser ones.

The associated ore of the Light Green Gemstone is the Light Green Crystal. Given the amount of blood shed by the Light Green Gemstone Dragon this time, it's likely that infecting the entire Mind Island is not out of the question.

After all, Gemstone Dragons usually infect mines with just their breath, but this time the Light Green Gemstone Dragon used its life to infect the mine.

Not easy indeed!

“Recover well, Light Green Gemstone Dragon,” Liszt felt for the still unconscious Light Green Gemstone Dragon’s spirit, very moved, “I never thought I’d be someone with a mining operation in the family!”

The resources for building a nation were thus obtained.

It’s just a pity that the location of Mind Island is not ideal, being too close to both the continent and the Duchy of Sapphire. Fortunately, it’s not situated on a trade route, or else it would be highly susceptible to discovery. Now that the island has both a mine and a healing dragon, it absolutely must not be discovered by the outside world.

He pondered for a moment, then turned his attention to the new Smoke Mission.

“Mission: The Light Green Gemstone Dragon has irrigated a Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruit and a Light Green Gemstone Mine with its life force but the leaked magic power has also changed Mind Island’s environment. The trees on the island might have quietly undergone changes. Please pay close attention to these changes in the trees. Reward: A large area of mutated trees.”

“Are they referring to this grove that resembles *Alsophila spinulosa*?” Liszt looked up and surveyed the island’s small forest, a quarter of which had collapsed due to the fainting of the Light Green Gemstone Dragon.

These trees did not have names yet.

They were very much like the tall, straight-trunked, odd-leaved fern plants of Earth’s dinosaur era. On Earth, fern plants have evolved from tall woody species to short herbaceous ones, and the only woody fern plant left in the textbooks is the nationally-protected *Alsophila spinulosa*.

“Why not call it *Alsophila*?”

He liked to equate the plants of this world with those of Earth, using a name from Earth for any similar species.

Thus, the plants in this small forest were quickly determined to be *Alsophila*.

Utilizing the Eye of Magic and while Archmage Archy was still busy with experiments, he constantly surveyed the grove, keeping an eye out for any changes in the Alsophila. Before the mission prompt, he did not know the use of Alsophila—it bore no fruit, wasn't part of any Magic Potion, and its wood wasn't particularly sturdy.

However, now that it had been infected by the dragon's magic power, there could be miraculous changes to look forward to.

Of course, Liszt did not invest all of his energy in the Alsophila grove. He continued to assist Archmage Archy in his experiments and ponder the subsequent plans for the Light Green Gemstone Dragon and Mind Island.

Mind Island definitely needed to be protected, as they waited for the Light Green Gemstone Mine to develop and for the possible growth of the third Mind Fruit Tree; the Light Green Gemstone Dragon needed more protection. It was not safe for it to rest and recuperate here—if the Eagle Kingdom initiated a search, it could be discovered.

One could imagine how the Eagle Kingdom would go mad if a Dragon Knight died and a dragon went missing.

For some time, the sea would not be calm and might even trigger a war among the three great Kingdoms in the northeastern corner of the Legendary Continent—every move of a Dragon Knight triggers a chain reaction, Carlo Violet's death, the birth of Dragon Knight Liszt and Archmage Archy, all were events significant enough to cause an earthquake.

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Of course.

Liszt was not afraid.

He and Archy may not be able to defeat the enemy, but they could always run away. In this sea, Archy's speed was undoubtedly the fastest and she could also help him dive into the deep sea—the only thing he needed to worry about was his family, but, luckily, he had already granted them titles and lands. Although they had not separated their households, their contact was no longer close.

Under normal circumstances, he would be considered an independent individual, and no one would take their anger out on his family.

“But in any case, we must protect the Light Green Gemstone Dragon well, we cannot let it stay unconscious here, otherwise, any bird-type Magical Beast could easily devour it alive... Perhaps I should transport the Light Green Gemstone Dragon to Dodo Island and hide it there, instead of leaving it on Mind Island.”

Dodo Island was far from the continent, and also far from the Duchy of Sapphire, the Eagle Kingdom wouldn’t notice such a small island no matter how they searched.

They would not easily detect the aura radiating from the Light Green Gemstone Dragon.

“That’s decided, then.”

“Once Archy is done with the experiments, I’ll have her help transport the Light Green Gemstone Dragon to Dodo Island.”

Archy could control a Water Tornado to lift the Light Green Gemstone Dragon and then race it all the way to Dodo Island. Otherwise, Leo definitely couldn’t manage to carry a hundred-ton dragon flying, nor was there a ship large enough to transport a 45-meter-long adult dragon—just the dispersion of Dragon Might alone could make all the sailors foam at the mouth.

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Night fell.

The *Alsophila spinulosa* forest had not yet undergone noticeable changes, and Archy was still busy with her experiments, whether it was the dragons or the Mind Fruit Tree, there were still plenty of secrets waiting for her to unravel.

However, after a big meal, Liszt directly interrupted Archy’s experiments, “Don’t keep busy with experiments at night, balancing work and leisure is life.”

“But Archy still has many experiments that must be rushed to completion,” Archy was reluctant to rest.

Yet she couldn’t resist Liszt’s insistence, “The unfinished experimental materials can directly be thrown into the Space Ring. If yours can’t fit them, put them in mine. In any case, experiments are not allowed at night, you should rest early.” He always had a wary respect for magicians and didn’t want Archy to go mad pursuing the Truth.

He had recently vaguely noticed that Archy was too immersed in Magic, which was not a good sign. As a minor, a Little Sea Monster, her values had to be properly shaped.

Nevertheless, Archy coquettishly said, “But brother, Archy can’t sleep without doing experiments.”

“Then watch the stars. Come, let me teach you some new knowledge about how to observe the stars. In the era of the Moon Empire, it was said there were Astrologers, and the calendar we use was left by them. I have a plan to rebuild the astrological system. Maybe you can help me realize this idea.”

Hearing this, Archy nodded, “Mm.”

Teaching began, and Liszt used the little knowledge he had gained from watching TV to try to establish the basics of astronomy.

“The stars in the sky are divided into two kinds, fixed stars and planets. Most of the stars we see with the naked eye are fixed stars, but that doesn’t exclude the possibility of planets mixed in among them. Fixed stars are almost stationary in the sky, while planets are constantly changing. By observing their orbits and calculating with the law of universal gravitation, we can deduce whether we are in a massive star system.”

But Archy suddenly asked, “So, what’s the use of knowing about these planets?”

Liszt was immediately lost in thought.

Chapter 732: Crystal Firmiana

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What is the meaning of studying the stars and astronomy after all?

He knew that time, direction, and the calendar relied on astronomical studies, meaning that astronomy facilitated historical records, and summarizing the solar terms through the calendar was beneficial to agricultural labor.

But what else did it mean?

Liszt stroked his chin, squinted his eyes, and thought rapidly, “Do I have to transplant the whole zodiac system here, relying on the constellations to study personality, fortune, love matches?” Such “knowledge” seemed rather pointless, except maybe for flirtation with young girls.

However, he soon thought of a significant use.

He spoke seriously to Ach, “Don’t think that there’s no use in studying astronomy. In fact, astronomy could have a huge use. Do you remember the legend about the Moon Empire, the one that says there’s a teleportation array to the moon? Do you think we could build such a teleportation array without studying astronomy?”

“Ah?”

Ach was indeed shocked, “Brother makes a good point. Without astronomical guidance, humans couldn’t possibly set foot on the moon. Although I don’t know whether the teleportation array of the Moon Empire is real or not, if we live on a planet and the moon is also a planet, perhaps it harbors life as well.”

“Exactly.” Liszt nodded lightly, even he started to believe his own rhetoric.

Many legends had been proven to be true, so the teleportation array of the Moon Empire might not be a fabrication. If there really was a teleportation array to the moon, he would definitely step through it one day in the future, to take a tour of the moon and see what the landscape was like there.

In reality, the Mage Tower in his territory, under Chris' supervision, had always been researching the Message Transmission Magic Circle, using the Magic Web as a base for exchanging information.

If the Message Transmission Magic Circle were successfully researched, it might be possible to further investigate a Teleportation Array that could transport objects.

Of course, the best approach would be to uncover some relics and directly obtain the Moon Empire's teleportation array technology; by that time, distance might no longer be a limitation.

Regardless, the instruction for observing the stars officially began.

Pulling out the telescope, Liszt demonstrated to Ach how to observe celestial bodies—he had used the telescope to watch the sky frequently since he invented it, so he had the experience. However, due to the precision limitations of the telescope itself, astronomical observation was difficult, not to mention that calculating celestial trajectories involved complex computations.

This area was completely foreign to him.

After all, his math was terrible; he was okay with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, but that was it.

“Brother, since the telescope uses the principle of concave and convex lenses, could Ach directly manipulate water to make a telescope?”

“Well, it's not impossible, but just stacking lenses isn't enough. You also need a tube to protect the light source.”

“What about this?” With a wave of her hand, Ach caused countless streams of water to converge in front of her. The water quickly formed a cylindrical shape and through a special arrangement turned into an opaque dark frosted surface, with another two streams shaped as concave and convex lenses set within the tube.

Thus, a telescope was made on the spot.

“Brother, with Ach’s crafted telescope you can see the stars in the sky!”

“Hmm.” Liszt was a bit envious of Ach’s ability. Her control over water was indeed powerful, “Nice, nice, you’ve already mastered the basic principle. Now, keep trying to adjust the thickness of the lenses and the combination of positions between the tube and the objective lens to find the most suitable magnification for observation.”

He quickly lost interest in instructing Ach how to watch the stars, allowing her to earnestly adjust her water-made telescope.

He himself lay on the back of the Light Green Gemstone Dragon, lost in thought.

The Dragon Dou Qi Manual, Light Green Gemstone Mine, Mutated Firmiana Tree, surnames and Kingdom names, material assistance, title changes, the response of the Eagle Kingdom, and countless other thoughts flickered in his mind.

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The night deepened, and before I knew it, I had fallen asleep.

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By the next day before dawn broke, Liszt had already woken up.

He discovered that, at some point, Ach had crawled into his arms, sleeping against him intimately, her small body slightly cool. The early winter frost had gathered on both their armor and Ach’s magic cloak—they had forgotten to set up the tent last night and had not taken out the Temperature Calming Pearl.

Fortunately, both he and Ach had far superior constitutions than ordinary people, so this bit of cold was nothing to them.

Ach was a light sleeper, and the minute movements from Liszt as he awoke had already startled her. She stretched and hopped off Liszt's body, greeting him before going off to fetch her toiletries to clean up. Liszt also rolled off the Light Green Gemstone Dragon.

Wash his face, brush his teeth, a simple clean-up.

Then, he used the Eye of Magic to observe the *Alsophila spinulosa* forest. Right away, he noticed something abnormal. The entire forest exuded a light green radiance resembling that of the Light Green Gemstone Dragon. However, upon closer inspection, slight differences could be discerned.

The Magic Radiance of the Light Green Gemstone Dragon was more solid in color, while that of the *Alsophila spinulosa* forest was more faint.

He broke off a leaf and sensed it, instantly realizing that the Magic Radiance of the *Alsophila spinulosa* was just Low Magic, which differed in nature from the High Magic emanating from the Light Green Gemstone Dragon.

“So these *Alsophila spinulosa* have become magic potions?”

If that was the case, it could be considered a bountiful harvest—Dragon magic could indeed infect magic potions. Yet, his gaze landed on several *Alsophila spinulosa* that had an even richer glow, all of which were close to the body of the Light Green Gemstone Dragon. The trunks, branches, and leaves of these trees seemed to be turning transparent.

He plucked off a piece of bark and examined it, quickly noticing the changes: “This seems like the *Alsophila spinulosa* trees are not gradually turning into magic potions, but into stone... or rather, into crystal?” Especially one of the *Alsophila spinulosa*, whose many leaves had completely crystallized.

Through the detection by the Eye of Magic, half of the leaves had turned into real crystal, while the remaining leaves were only partially crystallized, still gathering magic slowly.

“Ach, come take a look.”

“I'm coming.”

After Ach took a look, she was equally surprised, “Brother, these *Alsophila spinulosa* trees have actually grown into real crystals, look at this leaf, there’s no difference from crystal.”

Liszt said directly, “You compare the crystal and the leaves carefully, see what the differences are.”

“Alright.”

While he instructed Ach to make comparisons, Liszt continued to observe the entire *Alsophila spinulosa* forest, gradually noticing a pattern—the closer to the Light Green Gemstone Dragon the *Alsophila spinulosa* were, the higher their degree of crystallization, and the mature, thicker trees also showed a greater degree of crystallization, with the mature parts of leaves crystallizing first.

“It’s like they start to crystallize after maturation, while the immature parts continue to grow...” He concluded within an hour that this patch of *Alsophila spinulosa* had mutated into “Crystal *Alsophila spinulosa*”—trees that could grow into crystal and would directly crystallize upon maturation.

On the back of the crystallized leaves were rings of red bands, resembling the “seeds” of the *Alsophila spinulosa*. These seeds had not crystallized.

On the contrary, with a swipe of his hand, he could see many tiny seeds scattering into the air.

Each tiny seed carried a faint, almost invisible Magic Radiance, spreading everywhere.

He couldn’t help but summon the Smoke Mission.

“Mission completed, reward: a large patch of Crystal *Alsophila spinulosa*.”

Chapter 733: Luxury Cruise

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The *Alsophila spinulosa* that could grow into crystals were undoubtedly a very strange mutation, but it was hard to say whether this mutation was good or bad. The reason was simple: it mutated by relying on the magic power leaked by the Light Green Gemstone Dragon, which meant that the magic power that should have formed crystal mines underground directly grew out in the form of *Alsophila spinulosa*.

Both being crystals, it wasn't necessarily clear which one was of higher quality, so you could say that the Crystal *Alsophila spinulosa* was completely superfluous.

“We still need experiments. Right now, collect a batch of *Alsophila spinulosa* seeds and wait until they are transplanted to my territory to see if we can grow Crystal *Alsophila spinulosa*... If it can grow crystals without relying on a dragon's magic power, then the Crystal *Alsophila spinulosa* will be valuable. If it can't grow without a dragon, then it's worthless,”

Liszt said as he collected seeds.

Ach nodded and replied, “Brother, the place where dragons reside probably emits magic power every day. The generation of mineral veins takes too long, perhaps the Crystal *Alsophila spinulosa* can quickly transform the dragon's magic power into crystals.”

“That's a good point. When I start building the Dragon Nest in the future, I'll plant plenty of Crystal *Alsophila spinulosa*.”

Using a small knife, Liszt scraped gently along the back of the crystal leaves. The mature seeds of the Crystal *Alsophila spinulosa* easily fell off and were stored in a sealed leather pouch. Once inside the Space Ring, they could be preserved for a long time. After collecting seeds for a while and ensuring he had enough, Liszt stopped.

For the moment, he didn't touch the partially crystallized Crystal *Alsophila spinulosa*.

Instead, he called out to Little Fire Dragon Leo, “Leo, grab the Light Green Gemstone Dragon's tail and hoist it up and throw it into the sea.”

“Oh-ho!”

Leo was very excited and immediately dove down, accurately grabbing the Light Green Gemstone Dragon's thick tail with his hind claws. Then he flapped his wings and began to lift the slumbering body of the Light Green Gemstone Dragon little by little. He struggled quite a bit during the process but was spirited.

Leo might have weighed less than a hundred tons, but the Light Green Gemstone Dragon weighed several hundred tons, so the effort was normal.

But after hoisting up the Light Green Gemstone Dragon, Leo suddenly let out a resounding "oh-ho" dragon cry, then twisted his body and, like throwing a discus, hurled the Light Green Gemstone Dragon towards the vast sea.

"Oh-ho!"

"Oh-ho!"

Being able to toy with another dragon like this, Leo's mood swelled with each wave, more excited than the last. If he put in a little more effort, he might be able to directly release his bloodline contagion power and could infect dragon-kind—a perhaps this could be a good method to stimulate Leo's ability to infect dragon-kind in the future.

The Light Green Gemstone Dragon thrown towards the sea did not sink into the depths, as Ach controlled countless water tornadoes that caught the huge body mid-flight.

Liszt soared into the sky, then gently landed on the back of the Light Green Gemstone Dragon.

Ach followed and leapt onto the dragon's back as well.

"Let's go, to Dodo Island. We'll settle the Light Green Gemstone Dragon there," Liszt signaled, then called out to Leo, still circling in the sky, "Come back!"

"Oh-ho!"

Leo crashed headfirst into Liszt's chest.

With Ach controlling the water, even carrying a dragon didn't slow them down or seem too difficult. The sea was Ach's home field, and as an Archmage Sea Serpent, he possessed unfathomable abilities.

"Ach, since you have such capabilities, I think when we go out in the future, we should bring a large ship. You could stand at the bow and control the ship's travel. The vessel wouldn't need sails or sailors, just servants to clean, organize food, and manage the supplies,"

This was the idea for a luxury cruise ship.

With Ach's protection, it wasn't only that storms couldn't destroy the vessel, but even facing Sub-dragon Sea Monsters wouldn't necessarily bring any trouble.

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The concept of the oil tanker quickly caught Ach's attention, "Brother, can we build a magic laboratory on the ship and then pair it with a few magic apprentices to manage it?" She was still obsessed with the study of magic and the Truth, addicted to experimenting beyond help.

"Of course, you can."

"Heehee, then Ach's research will be much more convenient in the future."

"Don't always think about doing research, though. You're still young, and I'm still young, too. We have plenty of time to share, and enjoying life is the real deal." Liszt advised Ach while summoning the Smoke Mission to continue reviewing the new tasks he had just released.

"Mission: The splendid dragon-slaying battle and the hard choices of the Mind Fruit Tree have drained you of too much energy. Your body may remain robust, but your spirit is already fatigued. Why not relax and fully enjoy the cheers that an eighteen-year-old Dragon Knight should receive? Reward: An Elf Bug."

“Hmm.”

“It’s been a long time since I’ve seen such a familiar reward. An Elf Bug... As my strength has increased, the rewards from the Smoke Mission have become more and more generous, shifting from elves to dragons. I never expected a huge turnaround today, returning to the Elf Bug.”

He vaguely felt that aside from being related to the surrounding environment, the reward content of the Smoke Mission was more linked to the Power of Destiny.

As he progressed, the Power of Destiny seemed to be growing stronger, with more and more intense Threads of Destiny to leverage, resulting in the Fire Dragon and Light Green Gemstone Dragon falling under its calculation. Even the occasional Elf Bug rewards began to increase in number, rather than just a single one.

“Could it be that when I erased the Mind Branding of the First Dragon Knight, I overly depleted that wisp of smoke, causing a weakening of the Power of Destiny?”

At that time, the Dragon Tooth Divine Weapon, formed from the smoke, showed signs of crumbling while relentlessly slaying the Mind Branding.

“So, it’s not my spirit that’s fatigued, but the Power of Destiny itself is in a state of decline?” Liszt suddenly became nervous.

The Smoke Mission was his biggest reliance; it could be said that the Earth overtime male, who was originally rather mediocre in intellect, talent, and courage, became a prodigy of the Different World thanks to the Smoke Mission. Without the Smoke Mission, he might have still been just a Baron calmly developing Fresh Flower Town.

It was the Smoke Mission that allowed him to rise step by step and become the new overlord of the Azure Sea.

“It seems that in the next Mind Battle, I must use the Power of Destiny cautiously. Considering how hard it was for the Smoke Mission to evolve to the point where it could trick dragons, I can’t afford to fall back to the level of tricking Elf Bugs.” Liszt made a determined decision, but without dwelling on it too much.

A man can change a lot in three days; now he is a Dragon Knight, a mighty one at the pinnacle of power.

Without the Smoke Mission, he could still roam freely over the Legendary Continent.

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Liszt didn't return for the night. Bull Hoof City remained bustling as ever, and although the battle had concluded, the fleets of Nobles who were still unaware of the news kept converging on Bull Hoof City.

Seeing the Sapphire Dragon sleeping soundly near Bull Hoof City, all the arriving Nobles and Knights heard about the dragon-slaying battle, akin to a legend, that took place among the four Dragon Knights and one Archmage. The fact that a genius Knight from the Tulip Family became a Dragon Knight overnight, and he also has an Archmage sister, was like something out of a storybook.

"Liszt... Prince Liszt actually killed a Dragon Knight of the Eagle Kingdom?"

"Glorious! It's a pity I couldn't witness it with my own eyes!"

"Are you pulling my leg? A dragon-slaying battle with five peak warriors?"

"Incredible!"

Nobody was willing to believe such an epic dragon-slaying battle had occurred; however, the adamant accounts from the Knights stationed at Iron Hoof City compelled the new arrivals to accept its veracity. A legendary rise had indeed happened here—the Sapphire Family might still rule the Grand Duchy of Sapphire, but a new order of the sea was about to arrive.

Chapter 734: The Right to Speak

Levis stood on the deck, his expression solemn, as the family fleet, following Liszt's instructions, had "assembled" at Coral Island for two days before barely setting sail.

The Eagle Kingdom was waging an all-out invasion, and the Tulip Family's choice was to counteract by remaining still, waiting for the Grand Duke to clash with the Bear Eagle Kingdom before making subsequent plans. In any case, with Liszt's Ghost Swordsman Inheritance, even if they were to surrender to the Eagle Kingdom, he would likely be given due consideration.

They were on the brink of reaching Bull Hoof City.

Perhaps the battle between the two nations had already begun, and Bull Hoof City had fallen; the Tulip Family's critical decisions were already underway.

"I wonder what father and Liszt will choose, to stay with the Sapphires or to submit to the Eagle Kingdom?" he pondered, somewhat troubled.

The vampire known as Mary Dawnbreak had already led the Blood Servants to scout Bull Hoof City, and they would soon bring news that would determine whether the fleet should continue towards Bull Hoof City. The wait was excruciating, especially as it concerned the future of his family as well as his own.

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Before departing, his wife Loria Gold Wheat Ear had exhorted him to adhere to his father's and brother's decisions and not act on his own accord.

This irritated him.

He was annoyed not only by Loria's attitude, which implied he had no mind of his own even though he was six years older than Liszt; was it simply because his brother was lucky enough to receive the Ancient Warrior Inheritance that he was considered to have a better understanding of the big picture? He was also displeased with the ambiguous stance Li Weiliam and Liszt had regarding the family position.

From the beginning, he did not wish for the family to surrender to the Eagle Kingdom; he couldn't bear to lose the status of the Sapphires—in the Sapphires, he was the heir to the Marquis of Bull Tail, the future Marquis!

If they surrendered to the Eagle Kingdom, it was almost certain that the noble title could not be retained, especially since the other party valued his brother Liszt more.

He was envious of Liszt.

Among the four siblings, he had always been the prodigy.

Even when the youngest, Lidun, displayed exceptional talent, he still belonged to the prodigy echelon. Wherever he went, people added the honorific “prodigy of Coral Island” when addressing him. However, Liszt, who had seemed inconspicuous and good for nothing but his looks since childhood, had risen up swiftly after being granted his rank.

He had become the most brilliant young noble of the Sapphires.

Thereafter, the title of the prodigy of Coral Island could only be worn by Liszt; no one else could claim the title. On the contrary, others would often gossip behind his back as if Levis, who had yet to be promoted to a Sky Knight, was a disgrace to the Tulip Family.

But.

At this thought, a smug curve appeared on Levis’s lips: “When father and Liszt see me again, they will surely be astonished!”

The reason was straightforward.

No longer was he the Elite Earth Knight Levis, but an ordinary Sky Knight Levis!

Just two days ago, while on the sea voyage, the Dou Qi within him matured and boiled over, transforming in an instant into Advanced Water-Attribute Dou Qi, enabling him to soar through the skies.

Extending a hand while wielding surging Advanced Dou Qi, Levis’s spirits rose again: “Loria probably didn’t expect that I would become a Sky Knight so quickly; she told me to

Speak less and listen more simply because I wasn't strong enough, but now that my power has surged, who would dare ignore my opinions!"

Just then, a black bat flew in from the distance.

Levis narrowed his eyes: "Especially that Mary, who was so arrogant on the ship, outright ignoring my advances! Once I speak to Liszt, I'll immediately have Mary transferred to me; let's see if she can still act so haughty... Although Liszt is strong, he surely wouldn't disrespect his Sky Knight brother!"

When he was still an Earth Knight, it went without saying that he knew Liszt wouldn't respect him, as power was the foundation for a voice.

But now, having become a Sky Knight, he stood on the same level as Liszt, his voice now backed by a burst of confidence!

Fluttering.

The bat arrived at the bow of the ship, instantly transforming into a tall female vampire—it wasn't Mary but Peggy. Beneath the cloak was the face of an ordinary woman, one that Levis took no interest in, despite his persistent curiosity about the taste of a vampire.

"Sir Levis." Peggy dodged into a shady spot near the sail, as vampires do not fancy sunlight.

Levis squinted his eyes and said, "What's the situation in Bull Hoof City?"

"The fleet can enter the city at any time, the Eagle Kingdom has retreated, and the Sapphire has achieved a grand victory." Peggy's voice was filled with boundless excitement, she still felt a bit dizzy. How could her master turn into a Fire Dragon Knight, an Archmage, in the blink of an eye?

She was about to compose her words to narrate the glorious deeds of Liszt.

But she heard Levis reply with an excited tone, "Haha, not bad at all, I knew the Eagle Kingdom was not to be feared. Who can compete with the Sapphire on the high seas!"

“Sir, you are quite right, now no one can challenge the Sapphires at sea,” Peggy echoed.

“Of course.” Levis was filled with a sense of pride. Earlier, his father and he had been hesitating and worrying for no good reason. It seemed he had the far-sightedness, “It is a pity we are late. The family fleet should have set sail earlier to share in the glory!”

“It is not too late, not too late.”

“Hmm?”

Just as Levis was about to scold her, “What do you know,” Peggy quickly said, “Under the glorious favor of Lord Liszt, the Sapphire could achieve such a splendid victory. It made no difference whether the Tulip Family’s fleet arrived or not, with Lord Liszt and His Highness Acherlroides, that was enough!”

What a flattery!

Levis felt nauseated to the core!

These seemingly proud vampires were nothing more than a bunch of amusing clowns who groveled and flattered. To go so far as to change “knightly favor” to “Lord Liszt’s glorious favor” as if the victory of the Sapphire was all thanks to Liszt’s abilities.

However, as Peggy spoke faster, her mood became more elated, “Also, congratulations to Sir Levis, you share the same bloodline as Lord Liszt, which is truly enviable! From now on, you are no longer a mere Sky Knight, for you have Dragon Knight Liszt... no, no, His Highness Liszt standing behind you!”

Whoosh!

It was like lightning striking on a clear day.

Levis forcefully swallowed back the words he’d prepared to scold with, his eyes widened. It took him a full five seconds to speak, “What did you say, repeat that!”

Peggy knew that Levis was shocked by the word “Dragon Knight.”

When she heard the news herself, she nearly wet her pants, and now she explained excitedly, “The Eagle Kingdom dispatched two Dragon Knights to attack the Sapphire, the Sapphire Duke nearly got killed, but His Highness Liszt mounted his Fire Dragon and took to the sky, with Highness Acherloides assisting with Archmage magic.”

Her face bore an expression of devout faith as she said, “In the end, His Highness Liszt struck down the Dragon Knight Carlo Violet, scared off Dragon Knight Alonso Immortal Arrival, and rescued Dragon Knight Andrew Sapphire, becoming the new master of the sea!”

Gulp.

Levis swallowed hard and said with difficulty, “Is what you’re saying... true?”

Peggy nodded seriously, “Absolutely true, the cheers for His Highness Liszt fill the whole of Bull Hoof City!”

“Heh...”

Levis started with two quick “heh” sounds, and after a moment, his expression twisted from rigidity to extreme joy, and he burst out laughing, “Hahaha, Dragon Knight! My dearest brother is a Dragon Knight! I am the brother of a Dragon Knight!”

He laughed heartily for a good while, until the entire ship was consumed by the fervor, and countless cheers for the “Dragon Knight” echoed.

Only then did he suddenly compose himself, raised his hand to point forward, and shouted, “Order given, set sail for Bull Hoof City, full speed ahead!”

Chapter 735: Embracing the Cheers

Still standing proudly at the bow, his mood had changed dramatically.

Previously, Levis's indignation was mixed with boundless expansion. His promotion to Sky Knight had filled him with pride and ambition, making him forget the fear he felt under Liszt's dominion—of course, he'd never actually witnessed how Liszt dominated those Sky Knights, whether in father-son combat or the duel with Marquis Nuta; he had only heard of it.

He didn't see what was so incredible about the Ghost Swordsman Inheritance.

Feeling like the number one person, and being the elder brother, Liszt was just a younger brother, no matter what.

...

But the news brought by Peggy Dawn shattered his confidence instantly. The so-called foundation of a Sky Knight paled in comparison to the deeply-rooted might of a Dragon Knight, so much so that he found his own previous confidence laughable—compared to the unfamiliar Ghost Swordsman Inheritance, the shock of the Dragon Knight was truly immense.

“Dragon Knight, ah!”

Even upon seeing the port of Bull Hoof Island dotted with moored ships, Levis couldn't calm himself. His momentary embarrassment only lingered in his mind for a few seconds before excitement and agitation replaced it.

What counted the little speaking power he had previously calculated!

Now he had transformed, becoming the brother of a Dragon Knight, “I can walk sideways in the Duchy of Sapphire, and nobody should have any objections, haha.”

It was a different kind of expansion.

But Levis felt it was even more joyous than his promotion to Sky Knight.

As the ship docked and he saw the familiar faces like Viscount Jonas coming to meet him, Levis regained his composure—although somewhat ambitious beyond his abilities, years

of noble education had taught him how to hide his true self and adopt the standard facade of nobility.

“Viscount Jonas.”

“Sir Levis.”

After the pleasantries, he couldn’t wait to ask, “Is the dragon-slaying battle real?”

“Of course,” Jonas replied, full of triumphant glee. As a follower of the Tulip Family, he naturally could share in the glory brought by the Dragon Knight. “The name of Prince Liszt now echoes across the entire sea. See that Sapphire Dragon lying over there? If it weren’t for the prince’s action, that might have been the one to die.”

The Sapphire Dragon, being too exhausted and heavily injured, had no choice but to slumber near the port of Bull Hoof City to gather strength for the return to its nest on Blue Dragon Island.

Because of the issue with the Sapphire Dragon, the Grand Duke also lingered there.

“Dragon Knight, ah!” Levis looked at the Sapphire Dragon, and suddenly thought of Liszt’s Fire Dragon, “Where does Liszt keep his Fire Dragon?”

“The Fire Dragon is kept inside the body.”

“Inside the body?”

“We all saw the Fire Dragon turn into a ball of flame and enter Prince Liszt’s body; perhaps this is the power of an Elemental Dragon.”

“There’s such a move?”

Levis expressed disbelief, eager to see Liszt, but as Liszt was not in Bull Hoof City, he could only “disappointingly” wait in Bull Hoof City. As the brother of a Dragon Knight, he

quickly integrated into the noble social circles of Bull Hoof City, constantly basking in the glory the Dragon Knight had brought.

...

Meanwhile.

Liszt had already arrived at Dodo Island with Ach, with Leo diving straight into the volcano crater to enjoy the Volcanic Super Magic that had gathered over this period, marking out his territory—the volcano’s mid-mountain upwards forbade any Dragon from entering, as that was his domain, and there was no room for negotiation.

It was not worth disputing this matter with Leo, so Liszt simply settled the Light Green Gemstone Dragon on the island’s flat shore.

Not knowing how long it would take for the Light Green Gemstone Dragon to recover, he could only wait patiently, occasionally coming to visit and feeding it a batch of Magic Potions.

After all was done, he trained for half a day at the volcano crater with Leo.

Only then did he set off to leave Dodo Island, planning to return to Bull Hoof Island, reunite with his family, and then continue back to Coral Island to undertake the “Welcome a Dragon Knight should receive at eighteen” mission.

“I don’t know why the Smoke Mission would issue such a task; I should be a very low-key person, without any deliberate show-off thoughts.”

So when he was about to return to the port of Iron Hoof Island,

Ach, not wanting to stay in a castle crowded with people, stayed on the Sunset, which had come with the fleet, reading a book alone.

And he naturally summoned Little Fire Dragon Leo, riding slowly down to the port on Leo, eventually landing in front of his temporary Nameless Castle amid countless Knights’

looks of admiration and worship. He saw some familiar faces, Levis, Trick, Mary, Peggy, and others.

The Tulip Family's Knight Order had arrived as planned.

Of course, the Knight Order from Black Horse Island was also prominently present; the number was not large, and having already decided to stand by and watch, Liszt did not ask Yevich and others to follow. Instead, Captain Marcus led over sixty Earth Knights, mixing in with the Coral Island Knights.

"Prince Liszt!"

"Prince Liszt!"

The Knights of the family cheered one after another, all heartfelt shouts; from now on, they were no longer ordinary Knights but Knights who followed a Dragon Knight!

Marquis Bull Tail was discussing matters at Bull Hoof Fortress with the Grand Duke, so Nameless Castle was temporarily led by Levis. This newly-adjusted Sky Knight was trying hard to appear normal, but feeling the Dragon Might of the Fire Dragon and Liszt's aura up close, his calves still nearly trembled.

"Leo, come back!" Liszt snapped his fingers.

Leo immediately transformed into a ball of Flame; in the gaze of many newcomers surprised and fearful, he merged into Liszt's body, leaving behind only a few sparks that had yet to dissipate, without any trace of a Dragon. The Dragon Might of Leo also quickly vanished, and the atmosphere, as if being strangled, soon returned to normal.

Liszt did not like to resort to displaying Dragon Might.

Because other than for show, releasing Dragon Might had little significance; the battle against the Dragons had already established enough prestige, so why bother imitating the Grand Duke's previous pretentious use of Dragon Might as bait.

“Liszt!” Levis stepped forward, too excited to speak until the moment Liszt descended on the Dragon. Only then did he finally feel at ease—The Tulip Family had truly produced a Dragon Knight.

Mary, Marcus, and others were even struggling to stand firm.

As a captured Vampire, Bronze Dragon Knight Alonso was a lingering shadow for Mary. Even though she had never seen him, she still considered it a betrayal of the Dragon Knight and would often dream of being found by the Black Knight Family, facing the cruelest of punishments, shivering with fear.

But now, the master she followed was likewise a Dragon Knight, and more so, the Fire Dragon Knight who had defeated Alonso, with an Archmage to assist as well.

So the mountain pressuring Alonso’s heart directly collapsed.

Feeling light all over, she almost felt like flying, but she restrained herself and hid in the back of the crowd, as this was not a situation for a Blood Servant to be in. They were Liszt’s eyes in the dark, hunting prey, not a few bats exposed to the light.

She simply whispered in her heart, “Being the eyes of Prince Liszt is Mary’s honor!”

As for the thoughts of others, Liszt did not care at all; he had long been accustomed to every move he made being the center of attention.

“Brother, you’re here; let’s talk in the hall.” He greeted briefly, then walked into the castle with Levis, not forgetting to instruct, “Besides Viscount Jonas, Viscount Trick, and Captain Marcus, everyone else can go about their business; there’s no need to crowd in the castle.”

Chapter 736: Noble Status

Talking to his elder brother Levis brought no joy to Liszt, even though the conversation was filled with compliments towards himself, Liszt still found it utterly dull.

So, after briefly discussing the joy of Dragon Riding, he entered the study to busy himself with his own affairs.

Marcus and Mary followed him into the study.

“Captain Marcus, I predict that before long, a large number of Knights from the Sapphire ranks will want to join the Black Horse Island Knights Order. I will leave this matter in your hands to control. Do not accept Knights of poor character, mediocrity, or those who are older. In short, when selecting Knights, consider both virtue and talent,”

Liszt said.

...

Since he had revealed his identity as a Dragon Knight and Acherlroides as an Archmage, it seemed inevitable that a new Kingdom would be established. Nobles who are secondary sons unable to progress in the Sapphire ranks, and commoner Knights would certainly view Liszt as their greatest opportunity to become founding members of a new nation.

But Liszt was not a landlord desperate for followers; he would not accept just any Knight: “I’d rather have none than have the wrong ones. After all, I’m not planning to establish a Kingdom anytime soon. It’s easier to cultivate loyalty by training the Knights ourselves,” he reasoned.

Marcus replied solemnly, “Rest assured, Your Highness, Marcus will guard the gateway for selecting Knights with care, choosing only those who meet the standards you have set!” His expression remained calm, but his eyes burned with excitement that had been kindled ever since they were aboard the ship.

An immense feeling of unreality always enveloped him—it was unimaginable that he once served as a family tutor to a Dragon Knight!

And now, his status was even more significant as the confidant of a Dragon Knight and the Captain of the Black Horse Island Knights Order. Perhaps one day, when the Knight Order grew and the nation began to be built, he might not be able to keep up with the great steps of the Dragon Knight, but he believed that his relationship with Liszt would benefit him for a lifetime.

For now, he only held the title of an Honored Knight, but undoubtedly, his future would not end there.

“There is another matter,” Liszt recalled something else, “With an Archmage by my side, it’s certain that a large number of Magicians will flock to the domain in the future. Chris is not adept at organization and management, so I hope you can work with Chris, Paris, Charles, and Mary to come up with a united management plan for the Magicians as soon as possible.”

Just as a Dragon Knight can attract a large following of Knights, an Archmage would naturally become an inevitable faith of Magicians.

Not only Magicians from the Sapphire would want to make a pilgrimage to Acherlodes, but once the news spreads, the Steel Ridge Kingdom, Eagle Kingdom, and even more distant Kingdoms should have Magicians coming to pay their respects.

Liszt did not appreciate the stubbornness of Magicians, but if he could make use of them, that would not be bad. Anyway, with his and Acherlodes’ strength in residence, if any Magician dared violate the domain’s laws, they would simply be eradicated—the only thing to guard against was incidents like Dragon slaying orchestrated by groups like the Goat Assembly.

Therefore, implementing systematic management and strengthening surveillance over Magicians was crucial.

After discussing the Magicians,

Liszt kept Mary behind to discuss the matter of the Vampires: “Alonso has fled, and these Vampires might be hiding, but regardless, their presence in the Sapphire is a disaster. Mary, you must find them as soon as possible and notify me.”

Mary nodded, “Don’t worry, Your Highness. The Blood Servants will not let the Vampires of the Black Knight Family escape from the Sapphire at ease!”

...

Night fell.

The banquet was held at the Bull Hoof Fortress. After the arrival of the remote Coral Island Knights, almost all the great Nobles' Knight Orders of the Sapphire had arrived, and the scale of the banquet had reached unprecedented heights.

At the Grand Duke's table, aside from Liszt and Acherlroides, seven Marquises or their heirs were in attendance.

“^

From Red Crab Island came Mesiro Taro; from Deep Throat Island came Warner Pineapple Green, the legitimate eldest son of Marquis Wallace; from Golden Island came Marquis Roderick Gold Wheat Sheaf; from Red Maple City came Marquis Glendenton Red Maple Leaf; from Leather Island came Marquis Ramirez White Glutinous Rice.

Together with Nesta Big Flower Hydrangea of Quicksand City and Marquis Li Weiliam Tulip of Bull Tail, as well as Crown Prince Anthony, there were eleven men in total, all talking and laughing merrily.

“If it weren't for Prince Liszt's assistance, the battle for Sapphire would have been disastrous. Please accept my respects,” Anthony toasted.

The Crown Prince's demeanor was completely relaxed.

Back at the Marquis of Bull Tail's celebration banquet, he carried himself with the air of a landlord, treating Liszt as if he were one of his followers. In no time at all, that changed to looking up to Liszt with admiration, no longer daring to put on any airs. The title “Prince” had also shifted to Liszt.

“Your Highness is too polite. The sea is not a place for the Eagle Kingdom to intervene, and Sapphire is my homeland. It was only right for me to step in,” Liszt smiled lightly, raising his glass.

Anthony immediately laughed, “You may just call me Anthony, Prince Liszt.”

Liszt went with the flow: “Alright, Anthony.” He truly didn’t want to address the other as Crown Prince—to him, the man was merely the son of a duke. And yet, he insisted on using titles such as prince and princess in the rural archipelago nation of Sapphire, which seemed somewhat preposterous.

Of course, nobles are thick-skinned, and other dukedoms basically did the same—after all, a dukedom is also a nation.

The Grand Duke, sitting at the head of the table, watched his eldest son warmly socializing with the various marquises and Liszt, feeling somewhat relieved. No matter what, Sapphire now had a suitable heir. He quietly gave his brother-in-law Nesta a look, and Nesta understood.

Raising his glass, Nesta said loudly, “This toast celebrates the victory of Sapphire. May the glory of the Knight always grace Sapphire and everyone present.”

All raised their glasses together.

After drinking, Nesta raised his glass again, “This toast celebrates Prince Liszt and Lord Acherlroides for turning the tide and making a name across the sea.”

Liszt picked up his glass again, accepting the salute from everyone.

He was no longer a political novice and had a rough idea that the Grand Duke was simply signaling Nesta to sing his praises, putting him on a higher pedestal so that no one would think of attacking Sapphire too lightly—at the current time, Sapphire was too weak to withstand a challenge from Liszt.

Especially during the Sapphire Dragon’s slumber, it was almost at the mercy of others—of course, this did not exclude the possibility that the Grand Duke was bluffing, and the Sapphire Dragon might only be feigning sleep, as such events could happen a second or third time.

The banquet ended in a harmonious and lively atmosphere.

However, the guests did not disperse. Seizing the moment when everyone was gathered, the Grand Duke announced, “Prince Liszt has become a Dragon Knight and has decided to

establish a nation at an opportune time. I also have decided that Sapphire will fully support Prince Liszt in nation-building... Therefore, during the preparatory phase, Prince Liszt requires a suitable title.”

Liszt smiled without a word.

The Grand Duke wanted to elevate his title, which Liszt was pleased to see, for indeed, before establishing his own kingdom, he needed a higher noble title—Marquis.

In the Eagle Kingdom, all Dragon Knights start as marquises.

Moreover, Sapphire could only offer the title of Marquis.

Chapter 737: Flame Territory

While the meeting was ostensibly to discuss Liszt’s new title, the Duke had, in fact, already prepared a plan—Iron Hoof City and Coral Island were to be merged into a new territory, which would serve as Liszt’s Marquisate, a place for him to prepare for the nation-building period.

Liszt accepted the Duke’s kindness.

The Duke, First Prince, and others all secretly breathed a sigh of relief; they were now worried that Liszt’s ambitions would be too great to satisfy. Therefore, with a beaming smile, the Duke said, “Lord Liszt, please give this territory a new name, and I will immediately arrange for the Court to prepare the ennoblement ceremony.”

Even though it was a transitional territory, Liszt still took a moment to thoughtfully consider before replying, “Let’s call it Flame Territory.”

He was a Fire Dragon Knight, and the Fire Dragon was an embodiment of flame. The territory would be symbolized by the Fire Dragon and thus called the Flame Territory, constantly reminding others that this was the domain of a Fire Dragon Knight.

...

“Good, I hereby confer upon you the title of Marquis of Flames, with absolute jurisdiction over the territory,” the Duke declared with a grand wave of his hand, making the decision.

In name, the Marquis of Flames was a subordinate noble of the Sapphire, but in reality, Liszt would sign a mutual defense alliance contract with the Duke, making their relationship one of equals.

With the title set, the Nobles came forward one by one to offer their congratulations.

“Two Marquises from the Tulip Family, congratulations!”

“Marquis of Flames, Marquis of Bull Tail, congratulations, congratulations!”

“The glory of knighthood favors you, the Tulip Family is destined to thrive and prosper endlessly.”

Liszt smiled and thanked each one, not showing too much arrogance, for he was always a composed person. Perhaps nobles were divided into ranks and degrees, but in his eyes, nobles and commoners were equal—no more than ants, so where was the distinction to be made.

Beneath the Dragon Knight, all were but ants, and Liszt had indeed been rather inflated these past few days.

Great power often could cloud one’s mind, like when Levis became a Sky Knight and was very arrogant, very proud. If it hadn’t been for Liszt’s unexpected entry as a Dragon Knight that poured cold water on him, who knows how wild he would have become. But Liszt had no one to cool his head; he needed time to calm down himself.

Fortunately, the worldview of a mature soul had enough self-control to overcome the inflated ego.

Having no time to chat further with the nobles, upon returning to the Nameless Castle, Liszt said directly to Marquis of Bull Tail, “Father, the elevation of the Flame Territory and the material support negotiations with the Duke need you to take a more active role.”

Li Weiliam responded casually, “Don’t worry, I’ve got everything under control here.”

“Then I’ll leave it in your capable hands, Father.”

“You are the pride of the Tulip Family, focus on your Dragon Knight training, increase your strength, and leave these other trivial matters to me. I will ensure the greatest benefits for you.”

“Understood.”

It must be said, having the support of his family made things much easier for Liszt. An individual could hardly manage alone, and even as a Dragon Knight, he still needed trustworthy people to help him build his household—currently, he had two dragons to provide for, especially the Light Green Gemstone Dragon, which needed time to recover and would likely require a vast amount of resources.

The Light Green Gemstone Mine wasn’t ready for development yet; mining would have to wait two years, and only after the repercussions of the current dragon slaying campaign had passed could they proceed.

So he had to think of other ways.

He had his brother, Levis, call over their uncle Mesiro for a brief family meeting.

“Father, Uncle, I need to raise dragons, and the resource gap is huge. We cannot rely on the nation’s support to raise dragons, nor can dragons reciprocate with a large amount of resources, so at this stage, we must accumulate resources through business.”

Regarding this.

“^

Li Weiliam and Mesiro were well aware that Leo was an Elemental Dragon, not a Gemstone Dragon nor a Metal Dragon.

On the spot, Mesiro expressed, “Liszt, if needed, the Long Taro Family will be your solid backing. I can provide part of the resources to support you.”

“Thank you for the offer, uncle, but it’s not necessary for now. I have several profitable industries, paper and glass, those are hugely profitable industries. I plan to expand the production scale and then use the channels of the Tulip Family and the Long Taro Family to sell to the continents.”

“That’s no problem. The benefits of paper and glass, I believe the nobles of the continent simply can’t resist.”

“Besides paper and glass, I am also exploring other profitable industries. Basically, I have come to understand a few, and they include perfume, porcelain, and sea salt.”

“Sea salt?” Mesiro raised an eyebrow and asked.

“Yes, seawater contains salt that requires special technology to refine. I have basically mastered it and can produce high-quality sea salt in large quantities, which is of higher quality than well salt and pond salt.” Liszt said proudly, even for an archipelago nation, the Duchy of Sapphire still lacked salt.

Because the majority of salts currently available were mined salt, pond salt, and well salt, which all come from land sources, and people did not know yet to take salt from the sea.

There was a salt mine on Coral Island, so they were not short on salt, which is why Liszt had not paid attention to this before. It was only after he started developing his domain that he started researching the production of salt from seawater – in fact, the technology is very simple, and with magicians cooperating in the research, they quickly produced edible sea salt.

The coasts of Black Horse Island are not very suitable for salt production, hence, it can’t be popularized.

However, the Bull Tail Domain of the Marquis of Bull Tail has many flat areas with plenty of sunlight by the seaside, ideal for developing into salterns. Naturally, Red Crab Island will also have suitable salterns.

Once high-quality sea salt is produced, it will certainly quickly impact the salt market on the continent, bringing Liszt huge profits – to know that in ancient China, the salt merchants were all prominent and wealthy traders, even warmly hosting the emperor on his southern tours.

This shows how profitable the salt industry can be.

Road robbery is by no means as profitable as doing business.

According to Liszt's estimates, if sea salt were produced and sold on a large scale, the profit from just monopolizing the coastal salt market of the Steel Ridge Kingdom might be comparable to the annual revenue of the Duchy of Sapphire – of course, it's not a given that the Steel Ridge Kingdom would open up its salt market to Liszt.

Cooperating with the Kingdom's great nobles is a more likely possibility.

Regardless, with multiple sources of income like paper, glass, porcelain, perfume, and sea salt, the money would never run out. Even if the technology were exposed in a few years, Liszt estimated that he would have developed by then. At that point, if anyone dared to block his path to making money, he'd just ride three to five dragons straight to their door!

He was very confident in his heart, "With the techniques from the Smoke Mission, riding three to five dragons in a few years should not be difficult."

After all, he had already ridden two dragons and had three Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruits in reserve.

The production of sea salt made Li Weiliang and Mesiro see a golden path of money, hence their enthusiasm was high. Even Levis came forward with a cheeky ask, "Liszt, if Loria and I can borrow the channel of the Golden Wheat Sheaf Family, can we also join your trade plan?"

"If the channel is firmly in your and your wife's hands, rather than being covertly controlled by the Golden Wheat Sheaf Family, I don't mind you joining in the money-making," replied Liszt.

The market on the continent is vast, so there's no need to worry about having too many people sharing the pie.

After all, no matter who participates in the trade plan, they would only be acting as agents, essentially helping Liszt make money, as he held all the technological ownership.

Even if the Grand Duke wanted to get involved in the future, Liszt would welcome it.

Of course, steps must be taken one at a time. At the current stage, Liszt still preferred to have the family maintain control of the channel, and would make further judgments based on the profit feedback from the market.

Chapter 738: The First Move, Dragon Slash

After delegating all the tedious social matters to Marquis Bull Tail, Liszt had planned to take another look at the Crystal Alsophila spinulosa and the large pit that had been filled on Mind Island.

But the unexpected came suddenly.

Mary Dawn Break, who had just been investigating the vampires, quickly reported to him, "Your Highness, traces of vampires from the Black Knight Family have been discovered. There are approximately two purebloods leading five mixed-bloods, lurking in a small city near Bull Hoof City."

"They didn't run, but instead dare to spy on Bull Hoof City. Don't they know I am here?" Liszt narrowed his eyes.

...

"Perhaps they are not aware of the deeper entanglement between Your Highness and another aspect of the Black Knight Family. They don't know that Tuobert is dead, and it was by imitating Tuobert's blood magic aura that I successfully prompted a response from the vampires of the Black Knight Family."

"Tell me their current location."

“Yes, Your Highness.”

Liszt was a decisive man. Having just learned the location of the Black Knights’ vampires from Mary, he set out half an hour later with Ach towards the vampires’ hideout, a small city with a population of less than five thousand. The mixed-bloods were scattered throughout the city, while the purebloods were gathered together.

“This is it. I just cast blood magic, and they responded,” guided Mary.

The city was filthy, and the streets even more so. Liszt had to wear a mask just to breathe decently. “Ach, you provide support from outside. If you sense any escaping by transforming into bats, kill them directly. I’ll go in and have a chat with these two purebloods first. Hopefully, we can avoid any trouble.”

But this idea was not realized.

When they saw Mary and Liszt behind her, the two purebloods transformed into bats and fled out of the house immediately. They obviously recognized Liszt, the newly-emerged Dragon Knight, but it was too late to flee once recognized. Liszt unleashed a burst of Dragon Dou Qi, shattering all the bats in an instant.

In the end, the two purebloods fell to the floor, severely wounded and dying.

After allowing Mary to extract the hearts of the two men, he commenced the interrogation: “Names.”

The two wanted to resist, but with their hearts in his grip, they chose life over death: “Your Highness Liszt, I am Horus Black Knight.”

“I am Bruce Black Knight.”

“What about the other vampires of the Black Knight Family?” Liszt had heard of these two from Mary before, they were foreign purebloods converted from human potential magicians.

“The family’s vampires have already withdrawn from Sapphire, leaving only the two of us to closely monitor the events here,” one said.

“Go on, tell me what you know about the invasion plans of Eagle Kingdom.”

“We don’t know much, the vampires of the Black Knight Family are only Prince Alonso’s blood servants, tasked only with scouting for information. However, the invasion of Sapphire was a plan long schemed by Prince Alonso, our original mission was to support the Kingdom’s Knight Order in eradicating Blue Dragon Island.”

Clearly, Alonso had prepared for a triumphant dragon-slaying war, intending to capture the entire Sapphire Family in one fell swoop.

However, it was the Eagle Kingdom that met with a crushing defeat. Observing the adverse trend, the vampires hastily took their leave, leaving only Horus and Bruce behind to monitor Bull Hoof City. They were a bit timid, however, not daring to make an appearance in Bull Hoof City lightly, especially considering Bull Hoof City was still garrisoned by the Grand Duke and the Sapphire Dragon.

Unable to glean further information,

Liszt waved his hand dismissively, “Mary, these two are now under your management, as well as the hearts of those five mixed-bloods.”

Mary licked her lips involuntarily, feeling a surge of power and anticipation at managing her growing group of Blood Servants, “Rest assured, Your Highness, Mary will manage the Blood Servants properly. Here there will be no Black Knight Family, only Dawn Break!”

Mary was a capable woman, her strength now elevated to that of a pureblood. She believed she could tame Horus and Bruce.

And if they truly could not be tamed, it would be no hardship to kill the two purebloods and cultivate new ones using their hearts—as long as she had the hearts of vampires, betrayers were not feared. Of course, should they encounter an irresistible force, no strategy would guarantee loyalty.

What he needed to do was ensure Mary's loyalty, and through her, the loyalty of the other Vampires.

That's roughly how Alonso had done it, by securing the loyalty of the head of the Black Knight Family, the other Vampires had freedom to do as they pleased. After all, the low-level Vampires were cannon fodder, their death or capture wasn't a significant loss, they could always be retrained.

"By the way, Mary, there is something I need you to take care of."

"Your Highness, please command me."

"I have an address in the Eagle Kingdom, Flame Mountain. Send a Blood Servant to map out the exact location of Flame Mountain within the Eagle Kingdom. Additionally, subtly inquire among the residents around Flame Mountain about the legend of the 'Phoenix' Sub-dragon, and be careful not to recklessly expose your identity or intentions."

"Rest assured, Your Highness, Mary will arrange for the Blood Servants to carry out the task immediately."

"The defeat of the Eagle Kingdom in this Dragon Hunt and the reactions from all parties—don't forget to gather intelligence on that. The more detailed, the better. As soon as there's important news, send it back immediately."

"Yes, Your Highness."

The strategy for capturing the Sub-dragon Phoenix at Flame Mountain was a big deal that Liszt was intent on achieving. After all, he had grown up seeing plenty of Dragons, but he had never seen a Sub-dragon, not to mention Super Magical Beasts or Advanced Dragon Beasts. He was very curious to know whether a Sub-dragon was a Magical Beast with the bloodline of a Dragon.

Logically, Dragons could infect smaller wild beasts, Magical Beasts.

But the level of Sub-dragons was quite formidable, not quite defeated by Dragons, nor so easily infected, and high-level Magical Beasts would usually flee at the sight of a Dragon, so how could they stay behind to be infected by a Dragon.

Perhaps these puzzles would be solved after capturing a possibly existing Sub-dragon Phoenix.

At worst, the Fire Attribute Sub-dragon Phoenix would provide him and Leo with a great boost—originally a spark, Little Fire Dragon Leo had successfully hatched into the Magic Form Little Fire Dragon by devouring the magic power of the Phoenix Feather.

...

There wasn't much change on Mind Island.

The Light Green Gemstone Mine was still nurturing, the Crystal Firmianas were still growing; there wasn't a single Crystal Firmiana that had grown into a true Crystal Tree yet.

The big pit that had been filled with soil also showed no signs of sprouting.

Of course, it was still early, only two days had passed, naturally, there was nothing significant to see.

When he returned to Bull Hoof City from Mind Island, Liszt was surprised to find that the Sapphire Dragon had already awakened, and the Grand Duke was preparing to disband the Knight Order of the various Landlords, declaring the war over.

The Knight Order and fleet of the Tulip Family were also ready to set sail back to Coral Island.

Thus, the final banquet came to a close, and the next morning, the crowded fleet at Port of Bull Hoof City began to leave one after another. Liszt did not ride a Dragon or a shell but stayed quietly with Ach on the Sunset. They sailed with the wind, enjoying a rare and tranquil four-day sea journey.

During these four days, Ach would often disappear for a few hours; she went to observe and record the growth of the Crystal Firmianas on Mind Island, or to record the physical condition of the Light Green Gemstone Dragon on Dodo Island.

Liszt, on the other hand, read and took notes with composure.

Occasionally, he would call out Little Fire Dragon Leo to fly into the clouds and practice for a while.

He was summarizing the Fire Dragon Knight – Dragon Dou Qi's Manual. During the four-day voyage, he successfully derived the first move from the "Fire Dragon Knight-Dragon Qi's Manual". He named this move "Dragon Slash," using Leo's high-speed sprint and sharp turn, the Dragon Lance traced out a cutting trajectory.

"Dragon Slash!"

All that could be seen in the clouds was Leo making a swift turn, with Liszt following the motion wielding Wrath of Thunder, the spear tip gathering the ferocious Dragon Dou Qi, carving out a fiery crescent.

The crescent sliced through the clouds at high speed, producing crackling noises similar to Lightning upon contact with the vapor, flying over two hundred meters before slowly dissipating.

Seeing the power of Dragon Slash, Liszt couldn't help but feel inflated with confidence, "This move is very impressive; if I had mastered it before, I might even have been able to leave a mark on Alonso!"

Chapter 739: The Child Cries Loudly

Dragon Slash possessed immense power, greatly enhancing Liszt's strength, yet this was but one of the countless inspirations in his mind, with many more powerful offensive and defensive strategies brewing within.

Unnoticeable, four days had already passed.

Coral Island was in sight.

As drizzle began to fall from the overcast sky, Liszt and Li Weiliam stood side by side at the bow, father and son chatting about everyday matters in the rain without umbrellas.

“We’re almost home,” Li Weiliam suddenly said, filled with emotion, shaking his head and sighing, “Initially, I believed becoming a Marquis was the pinnacle of my life, but you’ve brought me so many surprises, propelling our family from nobles to a Dragon Rearing Family, what an honor.”

Liszt took it for granted and replied, “Being a Dragon Rearing Family is just the beginning, more glory lies ahead.”

...

When Li Weiliam saw Liszt’s attitude, he couldn’t help but laugh, “You’ve had such a smooth journey, that you can’t appreciate the prestige of a Dragon Rearing Family. Moving from a serf household to a commoner family is a huge hurdle, and ascending from a commoner to the ranks of a minor noble is even more formidable.”

And to climb from a minor noble to a major one, is yet another vast chasm.

These hurdles are enough to block ninety-nine percent of the people in this world; only the one percent, or rather the one in ten thousand fortunate ones, can relish the glory and nobility of being a major noble. Yet all these pale in comparison to the gap between a major noble and a Dragon Rearing Family.

The world is full of major nobles, however, Dragon Rearing Families won’t exceed two hundred.

Take for example the Grand Duchy of Sapphire, over more than one hundred and fifty years, major nobles have risen and fallen, but the Dragon Rearing Family has always only been the Sapphire Family.

“Had it not been for your unexpected rise, the old Sapphire Dragon might have led to the decline of the Sapphire Family, and we would not have witnessed the birth of a second Dragon Rearing Family,” Li Weiliam said, feeling more and more like it was surreal. He could not imagine how much a knight’s glory must favor one for a Dragon Knight and an Archmage to emerge one after another in the Tulip Family.

As a family of commoners at the beginning of the nation, our ancestors struggled through life and death on the battlefield to barely join the ranks of minor nobility. Over the next hundred years, the descendants barely squeezed into the ranks of the major nobility.

And then, in the blink of an eye, it became a Dragon Rearing Family.

“Father, you must adapt quickly, as our family will be busier in the future.”

“I know,” Li Weiliam said, halfheartedly lamenting, filled with unspoken elation, “We’re about to reach the port. Do you want to summon Leo so the people of Coral Island can witness the Fire Dragon’s incredible might?”

Liszt shook his head, “That would be too ostentatious and not very dignified. When we return to Tulip Castle, I’ll summon Leo just to let the family have a look.”

Li Weiliam coughed and found himself at a loss for words—every time Liszt returned to Bull Hoof Island Port, he would ride Leo with great display. Why didn’t he consider it too ostentatious then? Why did he receive such a response when he suggested the plan himself? Outrageous!

However, if Liszt did not wish to show off, he could not insist.

The father-son conversation thus fell into an awkward silence.

A moment later.

Upon arrival at the port, the Coral City Port was bustling with people. Not only had knights stationed on the island come to welcome the ship, but also a large crowd of commoners, all craning their necks eagerly waiting for the return of the Dragon Knight—almost none of them had ever seen a Dragon and all longed to lay eyes on one.

Afterward, they would have a story to tell their descendants.

Moreover, they could also catch a glimpse of the Archmage—for commoners, the fame of an Archmage didn't quite compare with that of a Dragon Knight, because only knights were known as rulers.

Unfortunately.

Liszt had no interest in showing off today. He disembarked quietly with the Knight Order, then swiftly got into the family carriage, escorted by the knights towards Tulip Castle. When they reached the crossroads to Coral City and Tulip Castle, they saw Lady Penelope and others standing in the rain, looking forward expectantly.

There was a faint sense of bewilderment.

This was already his fourth triumphant return.

One battle at Iron Hoof Island, two Pioneer Mandate campaigns, and now this Dragon Slaying battle, the welcoming procession grew more magnificent each time, corresponding to his identity during each return—a promising Elite Earth Knight, the youngest Sky Knight, the second most powerful man in the Grand Duchy.

And now, the Dragon Knight, the new overlord of the sea!

While the family's differential treatment was a clear display of opportunism, Liszt reveled in such opportunism, as it solidly confirmed his continuous growth and progress over the years.

Li Weiliam was the first to step out of the carriage, striding towards Lady Penelope: "Mother, I have made you worry."

However, Lady Penelope simply nodded briefly before turning to greet Liszt, who had just stepped out of the carriage, and gave him a big hug: "Son of Glory to the Tulip Family, our Dragon Knight, I have been longing for your return ever since I received the message!"

Faced with such an enthusiastic embrace, Liszt was somewhat helpless but responded with a smile, "Grandmother."

After the embrace, Lady Penelope turned to Ach, who was next to Liszt, and gave a reserved hug: “Ach, good child!”

Ach smiled calmly, devoid of familial warmth, as she remained indifferent to all humans except for Liszt—even to fellow Sea Serpents like Iris, she could not muster much enthusiasm, let alone humans who were mere acquaintances. If not for Liszt, she would have outright dodged the embrace.

After embracing the Dragon Knight and the Archmage, Lady Penelope stared at Liszt: “So my pride, my great Dragon Knight, your dragon resides within you?”

“Yes, Grandmother.”

“I actually embraced a dragon just now?”

“You could say that,” Liszt replied with a faint smile, and then, calling Leo silently from the depths of his heart, unleashed him. Leo burst forth immediately, igniting into a blaze of Flame as he emerged.

As the flames died down, a twenty-meter-long red and black Fire Dragon with a twenty-meter wingspan took off into the sky and flew towards the mountain that loomed over Tulip Castle. Landing on the mountaintop, the dragon looked down at the crowd below with a pair of eyes filled with malevolent splendor.

A stir went through the crowd.

The dramatic entrance of Leo awed everyone present; the sight of the Fire Dragon perched on the distant mountaintop turned many faces red with excitement.

Liszt helped the startled Lady Penelope to her feet, saying, “Grandmother, let’s head to the castle first.”

“Oh, yes, yes, of course,” Lady Penelope stammered, still trembling. In her youth, she had practiced Dou Qi for a time but never mastered it, so she remained a commoner at heart. The brief exposure to Dragon Might had truly jolted her gradually aging body.

In fact.

It was out of concern for Lady Penelope's health that Liszt had Leo stay away from the crowd, for if Leo unleashed his Dragon Might in full, many of the weaker bystanders might have fainted right there and then.

If they had been exposed to the Dragon Might a little longer, even the Earth Knights would have fallen in droves.

Even so, Lady Penelope still felt somewhat distressed, and nearby, Loria, holding the infant Richard in her arms, saw him bursting into tears. The not yet one-year-old was overwhelmed by the oppressive Dragon Might—but in a way, he was fortunate to have experienced Dragon Might so young.

Thus.

While everyone gazed fixedly at the Fire Dragon atop the mountain, they made their way to Tulip Castle. Moments later, the news spread like wildfire throughout Coral City. Everyone knew that the Tulip Family's Dragon Knight had returned, making a dramatic entrance on the back of an unimaginably mighty Fire Dragon.

Many people even swore with absolute certainty: "That Fire Dragon is so powerful, a single glance from it could kill a whole swath of Knights!"

Chapter 740: The Last Cheer

Upon entering Tulip Castle, the family was suffused with joy.

Liszt had become a Dragon Knight, and Acherlroides an Archmage, both peak powers capable of shaking the great seas, members belonging to the Tulip Family.

Even Levis had successfully advanced to Sky Knight, how could one not be happy.

The conversation revolved around Liszt constantly. Ladies such as Lady Penelope, Lady Marie, Loria, and Li Vera were unabashed in their compliments to Liszt, which made Levis feel sidelined— he'd dreamt many times of becoming a Sky Knight and how his family would feel consoled.

However, the reality was that his Sky Knight status was but a green leaf, set to highlight the extraordinary red flower that was Liszt.

Fortunately, Liszt was not much of a talker. After simply recounting the dragon-riding process to satisfy everyone's curiosity, he spoke little, allowing Levis to successfully seize many opportunities to lead the conversation.

...

Taking advantage of the moment when Levis was going into detail about how he became a Sky Knight, Liszt silently summoned the Smoke Mission.

"Mission: The spectacular dragon-slaying battle and the tough choices involving the Mind Fruit Tree have exhausted too much of your energy. Although your body remains robust, your spirit is already weary. Why not relax, fully enjoy the cheers that a Dragon Knight of eighteen should receive. Reward: One Elf Bug."

The mission remained unchanged.

"Does this mean my journey of enjoying cheers has not ended yet?" Liszt silently calculated, it probably still lacked the cheers from his territory.

From the nation's nobility cheers on Bull Hoof Island, to the family's cheers on Coral Island, to the subjects' cheers on Black Horse Island, it was probably such a routine. Indeed, at first, the cheers were quite thrilling, but as time passed and especially with the repetition each day, it became tedious.

He just wanted to end it as soon as possible and return to his usual low-key, harmonious life.

Nevertheless, Marcus had already returned to Black Horse Island with the Black Horse Island Knights Order to prepare for Liszt's triumphant return, which meant he was destined to receive another grand round of cheering.

For today, he would rest in Tulip Castle.

After the luncheon, he finally found a peaceful moment to himself in the study, quietly reading until Acherloides returned in the afternoon—Acherloides hadn't eaten at the castle at noon, as she was anxious to conduct experiments on Mind Island and also disliked human banquets with their insincere socializing, which made her uncomfortable.

She took out a Crystal Alsophila spinulosa that had been cut into several sections from her Space Ring: "Brother, Acherloides has brought back a fully crystalized Crystal Alsophila spinulosa."

Stroking the smooth, crystalline trunk of the Crystal Alsophila spinulosa, Liszt asked, "Have you discovered any results from your research?"

A Crystal Alsophila spinulosa that is fully crystalized isn't much different in nature from ordinary crystals, but it possesses a special attribute; it can continue replenishing magic power." Acherloides explained earnestly, "Meaning, the crystals produced by the Crystal Alsophila spinulosa can be re-enchanted repeatedly."

"Re-enchanted repeatedly?" Liszt's eyes lit up, "That is to say, using this kind of crystal to create magical items would allow for their repeated use."

"In theory, yes, but it needs to be verified with precision."

"Then let's first create a batch of Magic Equipment to verify the properties of the Crystal Alsophila spinulosa."

"Mhm."

Acherloides nodded obediently in agreement and then busied herself with her magical experiments once more. This made Liszt somewhat sentimental. Ever since having Acherloides, it seemed he had not done any research for a long time, focused solely on diligently practicing the Dragon Knight Dou Qi Manual, with nothing else needing to be done.

Feeling that his brain had some leisure, he found it quite comfortable, not wanting to burden himself with too much effort.

In fact, he even wanted to liberate himself further: “Perhaps when magicians from various places come to venerate Acherloides, I could bind and assemble them. I might establish a Magic Guild, put Acherloides in charge using an academy structure, and focus on the study of magic power in this world.”

That was a plan for the future. He took out his notebook and entered “Magic Guild” into his to-do list.

This notebook he carried with him contained densely packed various tasks, from “Light Dragon Schemes” to “Dragon Hollyhock Acquisitions,” all meticulously recorded.

Sometimes he would flip through it to see if there were any overlooked items, reminding himself to attend to them.

Having managed his territory for nearly three years, he had come to understand that he was not exactly a management talent skilled in planning the big picture; he usually went with whatever came to his mind, so he had to rely on his notebook to substitute for overall planning, doing his best to find and fix the oversights in his plans.

Then, by leveraging the roles of his followers, he maintained the operation of the territory’s governance.

The results were thankfully good: the population of the territory had surpassed one hundred thousand, and they were able to live and work in peace and contentment without any incidents of serfs dying from hunger or cold.

Putting down the Crystal Firmiana, Acherloides did not stay long before he hurried off to Dodo Island to record the physical condition of the Light Green Gemstone Dragon. This dragon, which had been devoured by the Mind Fruit Tree, was still trapped in a deep slumber with no knowing when it would awaken.

...

The next day dawned.

Liszt, riding the Little Fire Dragon Leo, left Tulip Castle. As Leo continued to grow, his flying speed became faster and faster, now even surpassing that of the Landwalker bird Loki's running speed.

After a brief stop at Fresh Flower Town, he met with Administrative Officer Isaiah to listen to the latter's excited description of the town's development in the past few days. Then, amidst cheers and flattery, he took off into the blue skies and white clouds, crossing the sea to fly directly towards Black Horse Island and descended near the clearing of Thorn Castle.

“Oh roar!”

Leo let out an imposing dragon roar as his Dragon Might rapidly expanded, impacting all humans and animals within a few kilometers. The closer they were, the stronger the Dragon Might became, and in front of Thorn Castle, several of the crowd waiting to greet Liszt fell to the ground, foaming at the mouth.

They were ordinary servants of Thorn Castle, their bodies unable to withstand the oppression of the Dragon Might.

“Leo, retract your Dragon Might!” Liszt shouted. He hadn't planned on letting Leo release his Dragon Might since everyone here was his subject; however, Leo had taken it upon himself to intimidate what he saw as “ants” to show off his majesty as a Fire Dragon.

“Oh roar!”

Without denying, Leo retracted his Dragon Might and lay down flat on the ground, seemingly asleep but not quite.

In fact, he was communicating with Liszt through the Dragon Heart Electrical Signal: “Twenty Magic Potions, thirty roasted bulls don't forget, I want to enjoy them today!”

“Aren't you afraid of bursting?”

“No matter how much, I can eat it all... The environment here is too poor, I hate sleeping on the ground, hurry up and build me a mountain top, I like to sleep at the peak where the ants can only look up to me!”

“There are no mountains on Black Horse Island, wait until later and I’ll build you a hundred-meter-tall Rock tower, then you can lie on it.”

He conversed internally with Leo.

On the surface, Liszt shook his red-faced, black-based, gold-edged tricolor cloak amidst the awe-struck gazes of the territory’s knights, officials, and civilians as he slowly walked toward the Castle. In front of the Castle, there was a crowd packed tightly together—Goltai, Marcus, Yevich, Paris, Charles, Chris, Blair, Emily...

All of them watched their Lord Landlord with fervent eyes.

The great Dragon Knight, Liszt Tulip!

Of course.

Acherlroides Truth, who was following Liszt, was also a focal point of attention, as was the Fire Dragon lying sprawled asleep on the ground—a focus within the focus.

Though there was no cheering, the atmosphere was more genuine than any previous display of cheers, for everyone here was a follower and subject of Liszt. Everything within the territory was entrusted to Lord Liszt, and his glory was closely linked to their future.