

## The Mighty 751

### Chapter 751: Learning Magic

The Steel Ridge Kingdom is the most powerful among the three kingdoms in the northeastern corner of the Legendary Continent. According to the data provided by the Sapphire Duke, it possesses 11 dragons, of which there are 7 Dragon Knights.

Among its seven vassal states, there are 4 more Dragon Knights—not counting the Dragon Knight of the Duchy of Sapphire, who is the duke himself, but not counting Liszt and the Little Fire Dragon Leo either.

The Eagle Kingdom has 9 dragons, among which 6 are Dragon Knights. They have now lost a dragon and had one Dragon Knight killed. However, no one is yet aware that the Eagle Kingdom has lost one of its dragons... and in its five vassal states, there are 2 Dragon Knights.

The other kingdom, Blast Furnace Fortress Kingdom, has 8 dragons and 5 Dragon Knights, while its four vassals have only one Dragon Knight.

...

The Steel Ridge Kingdom is the strongest, but it does not have the overwhelming power to crush the other two kingdoms; the three kingdoms frequently engage in mutual conflict, a saga that has continued for several hundred years.

The envoy group was warmly received.

Liszt himself put on airs and did not interact much with Kent Magic Elephant, leaving Marquis Merlin and Li Weiliam to do the talking on his behalf.

He did inquire with Crown Prince Anthony, “You’re familiar with the Osborn Kingdom, aren’t you?”

Anthony recalled, “When I was young, I lived in the City of Steel for three years, studying at the Royal Knight Academy, and had a period of social interaction with King Osborn, who was still a prince at the time. Osborn is exceptionally talented, becoming a Sky

Knight at seventeen and earning the name Sword Saint at nineteen. He's thirty years old now."

"So, he actually lacks some qualifications for being a Dragon Knight candidate?"

"For the Platinum Royalty, it is not guaranteed that every generation will have the talent to be a Dragon Knight candidate. After all, every Dragon Knight candidate is a rare genius; it is precious for a family to produce even one candidate, let alone in every generation."

The logic was indeed such; riding dragons did not cause one's genes to mutate, turning one into a superhuman. In the end, it merely elevated the energy level of one's Dou Qi.

However, a family that has been nourished by magic potions over a long period and intermarries with equally outstanding bloodlines will certainly produce offspring with better natural talent than ordinary people.

Yet, Dragon Knight candidates are "mutated" individuals who cannot be judged by common standards.

"It's said that the Steel Ridge Kingdom has been handed down for over eight hundred years. If we go by the surname of the royal family, Platinum, doesn't that mean that the Platinum Dragon is about to fly back to Dragon Valley?"

"It's not like that," Anthony explained. "The Platinum Dragon is about five hundred years old. The royal family changed their surname once after riding the Platinum Dragon... The specific reason for the surname change is unclear, as the royal house rarely discusses these matters."

The Platinum Dragon was over five hundred years old, a hundred years older than the Light Green Gemstone Dragon.

"Osborne insists on the Platinum Dragon? Aren't there three other dragons he could ride?"

"It's probably because the Platinum Dragon is stronger in combat."

"What is his personality like?"

“Dominant and intelligent—that’s the impression I have of him from memory. Initially, I thought he was a trustworthy sovereign, but the performance of the Steel Ridge Royal Family during the Dragon Slaying Battle was disappointing,” Anthony said calmly. “King Osborne has already grown into a qualified king.”

The Dragon Slaying Battle was ostensibly orchestrated by the Eagle Kingdom, but the Steel Ridge Kingdom’s long delay in sending aid, and the lack of information about Alonso’s departure from the border, had led the Sapphire Family to view it as a betrayal.

Even though they dare not break with the Steel Ridge Kingdom openly, a clear rift had arisen.

Liszt formed a rudimentary impression of Osborne and then asked, “With the arrival of the envoy group, has the Grand Duke conveyed any intentions to you?”

“My father hopes that Sapphire and Your Highness can solidify an offensive and defensive alliance,”

“I believe I have a rough understanding of what the Grand Duke means.”

...

After the banquet, during the afternoon break, Liszt took the opportunity to examine the gifts sent by the Envoy Group.

Twenty gemstones of various colors, approximately a ton of various jade stones, plenty of Fine Gold, Mountain Copper, and Mithril; the special products like fine wines and foods were also quite abundant.

Perhaps knowing that Liszt was a Fire Dragon Knight, they also sent many magic beast materials of the fire attribute.

Among them were conspicuously three Phoenix Feathers.

“Luxurious!”

Feeling the surging fire attribute mana of the Phoenix Feather, Liszt couldn’t help but be amazed.

A kingdom is indeed a kingdom, even the gifts for a first meeting are given with such generosity—three Phoenix Feathers, as materials produced by sub-dragons, the combined value might be comparable to the tortoise shell Karl carried with him.

“Oh ho!”

An eagerness welled up in his chest, and Leo, sensing the presence of the Phoenix Feather, became restless; it wanted to devour the Phoenix Feather.

“The magic power of the Phoenix Feather is only high magic, you’ve grown so big now, do you still care about a bit of high magic? It would be better if I kept it with me to aid in the cultivation of my Dragon Dou Qi.”

“Oh ho!” Leo proposed, suggesting it could part with one feather for Liszt and then devour the other two.

“Two is too many, it would be a waste to eat them. I’ll give you one to taste, and the other two will be useful to me.” Liszt made a decisive decision. If he were to have descendants, they might very likely possess Fire Attribute Dou Qi, and then the Phoenix Feathers would obviously be the best support equipment for their training.

“Oh ho!”

“Don’t be too quick to refuse. I have people scouting Flame Mountain, and by the time they’re done, we won’t just talk about a few Phoenix Feathers, we’ll be able to cook and eat a whole sub-dragon Phoenix.”

Upon hearing this, Leo almost drooled with anticipation and nodded in agreement, “Oh ho!”

Next, Liszt separated one Phoenix Feather, held it in his left hand, and a sucking force from his palm instantly devoured the mana of the Phoenix Feather completely. The Phoenix Feather turned into dust and slipped through his fingers. Leo, over his chest, emitted a pleased emotion, almost comfortably letting out a satisfied burp.

Liszt then stored the remaining two Phoenix Feathers directly into his Space Ring.

“Oh ho!” Having enjoyed the taste of the Phoenix Feather, Leo was already eager, urging Liszt to hurry to Flame Mountain in search of the sub-dragon Phoenix.

“Don’t worry, once there’s news, we will set aside time to visit Flame Mountain after the New Year.”

Having gained substantial gifts, Liszt, while receiving the Steel Ridge Kingdom Envoy Group, maintained his Dragon Knight’s demeanor, but his words were still quite warm and polite. Naturally, he left the issue of vassalage proposed by the Envoy Group to his grandfather and father to deceive.

And so it was.

The two days passed in a blink, and the Envoy Group, believing that they had reached a preliminary intention of vassalage with Liszt, prepared to bid farewell and return to Blue Dragon Island with the First Prince to celebrate the New Year.

Before leaving, Kent Magic Elephant made a request to Liszt, “Prince Liszt, my family has a Grand Magician, my sister Kenley Truth. Knowing that Truth has taken a form in the mortal world, she is very eager to follow in the footsteps of the Archmage...”

He complimented Ach a great deal in the hope that his sister could become Ach’s student and learn magic under his guidance.

However, Ach had rarely shown his face in the past two days, and when he did, he was quite aloof, leaving Kent unsure and compelled to request Liszt’s assistance.

Liszt thought for a moment, “Certainly, but if she comes to my territory to study magic, she must abide by my rules.”

“Please rest assured, Prince Liszt. Kenley is a pure Magician, who never involves herself in any noble affairs, and she will definitely not trouble you.”

## Chapter 752: Ash's Rope Skills

The Magic Guild has already been established to receive magicians on pilgrimage from all over, so one more Kenley Truth doesn't make much difference.

No matter her background, once you're in the Flame Territory, you're just a worker.

After sending off the envoy group and the first prince's entourage, there were only four days left until the festival. The atmosphere in the territory didn't change much; every trade and industry kept working as usual without any holiday break.

The castle, however, was always bustling. Marquis Merlin, Lady Penelope, the Meioubao couple, and Li Vera were all staying there, and even Lidun was forcibly kept by Lady Marie.

No matter how unpleasant it might be, he was still a half-brother from the same father.

So Liszt arranged for him to stay at the Knight Academy and follow Sky Knight Fox in his training.

...

During these four days, Liszt successfully created the second move of the "Fire Dragon Knight-Dragon Dou Qi Secret Manual"—Sky Burning. The technique was extremely sophisticated; when practicing with Leo, it could produce a tremendous attack power. The underlying principle was actually to use the Fire Dragon's rolling motions while sweeping with the dragon lance.

The first move, Dragon Slash, focused on chopping, like splitting a mountain with a single blow.

The second move, Sky Burning, emphasized sweeping, sweeping across a wide expanse with the lance.

While it was gratifying to see his strength increase, the Light Green Gemstone Dragon was still in a dormant sleep, which caused him some concern. He had saved this dragon at the cost of one or two Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruits, but it was slow to awaken. When climbing onto the Dragon Tooth Platform, he could feel the connection between their minds, yet there was no response from the Light Green Gemstone Dragon.

He wondered whether it was seriously injured or if there was some malfunction during the Mind Battle that led to its delayed awakening.

Fortunately, the life signs of the Light Green Gemstone Dragon were stable, with no signs of weakening.

Heavy snow buried Dodo Island, leaving only a ring of black rock exposed around the volcano crater—everywhere else was covered by ice and snow. Upon arriving at Dodo Island, Leo immediately plunged into the magma to absorb the Superior Magic condensed from the lava, which greatly aided his growth.

However, standing at the volcano crater, smelling the pungent sulfur odor, Liszt's eyes revealed worry.

He noticed that the area of the lava in the volcano crater was noticeably shrinking, and the temperature was much lower than before. This was not due to the winter snowfall, but rather the entire volcano seemed to be showing signs of falling asleep.

"Ach, what do you think about how long the Dodo Island Volcano can last?" he asked the young magician beside him.

A few snowflakes clung to Ach's azure hair, giving her an added touch of charming vulnerability. She carefully sensed the distribution of magic power at the mouth of the volcano and finally shook her head, "Brother, there's too little information, I can't make a judgment."

"All right, I feel that in another half-year, the Dodo Island Volcano will be extinguished... I hope my guess is wrong."

He truly did not wish for the Dodo Island Volcano to be extinguished.

Otherwise, the amount of Magic Potion needed to sustain Leo's refinement of Superior Magic might be enough to bankrupt him. But it was hard to say; the magic power of the Fire Dragon, as the source of power, constantly supported the production of glass, pottery, bricks, charcoal, and other goods. By expanding the business scale, it might be possible to earn enough Gold Coins to cover the Fire Dragon's consumption of the potion.

Descending from the mountaintop.

Ach took out a broom to help sweep off the snow that had accumulated on the Light Green Gemstone Dragon's body, while Liszt took out stacks of canvas blankets from his Space Ring and covered the dragon scales that Ach had cleaned. He even built a small wooden hut over the dragon's head to shield it from the heavy snow.

In truth, with the dragon's robust physique, all these measures were unnecessary.

But Liszt wanted to show his care for the Light Green Gemstone Dragon in this way—riding a dragon didn't make one its master. Continuous mutual adjustment was necessary to deepen the emotional bond between dragon and human, with the goal of branding the Mind Branding of the First Dragon Knight for an everlasting memory.

Of course, this everlasting memory hinged on not encountering someone hooked up with a destiny cheat.

After all the snow was swept away and the blankets covered it, dusk had set in. Liszt suddenly thought of something and said to himself, "I wonder how far along the Dragon Knight reserve plan of the Eagle Kingdom has progressed. Without the Light Green Gemstone Dragon, to pretend they have one will probably cause them trouble for a good half year."

Every day, a vast amount of news about the Continental Kingdom arrived.

The aftermath of the dragon slaying battle was calmer than expected, particularly since the Eagle Kingdom's power declined, leading to strategic withdrawals from border areas, which in turn achieved a balance with the Blast Furnace Fortress Kingdom. Together, they



formed an opposition against the Steel Ridge Kingdom. The three kingdoms resembled the Three Kingdoms period in China, with Wu and Shu united against the Wei Kingdom.

“However, the Eagle Kingdom must be in a hurry, as the number of Eagle ships that harass the Sapphire Caravans on the high seas is increasing, and the range of harassment is getting wider... For now, it can still be maintained, since my industry has not yet expanded, and trade is mainly conducted within the Sapphires, I haven’t been too affected.”

The current situation.

Stable development is most suitable.

Liszt was still quite satisfied.

...

Upon returning to Black Horse Island, good news followed immediately.

Two more strains of new Thorn species were transported back from the outer islands, and Liszt immediately called for Jela, who recently had been irritable due to Pea Great Elf Ash’s arrival.

“Wow!”

“Stop being irritable. Come and collect the pheromones; the sooner you evolve, the sooner you can compete with Ash. Otherwise, you’ll have to stay calm and not disturb Ash... When it beats you up, I won’t be able to protect you every time,” Liszt said, trying not to laugh.

Ash seemed meek and quiet, without much personality.

But after Jela repeatedly annoyed it, Ash suddenly acted, taking a carefully woven bundle of Hemp Rope Vine from the Castle’s storehouse, tying up Jela’s hands and feet, and then hanging it in the corridor of the Worm Room—since then, Jela never dared to call out to Ash recklessly.

Not to mention.

Every Greater Elf is not to be underestimated.

When Liszt saw Jela tied up, he immediately understood that this Pea Great Elf was definitely a sophisticated and elegant expert in rope arts.

“Wow!” Jela complained that Liszt wasn’t standing up for it.

Liszt shook his head, “You provoked Ash first, and then it beat you in retaliation. There’s no reason to take your side. Now, stop complaining and hurry up to collect the pheromones.”

“Wow...” Jela reluctantly collected the pheromones from the two new Thorn species.

When the collection was over, it dejectedly went back to its Worm Room, who knows if it was sulking. However, the moment Liszt called out a Smoke Mission, he suddenly realized Jela wasn’t sulking—as a constantly striving Little Minor Elf, its elven life didn’t allow negativity.

“Complete the mission, reward: one Thorn Greater Elf.”

“Stable!”

Liszt clenched his fist in excitement, since Smoke Mission had already given a reward, it meant Jela’s evolution into a Greater Elf was assured, with no chance of failure in theory.

This Thorn Elf, that he had nurtured all the way from a Thorn Bug, was once again showing its spirit of striving.

Truly a unique and unparalleled Little Minor Elf.

“But it’s still not enough, we must continue to search for new Thorn species, to make Jela’s evolution path even more solid. After Giant Algae Greater Elf Pike and Pea Great Elf Ash, I will then have a third Greater Elf, Thorn Greater Elf Jela!”

He took a deep breath.

He checked the new Smoke Mission.

“Mission: Another year-end festival arrives, and you, who have successfully ridden dragons, are almost at the pinnacle of life. Yet the vast world still has many wonders to be discovered, whether it be the sea or the land, they await your exploration. Please wait quietly for the festival to end. Reward: Unknown reward.”

As before, the year-end festival missions always came with unknown rewards. Just quietly wait.

#### Chapter 753: Message Transmission Magic Circle

No one on the high seas could match the speed of Ach.

On the day before the Year Festival, Liszt first traveled with Ach to Iron Hoof Island, landed, and then switched to riding Leo straight to Iron Hoof City to preside over Iron Hoof City’s Year Festival celebration.

After taking over Iron Hoof City from the Sapphire Family, Iron Hoof City consultant Goltai, Administrative Officer Blair, and Garcia, the head of the Iron Hoof City Knights, strove to keep the largest city on Iron Hoof Island running. The first thing to do was to take a census and survey the farmland.

Unfortunately, no traces of Elf Bugs were found; the Sapphire Family had thoroughly looted the place before handing it over.

Not even a single master-level artisan could be found among the city’s residents; clearly, they had been relocated by the Sapphire Family long ago. Aside from stonemasons,

carpenters, blacksmiths, tanners, and tailors, there were not many other types of artisans, and most were merely workers at the level of workshop artisans.

In the end, the majority of the population were serfs who lived by farming.

...

In order to ensure these people did not starve to death, Goltai and others had to buy food from surrounding cities and then began arranging work for workers and serfs—employment in place of relief was an advanced management solution brought by Liszt. They would not directly distribute food to serfs; they must work to receive their food.

Since the farmland was being gradually rented out, Iron Hoof City would be trading-oriented in its main industry, so the serfs' job was to clean up Iron Hoof City's sanitation.

Taking advantage of the winter, they first cleaned up the filth and excrement, then demolished some vacant wooden houses to build toilets.

Originally a city with a population of one hundred and fifty thousand, due to the large loss of people, it ironically freed up space for renovation—Liszt, of course, would not invest a large sum of money to overhaul the city. He would just simply clean up the sanitation, build some toilets, plan out the streets a bit, and maintain a superficial luster.

"You can't return to Black Horse Island to reunite with your families, but I remember all your hard work."

"Renovate Iron Hoof City; maintaining a population of fifty thousand is enough. The remaining fifty thousand will be gradually arranged for their relocation. After the work is completed, I will record a merit for each of you."

At the festival banquet, Liszt raised his glass and drank heartily with his followers, saying things a leader might use to buoy his subordinates. The followers expressed their determination to work diligently without feeling the hardship, creating a harmonious and joyful atmosphere.

The banquet ended.

Liszt rode on Leo, left Iron Hoof City with Ach, returned to the high seas, and then took a shell to rush back to Black Horse Island overnight. The next day, Black Horse Island entered into the festive atmosphere, with most of the civilians already on holiday; even those civilians still working overtime were paid triple wages.

The Mesiro Couple arrived at noon. Li Weiliam with his wife and The Levis Couple with Richard also hurried over at noon. Thorn Castle was brewing an unprecedented liveliness.

Before the night fell and the dinner began, Chris led the magicians from the Magic Guild and set off many magic fireworks in the square in front of Thorn Castle—this was a research task posted by Liszt at the Magic Guild, and since it was not of great difficulty, there was now the scene of a fireworks display in front of them.

Originally, when he celebrated the Year Festival at Long Taro Castle, Grimmand Truth, the Court Grand Mage, set off magic fireworks at Long Taro Castle.

This left him with a deep impression.

If there were no fireworks during the Year Festival, could it even be called the Year Festival?

“So beautiful!”

“So lively!”

“So happy!”

Watching the magic-made fireworks blossom in the sky, everyone’s expressions shimmered with multicolored light, continuously changing with the fireworks.

“Three years already,” Liszt silently mused in his heart; this was the third Year Festival he had spent in this world. Festivals would double the longing for family, but he had no relatives to miss, so he swiftly cast aside that bit of melancholy; after all, he was already a part of this world.

“I had someone bring over a potted plant from the castle as a Year Festival gift for you. If you take good care of it, it will reward you, just like the Lithops of Thorn Castle,” said Lady Penelope as she came over, holding his hand and chattering on.

The entirety of Thorn Castle brimmed with potted lithops plants, serving as ornamental decorations. Lady Penelope became even more convinced that her potted plants were extraordinary after she learned that the cordyceps within them were ones she had nurtured. Now, when giving gifts, she sometimes couldn’t bear to part with her potted plants.

She only generously gifted them to family members like Liszt.

However, after distributing hundreds of potted plants since the discovery of the lithops, she had not found a single cordyceps.

Liszt had received ten pots in total and had not cultivated a single Elf Bug either.

Still, he sincerely accepted Lady Penelope’s kindness, “Don’t worry, Grandmother, I always place the potted plants you give me on the balcony for special care, just in case they cultivate an Elf Bug one day.”

“Exactly, that’s how it should be!”

...

The boisterous holiday quieted down at midnight.

Liszt returned to his own bedroom, drank a cup of Banpo milk tea, circulated his Dragon Dou Qi to evaporate the alcohol from his body, and cleared his mind.

Then, he opened a Knight’s Novel, waiting for the moment of transition between the old and new years.

A moment later.

The castle bells rang out, marking the end of the Sapphire Year 153 and the beginning of 154, and silently, the Smoke Mission underwent its quiet change.

“Mission completed, reward: Message Transmission Magic Circle scheme.”

As the Smoke Mission slowly outlined the unknown New Year’s reward in Serpent Script, Liszt’s spirits lifted,” It’s the Message Transmission Magic Circle scheme!”

The worth of this reward was arguably not much less than that of a dragon!

Because once the Message Transmission Magic Circle is widely implemented, the benefits that could arise are unimaginable, akin to the revolutionary societal changes brought about by the invention of the telegraph or the telephone on Earth.

“Excellent!”

“I appreciate this mission reward. As for the location of the Message Transmission Magic Circle scheme, if it’s not with Ach, then it’s at the Mage Tower. I’ll go and ask about it carefully tomorrow to find out who came up with the Message Transmission Magic Circle scheme,” Liszt thought cheerfully.

He took several deep breaths to calm his emotions before proceeding to check the new Smoke Mission.

“Mission: The new year will kick off with the dawn of the Age of Exploration. It’s time for the Adventure Fleet to set sail and explore the seas. Maintain constant contact and let Yevich lead the fleet on a sail across the sea to find new islands for you. Find three islands beyond the reach of the Sapphire’s influence. Reward: The restlessness of the Rubber Elf Bug triplets.”

“The Rubber Bug triplets are getting restless again?”

“It seems that since shifting my focus back to Elves recently, even the missions related to Elves are being actively issued. It’s indeed starting to affect the destinies of Elves,” Liszt pondered.

Liszt thought over the mission details, “Yevich’s Adventure Fleet can set off, but we must create the Message Transmission Magic Circle before they depart, so I can keep track of the fleet at all times. Once Yevich discovers an island, Ach and I can immediately head over and arrange for development.”

Moreover, he and Ach could also resupply the fleet whenever necessary.

In fact, Ach is the ideal candidate for exploring islands, but Ach’s energies were all invested in magic experiments. Sending an Archmage like her to roam the vast seas in search of islands seemed a bit wasteful. After all, there were so many important mysteries waiting for Ach’s exploration.

As his thoughts drifted, Liszt fell into a deep sleep.

The next day dawned, and after he had practiced his daily knightly exercises, he headed straight for the upstairs laboratory, where Ach was already immersed in conducting experiments.

#### Chapter 754: Communication Encoding

Ach had not been conducting experiments related to the Message Transmission Magic Circle recently, so Liszt left Ach’s laboratory, intending to go to the Mage Tower to inquire if the magicians of the Magic Guild had come up with a solution.

But before he could make his inquiry, Chris had already arrived at Thorn Castle.

“Chris, why are you here so early today?”

Normally, Chris would come to Thorn Castle in the afternoon to assist Ach with magical experiments, and to ask some questions about magic. She now carried herself everywhere as Ach’s student, almost appearing eager to become a lapdog of the Archmage. Of course, being the lapdog of an Archmage is something any magician would relish.



“Your Highness, there has been some progress with the experimental project of the Magic Guild, and I was just about to report to Lord Acherlroides,” Chris spoke with equal respect facing Liszt.

She was willing to become the lapdog of an Archmage, but she was just as eager to be the lapdog of a Dragon Knight—after all, in the Flame Territory, Archmages and Dragon Knights are all part of the same family, so there’s no need to fuss over whose lapdog one is.

...

“Oh, what progress has been made on the experiment?”

“Regarding the Message Transmission Magic Circle you proposed, Your Highness, we have made preliminary progress. We’ve successfully created a magic circle that can trigger magical feedback over a long distance, but it’s still far from being able to transmit messages.”

Just as he thought to seek out a solution, it came knocking on his door.

Liszt, delighted at the news, said, “Tell me in detail... better yet, let’s discuss this in Ach’s laboratory, let’s go!”

Back in the laboratory, Chris carefully explained their experimental results. They had used a certain Magic Array which could trigger magical feedback—for example, if Fire Attribute Mana was released on the Magic Array, the corresponding distant Magic Array would activate Fire Attribute Mana, but the activation was erratic.

They were unable to use mana to form Serpent Script to facilitate the transfer of information.

If a symbol was formed with runes on one Magic Array, the other Magic Array would still only exhibit agitated mana, and would not arrange into the same characters.

The magicians of the Magic Guild couldn’t solve this problem, so they prepared to present it to Ach.

However, Liszt's eyes shone brightly. "Chris, does this Magic Array only correspond to the same type of mana? For example, Fire Attribute Mana only responds to Fire Attribute Mana, Water-Attribute Mana only to Water-Attribute Mana?"

"Yes, Your Highness."

"If that's the case, then the solution is simple!"

"Ah, Your Highness, is there a way to solve the issue of the characters not being transmittable?" Chris was incredibly surprised, knowing well that Liszt had a profound understanding of magical theory, but theory is quite different from practice, especially concerning problems related to magic array models.

Ach, too, looked on curiously at Liszt, unfazed.

In her mind, Liszt was the most learned scholar in the world, brimming with vast wisdom—most of her own knowledge was imparted by Liszt, and her ability to touch the Magic Web, to become an Archmage, was also due to Liszt's instruction. If Liszt had chosen a career as a magician, he would surely have become an Archmage sooner or later.

Liszt smiled.

After pondering for a moment, he began slowly, "Actually, it's quite simple. There are eight attributes of mana: Water, Fire, Earth, Wind, Lightning, Light, Ice, and Dark. Since each type of mana can only interact with its own kind, we can build an octal encoding system based on the eight attributes."

"An octal encoding system?"

"Using Fire Attribute Mana to represent 0, Water-Attribute Mana to represent 1, and so on, up to Dark Attribute Mana representing 7. That way, we can increment by eight, and our language could be converted into this octal code, expressed through numbers 0-7."

"Could it be expressed that way?" both Ach and Chris were a bit baffled.

Humans naturally use a decimal system because they have ten fingers on two hands, and counting to ten requires moving to the next digit. However, there are only eight mana attributes, so it is not possible to use a decimal system but must be converted to an octal one.

Of course.

Liszt then suggested, “Actually, the octal system is still too complicated, as the four attributes of mana: Lightning, Light, Ice, and Dark are very rare, and many common magicians don’t practice these attributes. I personally think it would be more practical to use a binary coding system.”

The two continued to be confused, “Binary?”

“Represent 0 with Fire Attribute Magic Power and 1 with Water Attribute Magic Power, and you can smoothly express... For example, 1 in binary is a stream of Water Attribute Magic Power, 2 is a stream of Water Attribute and a stream of Fire Attribute Magic Power, 3 is two streams of Water Attribute Magic Power, 4 is a stream of Water Attribute, two streams of Fire Attribute Magic Power...”

After listening to Li Si Te’s tongue-twisting explanation, Chris remained bewildered, completely clueless.

But Ach was entranced and quickly understood, “So, as long as you continuously combine 0s and 1s, you can express any information?”

“Yes.”

“Brother, it seems like Ach has already understood. As long as you manipulate the runes of the magic circle, you can quickly transfer magic power feedback. This way, you don’t need to match the activity of magic power on both sides of the magic circle, just ensure the correct order of attribute feedback.”

“That’s right, it’s exactly like that... I’ve already told you the specific coding method. Now, Ach, it’s up to you to lead the way in creating the binary encoded Serpent Script... Start with simple, commonly used text codes. As long as it works, that’s good enough for me. I plan to install it on the Adventure Fleet. Then let the magicians of the Magic Guild take their time to encode.”

...

While Ach was busy with the magicians of the Magic Guild digesting octal and binary codes, Liszt was also in deep thought.

A sudden inspiration struck him.

If a magic circle could express binary, and go a step further, could it transform into a calculator, or even evolve into a computer? Perhaps due to material limitations, it wouldn't be possible to popularize a magic power-driven home computer, but it couldn't hurt to make a supercomputer.

"Is such a possibility real?"

Maybe not, or maybe it was.

However, even if it were possible to create a computer, the difficulty would be immense. There were too many theories involved, especially the logic of certain hardware, which couldn't be figured out in a short time. Even if magicians are intelligent, facing a brand new system all of a sudden would still be confusing.

"If I have the time, I can discuss this idea with Ach, and the rest is up to whether the magicians are willing to delve into it. I don't have time to mess with computers anyway."

Having experienced the thrill of dragon riding, Liszt was already irrevocably immersed in the sense of power. Industrial revolutions, technological revolutions – he didn't value them that highly anymore. Living in such a fantastical world and uncovering the secrets of the entire world was far more interesting than developing technology.

The Smoke Mission during the festival was a perfect expression of his desires.

"The world is vast and filled with wonders yet to be experienced, both the ocean and the land await your exploration."

...

The festival passed.

He had said goodbye to Marquis Merlin and his family, as well as the Marquis of Bull Tail and his family.

Even Lady Penelope and Li Vera had left Thorn Castle; they hadn't been back to their own castles for a long time, and they had too many accumulated matters to attend to.

The bustling and lively atmosphere of Thorn Castle suddenly became quiet and deserted.

However, Liszt did not show any signs of melancholy about "no banquet under the heavens lasts forever", because he still had more pressing matters to handle.

Mary Dawnbreak had returned from the Eagle Kingdom and brought news about the Sub-dragon Phoenix of Flame Mountain.

There was indeed a Flame Mountain in a wild region of the Eagle Kingdom, and locals had indeed heard of the Sub-dragon Phoenix. They also saw Nobles leading the Knight Order to Flame Mountain to capture the Sub-dragon Phoenix, but the decimated Knight Order returned without success. They didn't find the Phoenix but were nearly wiped out by the magical beasts in the forest instead.

"Ach, make a coded Message Transmission Magic Circle as soon as possible, and we'll test the limit distance of the message transmission magic circle and the signal strength of long-distance transmissions on the road."

"Okay."

## Chapter 755: Torch Tree

As more and more magicians gathered at the Magic Guild, an experimental team could recruit a large number of magicians to participate, greatly increasing the speed of their work.

However, the Message Transmission Magic Circle was highly confidential, and currently, only a few trusted magicians were allowed to participate in the core manufacturing process.

The binary and octal encoding involved were understood only by Ach and Chris who mastered the underlying principle and program.

After all, the Message Transmission Magic Circle could be used for civilian purposes, and even more so for military ones. If it were mastered by a foreign country, like the Eagle Kingdom obtaining the Message Transmission Magic Circle, Dragon Knights could support any border conflict at any time, completely eliminating the need for manual message delivery.

...

“Your Highness, these are the current four core machines,” Chris reported the progress to Liszt every day.

Two of the core machines were box-shaped, with lids that opened to reveal complex magic structures inside. They resembled a sort of three-dimensional compass, with eight layers of compasses stacked on top of each other, each layer embedded with different types of crystals. The machines operated by utilizing the sensitivity of the crystals to magic powers, allowing for the transmission of magic attributes.

This was the octal core machine, which could encode a set of information for exchange based on the compass’s mechanical reactions.

However, it required manual input of encoding, like sending a “magic fax” via telegraph.

Next to the two core machines, there were two flatter boxes with a similar compass structure inside, but only two layers. This was the binary core machine, which had a similar principle to the octal core machine. It might be simpler to operate, but its lengthy binary encoding meant that message transmission was slow.

Liszt, following the encoding, personally operated one core machine to communicate with another.

Indeed, it was quite troublesome, much like an old-fashioned rotary dial telephone, where one had to wait for the compass to reset after dialing each code before dialing the next one. To simply say “hello,” Liszt wasted a minute on the binary core machine. If one were to speak a full sentence, it might take half an hour.

“I think you still need to work on convenience, like you could design a transmission rod on the compass, and then create an external keyboard. One press of the keyboard’s key could directly set the compass to a coding position, which would surely greatly improve efficiency.”

It must be said, coming from the computer era, every one of Liszt’s ideas shone with the light of civilization.

It was like parting the clouds to see the sun for Ach and Chris, revealing a broad new world.

“Your Highness, I will start improving the core machine right away,” Chris said with urgency.

“Don’t be too hasty, make sure to keep it strictly confidential. Also, Ach and I need to make a long trip. It’s the perfect opportunity to test the performance of these two core machines.”

Hearing this, Chris said, “Then please, Your Highness, give the Message Transmission Magic Circle a more mundane name.”

“A name, huh... How about Remote Wireless Magic Communication Desktop, abbreviated as Wireless Magic Platform, or simply Magic Platform,” Liszt said casually.

He was emulating the radio, the full name of which is wireless radio, which uses electromagnetic signals; here, they were utilizing magic signals, so it could be called Wireless Magic Platform or Magic Platform.

Thus, the name was decided.

Liszt and Ach were also ready to set off to the Flame Mountain in the Eagle Kingdom to search for the Sub-dragon Phoenix while testing the transmission distance of the Magic Platform.

...

Out at sea.

The white shell vessel cut through the waves with the wind, and Liszt was busily turning the compass on the binary core machine of the Wireless Magic Platform. At the same time, the compass also continuously rotated, providing feedback in the form of information.

Ach was operating the octal core machine of the Magic Platform: "Brother, we're approximately eight hundred kilometers away now, the signal transmission is still stable, with no signs of attenuation. We can infer that the Magic Web's distribution is very extensive, and long-distance communication faces no obstacles."

"How is the response speed on your end?"

"The response speed remains unchanged; the signal transmission speed is unrelated to distance."

"Hmm, it seems that the Magic Web is indeed marvelous," Liszt praised.

The transmission rate of the Magic Web might be similar to that of electromagnetic waves, slightly less than the speed of light. According to previous conjectures, the Magic Web is a kind of field, just as electromagnetic waves are, although one is on the physical level and the other on the magic level. However, the principles behind them have many similarities.

Still, there's one difference: electromagnetic waves degrade over distance, the farther they travel, the more severe the loss.

But the Magic Web seems to lack this phenomenon of degradation, with the signal quality remaining stable despite being eight hundred kilometers away.



On second thought, it seems quite normal. In the legends of the Moon Empire era, those world-dominating magicians could establish Teleportation Arrays to travel to the moon.

With the help of the Magic Web, if they could realize planetary teleportation, let alone transmitting a few pieces of information.

At once,

Liszt came to a coastal line in the Eagle Kingdom, where there was no human habitation. He stowed away the shells and called out Little Fire Dragon Leo, carrying two people and two Magic Platforms, they flew high into the clouds, using them as concealment and began flying toward Flame Mountain—the location was roughly determinable thanks to the Blood Servant's maps.

However, even with a map to guide them, the two of them kept ascending into the sky and descending to the ground intermittently, inquiring locals about geographic locations, which took them a full three days to reach the Wild Forest where Flame Mountain was located.

The forest was known as Twilight Prairie, and it was the fief of a marquis.

But Liszt had no intention of contacting this marquis; once he found the approximate area marked by the Blood Servant, he quickly contacted the Vampire stationed there through the heart link. Then he was led by the Vampire to the Flame Mountain, said to be the habitat of the Sub-dragon Phoenix.

After sending off the Vampire, Liszt and Ach began searching directly in the forest.

A Dragon Knight and an Archmage had no reason to worry about the dangers of the forest; in the unlikely event of encountering an Evil Dragon, it would be a perfect opportunity for a fight and then to ride it.

Employing the Eye of Magic, Liszt continually searched for any magic power feedback.

“It's a pity that Loki cannot be brought along. Otherwise, we could run wherever we wanted in the forest by riding Loki.” Without Loki to ride, and with Leo not suitable for riding in the forest, he could only continuously carry Ach and soar aimlessly, searching for the potential habitat of the Sub-dragon Phoenix.

This search lasted five days.

They did not find the Sub-dragon Phoenix, but they did hunt down quite a few Magical Beasts, most of which were seasoned and barbecued for Leo to eat. They even encountered two Advanced Magical Beasts, which they slaughtered, butchered, and stored the meat and materials in Liszt's Space Ring.

During this period, they successfully tamed an Intermediate Magical Beast to serve as a mount.

It was a Split-footed Lizard, an Earth Attribute Intermediate Magical Beast, a bit ugly but suitable for riding, especially since it was fairly docile. After Liszt released Dragon Might, the Magical Beast immediately complied tamely, allowing for swift movement within the forest.

"After returning, I will gift the Split-footed Lizard to the Marquis of Bull Tail—he lacks a steady mount," Liszt thought—considering the lizard's broad back, wider than an elephant's, fitting a large basket to seat a whole group presented no issue, making it very suitable for the marquis's family outings and self-driven tours.

Besides the Magical Beasts, Ach collected a considerable number of plant samples in the forest, waiting to be cultivated upon their return.

With the help of the Eye of Magic, Liszt also accidentally discovered two Elf Bugs.

One was a Pitcher Plant Elf Bug, a plant capable of capturing insects, its value was much like that of the Venus Flytrap Spirit Worm he had previously owned, both being ornamental plants; the other was an unnamed Elf Bug, its Cordyceps was a red small tree, with fiery red leaves and fruits, which, from afar, looked like clusters of Torch Trees.

The fruits were edible, but the taste was rather average.

"Judging from the plant's magic properties, it has a Fire Attribute. Let's call it the Torch Tree," Liszt quickly named the plant, "Ach, do you think there's any relation between the Torch Tree and the Sub-dragon Phoenix? A large number of Torch Trees are found around

here, and although they're not Magic Potion ingredients, they still feel like clusters of flames burning."

Ach answered seriously, "I don't know."

## Chapter 756: Yanmu Minor Elf

Flame Mountain was a continuous range of mountains, and the area of the mountain region might even exceed that of Coral Island; it was difficult to discern the entire forest landscape due to its varied elevations.

After five consecutive days of failing to detect any trace of the Sub-dragon Phoenix, Liszt could no longer bear the waste of time here, and decisively decided to mount Leo and use the Dragon Eye Trajectory to carefully search every corner of the forest—though dragon riding might expose his trace, he was confident no one could stop him.

Right now, his mindset was incredibly inflated; he always felt that even if he flew on dragonback from King's Castle of the Eagle Kingdom, no one would dare to stop him.

He was just that confident and carefree.

...

After mounting the dragon and activating the Dragon Eye Trajectory, the forest of Flame Mountain was suddenly revealed in a different light. Countless magic radiance feedbacks twinkled in his vision, most of which were the light of magical beasts. Wild forests had always been the home for magical beasts. Liszt ignored these magical beasts, instead focusing primarily on two types of magic feedback.

One type was the magic radiance feedback from plants; any plant emitting light was certainly Cordyceps without a doubt, or perhaps Magic Medicine Seeds, but there would certainly be Cordyceps around them.

The other type was a bright magic radiance feedback, indicating that it was either an Advanced Magical Beast or a Super Magical Beast, or even the Sub-dragon Phoenix he was searching for with all his heart.

“Hmm, there’s a big tree over there emitting light!”

Liszt’s eyes lit up.

Leo immediately flapped his wings and dashed toward the big tree. The tree exuded a chaotic magic radiance; upon Liszt’s arrival, he suddenly discovered it was a Yanmu—a Yanmu, like Ironwood, was a fairly common type of quality timber in the Legendary Continent, but the awkward part was that these trees grew slowly.

Some Yanmu and Ironwood Cordyceps gave birth to Elf Bugs, and Elf Bugs had only a decade of life; they could only influence a period of ten years, but with a Yanmu or Ironwood taking up to a hundred years to grow, the Cordyceps’ effect was virtually nil.

“It couldn’t be a Yanmu Minor Elf, could it?” he scanned carefully and spotted a small, trembling minor elf hiding on a branch.

The minor elf was pale yellow with a fine, small wooden stick atop its head.

Leaping off the dragonback, Liszt, without even going through the process of tempting it with Jade Powder, directly extended a finger and let the minor elf, who was paralyzed by the Dragon Might and dared not move, bite it. The contract was instantly successful, and so Leo retracted his Dragon Might, and the minor elf returned to its normal liveliness, tilting its head to look at Liszt.

“Bu gu?”

“Pack up the cordyceps and follow me; I’ll take you to a place with lots of Jade Powder to settle down.” Liszt pulled out a small bag of Jade Powder and handed it to the Yanmu Minor Elf.

The deliciousness of the Jade Powder captivated the Yanmu Minor Elf, and after few smacking bites, it willingly recognized Liszt. It opened its mouth, and the huge Yanmu, which was fifty meters tall, began to shrink rapidly as if it was evaporating, soon turning into a seed that flew into the mouth of the Yanmu Minor Elf.

A deep pit was left at the original location.

“Bu gu.”

“Very good, let’s go.” Liszt handed the Yanmu Minor Elf to Ach to hold.

Stumbling upon a minor elf should have been joyful, but he wasn’t really that happy.

The value of the Yanmu Minor Elf was indeed a bit low; the main reason was the extremely long growth cycle of the Yanmu, which could not mature for dozens of years. And the minor elf could only live for a century, while Yanmu and Ironwood were scarce and low in number, severely constraining production and limiting the potential for elves to exploit their farming capabilities.

Basically, the Yanmu and Ironwood used by humans are all harvested from the primeval forests, not artificially planted.

However, picking up a minor elf was certainly better than not finding one at all. Influencing the growth of a few more Yanmu trees would be a gain. Liszt quickly adjusted his mood, “Just by dragon riding for a search, I found a minor elf. It seems like I could mount Leo every day to take a trip through the forest, making a living by picking up minor elves.”

Ach giggled, “But brother, the minor elves of the forest aren’t very valuable, are they? It is the minor elves nurtured by artificially tamed plants that are highly valuable.”

“Alright, that’s the reasoning.”

The value of elves hatched from artificially tamed plants far exceeded that of wild elves, the reason being that such tamed plants often belonged to high-value crops such as Magic Medicine Seeds, grains, fruit trees, vegetables, and raw materials. Consequently, the additional value brought about by the elves was also elevated.

The plants in the forest are mostly untamed, and even with elves, they can’t exert much effect.

Take the elf of a random wildflower, even with a Greater Elf, it could at most produce more wildflowers. When the wildflowers can't be monetized, naturally the elves also lose their value. Unless a mutant variety of the magic potion is found, in which case the value of the elf would skyrocket instantly.

Most of the elves currently common on the elf market are sold alongside magic medicine seeds.

Therefore, imperceptibly.

The Yanmu Minor Elf has become synonymous with low price.

...

Unity of Man and Dragon, once again.

Liszt continued to look for traces of the Sub-dragon Phoenix, and after half a day, as he rounded a mountain peak, a burst of flame suddenly appeared in his field of vision.

"Hm?"

He widened his eyes sharply and saw that halfway up a not-so-prominent mountain peak stood a large tree shining like a flame, illuminated by the radiance of magic feedback.

"A Fire Attribute tree!"

"Cordyceps!"

Leo dove down swiftly, approaching the fiery tree, and at this moment, his Dragon Eye Trajectory vision caught different sights within view.

Within the fiery luminescence of the great tree were three close-knit, scarlet bright spots, exceptionally luminous.

“Could it be elf triplets again?”

The thought flashed through his mind, and he had already ridden Leo deep into the forest, leaping off just as they were about to brush past the tree canopy, jumping towards the location of the three bright red spots. It wasn't until he got closer that he realized it wasn't triplets but a bird's nest.

In the nest lay three quiet eggs covered in red patterns, each as large as an ostrich egg.

With the Eye of Magic still activated, he could see the eggs contained an intensely concentrated Fire Attribute Mana, and judging by the color of the mana, this was not Low Magic, but High Magic.

In an instant.

Liszt understood the identity of the eggs: “Phoenix Eggs!”

Only the Sub-dragon Phoenix could have such rich Fire Attribute High Magic. Not knowing where the Sub-dragon Phoenix was, these three eggs and this nest were certainly not something it would abandon. By guarding this place, the Sub-dragon Phoenix would also become Liszt's for the taking.

A snap of the fingers.

Leo, already carrying Ach, flew over again. Ach jumped down to the ground while Leo transformed into a flame and rushed into Liszt's chest.

“Ach, the nest and eggs of the Sub-dragon Phoenix have been found. We'll wait here and catch it unaware, waiting for the Sub-dragon Phoenix to arrive!”

“Hmm.”

“Oho!” cried out Leo, in its Magic Form, eagerly, indicating it wanted to eat the Phoenix Eggs, and claimed this was agreed with Liszt beforehand.

“Be patient, the Phoenix Eggs are for fishing, you understand fishing, right? We’re aiming to catch the Sub-dragon Phoenix!”

“Oho!” Leo then calmed down.

With intelligence not inferior to that of an adult, it naturally knew catching the Sub-dragon Phoenix was a better deal than a few eggs. Perhaps once they caught the Sub-dragon Phoenix, it would lay eggs like the chickens on his estate every day. If that were the case, wouldn’t it be delightful: “A Phoenix Egg every day, my strength will be unstoppable!”

## Chapter 757: Double Kill

The Phoenix Egg commanded much of Liszt’s attention, but the massive tree that housed the Phoenix’s nest still warranted careful observation from him.

“This is a Cordyceps!” he discerned with ease.

However, the Elf of the Cordyceps was nowhere to be found. Liszt circled around the tree but didn’t find any Elves corresponding to the Cordyceps’ attribute.

“Where has this Elf gone? It shouldn’t have been eaten, since the Cordyceps hasn’t lost any mana... Could it be that the Elf was scared off by the Sub-dragon Phoenix and is too afraid to return, straying away from home?” This possibility still existed.

Therefore, he didn’t go far. After making a round, he returned to the Fire Attribute Cordyceps Tree and lay in wait, “Ach, have you figured out what breed this tree is?”

“I haven’t found any similar species recorded in the books, brother,” Ach replied as he plucked a few leaves and shook his head.

...

Liszt also picked a few leaves to examine.



The leaves were pentagram-shaped, somewhat similar to maple leaves in outline, but their edges were very rounded, quite different from those of maple trees. The whole tree was about thirty meters tall, with a straight trunk and rounded branches, and the bark was smooth, giving it a very unique shape. Liszt had never seen a tree of this style before.

“It’s not a maple. Could it be a parasol tree? No, that’s not right either, parasol trees don’t look like this.”

Phoenix, or rather, the immortal bird, is associated with legends that this Magical Beast likes to settle in parasol trees and that upon death, it would turn to ashes and then be reborn. Regrettably, legends are just legends, and the three bird eggs were good proof that even a Super Dragonkin Magical Beast is just a Magical Beast.

Even a Fire Dragon had to struggle, and with Liszt’s assistance, only then could it be reborn, how could a Sub-dragon possibly resurrect so effortlessly and be immortal.

Moreover, from the Envoy Group of the Steel Ridge Kingdom, the fact that they brought a Phoenix Feather meant that the Sub-dragon Phoenix was not considered rare; the Eagle Kingdom has them, so certainly, the Steel Ridge Kingdom does too.

Unable to ascertain the details, he left Ach to continue researching the tree while he himself watched the surroundings, waiting for the arrival of the Sub-dragon Phoenix, and concocting tactics — Dragon Knights were mighty, but he couldn’t guarantee how fast the Sub-dragon Phoenix would be; if it was too speedy, it would be hard to catch.

He waited until dark.

Liszt was in no rush, for birds must always return to their nests to incubate their eggs.

Indeed, as night fell and the forest of Flame Mountain quietened, with only a few calls from unknown animals sounding out, Liszt’s Eye of Magic suddenly discerned a mass of fiery red mana moving swiftly in the distance.

The mana outlined the shape of a large bird perfectly.

“Ach, be careful, the Phoenix is coming back!” Liszt drew out his Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword and rapidly entered a battle state, adjusting his presence to stay concealed.

Ach also promptly hid and was ready to connect with the Magic Web and cast magic at any moment, “Brother, my Water Ring Rupture is prepared.”

“Wait for my command.”

The tactic was simple. Ach would cast Water Ring Rupture to restrain the Phoenix, then Liszt would swoop in to break both of the Phoenix’s wings. What followed would be dodging the Phoenix’s magic and capturing it; if it resisted too strongly, they would call on Leo to suppress it.

In short, it was just a Magical Beast bird, no need for an elaborate setup.

The Phoenix was already flying back quickly, but as it neared the tree, it suddenly turned and circled around the tree in Liszt’s vision, emitting a clear and high-pitched call. It kept circling, never landing towards the nest, clearly having spotted the intruders.

“Still, our presence was exposed, and it has been detected by the Phoenix,” Liszt felt a bit regretful, but he didn’t slow his actions and shouted, “Ach, do it now!”

Boom!

The magic was cast instantly, and a huge water ring appeared out of nowhere, ensnaring the circling Phoenix.

“Screech!”

The Phoenix screamed and struggled.

Liszt attacked rapidly, shooting into the air like lightning, his Eye of Magic firmly locking onto the Phoenix’s position. He swung the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword fiercely at the Phoenix’s struggling wings.

Boom!

As expected, Liszt's explosive attack broke the Phoenix's wing. Its body tilted and could no longer maintain stability, plummeting downwards. With a loud crash, it hit the ground. Upon landing, it opened its mouth to release magic, a ring of intense Fire Attribute Mana spreading out, instantly shattering the Water Ring Rupture.

But it didn't get a chance to catch its breath after breaking free; Liszt's attack was already raining down like a violent storm.

Resembling the size of an elephant, the Sub-dragon Phoenix was directly pinned down by Liszt, and then battered the other intact wing with the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword, successfully breaking the bones.

In just a moment of confrontation, both wings of the Sub-dragon Phoenix were destroyed.

It emitted a wretched "screech," and then its body emanated a new circle of Fire Attribute Mana, similar to the Fire System Advanced Magic – Fire Resistance Ring, but clearly more powerful. Liszt, fostering his Dragon Dou Qi, met it with Fire Attribute Dou Qi, offsetting the impact force of the magic.

Ach's second spell arrived in time, once again restraining the Phoenix.

Seizing this window, Liszt quickly took out the manacles forged from Mountain Copper. He first clamped one foot of the Phoenix, then the other, pulling the spring of the manacle chain, and the Mountain Copper Manacles quickly tightened, securely locking the slim legs of the Phoenix. Another pair was successfully locked around the neck of the Phoenix, one end securing its beak.

After they were fastened, the Phoenix could no longer release any magic, its whole body's mana flaring up only to burn as flame.

Its magic was also at a High Magic level, but what Liszt feared the least was Fire Attribute Dou Qi. Enduring the flames, he forcibly joined the two pairs of manacles together. Thus, the Phoenix was completely bound and could not move. Although he had to exert some effort, the whole process didn't take long, as the strength of the Phoenix wasn't too formidable.

It was only slightly more difficult than capturing Marquis Nuta, mainly due to its physical advantage, with an accurate combat strength roughly at the level of a Domain Knight.

“That was quite easy... Leo, you don’t have to keep calling out; you’ll get to eat Phoenix meat sooner or later!” Liszt clapped his hands and took the opportunity to soothe Leo, who was ardently clamoring to come out and eat.

How could he possibly allow Leo to consume the Sub-dragon Phoenix before studying it?

But just then, Leo suddenly alerted him that another Phoenix was rapidly approaching. Liszt instinctively leapt up from where he was. And as soon as he jumped away, a larger Phoenix swooped down, its wings sending out countless flaming blades that left scorched marks on the ground where Liszt had just been standing.

“Another one, perfect timing! One roasted, one boiled!”

Liszt already knew the power of the Phoenix, so he didn’t panic. After signaling Ach to release spells for distraction, a few successive rapid movements and attacks were all it took to break this Phoenix’s wings and throw it to the ground as well. Then he continued to use the manacles on the newly arrived Phoenix, in the same manner as before.

When the Steel Ridge Kingdom Envoy Group arrived and learned that the gift included Mountain Copper, he immediately instructed Iron Knight Alvin Eagle Sword to forge several Mountain Copper Manacles.

Prepared for capturing Phoenixes.

Mountain Copper is an indestructible Magic Metal, widely used in making locks, capable of securing Knights but more commonly used to lock Magical Beasts. Once a Magical Beast is locked, it is very difficult to break free without external assistance.

“Oh hoo!”

Seeing the fight was over, Leo was eager to call out again, impatient to come out and eat meat.

“Wait a little longer; we haven’t even started grilling yet. I don’t want to see you continue to eat raw meat. If you want to eat, eat cooked food, understood?”

“Oh hoo!”

Leo didn’t understand!

## Chapter 758: Tail Feather Transformation

The two phoenixes, as large as elephants, were all bound to the ground, giving Liszt the opportunity to closely examine the phoenixes, which are known as Sub-dragons.

Sub-dragons are considered Super Dragonkin Magical Beasts.

Theoretically, they are second only to dragons in strength, but Liszt felt they did indeed possess some power, yet to claim they were second only to dragons seemed to somewhat underestimate the gap between magical beasts and dragons. The disparity was vast, akin to the chasm between ordinary knights and Dragon Knights, or perhaps a rift.

No wonder even Noble Landlords who aren’t Dragon Knights also think of venturing into the mountains to capture phoenixes; it seems these Nobles have an understanding of Sub-dragon magical beasts.

They know that the power of a Sub-dragon is limited, belonging to a capture-able category.

However, for Sub-dragons to be known as creatures second only to dragons, they must possess some magic — their magic power is of a High Magic level, which is quite rare. After all, even Archmages like Ach are only of the High Magic level, while only dragon’s magic power belongs to Superior Magic.

...

“Their shape and contour are similar to wild chickens, with red and yellow feathers, and the most concentrated area of magic power in their bodies is the seven feathers at the tail-end. Each tail feather is about three and a half meters long, with a color closer to fire-red and slightly deeper than the feathers on the body,” he described, while Ach took notes.

What a pity there wasn't a camera, or else taking a photograph for record would be more accurate.

Now they could only use text and drawings to document these magical creatures.

"The head lacks the legendary crown of the phoenix, sporting only a tuft of upturned feathers, without too many fantastical elements. The eyes are very bright, equally abundant in magic power, the bird's beak is sharp and curved... Overall, it's like a luxurious and strengthened version of a wild chicken. I am now going to pluck a tail feather to observe."

He grabbed one of the phoenix's tail feathers and, with both hands, yanked it out with a snap, pulling it off from the phoenix's rear.

However, what was strange was that once the tail feather detached from the phoenix, it rapidly shrank, and in the blink of an eye, it turned into a twenty-centimeter-long fire-red gemstone-like feather.

"This... The Phoenix Feathers sent by Marquis Merlin and the Envoy Group look just like this!" He handed the feather to Ach, then took out two more from his Space Ring, "Take a look, isn't it peculiar? I have two identical Phoenix Feathers in my Space Ring."

"Truly amazing, Ach can feel the solid concentration of the phoenix's magic power within the feathers."

"Let's test it again," Liszt said, and plucked another phoenix tail feather, observing it closely with the Eye of Magic, examining the minutest changes.

It was a peculiar transformation, with Fire Attribute High Magic undergoing a series of changes at the microscopic level.

But the range of the Eye of Magic was not detailed enough to observe all these.

Liszt directly handed the Phoenix Feather to Ach: "Hold onto this for now. When I enter Dragon Rider Mode and activate the Dragon Eye Trajectory, you pluck a new Phoenix Feather, and let me observe closely!"

“Okay.”

With a call.

Leo made a glorious entrance, the flames of the Fire Dragon igniting instantly, suppressing the flame from the phoenixes that had been burning the ground by themselves and retreating back into the body without even daring to emit smoke.

“Oh!”

As soon as Leo landed, he wanted to eat the phoenixes.

But he was mounted and promptly stopped by Liszt: “Easy there!” The pair of phoenixes were clearly one male and one female; perhaps capturing and taming them, they could breed more phoenixes in the future. It would be too wasteful to eat them. Moreover, he didn’t want Leo to be dominated by desire. The only one who could control it was Liszt himself.

The Dragon Eye Trajectory unfolded.

Ach quickly conjured water to pluck a phoenix tail feather, and the instantaneous changes all became visible within the field of the Dragon Eye Trajectory, revealing every minutest detail, with even the smallest magic particles exposed.

Liszt became deeply immersed in it but couldn’t grasp that flicker of inspiration: “Ach, pluck another one!”

A moment later: “Another one.”

“Another one!”

“Another one!”

“Continue plucking!”

“Don’t stop!” He had an intuition that as long as he deciphered the nature of the Phoenix Feather’s change, he would unlock a huge secret!

It was as if a new world lay before his eyes, yet blocked by a door, desperately in need of a key.

“Pluck another one!”

“...”

Ach helplessly spread his hands, “Brother, the tail feathers of both Phoenixes have been stripped bare, there are no more tail feathers to pluck.”

“Uh...” Liszt was left wanting more, “Then pluck some feathers from the wings, I want to see if they undergo the same kind of change as the tail feathers.”

The Phoenixes, their rear ends now embarrassingly bald, stared resentfully at the two people and one dragon, utterly powerless against the indignity of being plucked.

However, after the feathers from the wings were plucked, there was no change in their nature; they remained one meter long. Not just the feathers from the wings, but also those from the back, head, belly, and other areas showed no change. Only those seven tail feathers possessed a distinct nature change.

Looking at the Phoenixes, plucked of many feathers and looking utterly miserable, then at the sixteen Phoenix Feathers in Ach’s hands, Liszt shook his head, “I’m just a bit of inspiration away from capturing the nature change of the Phoenix Feather... Anyway, let’s record the information for now and continue researching later.”

“Oh ho!”

Leo roared impatiently, it wanted to eat Phoenix meat.

“Hmm?” Liszt, however, kept staring at the Phoenixes, as he noticed their lifeforce begin to slowly decline. This wasn’t due to injury, but seemed to be due to the tail feathers being plucked, causing a decline in vitality.



Over the course of the next ten minutes, no matter how Liszt and Ach tried to save them, the two Phoenixes' lifeforce gradually dwindled until they finally died.

Leaving behind two carcasses still abundant with magic power.

"Such a pity, such a pity!"

Who would have thought that plucking a few tail feathers would result in the Phoenixes breathing their last.

Although it was regrettable that he couldn't domesticate the Phoenixes and embark on a sustainable development path, Liszt meticulously collected the Phoenix carcasses. He stripped the Phoenixes of their eyes, beaks, claws, and feathers in the order of the richness of magic power. The rest of the meat, which he intended to put into the Space Ring, was unexpectedly snatched away by Leo in a single bite.

Then, flying to one side, Leo devoured it with great relish.

Liszt was furious, "Impudent!"

Ach tried to mediate from the side, "Brother, let Leo have some meat, it's in its growth stage."

"If it weren't for you holding me back, I would give it a thrashing today," muttered Liszt, quickly stowing the other Phoenix carcass into the Space Ring to prevent Leo from stealing it again, "We'll examine the Phoenix specimens once we get back. But what about the three Phoenix Eggs in the tree now?"

With the Phoenixes dead and the Phoenix Eggs without the female Phoenix to incubate them, it seemed likely that artificial intervention would be necessary for them to continue incubating.

The egg incubation technology of Black Horse Island was not bad; Flamingo eggs and Green-headed Duck eggs could be incubated artificially. However, each type of bird egg

required strict standards, and the standards took multiple attempts to master within the Landlord's domain.

“Forget it, let's collect them for now, and find a way to incubate them artificially once we return,” decided Liszt. He simply took down the nest from the tree, along with the eggs, and put them into the Space Ring.

Before incubation, bird eggs could be placed into the Gemstone Space without harm and without destroying their vitality—either because the unincubated eggs had not yet nurtured a soul, or because the eggs could resist the inactivating effect on the soul by the Gemstone Space. Either way, the Space Ring was harmless to the eggs.

No sooner had the nest been put away than Leo nearby suddenly let out a deep roar, turning its head, fixing its gaze in a certain direction within the darkness.

Liszt, feeling something amiss, activated his Eye of Magic, directing his gaze toward where Leo was looking.

Instantly, he spotted a bright Fire Attribute light, the light sketching out the form of a creature resembling a tiny human infant—sure enough, it was a Greater Elf!

## Chapter 759: Phoenix Perch Parasol

Greater Elf!

The elf birthed by this Cordyceps Tree brimming with fire attribute mana, scared away by the Phoenix, had returned, and it was still a Greater Elf.

Instantly, there was an excitement akin to receiving double happiness.

“Leo, be quiet,” Liszt whispered softly, afraid of frightening the Greater Elf.

Upon hearing this, Leo lowered his head and continued to eat his Phoenix meat.

The Greater Elf, meanwhile, hid behind a tree trunk not far away, watching in Leo's direction. When Liszt slowly approached, it retreated even further back, maintaining a distance of at least thirty meters from him. It tried to conceal its figure, but its bright magical aura dazzled like a lightbulb.

...

"I have Jade Powder."

Liszt took out a handful of Jade Powder and sprinkled it into the air. The scent of the Jade Powder instantly made the Greater Elf shudder and, unable to resist, it slowly flew over, wanting to taste some Jade Powder.

The more it ate, the happier it became.

After picking up and eating the Jade Powder sprinkled on the ground, the Greater Elf looked towards Liszt's palm, filled with a large handful of fragrant Jade Powder that radiated an aura of magic.

"Gulp."

The Greater Elf seemed to swallow saliva, inching closer to Liszt, its fluttering wings shimmering. It soon arrived three meters in front of Liszt, its large eyes curiously observing him. It didn't come any closer, restraining its desire and maintaining a cautious demeanor toward Liszt.

"Eat," he said.

"Chee, clack, chee chee, clack clack," the Greater Elf uttered a string of sounds, its tones somewhat similar to the previous calls of the Phoenix; it was unclear if it had learned this from the Phoenix.

Liszt couldn't understand, but that didn't hinder him from continuing to entice it: "Come on, eat, don't miss the delicious Jade Powder."

"Chee chee!"

Ultimately, the Greater Elf couldn't resist its craving for Jade Powder. It rushed to Liszt's hand, grabbed a small handful of Jade Powder, then ran off. After savoring it, it came back again. After repeating this three times, when it saw Liszt take out another handful of Jade Powder, it finally didn't run away and settled on Liszt's arm to eat.

Thus,

Liszt dabbed some Jade Powder on his finger and brought it to its mouth.

The Greater Elf's body was a beautiful, translucent, pale white, with a rounded pentagonal leaf on its head, looking quite adorable. At first, it was puzzled, but still bit into Liszt's finger—elves had exceptional teeth, given their fondness for Jade Powder.

Moreover, Liszt had charged his finger's skin with Dou Qi, making it as delicate as could be.

The moment the Greater Elf took a bite, it immediately broke Liszt's skin, feeling a connection between their hearts. A special sense of closeness was transmitted.

"Huh?" the Greater Elf was bewildered, unsure of what had happened.

But Liszt quickly transmitted a comforting emotion: "Don't be afraid, little guy, we're family now. There's plenty of Jade Powder at my home; you can eat as much as you want."

Through the bond of the contract, the Greater Elf understood and nodded obediently, and then pointed at Leo, who was eating meat, "Chee chee!"

It was actually expressing its fondness for Leo.

"Is that so." Liszt was filled with joy for his third Greater Elf. Through the memories of the years and the changing of the seasons, he could tell that this Greater Elf was about a hundred years old, not too young, but with a calm and natural demeanor, devoid of the wild elves' ferocious temper, "Then do you want to touch it?"

"Ah!"

“Then go ahead and touch it, don’t be afraid, Leo won’t hurt you.”

Encouraged by Liszt, the Greater Elf hesitated for a long time, but finally mustered the courage to fly onto one of Leo’s scales and, extending its little hand, touched Leo carefully before quickly flying away and returning to Liszt’s side, grinning broadly: “Krada, krada, krada!”

Leo looked at Liszt with dissatisfaction. If it wasn’t for Liszt communicating through the Dragon Heart Electrical Signal, asking him to stay still, he would have definitely swallowed that little thing in one bite.

Ach watched the Greater Elf, still expressing joy with strange sounds, with curiosity, “Brother, the Greater Elf likes dragons. Does that mean it is consciously trying to evolve by interacting with dragons?”

There were rumors that Greater Elves needed the power of dragons to evolve into Dragon Elves, but of course, it was just conjecture without solid proof.

“I don’t know.”

Liszt wasn’t very clear about this, but it didn’t stop him from speculating, “Since this Greater Elf likes dragons and their attributes are both Fire Attribute, maybe there really is some kind of destiny... Later, I will consult the Sapphire Duke and ask how the Dragon Elves of the Sapphire Family evolved.”

The Sapphire Family had an Oat Dragon Elf; they must know how Greater Elves evolve into Dragon Elves.

...

One Greater Elf, one Little Minor Elf, two Elf Bugs.

Two Phoenix carcasses, fourteen Phoenix Feathers, three Phoenix Eggs.

The trip to Flame Mountain was very satisfying for Liszt, and he had already decided that he would continue to seek out information about Sub-dragon Creatures and then set out for more adventures.

With the Magic Eye Dou Qi Secret Technique and the upgraded version of Dragon Eye Trajectory after Unity of Man and Dragon, no treasure could escape his search. Undoubtedly, this was a superior skill for expedition and treasure hunting—relying on this skill, he felt that he didn't need to build a kingdom to develop; just adventuring alone could sustain a dragon's life.

Perhaps the Evil Dragons living in the wilderness were comfortably surviving on the numerous Magical Beasts and elves in the Wild Forest.

“Since this Cordyceps Tree has been chosen by Phoenixes for nesting, but it's not a Parasol Tree, let's just call it 'Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree'.” After discussing with Ach, Liszt determined the species of the Cordyceps Tree—Phoenix Perch Parasol, and the Greater Elf was the Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree Greater Elf.

“Ah.” The Greater Elf touched the leaves at the top of its head and didn't voice its opinion.

Liszt continued, “As for the name of the Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree Greater Elf, let's call it Ani.” Anivia was the name of the Crystal Phoenix in “League of Legends”, and since the Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree Greater Elf had an inseparable connection with the Phoenix, Liszt contrived to name it “Ani.”

The previous Pea Great Elf was called Ash, and now this Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree Greater Elf was called Ani, sounding like two brothers or sisters.

“Ani.” Ach called out.

Immediately, the Greater Elf turned its head to look at Ach, showing neither closeness nor avoidance, merely uttering a simple: “Ah.” It couldn't speak yet, and after previous contact with the Phoenix, it had picked up a bunch of bird-like noises such as “lille, krada,” which needed to be slowly corrected.

Liszt looked at Leo, who had already finished eating the Phoenix meat: “Come back.”

Instantly, Leo transformed into a blaze and rushed into his body, then signaled Ani to gather the Cordyceps before beginning to set up camp. After pitching the tent and taking out the Crystal Lamp, he and Ach delved into a discussion about the changes in the Phoenix Feathers—he had a feeling that the nature of the Phoenix Feathers was changing and contained some secret.

Once he unlocked this secret, his understanding of Magic Power would rise to a new level.

## Chapter 760: Magical Beast Encyclopedia

The discussion on the transformation of the Phoenix Feather continued until midnight, yet without a hint of the key inspiration, Liszt could only temporarily give up and pin his hopes on those three Phoenix Eggs.

Perhaps once the Phoenix Eggs hatch and a new Phoenix is obtained, tamed and raised from a young age, plucking its tail feathers one by one for study might reveal that elusive thread of crucial inspiration.

“The legend says that a Phoenix will be reborn from its ashes, but considering the strength of the current Magical Beast doesn’t match the legend, I think it’s necessary to reposition the term Sub-dragon... Adding ‘Beast’ after the term Sub-dragon, calling it a Sub-dragon Beast, fits the position better, or we might as well use the term Super Dragon Beast and discard the appellation of Sub-dragon altogether,”

said Liszt solemnly.

Ach had no interest in such matters and had no objections.

However, Liszt’s proposal to compile a set of official collections similar to the “Yongle Encyclopedia” or the “Complete Library in Four Sections” fell to Ach to oversee and revise. Within the four divisions of combat, magic, will, and narrative, a “Magical Beast Encyclopedia” kind of book must certainly be compiled. It was important to define the classifications of Magical Beast levels starting now.

...

“Ach, I believe that the previous practice of distinguishing dragon lineage creatures from Magical Beasts is not a suitable division, mainly because dragon lineage creatures do not

exhibit much difference from Magical Beasts. I think dragon lineage creatures should still be included among Magical Beasts, on par with Land Monsters and Sea Monsters,”

“I support brother’s classification. When compiling the ‘Magical Beast Encyclopedia,’ I will follow brother’s categorization,” Ach responded.

According to Liszt’s classification of Magical Beast levels, dragons constitute a separate category, with no intersection with Magical Beasts, forming a system on their own just like Elves.

Magical Beast is a general term with three subcategories beneath it.

Land Monster, the main representative of Magical Beasts, can be directly referred to as Magical Beast, including Super Magical Beast, Advanced Magical Beast, Intermediate Magical Beast, Low-Level Magical Beast, and further down are the terrestrial animals.

Sea Monster, the ocean representative of the Magical Beast kind, includes Super Sea Monster, Advanced Sea Monster, Intermediate Sea Monster, Low-Level Sea Monster, and further down are ordinary marine animals.

Dragon Beast, representative of Magical Beast kind with dragon bloodline mixed in, includes Super Dragon Beast, Advanced Dragon Beast, Intermediate Dragon Beast, Low-Level Dragon Beast, and an extended category of Dragon Breed Beasts.

“Additionally, when compiling the ‘Magical Beast Encyclopedia,’ the appellation ‘Phoenix’ should also be discarded. Considering the combat strength of these two large birds, the noble title of ‘Phoenix’ doesn’t quite suit them—they should be called Flame Dragon Birds. From now on, the names of Dragon Beasts should always include the word ‘dragon’.”

“Does that mean Loki should be called Landwalker Dragon Bird, and Ros should be called Rainbow Dragon Whale?” Ach asked.

“That’s not necessary. Only Super Dragon Beasts will have their own unique naming convention. No matter what, the transformation of the nature of a Phoenix Feather has a unique charm... I was thinking that the turtle shell we found earlier must also be the product of such a nature transformation, likely the transformed back shell of a deceased turtle Super Dragon Beast,” Liszt pondered.



Originally, Liszt found it strange that a turtle shell could be so small; there were no Sub-dragons of such size.

Now having experienced the transformation of the nature of the Phoenix Feather, everything made sense. The tail feathers of the Flame Dragon Bird, as well as the unknown turtle shell from a Lightning attribute turtle species, must be the most special parts of a Super Dragon Beast's body.

Having finished discussing the Flame Dragon Bird.

The two continued their conversation about the Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree and Greater Elf Annie.

This Fire Attribute Cordyceps Tree, with no other Phoenix Perch Parasol Trees appearing around, posed quite the mystery; most curious was that Annie lacked the ability to spread seeds, a magic almost standard for Elves. Now, with the Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree not bearing seeds and no similar trees to study, its value was difficult to assess.

However, one thing could be clarified: upon returning to his territory to plant the Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree, it would be appropriate to relocate the Flame Dragon Bird's nest back onto the tree branches.

Even the placement of the Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree had been anticipated by Liszt—to plant it at the Dodo Island Volcano Crater seemed to be the most suitable spot.

...

“

The next day dawned.

Liszt prepared to return, but when he went to find the Split-footed Lizard he had tethered on a certain mountaintop, he discovered that the lizard had escaped.

“Ugh,”

After searching for a while without success, Liszt muttered awkwardly, “Now the mount I planned to give to the Marquis of Bull Tail will have to be postponed...”

Having no time to waste searching the forest for a mount to tame, he regrettably mounted Leo and soared into the blue sky and white clouds.

The Greater Elf Annie, riding a dragon for the first time, was exceptionally excited, sitting in Liszt’s arms and continuously stretching out her hands to touch Leo’s scales.

Liszt found it amusing and activated the Dragon Eye Trajectory, observing Annie carefully.

He didn’t notice any physical or chemical reactions between the dragon’s magic power and Annie’s, nor was there any interaction between them. Thus, it was hard to determine whether Annie’s behavior was indeed an evolution towards becoming a Dragon Elf. Even when asked, Annie herself didn’t know why she wanted to touch Leo.

She simply liked dragons, or perhaps she liked the Fire Dragon with the same magic attribute.

“Leo...” she softly called out, using the newly learned Serpent Script, “Annie... likes...”

Crossing the continent and then traversing the sea.

Finally, two days later, they returned to Black Horse Island. The journey started on January 8th of the Sapphire Calendar Year 154 and ended on January 18th, taking a total of ten days.

In ten days’ time, there was no change in the domain.

The Thorn Minor Elf Jela, with whom Liszt communicated daily through the Magic Platform and who was his prime concern, hadn’t changed either. Before his departure, she was already immersed in deep thought, and she remained so upon his return. Her evolution continued steadily, with no knowing when she would successfully mature.

However, after the third Greater Elf Annie moved into the Worm Room, the preoccupied Jela finally became restless again.

Her spirits lifted, and the long-absent “Wuwa” cries began to echo in the corridor once more. Hearing this sound, the Pea Great Elf Ash would fly into the corridor and look at the door of Jela’s Worm Room in contemplation. But Jela had learned her lesson; she would only shout within her own room and never venture out.

She didn’t appreciate Ash’s rope art.

“Wuwa!”

Standing in front of the glass door, Jela glared at the contemplating Ash; she was waiting, waiting for the power within her body to surge forth—ever since Liszt brought back the third Greater Elf, Jela finally felt some force emerging from her body.

Clenching her tiny fists, she could feel them as if they were expanding: “Wuwa!”

Ash narrowed her eyes, finding Jela hiding in her room rather boring. She simply returned to her own room, took some Hemp Rope Vines, and continuously weaved them into various shapes. Occasionally she would reveal a knowing smile, uncertain if she was fantasizing about tying something up or having other thoughts.

After laughing for a while, she got up again and flew out of her room, shaking the door of the neighboring Worm Room.

Seeing no elf inside, she seemed somewhat disappointed. Before, a new Greater Elf had moved into this room, apparently named Annie.

“No one understands my art, neither does Liszt,” she shook her head and returned to her own room.