

The Mighty 761

Chapter 761: Burning Bird Eggs

On Dodo Island.

The Light Green Gemstone Dragon was still in a deep slumber.

Leo plunged into the magma of the volcano crater, where the accumulation of Volcanic Super Magic from the past several days was enough for it to thoroughly enjoy a supreme magic feast.

Liszt asked the Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree Greater Elf Annie sitting on his shoulder, “What do you think of the environment here, should we plant the cordyceps here?”

Annie sniffed with her delicate nose and shook her head, “Ah?”

She meant that she really liked the Fire Attribute Mana around the volcano crater, and Leo was cultivating there as well, but there was no water in the soil near the volcano crater.

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“Then where do you think is suitable on Dodo Island?”

After being choosy, Annie finally selected a spot halfway up the mountain to plant her Cordyceps Tree. In a blink, a thirty-meter-high tree vigorously spread out, standing out among a cluster of Human Skull Trees. Liszt also took out the bird’s nest and placed it back on the original branches.

And he took out a Flame Dragon Bird Egg and put it inside.

“Ach, let’s make several trips back and forth to Dodo Island in the next few days, striving to figure out whether natural or artificial hatching is more suitable for the Flame Dragon Bird Egg.”

Ach nodded.

At that moment, Annie suddenly cried out, “Ash... Ani... Ah!”

“Hmm?” Liszt picked up on the emotional waves coming from Annie; she was trying to communicate something to him, “Are you saying you’ve seen a Flame Dragon Bird hatching eggs by spitting fire and roasting them?”

“Ah!”

Annie flapped her wings and circled around the nest, indicating to Liszt that she was now the Flame Dragon Bird. She gently landed on the tree trunk next to the nest, faced the nest, puffed up her cheeks and exhaled, imitating a Flame Dragon Bird spewing fire to incubate its eggs. She even switched positions to demonstrate that two Flame Dragon Birds would take turns spewing fire.

Witnessing Annie’s vivid description of a Flame Dragon Bird hatching scene, Liszt couldn’t help but find it amusing, “So, Flame Dragon Birds actually use flames to hatch their eggs... Ach, should we give it a try?”

Ach pointed at the nest and said, “Brother, look, the branches of the nest seem somewhat similar to those of the Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree. Maybe we can first verify if spitting fire will burn the nest. If it doesn’t, it is very likely that the situation described by Annie is the process of the eggs hatching.”

“That makes sense!”

Liszt immediately began to experiment; he couldn’t spit fire, but his Fire Attribute Dragon Dou Qi could create flames. He targeted the nest and scorched it, and indeed, just as speculated, the branches in the nest did not burn—or to be precise, the Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree was not afraid of fire.

The rest of the process was simple; Liszt put the egg back and started scorching it directly.

He also used the Eye of Magic to carefully observe the process of burning. He found that during the scorching by the flames, the egg absorbed Fire Attribute Mana, and the mana inside the egg slowly circulated, as if life was growing. After half an hour of continuous scorching, the egg ceased to absorb mana.

Liszt was about to continue scorching when Annie flew over, shaking her head and calling out to him, “Ah!” This was to tell Liszt that was enough roasting for now.

“So you mean, scorch for about half an hour each day should be enough?”

Annie couldn’t answer; she had stopped Liszt from continuing to scorch based on instinct alone and didn’t know why.

Even so, she had already provided much help in the hatching of the Flame Dragon Bird egg. Liszt took out a piece of jade to reward her, and Annie immediately cuddled up to the jade, nibbling happily on it.

“Now that we’ve found a method to hatch the Flame Dragon Bird egg, there’s no need to hatch it in the nest; I can hold it and scorch it anytime,” he said, getting ready to take the egg out.

However, Annie cried out again, “Ah!”

“It shouldn’t be taken out?”

“Ah...” Annie gestured wildly, vaguely indicating that there was some relationship between the Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree and the egg, implying that the egg was best left in the nest.

It seemed the egg was also beneficial to it.

Unfortunately, Ani’s logic in expressing itself was a bit chaotic, and Liszt couldn’t quite understand. After asking several times, Ani became so anxious, spinning in circles, not knowing how to explain.

Suddenly, Ach spoke up, “Brother, Ach feels there is a complementary connection between Ani’s cordyceps and the flame dragon bird eggs. The link between their auras can form a vague, small-scale magic web, creating a stable, active field that promotes their mutual growth.”

“Is that so?” Liszt was surprised. An elf could actually establish a connection with a super dragon beast.

Since Ach had already sensed it, and Ani was eager for the eggs, he was reassured and put all three eggs into the nest, instructing Ani, “Then the flame dragon bird eggs are entrusted to your care. You must look after them well; I’ll come to roast them every day.”

“Ah!”

“Ach, you stay here as well.”

“Ah!”

Ani readily agreed, feeling life was full of happiness. With delicious jade powder to eat, eggs to aid growth, and a fire dragon to touch often, life was wonderful indeed.

Its emotions undoubtedly affected Liszt.

Thinking of something, he took Ani straight to the light green gemstone dragon’s sleeping spot, pointing to the dragon and said, “If you like touching dragons, there’s another one here.”

Ani looked at the light green gemstone dragon curiously and carefully touched its scales but quickly returned, “Ani... likes... Leo...” The meaning of this sentence was that it didn’t like the light green gemstone dragon.

“If you don’t like it, then never mind.” Liszt nodded, understanding that elves and dragons also had compatibility issues, with different elves favoring different dragons.

No wonder Ash, Jela, and other elves who had seen Leo did not show any closeness towards him.

They were not compatible.

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Once Leo emerged from the volcano crater, Liszt left Dodo Island but did not take Ani with him—elves could not stay too far from their cordyceps for an extended period. Dodo Island was more than eight hundred kilometers from Black Horse Island, a distance already beyond an elf's limit. Being separated for a long time would cause the cordyceps to gradually wither.

So he let Ani stay on Dodo Island to take care of the three flame dragon bird eggs.

There were no large animals here, so Ani's safety was guaranteed. Moreover, there was a dragon in slumber, constantly emitting dragon might—the island's smaller animals had probably all been wiped out by the dragon might.

He returned to Black Horse Island.

Chris Truth immediately came to Thorn Castle and presented Liszt with the newly improved binary magic platform core machine. The new core machine no longer used a dialing mechanism but a triggering system instead.

There were now two straight handles outside the box.

The operation required the collaboration of three magicians: one to read the binary codes, another to channel fire attribute magic, and another to channel water attribute magic. Then, following the sequence of the codes, they would operate the handles, initiating the internal compass runes via the linkage mechanism, thus activating the magic platform to transmit information.

These three magicians were telegraphers.

The one reading the codes also had to double as a switchboard operator, receiving messages from another magic platform, recording down the magic reactions on the compass, and translating them into text.

With practice, in fact, this entire operation could be performed by a single magician, with continuous input of codes using the left hand for the water system and the right hand for the fire system. Of course, no matter how skilled, due to the simplicity of the magic platform itself, it was still hard to achieve rapid information transfer, making it inefficient.

The hope was for continuous improvement in the future, to reach the effect of Earth's radio stations; then in later research, to invent something like videophones, transmitting images and sounds simultaneously.

And even further, to break through the limits of matter and achieve the effect of teleportation arrays.

Looking at the new generation core machine, Liszt immediately said, "Now that the core machine has been improved and can accurately transmit information, select trustworthy magicians from the Magic Guild to follow the adventure fleet out to sea, and explore new islands!"

Chapter 762: Old Phil's Sexual Blessings

Three Court Fast Sailing Ships, the Explorer, the Discovery, and the Opportunity, exhausted all the experimental materials of the Magic Guild. Each was equipped with a binary core Magic Platform, and on the flagship Explorer, an extra Magic Platform was installed as backup.

The sea-launching ceremony was grand and solemn.

With snow still swirling, the knights were covered in white. Liszt himself handed over three flags adorned with dragon-shaped flame patterns to the captains of the three exploration ships—the expedition team leader and captain of the Explorer, Yevich Waterflower, and two other Earth Knight captains trained by the territory.

As the dragon-shaped flame banners were raised high, the three exploration ships slowly set sail towards the open sea.

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This marked the first step of nation-building, with what remained being to find suitable islands to relocate to, and to develop and build upon. Liszt did not turn back until the ships faded into the clouds on the horizon.

Development of the territory continued as normal.

Serfs from Iron Hoof City were transported batch by batch, swiftly joining in the territory's construction and development.

Smiles were on the faces of all serfs, not because they found the living conditions in the territory fine, but because they had become serfs to a Dragon Knight. The treatment of the serfs under a future ruler surely couldn't be the same as that of ordinary serfs—even though they still needed to farm, their welfare was definitely superior to that of the common serfs.

“Your Highness, the negotiation team has agreed with trade representatives of the three Marquises that half of the profits from future trade cooperation will be invested into the serf trade. With our serf pricing, the Marquis Families will certainly be willing to pay with serfs, thereby saving Gold Coins.”

The three Marquises were the Marquis of Bull Tail, the Marquis of Red Crab Island, and the Marquis of Golden Island, which were currently the ones Liszt chose to cooperate with for glass, white paper, and sea salt trades.

The trade channels of these three Marquises were partnerships with the coastal Marquises of the Steel Ridge Kingdom.

Additionally, Liszt controlled his own trade route, primarily collaborating with the Marquis Nuta of the Eagle Kingdom to engage in smuggling on the high seas.

Marquis Nuta suffered heavy losses in two major battles and had to find ways to compensate for those losses.

Sea salt was currently the biggest item in smuggling trade, with Marquis Nuta pretending to react to the King's call by purchasing a large number of ships produced by the Eagle Kingdom. His ships harassed the Sapphire fleets at sea while hunting for the Light Green Gemstone Dragon, but in reality, under the cover of the Flame Territory fleet, they reached a designated third-party island, where they conducted sea salt trades.

The trade was conducted by exchanging serfs for sea salt, one ship of serfs for one ship of salt—clear, concise, and straightforward.

A ship of sea salt, if taken to the continent for sale, could be exchanged for about five or six ships of serfs, and with more ruthless bargaining, even ten. It could be said that the sea salt trade was exceedingly profitable, for Marquis Nuta as it was for Liszt. The cost for Liszt to produce sea salt was almost nil, merely the cost of labor.

Now, the Flame Territory was madly producing sea salt.

Of course, the technology must be monopolized—no one dared to freely encroach upon his technology, and should someone be found producing sea salt too, Liszt would not be merciful.

The Dragon Knight was synonymous with monopoly!

After learning of Liszt's sea salt trade, even the Sapphire Family just came to inquire about participating in trade, not scheming to steal the technology.

The ongoing cooperation with the Sapphire Family was still under negotiation, mainly stalled on the details of profit sharing—the Sapphire Family hoped for a buyout by paying a “patent fee” or “protection fee,” whereas Liszt insisted on technology equity participation and a share in the profits.

Of course, neither the Sapphire Duke nor Liszt would quibble too much. After all, both parties were temporarily in an offensive and defensive alliance, and they both could step back a bit to achieve trade cooperation without much difficulty.

“Isaiah, work out the details with the officials to find the balance between territorial expenses and income, then appropriately increase the proportion of serf purchases. We must accumulate serfs in large quantities to prepare for the future establishment of a nation... When the new country is founded, serf trade may not be so smooth.”

Liszt was well aware that once he declared the establishment of his own nation, the Continental Kingdom would definitely not sit idly by.

Perhaps incapable of launching a second Dragon Slaying War, but they would most certainly take actions to contain its development, with the strongest measure being to crack down on the serf trade. The serf trade could not be banned, but during a crackdown, the price of serfs would skyrocket, greatly slowing down the development of the new nation.

“Your Highness, please rest assured, we will find a balance point as soon as possible and renegotiate the distribution scheme with several trading channels.”

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“Master, have you noticed that Jessie has been very happy these past few days?” Butler Carter said with a smile.

“What’s Jessie happy about?” Liszt asked while amusing the growing Jela and inquired. Jessie was the main male servant in the castle and had been an old member of the castle staff since the beginning.

“Old Phil finally got his wife pregnant with the help of the Magic Guild.”

“Is that so? Congratulations are in order.” Liszt smiled. He was very familiar with Old Phil, a descendant of the Sun whose blood he had collected in copious amounts.

Upon learning of Old Phil’s identity, the Grand Magicians of the Magic Guild even devised a “Pig Breeding Plan” to get Old Phil to mate vigorously, aiming to breed a “New Son of the Sun” capable of casting Druid transformation magic and to test magic such as turning into a bear or a panther.

Butler Carter became troubled again as he spoke: “There is one thing, though, I’m uncertain if I should report to Master.”

“Go ahead.”

“Magicians from the Magic Guild have brought in quite a few prostitutes from other regions and forced Old Phil to copulate with them. It is said that Old Phil has already lost a great deal of weight...”

“Hmm?”

Liszt suddenly didn't know what to say, whether Old Phil was fortunate in a perverse sense, whether the magicians were absurd, or whether to rebuke the Magic Guild for their indecency. He paused for a long while before asking, “Was Old Phil coerced? Was his wife also threatened by the magicians?”

“That... the magicians promised Old Phil's wife that they would train her son to be a magician in the future, so she ignored Old Phil and even urged him to cooperate. As for Old Phil, he was obviously ambivalent... Poor Jessie, he still doesn't know about Old Phil's situation.”

“That's enough, I understand.” Liszt did not offer any comment.

He planned to bring up the matter the next time he saw Chris, even though it didn't violate the Magic Guild's regulations nor the territory's laws. In fact, regarding Old Phil's case, he himself had once tacitly approved it when speaking with Lars and several other Grand Magicians.

But in the end, it did not look good; it could be regarded as human experimentation.

He made a decision in his heart: “Next time, before initiating similar experimental projects, they must receive my approval. We cannot allow magicians to research recklessly, especially involving humans and dragons!”

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Old Phil's good fortune was not a serious matter, and Liszt soon put it out of his mind.

He carried the significantly grown Jela with one hand and headed for Ach's laboratory upstairs, intending to have Ach give Jela a full body check.

To see how healthy Jela was and incidentally gather some data on elf evolution.

“Wah!”

“I understand, your strength is growing stronger and soon you’ll be able to defeat Ash.”

Chapter 763: The Course of History

As the saying goes, if you haven’t eaten pork, haven’t you at least seen a pig run? Before transmigrating, Li Si Te was not a scientific researcher but just an ordinary office worker.

However, he had some understanding of scientific experiments and knew that data collection was a very important part of the experimental process for scientists. Moreover, it was necessary to establish a reference system and compare information time and again, in order to produce valuable results, such as Mendel’s pea plant experiments.

The laws of nature have always been there; the difference lies in whether or not you can discover them.

Although the magicians of the Legendary Continent were all intelligent, they lacked good experimental habits; coupled with the secrecy of their inheritance, they preferred to conduct their secret little experiments. Without systematic operational schemes, detailed experimental records, or even reproducibility, their methods were unstructured.

Thus, the flourishing magical civilization of the Moon Empire quickly declined after the contraction of the Magic Web.

In the process of teaching Ach magic, Liszt instilled in her many scientific experimental methods, among which the most important was data collection. Whether researching elves or dragons, without collecting enough information, relying on imagination was meaningless.

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For instance, researching elves—information provided by a single elf is too little, but with information from hundreds of elves, many secrets about elves would naturally be revealed.

The secrets revealed during the evolution of a single elf might be few.

By continuously recording and collecting data on more and more elf evolutions, one could definitely discover valuable clues and thereby unravel the essence of elf evolution.

“Jela’s body is very healthy, all its physiological characteristics are highly active. Through the sensing of the Magic Web, the magic radiation it emits is getting closer and closer to that of a Greater Elf. It should be able to evolve successfully soon,” Ach led Lucy and Ruth, constantly recording and collecting the data.

Lucy and Ruth, the twin Magic Apprentices, were initially recommended by Liszt to Chris, but the two girls indeed demonstrated a strong talent for magic and have already been commandeered by Ach as laboratory assistants.

The main reason being that Chris was too busy and did not have time to be in the lab every day.

If the Magic Guild continues to grow and expand, Chris will likely have to transition into an administrative role; she won’t have time for experiments and magic practice. Of course, Chris herself is not a Magician with exceptional talent—Grand Magician is basically the end of her magic cultivation.

In this era of a weakening Magic Web, the difficulty of becoming an Archmage far exceeds that of becoming a Dragon Knight.

“Wow!”

Jela complained, clearly unhappy with the prodding and poking it just received from Ach, Lucy, and Ruth.

However, Lucy was unaware of this and said happily, “Your Highness, Jela is so cute, I really wish I could hug a Minor Elf every day.”

She still had the heart of a child.

In fact, she was a child, having lived in the countryside before the serf trade and in the Mage Tower after, without suffering much hardship.

On the other hand, Ruth, the younger sister, acted more maturely, “Lucy, don’t harbor such reckless fantasies, all elves are the private property of His Highness.”

This awareness was commendable; indeed, all the elves in the territory currently belonged to Liszt.

And they could only belong to Liszt. The Landlord had the right to dispose of everything produced on his lands, even if elves were nurtured on the fields leased out to peasants for cultivation—the elves still belonged to Liszt.

The two freckle-faced twins, one lively and innocent, the other mature and sensible, were both dearly liked by Liszt, “Learn magic well; the most important thing is to learn how to experiment. Only then can you become useful individuals and unlock more secrets of the Truth.”

Ruth replied like an adult, “Lucy and I will definitely study hard to become qualified Magicians, to work diligently for His Highness, and to repay His Highness for his nurturing.”

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Nine o’clock in the morning.

Liszt, cradling Jela, arrived at the stone square specially designated for the Blizzard Beasts to flounder around.

Emily was already standing in the stone square, letting the snowflakes fall on her hair and shoulders, surrounded by the frolicking Blizzard Beasts.

Upon seeing Liszt, the Blizzard Beasts immediately lined up in formation under Douson’s command.

“Douson, come here.”

“Woof!”

“From now on, follow Emily for training and obey her commands.”

“Woof!” Douson seemed reluctant, but still obeyed Liszt’s orders, walked up to Emily, and turned his head to bark at the Eight Tiny Ones.

Suddenly, the Eight Tiny Ones also came to stand in front of Emily in formation.

“Emily, you can start training now.” Liszt stood on a rock, his Dragon Dou Qi surging around him, evaporating snowflakes before they could even get close.

“Yes, Your Highness!”

With Liszt’s presence, Emily’s subsequent training work went smoothly, following the training methods instructed by Liszt to continually synchronize with Douson and increase their understanding. Then, by leveraging Douson’s authority, she commanded the Eight Tiny Ones to follow her orders and thus harnessed the entire Blizzard Beast Squad.

Compared to Liszt’s carefree, spontaneous training of the Blizzard Beasts, Emily’s training was meticulous.

Or rather, Liszt’s training was like a master trying hard to train an Erha, whereas Emily’s training was akin to training a police dog. Sometimes Liszt had to admit that in terms of perseverance, diligence, talent, and attitude, he indeed fell short of geniuses like Emily.

If it weren’t for the Power of Destiny brought about by the Smoke Mission, his own achievements would definitely be limited.

“No wonder I was just a wage-earning office worker before my transmigration... Thankfully, after transmigrating, not only did I gain the Power of Destiny, but I also became so handsome.”

Liszt’s destiny was more about being propelled forward.

Just as an elder once said, “A person’s fate, ah, certainly depends on personal struggle, but also needs to consider the course of history.”

The Smoke Dragon chose Liszt, and Liszt respected its choice.

He reflected on everything he had done over the past three years and felt that he had done roughly three things in Fresh Flower Town: “First: integrate into the feudal landlord-knight system. Second: introduce scientific experimental theory into magic. Third: ride a few dragons. Of course, the Dragon Knight battle was significant too, and another aspect was the all-around development of new product trade.”

It was not earth-shattering, just a minor change, after all.

“Wah!”

Jela interrupted Liszt’s nostalgia for his youth, then, under Liszt’s gaze, it stuttered out, “Li...si...te...”

“Hmm?”

“Jela... wah!” After continuing to call out its own name, Jela burst into laughter, delighted. Its vocal cords were slowly developing, and at last, it could speak.

This also meant that it had basically completed its evolution from a Thorn Minor Elf into a Thorn Greater Elf.

The stone in Liszt’s heart finally dropped, and he couldn’t help but give Jela a thumbs up: “Well done, Jela!” Along with Jela’s evolution, the gains were not only an extra two hundred years of life but also the cultivation of Auxiliary Medicine Thorn on a larger scale, ensuring that the magic potion yield of his domain would surely double!

Chapter 764: Likes and Dislikes

Jela’s growth was almost changing every day, and by the end of January, it had completely reached the size of a baby, fifty centimeters in height, with its magic power stabilized, qualifying as a Thorn Greater Elf.

“Wow, Jela is powerful!”

This little fellow, who had worked its way up from a Thorn Bug to become a Greater Elf, decided that the first thing to do after its evolution was to trap the Coptis Minor Elf in the Worm Room and give it a good scolding: “You little bitter Coptis, if I see you acting tough again, I’ll make sure to rough you up until you can’t even talk!”

The Coptis Minor Elf pouted by the window, looking at the enlarged Jela, and was not willing to admit defeat.

But now that Jela had grown larger and stronger, with an overwhelming presence, it was something the Coptis Minor Elf did not want to provoke—after all, the Coptis Minor Elf, though jumpy, always bullied the weak and feared the strong in the Castle’s Worm Room area, and had never once dared to provoke Pea Great Elf Ash.

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So the current Jela was also an entity it didn’t dare to provoke.

With a shake of her fist, Jela was very pleased with the Coptis Minor Elf’s deflated appearance; with a twirl, it flew up and shouted, “Jela is mighty! Wow!”

The next one to visit was the Worm Room of Ash.

“Do you want to be tied up by me again?” Ash’s expression was calm, and it didn’t feel much for the grown-up Jela, as elves are after all a cold-natured species, “Do you understand the art of ropes, do you know what ropes can create? If you don’t understand, you’re not qualified to talk to me.”

After saying that, Ash looked down at the triumphant Jela with a nonchalant gaze.

Just like when it first came to the Castle, Ash always seemed unaffected and lofty, but no elf knew what kind of soul hid within its heart.

Jela was confused for a moment.

When it was a minor elf, its intelligence was limited, but now as a Greater Elf, its IQ had increased significantly. However, Ash's words still sound like a foreign language to it—in fact, Ash was speaking Wind Language, but as a sprite of Liszt who mastered both Serpent Script and Wind Language, Jela understood Wind Language.

It did not understand what the other was saying, but Jela knew that it wouldn't be right to back down at this moment, so it bared its teeth and roared, "Wow! You bastard!"

Bang thud!

Ash closed the door of the Worm Room, revealing a trace of disdainful smirk: "Ignorant, vulgar."

The metal door nearly smacked Jela in the face, infuriating it instantly, yet it could do nothing about Ash—the Worm Room was made of rock, the door was of steel, the windows were of glass, all of which could block its seed-spreading magic, preventing it from attacking from a distance.

It intended to kick the door, but a kick on the metal door instead sent a jolt of pain through its own foot: "Wow!"

It pondered.

It was a bit annoyed.

It decided to put aside the idea of settling scores with Ash for the time being and instead flew down the stairs, all the way to the underwater Worm Room on the second basement level. It searched room by room along the pool, but couldn't find Giant Algae Greater Elf Pike, the Greater Elf who had called it ugly and seemed to have hidden somewhere.

Just as it wanted to continue the search, Liszt had already called it back with a mental summon.

"Wow, Jela, the mightiest of Thorn Castle!" Back in front of Liszt, Jela stood on the table, bold and imposing with hands on hips, looking every bit the fighter it felt itself to be.

Liszt patted its head: “Remember what I’ve taught you, no fighting in the Castle, don’t bully other elves, and most importantly, now that you’ve become a Greater Elf, you should be tranquil. If you’re feeling bored, go plant more thorns and become a Greater Elf that develops in all aspects of morality, intelligence, physique, aesthetics, and work.”

He had let it run wild for a while, but now was the time to tighten up, no longer indulging its behavior.

Jela’s restlessness and temper were likely the driving force behind its progress, but it had to be said that if it was always so noisy, it was also quite annoying.

He now possessed four Greater Elves.

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Giant Algae Greater Elf Pike was narcissistic and had a sharp tongue, but unless you sought him out, he absolutely wouldn’t bother you, spending his days leisurely in his underwater castle.

Pea Great Elf Ash liked to pursue rope artistry, perhaps having a bit of a unique taste, but he was always quiet and didn’t bother anyone.

Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree Greater Elf Annie lived in the wild, helping to care for Flame Dragon Bird Eggs, contributing effort without being annoying—her temperament was somewhat similar to Mangrove Minor Elf Nami; they both weren’t highly valued in and of themselves, but were loved because of their hard work.

Only Thorn Greater Elf Jela, with her explosive temper, not only hadn’t mellowed but had become noisier.

“Jela wants them to admit that Jela is the strongest in the castle.” Jela’s competitive spirit was still burning. She had dared to challenge Greater Elves even when she was a Little Minor Elf, and one could only imagine now.

Feeling Jela's emotions, Liszt thought that suppressing them was perhaps not the best approach, so he coaxed her, saying, "The strength obtained through fists or words will not convince the other elves to respect you. Do you understand?"

"Don't understand."

"It means that even if they admit you're strong in words, they still won't accept it in their hearts."

"If they admit with their mouths, Jela is the strongest!" she replied, puffing out her chest, her thinking very straightforward—no matter what they thought, as long as they verbally acknowledged her as the strongest, that was enough.

That was the way of the elves; Liszt found it difficult to use human thinking to empathize with them.

However, he wasn't discouraged: "Jela, battles can't determine a winner or loser, and I won't allow it. If you truly want to become the strongest elf in Thorn Castle, then there's a good way—you know of Annie, right? Annie is about to evolve into a Dragon Elf. If you can evolve into a Dragon Elf before her, all the elves here will worship you!"

"Wuuah?"

Jela didn't quite understand what a Dragon Elf was.

Liszt, while making gestures, communicated with her mind to mind: "Dragon Elves are this big, a meter tall, their bodies increasingly resembling humans, filled with wisdom, knowing how to wear clothes, knowing how to study knowledge. It can help its owner manage all elves, becoming an administrator among elves."

Regarding information on Dragon Elves, the Grand Duke had already written back to Liszt, introducing the Sapphire family's Oat Dragon Elf.

As a Dragon Rearing Family, in over 150 years of building the Kingdom, they had only raised two Dragon Elves. The earliest of the two was the Juniper Dragon Spirit, the Dragon Elf rumored from the Bull Family, with Juniper Wine being brewed by the Juniper Dragon Spirit.

Back then, the First Grand Duke was still alive. He passed the Sapphire Dragon inheritance to his eldest son and the Dragon Elf inheritance to his younger son, the first Marquis of the Bull—now with the Bull Family having rebelled, descendants have already run off with the Juniper Dragon Spirit to the Eagle Kingdom, living hidden in some corner.

Dozens of years after the First Grand Duke passed away, the Sapphire Family raised another Dragon Elf, the current Oat Dragon Elf.

According to the Grand Duke's description, initially, the two Greater Elves, Juniper and Oat, loved the Sapphire Dragon, spending the days close to the Sapphire Dragon. Unbeknownst to them, they became Dragon Elves—the transformation was completely unexpected, only one day they discovered the Greater Elves started to grow taller.

However, the chances of a Greater Elf evolving were not high. In the more than 150 years, there were ten Greater Elves who liked the Sapphire, but only two evolved. Others left the Sapphire Dragon one day, no longer liking it, which was probably a sign of failed evolution.

Currently, there were still two Greater Elves who loved the Sapphire Dragon dearly, spending days with the Sapphire.

But despite loving it for over twenty years, they remained just that, lovers, with no evolution.

Thus.

Liszt had already grasped that Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree Greater Elf Annie was on the edge of evolving, not knowing how long it might take or if the evolution might fail.

He planned to test Ash, Pike, and Jela one by one to see if they could also reach the cusp of evolution.

After all, he was a man with two dragons, with even more dragons awaiting him in the future. The Fire Dragon didn't like to switch for the Light Green Gemstone Dragon, the Light Green Gemstone Dragon didn't like to switch for the Formless Dragon, the Formless Dragon didn't like to switch for any other type of dragon.

There will be one they'll love!

Chapter 765: Flame Number

Heading out to sea no longer meant cramming onto a shell with a three-meter diameter.

After the transformation of the Sunset, the second three-masted ship was officially launched at the dock of New Harbor Town. However, this ship was peculiar; it had no sails, no masts, no oars, no rudder, only a frame adorned with a few large cabins and a luxurious captain's quarters at the bow.

The ship was named Flame Number.

It was Liszt's second flagship; its power came from the water control ability of Ach.

Ever since experiencing the high-speed voyage on the shell controlled by Ach, he had been designing the Flame Number to facilitate travel with Ach, especially on trips back and forth between Black Horse Island and Dodo Island where he had to wait for Leo and often spend the night there in an old cabin or in a tent he pitched himself.

But with this special Flame Number, one could completely rest in the luxurious cabins on board.

...

Ach also had a large cabin for a laboratory, where she could conveniently experiment during their travels.

Also, as long as the voyage wasn't a secret, such as to Mind Island or Dodo Island, they could take servants along and enjoy being waited on.

The Flame Number's maiden voyage did not include any servants.

It was just Liszt and Ach who settled into the luxurious cabin at the bow, and then Ach controlled the seawater to lift the Flame Number like a torpedo blast, carving two huge waves and disappearing at the seaside.

“It’s truly amazing!”

“Prince Archmage is so powerful.”

“The Dragon Knight and Archmage are indeed the pinnacle of strength!”

“At sea, no one can match the two princes. Once we establish our kingdom, we will surely be the new masters of the seas!” the knights exclaimed as they watched the calm seas after the departure.

Distance indeed makes the heart grow fonder.

But sometimes, it’s only up close that one can appreciate the unimaginable.

Liszt and Ach’s frequent appearances in their territory did not cause aesthetic fatigue. Instead, every appearance sparked a fierce adoration. This small island on the edge of the Legendary Continent was gradually becoming part of the legend.

At least the magicians of the nearby kingdoms had already started their pilgrimage to Black Horse Island.

...

Snowflakes gently fell one by one.

The Flame Number moved smoothly over the turbulent sea, unaffected by its undulations. Ach was multitasking, controlling the voyage of the Flame Number while drawing magic array patterns. She had already begun attempting to create a second type of super magic, having already verified the principle.

This new super magic, temporarily named “Spiral Ultra-High Pressure Water Drill,” shared a similar principle to the previous super magic—Chainsaw-Style Super High-Pressure Water Cutter—but differed in the structure of the magic array and theoretically also in the force exerted. The water cutter focuses on cutting, while the water drill focuses on piercing.

Liszt, holding a cup of Banpo Cattle milk, watched Ach drawing attentively, wondering if he felt a bit ashamed.

Ach was creating super magics from scratch, taking care of so many magic experiments every day, and had successively created both the water cutter and water drill. He still hadn’t come up with the third move of “Fire Dragon Knight-Dragon Qi Secret Manual”, let alone completely mastering the first move, Dragon Slash, and the second, Sky Burning.

Of course, it wasn’t that Liszt was lazy.

It was that he had too many concerns and hadn’t devoted all his energy to training.

“Brother, we’re almost at Dodo Island. The voyage took a total of eighty-six minutes, slightly slower than the speed of controlling the shell, and it consumed more magic power,” said Ach without looking up. Almost the moment she finished speaking, Dodo Island came into view.

The eighty-six-minute voyage covered over eight hundred kilometers.

That meant the sailing speed of Flame Number was close to 560 kilometers per hour, nearly half the speed of sound. Compared with commercial airplanes cruising at about 800 kilometers per hour, it was somewhat slower, and much slower than fighter jets that could reach over two thousand kilometers per hour.

But in this world, such a voyage speed could be described as terrifying.

Boom!

A water tornado lifted the Flame Number onto the shore. As the water receded, the ship was securely placed on the beach. Liszt stood up, and a flame shot out from his chest,

exploding mid-air into a Flame Dragon with a wingspan of twenty-five meters, soaring overhead.

The wingspan is twenty-five meters, not twenty.

After devouring the corpse of a Flame Dragon Bird and wheedling ten Phoenix Feathers from Li Si Te, Leo's wingspan expanded by a full five meters, and his size increased considerably. If it weren't for the sake of further research, Li Si Te wouldn't mind feeding it the other Flame Dragon Bird's corpse and the remaining six Phoenix Feathers.

Li Si Te had tasted the meat of the Flame Dragon Bird and found it average, not as tasty as chicken.

But filled with abundant Fire Attribute Mana, it was a great tonic for knights with Fire Attribute Dou Qi. An Earth Knight could get the effect of a full day's worth of medicine from just one bite.

“Ohoo!”

Leo roared and charged towards the Dodo Island Volcano crater to complete his training.

Li Si Te patted the three Jade Boxes in the room, and instantly the three dozing Greater Elves, Jela, Ash, and Pike, woke up. Jela and Ash landed on Li Si Te's shoulders, one on the left and one on the right; they could fly. Pike couldn't fly and had to be supported by Li Si Te's hand.

“Waa!”

Jela glared at Ash.

Ash looked calm and curious, surveying the island ahead without paying attention to Jela.

Pike chuckled, “Handsome Pike has visited this place.”

At that moment, a series of “li li” and “ko da” bird calls came from afar, followed by the Greater Elf Annie of the Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree flying over, “Li Si Te, you’ve arrived.”

Its Serpent Script pronunciation was getting better, but it hadn’t dropped its habit of speaking Bird Language; it would lapse into it whenever it was happy.

“Annie, stay here and continue studying Serpent Script and Wind Language with Ach. I have something to do at the Light Green Gemstone Dragon’s side.”

“Okay, Li Si Te.”

...

The Light Green Gemstone Dragon, in its slumber, did not have much snow accumulating on it, and its breath seemed to be getting stronger; it appeared ready to awaken at any moment.

“Jela, Ash, Pike, do you like this dragon?” Li Si Te mainly brought the Greater Elves to see the dragon to find out if they liked it and if it could trigger a chance for evolution.

They had already tested with Leo, and the three Greater Elves felt indifferent towards him.

Pike was the first to speak up, “Handsome Pike doesn’t like this dragon, you understand me, Li Si Te. I would prefer a Water Dragon that I could ride for traveling everywhere. No sea monster would dare to disrespect me and the Water Dragon. This dragon just doesn’t look handsome enough.”

Indeed, Li Si Te had no expectations for Pike, as it was normal for sea spirits to be close to Water Dragons—since no other dragons would jump into the sea to befriend them.

Ash was the second to speak, standing on the Light Green Gemstone Dragon, it somehow produced a rope and seriously tugged at it, gesturing towards the Light Green Gemstone Dragon several times, “No, it’s too big. My rope can’t bind it. Do you need to tie it up, Li Si Te?”

“No need, thank you.”

“You’re welcome.”

The Pea Great Elf perhaps wasn’t compatible or hadn’t triggered the opportunity; it had no interest in the Light Green Gemstone Dragon. Only Jela was left; Jela had only recently evolved into a Greater Elf and was just eleven years old, so after touching the scales of the Light Green Gemstone Dragon, it was completely puzzled.

It had no clue what Li Si Te was trying to do.

In any case, none of the three Greater Elves encountered an evolutionary opportunity.

“Let’s go, your business here is done. Return to the Flame Number and continue sleeping.” He placed the three Greater Elves back into the boxes, with Ach taking care of them.

Li Si Te, along with Annie, headed to the Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree, ready to roast the Flame Dragon Bird Egg.

Just as he was about to set out, the Binary Magic Platform in the room suddenly made a dripping and ticking noise, indicating that a message had come through.

Ach quickly read out the message, “Brother, the Adventure Fleet has discovered an island almost as large as Black Horse Island.”

Chapter 766: Dragon Fire Roasted Bird

“Ach, have Yevich send over the detailed information on the new island, and increase the search efforts in the surrounding sea area to see if it’s part of an archipelago. After determining the location, we’ll head over tomorrow.” Liszt gave his instructions and then went with Ani to the Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree.

In the Flame Dragon Bird’s nest, three enormous eggs still lay quietly.

With the Eye of Magic, one could see the fiery red light within the eggs, outlining the curled-up shapes of the chicks, indicating that the eggs were close to hatching. When he stirred up his Dragon Dou Qi to transform it into flames and scorched the eggs, he could clearly feel the “cheers” of the tiny lives inside.

Ani danced excitedly nearby as well.

It was hard to explain why there was a symbiotic relationship between Ani and the Flame Dragon Birds, with the only connection being that both were Fire Attribute creatures.

...

“Flame Dragon Bird.” Ani murmured some still unfamiliar words, “Phoenix Perch Parasol, Fire Dragon Leo, Liszt, Acherloides, Pike, Ash, Jela... Haha, the eggs are about to hatch, Liszt, the little Flame Dragon Birds are going to come out.”

However, to Ani’s disappointment, just as the Flame Dragon Bird eggs were about to hatch, they suddenly stopped absorbing Fire Attribute Dou Qi, having reached their daily absorption limit.

“What a pity, we couldn’t hatch all three chicks in one go,” Liszt shook his head.

At that moment, an idea struck him, and he looked towards the direction of the volcano crater.

A flame shot up into the sky, instantly transforming into the figure of Leo, who then flew down the slope towards Liszt, issuing a majestic “Oh-ho!”

Despite the loud call, Liszt could tell it was filled with indignation: “What’s wrong, Leo?”

“Oh-ho!”

Leo informed him that the magma in the volcano crater had severely contracted, and very little Volcanic Super Magic had coalesced, meaning that its “dining hall” was about to close down.

“Take me to see.”

“Take me with you,” Ani waved from the side.

“Come here.” Liszt picked up Ani, hopped onto Leo’s Dragon Tooth Platform, and then flew towards the volcano crater. Ani stretched out little hands to constantly touch Leo’s scales, occasionally revealing a blissful expression on its cute face. If it weren’t for its endearing appearance, such behavior would be quite unseemly.

Circling over the volcano crater, they could already see the situation below clearly.

Originally divided in half, one side of the crater contained magma, the other a hot water lake. However, now, the steam from the hot water lake had significantly decreased, and the magma was almost invisible, with the outer layer of magma reduced to mere traces of red—cooling faster than Liszt had imagined.

“Indeed, the Dodo Island Volcano is about to enter a dormant period,” Liszt frowned, a wave of annoyance washing over him.

Without the volcanic magma to assist Leo in coalescing Super Magic, relying solely on Magic Potions for this purpose would not only slow down the growth but would also consume a massive amount of magical resources, delaying the development of his territory.

But he was not one to complain.

If the Dodo Island Volcano was cooling, then it was time to search for a new one: “Leo, there’s no need to be upset, I will send a message to the Sapphire Duke and have him help search for a new volcano crater within the Sapphire region for your cultivation,” Liszt reassured him. Renting a crater with magma should not be difficult; the challenge was finding such a crater.

Upon hearing this, Leo let out a reluctant “Oh-ho,” helplessly accepting the reality.

But its eyes swiftly turned as it quickly thought of something else, communicating with Liszt: “I want to eat the corpse of the Flame Dragon Bird, there’s one left uneaten, and there are six Phoenix Feathers, I want them all!”

“You can eat the corpse of the Flame Dragon Bird, but the Phoenix Feathers are off-limits,” Liszt declared unequivocally. Although the meat of the Flame Dragon Bird was highly nutritious, it was quite average in taste, which would be a bit of a waste for him to eat—his body was not as strong as a dragon’s and couldn’t fully digest it.

Giving it to Leo to eat would maximize the benefit. He wasn’t sure what the structure of a dragon’s stomach was like, but as long as food went in, it could be broken down and absorbed immediately.

Humans couldn’t achieve this with food, with very low utilization rates.

So the meat of the Flame Dragon Bird could be given to Leo—but not the Phoenix Feathers, which he intended to keep to study and possibly pass on as heirlooms.

“^

After some bargaining, it was finally settled that Leo would eat meat but not feathers.

However, Liszt soon discovered the cunning nature inherent in Leo the Evil Dragon, as he flew towards the Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree, intending to devour those three bird eggs.

“Absolutely not!”

“Oh-ho!”

A man and a dragon stopped beside the great tree, staring covetously at the bird’s nest, locked in intense standoff. Ani, unaware of what was happening, was still blissfully stroking Leo’s scales, smiling foolishly—being able to touch his favorite Flame Dragon, life seemed almost unimaginable.

The clash of thoughts was as quick as lightning and fire; a mere second had passed in the outside world, but dozens of confrontations had already taken place within.

Liszt finally succeeded in suppressing Leo's greed, convincing him to abandon the desire for the Flame Dragon Bird eggs: "Let's go, back to taking the medicine!"

"Oh-ho!" Leo turned around.

But at that moment, he suddenly twisted his head and, taking advantage of Liszt's momentary lapse, sprayed a Dragon Breath directly at the nest without warning. The scorching, boiling Dragon Breath instantly enveloped the nest, and the nest and tree branches, which could not catch fire, were charred on the surface by the Dragon Breath.

Crack, crack, crack.

The sound of the eggs cracking was exceptionally clear amid the spray of Dragon Breath.

"How dare you!"

Liszt was furious, his will instantly ascending, as he forcefully broke into Leo's mind in a flash. Inside was still a volcano, and at the crater resided a Little Fire Dragon, whose eyes were filled with an evil aura.

Without any words.

Liszt transformed the smoke entwined around him into a five-meter-long Dragon Lance, and, merging with the lance, he pierced like a celestial being flying out of this world, right into the Little Fire Dragon's head.

A single puncture!

The Little Fire Dragon had no power to struggle or fight back.

The volcano collapsed, the scene changed rapidly, and a new Fire Dragon was being nurtured.

Liszt also emerged from Leo's mind. At that time, Leo's faint "Oh-ho" sound expressed his grievance, without a hint of his previous aggression—the evil thoughts had just been vanquished by Liszt's lance, giving rise to pure and fresh new thoughts.

Liszt, having successfully slain the evil thoughts of the Fire Dragon, felt no joy, for the Dragon Breath had already hard-boiled the three eggs until they cracked.

All was for naught!

But suddenly, Ani flew out, excitedly pointing at the nest that had been baked by the Dragon Breath and shouting, "Liszt, the Flame Dragon Bird eggs, they're hatching!"

"Hmm?"

Liszt then paid attention to the nest again and was astonished to find that not only were the three eggs not hard-boiled, but they were also brimming with a strong vitality.

Within the sight of the Dragon Eye Trajectory, the chicks in the eggs were already struggling, attempting to break the shells.

Their movements became larger and stronger, and the already cracked shells couldn't possibly prevent them from continuing to break out.

Seeing this, Liszt opened his mouth but didn't know what to say, "Could it be that just now Leo wasn't trying to kill the eggs, but was actually helping them hatch? No, no, no, that can't be right, the Evil Dragon was only thinking of devouring the eggs, my act of slaying Leo's evil thoughts was a righteous deed!"

Chapter 767: Little Bird

Crack!

The bird egg finally cracked open, and a tender little bird poked its head out from the crevice. It was hairless, its skin purplish-red, but its eyes were already open.

A pair of bird eyes were very lively.

Immediately after, a second little bird stuck out its head, and then a third little bird followed suit.

In just a short while, all three little birds had broken out of their eggs, chirping noisily in delight at their new lives. They slowly began pecking at their eggshells, their half-inch long beaks agile and sharp, crunching on the eggshells as if nibbling on biscuits.

...

“Li Si Te, the little birds, Flame Dragon Birds, are so ugly, haha!” Ani danced joyfully, flying around the nest. “Eh, look quickly, they’ve grown feathers!”

Li Si Te didn’t need Ani’s reminder.

Remaining in Dragon Rider Mode, Li Si Te had been observing the new-born Flame Dragon Birds with the vision of Dragon Eye Trajectory, and he was well aware of the changes happening to their bodies after eating the fire attribute mana-rich eggshells. Those shells had all turned into magic power, helping them to condense feathers one by one.

The clearest was the condensation of the tail feathers; seven still weak tail feathers materialized in a different form within Liszt’s perception.

“So this is how tail feathers are born... the fusion of soul and magic power, Flame Dragon Birds are combining their souls with their tail feathers. It’s like how legends say dragons conceal their souls within their teeth, and Super Dragon Beasts also choose to hide their souls in some part of their bodies.”

The Thunder Attribute turtle had chosen its shell, and the Flame Dragon Birds had chosen their tail feathers.

Liszt had many realizations, but still felt it wasn’t enough: “Something is still missing. I can’t see the fusion and transformation of soul and magic clearly enough! I need more Flame Dragon Birds; I need more Super Dragon Beasts to peek into the secrets of the soul!”

He had always disliked touching upon souls, feeling it was a desecration of life.

But it was at this moment that he realized his lack of understanding of the soul was preventing him from grasping the higher secrets of life— perhaps the fusion of soul and magic was part of the cultivation process following becoming a Dragon Knight.

“It seems I still have to fund magicians to research the soul... But there’s no rush, I’m still young with time to spare, I can explore the secrets of the soul later!”

In the midst of his contemplation.

The three little Flame Dragon Birds had eaten their eggshells and sprouted fresh, bright red feathers, each about the size of a rooster but with slimmer bodies and more abundant feathers. Compared to the imposing adult Flame Dragon Birds, these little birds were cuter.

“Caw!”

“Caw!”

“Caw!”

Having consumed their eggshells and grown feathers, the three little Flame Dragon Birds immediately flapped their wings, eager to fly. After a few trial flights inside the nest, they flapped their wings vigorously and took to the air, at first wobbling and nearly falling, but after some distance, they mastered the skill of flight and began circling the Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree.

A moment later, the three little Flame Dragon Birds suddenly flew beside Little Fire Dragon Leo, merrily flying and calling around him.

Ani joined them, laughing along with the little birds.

“Oh, roar!” Leo released Dragon Might, and instantly, the three little Flame Dragon Birds were frightened and plopped down to the ground, while only Ani, accustomed to the Dragon Might, wasn’t stunned by it.

After falling to the ground, the three little Flame Dragon Birds quickly got up and flapped their wings to fly again. Despite just having hatched, they were very robust and weren't injured at all. However, Leo continued to release Dragon Might, making it impossible for the three birds to take flight.

Even under the oppression of Dragon Might, they showed signs of fainting.

“^

“Withdraw your Dragon Might, Leo,” Liszt couldn't bear to see Leo bully the fledglings. Having just had its malevolent thoughts dispelled, Leo was obedient and immediately withdrew its Dragon Might, drooling at the three little birds — it still wanted to eat; the Flame Dragon Bird was a great tonic for it, and the temptation was hard to resist.

However, the little birds took Leo as their parent and immediately flew up to continue circling around Leo.

“Oh-ho.”

Leo's saliva dropped, quickly evaporating into steam — it was suggesting the little birds came to it on their own.

“They like you, and you can't eat them. I'm going to raise them... Come back inside, Leo,” Liszt, worried that the little birds would continue to trigger Leo's evil thoughts, simply had Leo return to his body.

Leo disappeared.

Yet, the little birds seemed to still sense Leo's presence and began circling around Liszt again. He stretched out his hand, and immediately a little Flame Dragon Bird landed on it, chirping at him incessantly.

“Liszt, the little birds are so cute,” Ani said with a chuckle as it landed on his shoulder.

“So, Ani, have you seen what Flame Dragon Birds eat?” Liszt asked, guessing the little birds were probably hungry as they kept opening their mouths.

Without parents to feed them, Liszt had to do it himself.

“Large snakes, large cats, large lizards, large birds...” Ani went through the list with his stubby fingers, naming the creatures Flame Dragon Birds had been seen eating, mostly magical beasts or wild beasts, carnivorous birds with no particular dietary specialties.

He promptly took out a piece of Magical Beast Meat and tossed it to one of the little birds.

The little bird caught the Magical Beast Meat with its mouth, smacked its lips, and swallowed it down, then continued to open its mouth wanting more. The other two flying little birds also landed on his arm, vying for the Magical Beast Meat. Liszt found it quite novel to feed the three little Flame Dragon Birds, but he couldn’t help but think of another bird.

The Wind Falcon Juan Fu.

The low-level magical beast that refused to submit to him had flown off to unknown parts, never to be seen again.

“I hope you three won’t turn out to be ingrates that fail to show appreciation regardless of how much they’re nurtured.” After feeding them for a while and seeing that the three little birds had eaten their fill, he prepared to return to Flame Number and took the three little birds back to his territory on the way.

With this development, Ani grew lonely. Apart from the slumbering Light Green Gemstone Dragon, there were no other creatures on the island to keep it company.

“Ani, the Dodo Island Volcano is about to enter dormancy, and the concentration of Fire Attribute Mana here will decrease, so you might want to transplant your Cordyceps and move back to Black Horse Island,” he said.

“Huh?” Ani tilted its head, wavering in indecision.

It liked places full of Fire Attribute Mana, as well as the three little Flame Dragon Birds, and it liked Leo even more. However, once the Dodo Island Volcano went dormant, all of this would be gone. But for the moment, Dodo Island still had a strong presence of Fire Attribute Mana, making it hard to let go.

Sensing Ani's dilemma, Liszt didn't press further, "Then you can stay here for now and move after the Dodo Island Volcano enters dormancy... Don't worry, when I establish my kingdom, I'll definitely choose to build my palace on a volcano, and you can plant your Cordyceps right beside the palace!"

With the presence of Fire Dragon Leo, volcanic eruptions posed no threat to Liszt, as Leo would suppress the magma — a grown Fire Dragon could easily control the lava and volcanoes.

Building a palace on a volcano would undoubtedly be a miraculous and stylish feat.

Of course, the local climate might be a serious issue — no one would want to eat and sleep next to a furnace, so all that would have to wait until after the establishment of the kingdom.

Waving goodbye to Ani, Liszt returned to Flame Number with the three little birds.

Ach immediately controlled the Water Tornado, lifting Flame Number, and they set off back to Black Horse Island.

Chapter 768: Learning Bird Language

During the voyage, Liszt named the three little flame dragon birds based on the shades of their feathers: Little Yellow, Little Red, and Little Purple.

The appetites of the three birds were quite substantial and selective; they only ate magical beast meat and refused to consume the flesh of common beasts.

Moreover, Liszt found out that they could actually consume magic potions, their aura surging rapidly after consumption. This similarity to dragons was no wonder they ranked

in the super dragon beast category, possessing the powerful effect of dragon's bloodline—in fact, once they reached adulthood, they would possess formidable dragon might.

This time, Liszt kept quite a few leftover flame dragon bird bones from Leo's meals, which, with the Dragonbone Stabilizer Technique provided by Virginia Truth, could be used to induce the release of dragon might from the dragon bones—although it could not compare with Leo's dragon might, it should be sufficient to deter the sea monsters in the maritime domain.

The vessels of the Magic Goat Family originally flourished by relying on the Dragonbone Stabilizer Technique.

Once the shipyard in the port town learned the technology to build three-masted ships, combined with the fore-and-aft rigging, ramming technology, and the Dragonbone Stabilizer Technique, a powerful fleet that could dominate the seas would definitely be formed, overpowering the naval strength of fleets from the Duchy of Sapphire and the Eagle Kingdom and seizing control of maritime power.

...

"Little Red, don't run off," Liszt admonished as he watched Little Red wanting to fly into the sea, but Little Red had no idea that it was named Little Red.

It merely looked back at Liszt, who had made the noise, and then plunged into the sea.

However, the next moment, a tiny water tornado captured it and threw it back onto the ship, a technique of Ach's water control. Within the range of seawater she could control, it was nearly impossible for any creature to drown or escape.

"Caw!" Little Red flapped its wings noisily.

Liszt rose to his feet and grabbed its neck, "Behave!"

After subduing Little Red, Little Yellow and Little Purple also settled down, and Liszt then shook his head, saying, "We'll need to make a few bird cages when we get back. Taming them to the obedience level of a blizzard beast won't be so simple... Even as younglings, super dragon beasts are still very strong in combat."

These three little flame dragon birds, despite hatching only the day before, each had enough strength to easily kill an ordinary person—sharp beaks, razor-sharp claws, robust bodies, and agile speed, they were born into the predator class.

“Brother, perhaps Ani understands the language of flame dragon birds and should be involved in their training,” Ach suddenly said.

“Hmm?”

“I have observed and recorded the different bird calls of Ani and found there is a very consistent pattern. I have also communicated with Ani, and it truly understands the meanings represented by different bird calls. Although the language of flame dragon birds is quite simple and covers limited content, it’s a good way to communicate.”

“Ani actually mastered bird language?” Liszt was surprised.

Although he had formed a contract with this Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree Greater Elf and shared a mental connection, with so many elves, he had no time to carefully sort through the thoughts of each one. He had always thought that Ani’s bird calls were just unconscious squawks, like the birds in the forest that chirped chaotically every day but hardly communicated.

Now with Ani mastering bird language, training the flame dragon birds presented an additional option. Liszt immediately said, “Let’s train them first and see. If the three birds have good obedience, then there’s no need for Ani to step in; if they have poor obedience, then let Ani join the training of the birds.”

There was no hurry for training.

Liszt soon changed the subject to the issue of soul fusion with the tail feathers of the flame dragon birds, sharing his observations with Ach, and planned to promote research on souls by the Magic Guild when the timing was right.

However, speaking of souls,

Liszt had another concern in mind.

Liszt's evil thoughts constantly grew, with only brief periods of purity after each suppression. They would inevitably resurge, making it exceedingly difficult to eradicate them completely.

Of course, during the times Liszt rode the dragon, Leo's evil thoughts could not stir up any trouble; they were cut down each time they dared to arise. But when the day came that Liszt's vitality waned, with no Dragon Knight to bind him, Leo's malevolent nature would undoubtedly proliferate and ultimately turn him back into an Evil Dragon.

It was very likely that it would backfire on Liszt's progeny.

The solution was straightforward: throw the Fire Dragon into the Wild Forest and let it become a wild Evil Dragon. However, it was, after all, a dragon with the potential to further industrial development through its Fire Attribute Superior Magic, making it a waste to simply discard.

"If I could contract an Immortal Dragon and attain immortality, then Leo could always stay by my side... But why bother with such worries? My future is a boundless world. Perhaps there will come a day when I shall leave the Kingdom to explore the Legendary Continent and the lands on the other side of the Devil's Sea, riding on Leo, never to return."

Being a king, confined to a palace for life, was hard to imagine for him.

Ever since he began Dragon Riding, his spirit had become wild; the world was so vast, why not go and see it? When powerless, satisfying oneself with good food, clothing, and shelter was enough, but with the power to travel the world, one naturally sought to enjoy different landscapes.

...

Back at Black Horse Port.

Territory Officers immediately began moving the prepared supplies onto the Flame Number—Liszt had already contacted the Magic Guild's Magic Platform through his own, issuing orders to prepare supplies.

There were not many Magic Platforms in production at the moment: four aboard the Adventure Fleet, two in the Mage Tower, one in Thorn Castle, and two on the Flame Number, totaling nine. Among these, the Adventure Fleet's were Magic Platforms 2.0 while the rest were version 1.0, a more rudimentary model.

These Magic Platforms were still test machines, to be continuously refined and optimized during use, aiming to achieve a more efficient communication effect by the time Magic Platform 3.0 was designed.

Then they would gradually optimize the coding and add self-destruct and security mechanisms to prevent technology leaks. Once the final design of Magic Platform 4.0 was completed, that was when they planned to widely distribute the Magic Platforms for use in the territory—Liszt intended to finish the deployment of Magic Platform 4.0 by the time he rode his third dragon.

With three dragons at his command, and himself alongside Ach asserting dominance over the sea, there would be no need for any concealment. Even if Magic Platform 4.0 was exposed, no force would dare to rashly attempt to seize it.

As crates and crates of supplies were loaded onto the ship.

Fox, the current leader of the Black Horse Island Knights Order, had already prepared three Knight Squads to set sail and conduct a thorough exploration of the new islands—Marcus, the former leader of the Black Horse Island Knights Order, had officially resigned his position to become an advisor in Giant Algae City.

The port town was about to be upgraded to Giant Algae City.

Liszt naturally had great trust in his former family tutor. He planned to appoint Marcus as the first deputy leader when he established the Burning Knights Group, similar to the Blueblood Knight Order. Once Emily grew up, Marcus would likely have accumulated a lot of military exploits, allowing him to step back gracefully.

Fox, being a Sky Knight, was the current qualified successor to lead the Black Horse Island Knights Order in this peaceful time, leading the knights in exploring new islands.

He could still distinguish himself, although there were few military honors to earn.

“Fox, rest for tonight. Depart punctually at seven in the morning, and I give you half a month to explore the new islands. Map out the terrain and resources thoroughly,” Liszt said.

“As you wish, Your Highness!” Fox replied.

Chapter 769: Light Leaf Aristolochia

The next day.

The Flame Number set sail on time for the new island.

The sailing position of the new island was already marked out, roughly 800 kilometers to the south-southeast of Black Horse Island and still 400 kilometers from the southernmost island explored by Sapphire. Where the Sapphire Duke once claimed dominion over all islands at sea, now that was not the case.

Aside from the waters of the Sapphire Archipelago belonging to the Sapphire Duke, all other islands are ownerless.

Now that Liszt had discovered this island, he was its master—strength would speak for itself when determining the ownership of an island.

And within minutes of setting sail, the Magic Platform received new information.

...

The Discovery expedition ship had found two new islands, one large and one small. The area of the larger island was unknown, but from the outline seen from afar, it may not be as large as Black Horse Island; the outline of the smaller island was just half the size of the larger one. The two islands were very close to each other, and from one island, one could see the other.

In fact, including the previously discovered island, the distances between the three islands were not far from each other.

When Ach translated the message, Liszt immediately smiled, “Very good!”

He had thought the Smoke Mission would take a long time to complete, yet it had been accomplished so quickly—all three islands found in just twelve days.

The Adventure Fleet had set out on January 20, and now it was February 2, exactly 12 days.

With a gentle call, a misty smoke appeared before his eyes, as insubstantial as real smoke, yet like ethereal soap bubbles, bit by bit forming a passage of Serpent Script.

“Mission completed, reward—the agitation of Rubber Elf Bug triplets.”

“How many times have the Rubber Bugs been agitated?” Each agitation of the Rubber Bugs seemed to be related to new Cordyceps.

One produced Fruit Rubber, one produced Fan Rubber, and another turned ordinary Rubber into Fountain Rubber.

“So what will come out of this agitation? Will it be a new species of Rubber Tree, or will one of the Rubber Bugs evolve, or perhaps all will evolve?” He was eager for the evolution of the Rubber Bugs, as rubber was the most used material in the construction of his domain, indispensable in various industries.

Construction needed rubber as a gelling material, carpentry needed it as an adhesive, and the military needed it as a curing material...

As the industries of the domain flourished, the role and value of rubber skyrocketed.

Relying on a few hundred acres of Rubber Gardens planted by Rubber Bug triplets, the yield was too low, and even though Liszt often used Tri-Phase Force to restore the rubber, he still could not meet the demand.

“I’ll know what this triplet is agitated about after I get back!”

He pressed down his thoughts and checked the new content after the smoke had morphed, “Mission: Three new islands discovered—these are new habitable islands you found after Black Horse Island. The dense forests prove that many creatures live on the islands. Please conduct a basic survey of the islands. Reward: Harvest of many Elves.”

“Surveying new islands, a task of no difficulty. But since it involves Elves, I’d better ride a Dragon and use the Dragon Eye Trajectory to take a good look at the plants on the islands and see what Elves are hiding among them... Elves in the forest might be eaten by Magical Beasts, but on small islands, they’re probably safe from being eaten.”

Some Magical Beasts eat Elves; for example, Liszt’s mount, the Landwalker Bird Loki, was captured by Liszt because it wanted to eat Barley Bugs.

Elf Bugs in the forest are very likely to be found and eaten by Magical Beasts.

But general small islands don’t have Magical Beasts, like Black Horse Island, which didn’t have Magical Beasts and naturally gave birth to several Elf Bugs. For these three newly found islands, he naturally expected many Elf Bugs waiting to be bound by contract.

“^

After traveling 800 kilometers, Ach only took half an hour to reach the designated area by controlling the water, but he couldn’t find the exact location of the Three Islands.

Liszt summoned Little Fire Dragon Leo and flew high into the sky to search, soon finding the Three Islands about twenty kilometers away. From above, the Three Islands formed a sharp, cone-shaped triangle, with many smaller islands and a large coral reef distributed between the two closer islands.

They barely comprised a small archipelago.

Beyond this small archipelago, no other islands could be traced. To facilitate reference, Liszt named them one by one, from the largest to the smallest, as First Island, Second

Island, and Third Island. The Flame Number landed on First Island, the one discovered first, docking next to The Explorer.

Compared to the narrow Court Fast Sailing Ship Explorer, the Flame Number was a giant, easily three times the width of The Explorer.

Yevich wasn't on board; he had taken the knights on board to explore the island. However, now Fox was leading three knight squads and a large group of apprentice knights onto the island; the knightly survey of the island's terrains and resources and the apprentices' establishment of a settlement point were left in their hands—

To make it convenient for future visits to the island.

As the knights began their work, Liszt and Ach each busied themselves with their tasks.

Ach needed to precisely record the geographic location of this sea area, draw standard nautical charts, and survey the underwater reefs and currents to determine the future port location. Liszt rode Little Fire Dragon Leo and circled First Island, while the admiring knights watched him survey the forest.

First Island was a lush green island.

The air was cold but without snow, as the island was far from the cold zones.

The description of the Three Islands in the Smoke Mission as habitable was not accurate—overall, the islands were a mountain range in the sea, with not a single flat area, making it difficult to settle and build towns. The place was only suitable as a sea replenishment point for fresh water, where fleets could rest and resupply.

If fruit trees and vegetables were planted here and some small animals were raised, then it could indeed become a decent supply point.

At this moment, Dragon Eye Trajectory was deployed.

The island forest suddenly displayed a unique color in Liszt's sight, weaving a vivid tapestry of lifelike wind, growing trees, and firm earth. He was already accustomed to such sights and carefully scanned right above the forest.

No magic power feedback glow from magical beasts was found, suggesting that there were no magical beasts on this island.

After spending half a day, Liszt meticulously scanned First Island from end to end and spotted a total of seven magic feedback glows. Four were from elves, including two Elf Bugs and two that were breeding; the other three were plant feedback, but without breeding Elf Bugs, indicating mutated magic plants.

Among them, a small shrub was a magic plant that Liszt was very familiar with—the Bloodline Fruit!

“One Mouse-tailed Sage Elf Bug, whose sage leaves can be dried and used as incense; one Rootless Vine Elf Bug, apparently a parasitic weed. The ones breeding are the Pine Elf Bug and the Purple Butterfly Elf Bug, both severely malnourished and at risk of miscarriage, needing immediate fertilization.”

Liszt recorded their locations, first contracting the Mouse-tailed Bug and the Rootless Vine Bug, then informed the apprentice knights of the Pine Bug and Purple Butterfly Bug's locations for fertilization.

He then examined the two magic plants, which were both individual mutations without Elf Bugs or a cluster, at risk of reverting to ordinary plants.

“One Lycoris Magic Medicine, and one... aristolochia (ba-qia)?” Liszt carefully recognized that the Lycoris was a chaotic magic plant, while the aristolochia was a special Light Attribute magic plant, one of the rarest kinds in nature.

Because Light Attribute magic plants were so rare, the recorded types could be counted on one hand, and among them, the mutated variety of aristolochia was called Light Leaf Aristolochia, a highly valuable magic plant species.

However, the problem was that Liszt did not have an aristolochia elf.

Chapter 770: Erect Centipeda

Magic potions with the Light Attribute are highly valuable because magicians who study Light System Magic need the enhancement of Light Attribute magic potions; otherwise, it's very difficult to attune themselves with Light Attribute Magic Power.

Not only is it tough to attune to Light Attribute Magic Power, but the affinity for Dark Attribute Magic Power is also difficult, and the magic potions of these two attributes are very scarce, hence the consistently high prices.

"It's a pity I don't have the Aristolochia Insect... Neither the Light Leaf Aristolochia nor the Lycoris has an elf," Liszt could only dig up the two magic potion plants, soil and all, and wrap them up to place in his Space Ring—the stillness of the space could preserve the vitality of plants without souls.

He would wait until he obtained the Aristolochia Bug and the Lycoris Bug, and then he would start planting them.

Of the seven magical plants that showed luminance of magic feedback, the last one was a small shrub that bore a Bloodline Fruit. Seeing this fruit flickering with yellow Magic Radiance excited Liszt.

He had always hoped to find another Bloodline Fruit, preferably one with Earth Attribute Magic Power, and then catch a batch of Fierce Earth Dogs to breed the young pups. Using the Bloodline Fruit to stimulate evolution during their infancy, if they could survive the violent power of evolution, he could get a new Blizzard Beast, and that would be the perfect time to breed them with Douson's lineage.

...

Thus, creating a legion of Blizzard Beasts.

One day, each member of his Burning Knights Group would have a Blizzard Beast for sieges, which would be terrifyingly effective.

“Forget it, I shouldn’t get my hopes up too high. The failure rate of evolution with a Bloodline Fruit is much higher than the success rate. It’s not like every time I can rely on the power of the Smoke Dragon to influence the Threads of Destiny,” Liszt dug up the Bloodline Fruit along with its roots and tucked it into his Space Ring as well.

He carefully monitored the reaction of the Bloodline Fruit in the Gemstone Space; if its magic began to fade, he would immediately take it out.

Fortunately, the fruit was instantly stilled and couldn’t overcome the spatial force of the Formless Dragon—currently, only the Mind Fruit Tree could break through the stillness of spatial forces, dying instantly with no way to stop it.

With that,

His inspection of the first island was complete.

Liszt continued towards the second island, the Dragon Eye Trajectory constantly searching for the luminance of magic feedback on the island, which was one-third smaller than the first island.

The first island was roughly comparable to Black Horse Island, just under two thousand square kilometers; the second island was about one thousand three hundred square kilometers, and as for the third island, Liszt estimated it was only a bit over five hundred square kilometers.

However, the discoveries on the second island surpassed those of the first. There were only two magical feedback radiance spots here, both belonging to elves.

But besides a Mangrove Elf Bug, there was also a Little Minor Elf, one capable of producing magic potions—a straight Erect Centipeda Minor Elf!

“Great!” After contracting with this tiger-headed, simple-minded little fellow with a large green leaf on its head, Liszt felt exceptionally content.

Erect Centipeda is an ornamental plant, much favored by nobles to decorate their estates—large clumps of bright green Erect Centipeda indeed look spirited. Commoners, on the

other hand, use Erect Centipeda as a medicinal herb, with its root corms mainly used for killing insects—head lice, body lice, and crabs can all be eradicated.

There were plantations of Erect Centipeda on Black Horse Island—Yevich Water Peanut had an Erect Centipeda Elf Bug that could cultivate Erect Centipeda magic potions.

So this Erect Centipeda Minor Elf belonged to the category of potion-producing elves.

Contracting and collecting Cordyceps, Liszt finished searching the second island, and it was just after three in the afternoon, so he continued his patrol to the third island. The vegetation there was also dense, and the terrain was rugged, filled with gullies. Such an environment was not suitable for habitation, but many birds lived there.

Perhaps due to the large number of birds, any Elf Bugs that emerged were eaten, and no magical feedback luminance was seen on the island. However, as soon as Liszt landed, he discovered caves at many of the gullies.

Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.

He directly entered one of the caves, and it was only then that he realized he had been mistaken—this island was not an island of birds but of serpent-type creatures.

The cave was riddled with the magic radiance feedback from various Serpent Type Beasts, including those of the Earth Attribute, Fire Attribute, Water Attribute, Wind Attribute, and Thunder Attribute, with only the Light Attribute, Dark Attribute, and Ice Attribute missing. However, the magic radiance from these serpent beasts was dim.

It seemed that their magic power was so diluted that they might not even be able to cast magic.

“No, it’s not that their magic power is weak, but that they are hibernating!” Liszt pulled out a few hibernating snakes from a branching small cave.

The magic attributes of these snakes varied, but their patterns and colors looked the same, resembling a certain kind of earthy yellow viper. Liszt had never seen this type of viper before, nor had he seen any similar records—it was quite unusual for the same type of magical beast to possess different attributes.

In Liszt's hands, the vipers quickly woke from their hibernation, apparently not in a deep hibernation and could be roused at any moment.

Hiss, hiss!

They tried to bite Liszt, but with their heads pinched, they couldn't bite at all.

"If they have venomous fangs, they're venomous snakes... I wonder if they can be raised artificially. These many serpent-type magical beasts could be an excellent source of Magical Beast Meat." He looked at the viper in his hand, but his thoughts turned to how to make snake soup, "Perhaps there's no need to raise them, just catching a batch from this island every year might suffice."

Especially since these snakes needed to hibernate, one could effortlessly collect them from the cave during winter—their magic power was so diluted while hibernating, they couldn't even use magic, posing almost no threat.

"These vipers aren't long, with short and thick tails; let's just call them Short-tailed Belly Snakes." He quickly caught a batch of Short-tailed Belly Snakes and put them into his Space Ring.

Instantly euthanized.

Snake blood, snake gall, and snake meat remained as fresh as when they were alive: "I'll have Mrs. Abbie cook snake soup herself when I get back, her culinary skills are becoming more exquisite. I wonder how the soup made from this batch of Short-tailed Belly Snakes will taste... As they're Low-Level magical beasts, they should be quite delicious."

He had tasted a wide variety of Magical Beast Meat and had become experienced; the meat of magical beasts was not necessarily better with higher rank.

On the contrary, the meat of Low-Level magical beasts often tasted the best.

High-Level magical beasts' flesh, due to the long-term nourishment and coagulation of magic power in their bodies, had toughened, making it nutritious but not particularly

flavorful. However, the taste of the young offspring of High-Level magical beasts was quite unique; the meat of the immature Six-Headed King Serpent had been surprisingly delicious.

...

Snake meat, taken to go.

Liszt rode Leo and left the Three Islands, continuing to patrol the small isles between the Second and Third Islands without any further gains.

However, the Smoke Mission was successfully completed.

“Mission completed, reward: one Erect Centipeda Minor Elf, and one each of Mouse-tailed Sage Elf Bug, Rootless Vine Elf Insect, Pine Elf Bug, Purple Butterfly Elf Insect, and Mangrove Elf Bug.”

One Little Minor Elf, five Elf Bugs.

Additionally, there were two specimens of Magic Potion, one Bloodline Fruit, and a large number of Low-Level Magical Beast Short-tailed Belly Snakes.

The harvest from the three islands was very rich.

Liszt felt very good about it. Although these weren't islands suitable for establishing a country, their existence was enough to illustrate that the farther seas still had countless islands waiting for his exploration.