

## The Mighty 771

### Chapter 771: Super Magical Beast

He returned to the Flame Number to rest and recuperate.

Liszt began to examine the new mission.

“Mission: The Crystal Alsophila Trees on Mind Island have matured. Although they are off the beaten path and have not yet been discovered by the Eagle Kingdom’s fleet, it is hard to ensure that Mind Island will remain undiscovered forever. Once it is found, the Crystal Alsophila Trees will become a clue. Please collect all the Crystal Alsophila. Reward: A Super Magical Beast.”

“Hmm!”

Upon seeing the content of the mission, Liszt’s interest was instantly piqued. Even without the guidance of the Smoke Mission, he had intended to harvest all of the Crystal Alsophila Trees—once turned into crystal, they were treasures of immense value, precious in and of themselves.

What really concerned him was the reward for the mission, a Super Magical Beast.

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Up to this day, he had a wealth of experience and had seen all sorts of Magical Beasts, but he had yet to come across any Super Magical Beasts or Advanced Dragon Beasts. It was fine not having seen the Advanced Dragon Beasts since he had encountered Super Dragon Beasts before. But he was genuinely curious about what a Super Magical Beast might look like.

“Could it also undergo a transformation in nature similar to that of the Super Dragon Beasts?”

There were no traces of Super Magical Beasts in the Duchy of Sapphire, and even on the Legendary Continent, there were very few records of them. Compared to the frequently mentioned Super Dragon Beasts of legend, Super Magical Beasts were much more low-

key—perhaps the authors of knight novels had a natural bias against species that did not possess dragon bloodlines.

Resulting in Super Magical Beasts garnering almost no attention.

The only Super Magical Beast Liszt had somewhat encountered was related to a vampire. Back in the Trapped Dragon Mountain Iron Mine, he killed the Pureblood Fomuir and found a tooth on him.

According to Mary's explanation, it was a piece of Magic Equipment passed down in the Black Knight Family, a fang of the Super Magical Beast, the Bloodthirsty Bat.

At present, this fang was still in his Space Ring. Although he couldn't use these vampire gears himself, they could serve as rewards for the future achievements of his Blood Servants.

Thinking about it.

He took out the Bloodthirsty Bat Fang to fiddle with, feeling the abundant Blood Magic Power within, and recalled Mary's introduction—that the Bloodthirsty Bat Fang not only provided a significant boost to the vampire's cultivation and casting, but could also be used in a blood exchange ritual to improve the purity of the Pureblood's bloodline.

“According to Mary's explanation, as well as Horus and Bruce's later description of the Black Knight Family, it seems that the original vampires had a significant connection with the Bloodthirsty Bats... It is possible that a magician was bitten by a Bloodthirsty Bat and gradually transformed into the first vampire, thus establishing the vampiric casting profession.”

Unfortunately, as the Magic Web declined, the caster profession generally fell into decline, and civilization subsequently broke down.

The Black Knight Family did not know their own origins.

“I'll find out soon enough how amazing Super Magical Beasts really are. But however incredible they might be, there are limits. Even Super Dragon Beasts are not so extraordinary, and it goes without saying for Super Magical Beasts.”

Compared to dragons and elves, Magical Beasts indeed lack much exquisiteness.

As dusk fell, Ach returned from the sea. She was very happy, holding an Elf Bug in her hands. “Brother, Ach has made a contract with an Elf Bug from the ocean floor, but I don’t know what species its Cordyceps is,” she said, also bringing a kind of seaweed of the same species as the bug’s cordyceps, a green, long-strip common seaweed.

Liszt didn’t know the species either.

Human knowledge of the ocean is limited, so the seaweeds and algae of the sea do not have official names. Up until now, the only sea Elf that Liszt and Ach had contracted and developed was the Giant Algae Elf, which produced a large quantity of Giant Algae Magic Potion. The other Elves had not been much developed.

Even the Kelp Bug and Laver Bug—which bred edible kelp and laver—had not been systematically developed.

Not to mention the other Redstone Flower Bug, Horsetail Bug, and Inkangle Bug; they were simply planted in the sea at random, left to grow on their own.

As more elves emerged, Li Si Te, like many other nobles, no longer paid much attention to Elf Bugs, and it had been a long time since he had focused on conquering sea sprites—conquering them was of little significance, as humans are not marine animals, and it was very difficult to develop oceanic crops.

Just the Giant Algae breeding industry alone required a large number of serfs to travel on the sea every day, facing the danger of being entangled and drowned by the Giant Algae.

It could only be said that the development of the ocean could not be rushed; the equipment for going to sea needed to be developed, and the skills of fishermen needed to be cultivated so that the ocean could be turned into a treasure bit by bit.

“Ach, you come up with a name for its species,” Li Si Te casually said.

“Let’s call it Hydra Grass.”

The name had no particular meaning.

...

After returning to his estate, Li Si Te immediately issued an order for his merchant teams to go to various places to purchase female Fierce Earth Dog pups—he wanted a mate for Douson. As for the free-ranging Earth Matron, old and faded, it no longer had potential, and consuming Bloodline Fruit would only lead to a fatal outcome.

Douson, in its prime and with a bloodline quality far surpassing its eight offspring, was most suited for breeding Blizzard Beasts.

“If feasible, I will have to search for more Bloodline Fruit in the future, cultivate more Blizzard Beasts, expand the genetic pool of the species, and enable the Blizzard Beasts to reproduce on their own.”

The hybrid offspring of Black Blood Treasured Horses and ordinary horses were to be used to arm the regular Knight Orders.

The Black Blood Treasured Horses were to arm the Burning Knights Group.

The Blizzard Beasts, however, were to arm the elite knights within the Burning Knights Group.

Even he fantasized that once Chris summarized the training path for Light Magic Swordsmen, he would also use Leo to train a group of Fire Paladins, then mount Flame Dragon Birds to form an even more elite Royal Knight Squad.

Of course.

To form these Knight Orders would require time to ferment.

After issuing his orders, he quickly gathered a group of skilled serf lumberjacks, along with the Crystal Craftsmen like Brad, to board the Flame Number and set sail for Mind Island on the second day.

Upon landing on the island, they first conducted a reconnaissance.

They found that the large pit where the Mind Fruit Tree once grew did not sprout again.

“It’s possible that all the seeds of the Mind Fruit Tree have been dug up, causing new Mind Fruit Trees to no longer grow here... What a pity, quite a pity. Now we can only see if the deadwood of the Mind Fruit Tree can nurture new Mind Fruit Trees,” Li Si Te shook his head and then turned his attention to the Crystal Alsophila Trees.

Ach often traveled back and forth to Mind Island, recording the growth and changes of the Crystal Alsophila Trees. The Magic Guild was now trying to cultivate new Crystal Alsophila Trees—those that could grow without a dragon’s magic power, something which they had not yet accomplished, but with a large number of seeds in storage, they should be sufficient for slow consumption.

“Start digging, try to remove all the Crystal Alsophila Trees, leaving not a single one,” Li Si Te ordered the Lumberjack Team.

Although the serfs were curious about these beautiful large trees, when the Lord Landlord gave an order, they took their work seriously, digging and chopping, and then handing them over to Crystal Craftsmen like Brad for cutting and loading onto ships.

Li Si Te stood on a rock, waiting for the possible invasion by a Super Magical Beast that might threaten Mind Island at any time.

## Chapter 772: High Intelligence

Facing the vast Crystal Alsophila Trees on the island, Brad wiped the sweat from his forehead, feeling an unprecedented drive. As a Crystal Craftsman, he had begun by grinding telescope lenses, which led him to the acquaintance of the great Lord Liszt Flame.

However, things did not go smoothly. After polishing crystals in the Glint Castle's warehouse, he could only keep company with Volcanic Glass. After the Volcanic Glass carving was over, he went a long time without work—though Lord Landlord still paid him a salary, he couldn't earn any extra profit.

Compared to his time in Coral City, his living conditions had declined.

But as the Lord Landlord became a Dragon Knight, his mindset swiftly changed. To be a craftsman under a Dragon Knight was an honor worth dying for, he thought.

What's more, it was obvious that he wouldn't starve to death now, but he might die of overwork instead.

"Such a magical tree, the whole tree is crystal, pure natural crystal, it's just unbelievable. I'm afraid even if I carve for decades, I wouldn't be able to finish all the crystals in this Crystal Alsophila Tree forest... It seems I should consider entering the Knight Academy's Craftsman Institute to train more Crystal Craftsmen for Lord Landlord."

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When there was no work to do, skills were the guarantee of life, and no one wanted to teach them carelessly.

Especially for Freeman Craftsmen, who treated their skills as family heirlooms, more important than their own lives. Brad wasn't willing to enter the Craftsman Institute before and impart his technology.

However, now looking at the countless Crystal Alsophila Trees, his ideology suddenly advanced to another realm—as a Crystal Craftsman of the Dragon Knight's family, he had no worries about living, so how could he be as petty as the small-time craftsman in the streets.

Looking up.

He saw an Apprentice struggling to cut branches.

He couldn't help walking over and said, "Jolia, your cutting technique is wrong. You should pull the knife in the opposite direction, using the left and right swaying force to resolve the special toughness of crystal, rather than relying solely on the strength in your hands to cut... Let me demonstrate once, you watch carefully."

"Ah, okay, Mr. Brad."

"Follow my teaching well, there's so much crystal here to practice on, strive to become a qualified Crystal Craftsman soon."

"Yes, thanks for your teaching, Mr. Brad," Jolia didn't understand why Brad, who was so miserly with his skills before, was being so generous today, but he was genuinely grateful, "Jolia will study hard and definitely not disappoint Mr. Brad."

Brad's face became solemn, and he said devoutly, "No, Jolia, you should thank Lord Landlord! It is Lord Landlord who has brought the opportunity for a happy life to all of us!"

"Yes, thank Lord Landlord, Lord Landlord is the greatest person! Jolia used to dare only to eat twice a day, but now I eat three meals a day, and sometimes I have to eat a midnight snack when I work overtime at night!"

That's how civilians are.

They might not understand any profound principles, but they are thankful to whoever can make their lives better.

...

While the civilians were grateful to Lord Landlord, he was at that moment gesturing with his hands.

As long as the Crystal Alsophila Tree forest wasn't entirely harvested, the Super Magical Beast would probably not be drawn out by the Threads of Destiny, so he was relaxedly pondering the third technique of the "Fire Dragon Knight-Dragon Qi Secret Manual".

As he continuously sorted through the inspiration in his mind and compared it with the techniques of the “Sapphire Dragon Knight – Dragon Fighting Qi Manuscript” and the “Light Green Sapphire Dragon Knight – Dragon Fighting Qi Manuscript”, he quickly figured out the third signature move for the Fire Dragon Knight—this move bore a principle similar to a knight’s charging sprint.

As a person from a broad-visioned civilized era, whose perspective surpassed the entire world and epoch, he just needed to think seriously, and there was no problem that couldn’t be solved.

In the end.

The technique’s trajectory was already precisely calculated, and a slight arc formed at the corner of his mouth, “Good, it’s done, Since this move is a charging technique, once the Dragon Dou Qi erupts, it can certainly engulf any object in front of me. So... it shall be named ‘Swallow Sun’.”

Following the hacking principle of Dragon Slash, the sweeping principle of Sky Burning, and the charging principle of Swallow Sun, the technique was officially born.

The Little Fire Dragon Leo felt his call.

He burst forth from within his body, transforming into a Fire Dragon with a wingspan of twenty-six to twenty-seven meters—After devouring the carcass of the second Flame Dragon Bird, it grew once more, but without the supplement of Phoenix Feathers, its growth was much less pronounced than before.

“Oh!”

With a roar from Leo, all the workers on Mind Island fell prostrate in fright.

Liszt leaped onto the back of Leo, alighting on the Dragon Tooth Platform, and in an instant, their minds merged as one, they shot straight up into the blue skies and white clouds. In the clouds, he attempted a charge and executed the newly developed technique, Swallow Sun.



The Dragon Lance became the outlet for the torrential Dragon Dou Qi. As they charged, the explosive Dragon Dou Qi evaporated all of the mist within a hundred meters radius. Accompanying this was a series of sonic booms, which quaked the entire sky and caused the few white clouds to show signs of complete collapse.

And the workers on Mind Island, just recovering from the majesty of Leo's presence, were abruptly startled by thunderclaps above their heads on a clear day, causing them once again to fumble their saws and cleavers.

After a good while, when no further disturbances came from the sky, they resumed their normal work.

Moments later, Liszt rode Leo back from the distance, landing he instantly turned into a flame and retracted back into Liszt's body, reshaping the fiery image of a Giant Dragon.

Liszt stood on a rock, letting the wind blow on him for a while.

Then with a few flashes, he returned to the Flame Number. Little Yellow, Little Red, and Little Purple, which were locked in the birdcage, immediately started chirping noiselessly. They felt an endless affection for Liszt, who carried Leo's scent, as if they were seeing their own parents.

Training them however was not as easy as when he first trained Douson, yielding less obedience.

Nevertheless, the three little birds showed signs of high intelligence. They were once locked in a cage, which wasn't secured with a lock, just fastened with a bolt. Surprisingly, the three little birds didn't struggle much before they pulled out the bolt and flew out, creating havoc in the ship cabin of the Flame Number.

Though, in the end, they were harshly reprimanded by Liszt.

Yet, such demonstrations of intelligence made him see the potential in the three birds.

The smarter the species, the easier they are to tame, and once tamed, they are far more cooperative than creatures of lower intelligence. Perhaps a day will come when he could

form a knight order mounted on Flame Dragon Birds. A first wave of Fire System Magic attacks, followed by a cavalry charge of Knight Dou Qi, would be fiercely unstoppable.

The cage unlocked, the three little birds landed on the designated feeding perch, and Liszt began feeding them pieces of Magical Beast Meat.

This was the meat of the Short-tailed Belly Snake. Mrs. Abbie had made a few servings of snake soup last night, but the taste was far from as delicious as he had anticipated.

So he simply used it to feed the birds.

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In a blink of three days, the already small Crystal Alsophila Tree Forest was finally emptied of every tree, including the roots, which were dug up and carried away by the diligent workers.

The Smoke Serpent Script before Liszt then changed.

“Task completed, reward: one Super Magical Beast.”

Chapter 773: Obsidian Stymphalian Bird

“Mission: With the hard work of Mangrove Minor Elf Nami, the territory’s mangrove forest is thriving, and the domesticated green-headed ducks and flamingos are continuously multiplying and growing, providing an endless supply of magical beast food for the territory. The arrival of its kin has made Nami even more enthusiastic about her work. Please provide it with more mangrove forests. Reward: Mutated Mangroves.”

This is the new Smoke Mission.

It is rare to receive a mission about Nami.

Liszt was somewhat surprised because Nami wasn't a minor elf he had directly contracted with—she belonged to Ach. Considering Ach was busy with various experiments all day long, he didn't pay much attention to Nami. Moreover, since Nami was very diligent and seldom interacted with others,

oftentimes Liszt nearly forgot about Nami, especially since she spent much more time living outdoors than in the Worm Room.

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“‘Kin’ must refer to that Mangrove Elf Bug?” Liszt remembered that after completing his task, he had randomly placed the mangrove beetle in the mangrove forest at the mouth of Red River Town's Red River.

Probably, Nami found the mangrove beetle while she was taking care of the ducklings.

“To think that she would be so passionate about her work when she's happy, she truly is a precious little minor elf. Don't worry, there's a large mangrove forest on the island. It's perfect for Nami to visit often to take care of things and see if she can also raise a batch of green caterpillars and green-headed ducks there.”

He collected his thoughts.

Once all the workers boarded the ship, he signaled Ach that they could set off. As the Flame Number sailed away from the shore, Ach leaped into the sea and stood atop a water tornado.

Then, as if countless giant dragons were roaring, numerous water tornados rose from the sea, crashing violently into Mind Island. The continuous torrent buffeted the island's soil, clearing out the holes left by the Crystal Alsophila spinulosa trees and any traces of human activity, returning Mind Island to its original state.

Shortly after, Mind Island had a completely new appearance, with all artificial traces utterly erased.

Ach returned to the ship: “Big brother, I've cleaned Mind Island. Now, even if it's discovered, no one will be able to trace the Light Green Gemstone Dragon's whereabouts from it.”

“Well done!”

Liszt smiled.

The Eagle Kingdom had never given up searching for the Light Green Gemstone Dragon and might discover the island sooner or later. But now, even if they found it, they would just see it as a lonely island in the ocean with nothing on it—of course, just to be safe, Ach would still need to check regularly for any new Mind Fruit Trees sprouting.

“Let’s go!”

The Flame Number restarted, like a giant aircraft skimming over the sea, roaring as it cut through the waves.

Yet the grandeur of the Power of Destiny soon gave Liszt a glimpse of its might—during their voyage, a gigantic seabird swooped towards them.

Its body was pitch black, resembling a Stympthalian bird, with a wingspan of a full twenty meters.

“It’s a Super Magical Beast!” Liszt made a snap decision, instructing Ach to halt the Flame Number while they teamed up to capture the super magical beast. He quickly summoned the Little Fire Dragon Leo and soared into the sky.

The Super Magical Beast, which was leisurely flying, was taken by surprise and almost fell into the sea under the influence of Dragon Might. But before it could recover, countless water tornados rose from the sea, tangling it up. Then Liszt, riding the Fire Dragon, descended from the sky and pinned it down into the ocean.

This Obsidian Stympthalian Bird struggled frantically, churning the sea into turmoil.

Unfortunately.

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It faced Dragon Knights and Archmages, and even two adult Super Dragon Beasts were no match for them, let alone itself. Now that it had fallen into the sea, it was completely at the mercy of Ach—its body size was even larger than that of the Flame Dragon Bird, almost comparable to the Little Fire Dragon when it was just born.

“Goo Gaa!”

The Obsidian Stymphalian Bird weakly soaked in the seawater, struggling inconsistently. As a Water Attribute Super Magical Beast, it did not choke on water and could hold its breath underwater.

When it was no longer struggling violently, Liszt found it convenient to take action.

He directly took out the Mountain Copper Manacles that had bound the Flame Dragon Bird before and used them to bind its feet. Its neck was a bit short and thick for the manacles to bind, and the wings were also difficult to bind. Liszt’s gaze swept over, pondering whether to break its wings to prevent escape.

However, he thought better of it.

The combat power of this Obsidian Stymphalian Bird was much weaker than that of the Flame Dragon Bird—translated to the strength of human knights, it might not even be able to beat Marquis Nuta. The strength of a Super Magical Beast was not significantly different from an Advanced Magical Beast; it merely had more abundant Magic Power.

“Goo Gaa!”

Against two thugs, bound by Mountain Copper Manacles and restrained by the water currents, the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird let out a plaintive cry—it was just flying casually over the sea surface when disaster struck out of nowhere, captured by the Dragon Knight and the Archmage working together. It truly did not deserve such treatment!

But fate was always so unexpected.

The Obsidian Stymphalian Bird, once reigning over the sea, was destined to encounter this disaster.

Ach returned to the bow, controlling the Flame Number to move forward while dragging the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird along. Liszt returned to Leo's back, using Dragon Eye Trajectory to carefully observe the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird's condition—mainly focusing on its Magic Power, he found it to be highly concentrated, but still at a Low Magic level.

“Water Attribute Low-Level Magic Power, evenly distributed, nothing particularly special... Could it be that I was wrong, and Super Magical Beasts don't have special innate changes?”

“Then why does the Bloodthirsty Bat's fang carry a rich concentration of Blood Magic Power?”

Without any answer, Liszt couldn't hide his disappointment; he had thought that Super Magical Beasts would be magical creatures that could reveal many secrets about Magic Power.

However, upon actually obtaining a real Super Magical Beast, he discovered it was merely an ordinary Magical Beast with more abundant Magic Power.

“Since there's no change in properties, then the value of the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird is not as precious as imagined. Maybe I should just slaughter it for meat... or maybe not, the meat of a Super Magical Beast must not taste good... Should I raise it and let it breed smaller Magical Beasts, or break it down into Magical materials?”

After pondering for a long time, it suddenly occurred to him: “I once saw two large whales on the sea on my way to Dodo Island, and now it seems, those two whales might indeed be Super Magical Beasts... But without special properties, it seems hard to distinguish between Advanced and Super Magical Beasts.”

The two large whales could be considered Advanced Magical Beasts, or Super Magical Beasts as well; either way, they were remarkable Magical Beasts.

Liszt's thoughts returned to the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird: “It seems I've always said that I would get a mount for Marquis of Bull Tail. Since the Split-footed Lizard ran away,

should I hand over the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird to the Marquis to tame? The Marquis has already advanced to Completion Level Sky Knight, so he might be able to tame it.”

The Obsidian Stymphalian Bird was not particularly beautiful, but its black body gave it a cold and cool appearance.

It was clearly a Magical Beast suited for sea, land, and air, able to fly in the sky, walk on land, and swim in the sea—ideal as a mount. Moreover, the Magic Attack and physical attack strength of a Super Magical Beast should not be underestimated. If put on the market, even the Sapphire Duke would be tempted.

“I will give it to Marquis of Bull Tail,” he decided after careful consideration.

As the father of a Dragon Knight, the distinguished Marquis Li Weiliam Tulip’s best mount to date was still the Black Blood Treasured Horse that Liszt had sent recently, which was quite modest for his status. A flashy mount like a Super Magical Beast would befit his position.

#### Chapter 774: Degrees of Kinship

Giving a Super Magical Beast to his father, Li Weiliam, from both a strategic and familial perspective, was not a big deal nor a loss.

After all, the Tulip Family and Liszt were bound together, with blood ties that were difficult to sever.

Of course, there were limits to family affection and interests. Liszt still had a Light Green Gemstone Dragon that no one rode. However, he absolutely could not bear to give it to Marquis of Bull Tail, for the strategic value and interests of a dragon were too great—honestly, even if he dared, Li Weiliam might not dare to accept it.

Dragons are naturally proud creatures, not just anyone can ride them.

To dragons, humans are merely ants, and those who have not become Sky Knights by the age of sixteen are even less significant. Only those who become Sky Knights before the

age of sixteen, barely qualifying as stronger ants, have the chance to approach dragons. This is also the standard for the Continental Kingdom's plan for selecting Dragon Knight candidates.

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Worthless individuals will never succeed in riding dragons, so there's no need to waste resources on training them.

And even amongst knights with talent, the ones who actually succeed in riding dragons are one in ten thousand. They need to undergo numerous hardships, pass the tests of dragons, gain the favor of dragons, and thus qualify for a Mind Battle—only by triumphing in a Mind Battle can one truly earn a dragon's recognition and succeed in dragon riding.

Since ancient times, Dragon Knights have been the favored children of the heavens.

Liszt is an exception.

His talent can only be described as mediocre. If it were not for the support of Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruits, he probably would not be able to win over the heart of Leo; if it weren't for taking advantage of the Light Green Gemstone Dragon's serious injuries, coupled with the boost from the Power of Destiny, he would not have been able to eradicate the brand of the First Dragon Knight.

He still has three Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruits, but it would be impractical to waste them on Marquis of Bull Tail—the Marquis is no longer young and could not ride a dragon for many years.

Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruits are for riding more dragons, not for wasting on one that has already been ridden.

Only those knights who, relying solely on their talent and soul, are worthy of riding a dragon—like Emily, whom he is now vigorously training. She started practicing at eleven, became an Earth Knight at twelve, and quickly advanced to Elite Earth Knight, charging towards becoming a Sky Knight.

Such talent is what wins a dragon's favor.



But Emily still needs to prove herself further.

From the sparse historical information available, it is a fact that the Legendary Continent has never given birth to a female Dragon Knight.

Whether the Light Green Gemstone Dragon will recognize Emily in the future remains unknown.

“Actually, when all is said and done, it’s just that I haven’t accepted my relationship with Li Weiliam as father and son,” Liszt reflected, taking the rare opportunity to examine his heart, “My values were fixed before the transmigration, making it difficult to truly integrate into another family, and the original owner of this body seemed to have always had issues with the family.”

To be honest, the former self’s status within the family was not high, as his brother, sister, and younger brother looked down on him.

Li Weiliam might have liked him very much when he was young, but as his lack of talent became apparent, he grew colder, leaving a deep shadow on the predecessor.

But this shadow wasn’t because he was bullied; it was the attitude of the family that made him feel the chill of noble kinship.

Li Weiliam hadn’t mistreated him. When he came of age, unlike other nobles who would cast out a grown lesser son to fend for himself, Li Weiliam ennobled him as Baron of Fresh Flower Town, giving him a small fief for self-sufficiency, fulfilling his duty as a father—but the previous occupant of his body would rather see this as being due to pressure from his maternal grandfather.

As one of the seven Marquises of the Grand Duchy, when his grandson came of age, Li Weiliam had to consider Marquis Merlin’s views.

The title of Baron over a small town was barely acceptable on the face of it.

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“During the period when his predecessor’s worldview was being shaped, the people from the Tulip Family seemed cold to him, even Lady Penelope was no exception... Marquis Merlin was probably his only solace, never showing him a cold face. And inheriting the predecessor’s memory, I truly feel that Marquis Merlin was the sincerest towards his own grandson.”

As an adult.

Liszt would not be easily swayed by a child’s memories; he had his own ability to distinguish right from wrong.

While he wouldn’t become cynical due to the coolness of human affection, he had his own measure in his heart, and the person closest to him was always Marquis Merlin, not Li Weiliam or Lady Penelope—both Li Weiliam and Lady Penelope only became warm to him after his talents were showcased.

“If I knew how the Dragon Domain Landlord formed his contract, I might have let Marquis Merlin try to contract the Light Green Gemstone Dragon... But unfortunately, the Grand Duke doesn’t know the method of the Dragon Domain Landlord’s contract, and that madwoman Curtis Truth didn’t leave any clues about the Dragon Domain Landlord... I can only try my best to protect the Long Taro Family.”

The true method of contracting with the Dragon Domain Landlord, I fear, completely dissipated with that Ghost Ship incident and the annihilation of Curtis’s soul.

Back then, only the low-ranked Lich Technique was passed down, ultimately leading to the Marquis of Bull initiating the dragon-slaying incident.

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No matter what, the past is the past.

Liszt had no need to dwell on a past that wasn’t his own, the present him is a brand-new self, with a brand new network of connections, brand new interpersonal relationships.

He could act entirely according to his own wishes.

Moreover, since he changed his surname to Flame, he had already branched out from the Tulip Family—everything he had belonged to the brand new Flame Family.

A Super Magical Beast to express his intentions, as for a dragon that was out of the question, in fact even a Super Dragon Beast was not considered—Little Yellow, Little Red, Little Black were obviously more eye-catching than the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird, and would be stronger when they grew up, but he had no intention of giving them away, preferring to keep them for his own followers to ride.

Soon.

The Flame Number arrived at Black Horse Port, where the workers on the docks merely curiously glanced at the huge Obsidian Stymphalian Bird for a moment before returning to their work.

They were people who often saw dragons, so a big black bird wasn't anything special to them.

The Obsidian Stymphalian Bird was quickly dragged to the open space around Thorn Castle, and tied down with thick iron chains—not that the chains could actually restrain it, but Liszt released Leo to keep an eye on the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird.

To be regarded differently by a dragon.

The Obsidian Stymphalian Bird was deeply moved, so it didn't dare to move at all.

“Send a message to Tulip Castle, tell the Marquis of Bull Tail that a Super Magical Beast bird is subdued at Thorn Castle, and ask if he wants to tame it as a mount,” Liszt asked a Retainer Knight to deliver the message.

He then asked Ach to find some time to take Nami to the newly discovered mangrove forest on an island to see if they could develop it: “Ach, I know you're busy and the Magic Guild can't do without you. However, Nami also needs more attention; I feel it has the potential to evolve.”

Since the Smoke Mission issued a task for Nami, it was evident that Nami possessed the capacity to influence the Power of Destiny.

“Mm, Ach likes Nami a lot.”

## Chapter 775: Leo Likes to Eat

Marquis of Bull Tail stood on the balcony basking in the sun; he had just returned from negotiations at Azure Sky Peak Palace, mainly to secure aid from Sapphire Duke for Liszt.

The project covered a lot of ground, involving resources, technology, and talent.

Had Liszt not acted in the dragon-slaying battle, the Duchy of Sapphire would have perished; thus, no reward would be excessive. Certainly, Sapphire Duke understood this; now that Liszt and Ach had joined forces, two against one, he admitted that he couldn't cope, so he could only pay to usher the great deity away.

The last negotiation brought the technology for manufacturing Court Fast Sailing Ships, and this time, training technology for Iron Knights and a family of Iron Knights had been acquired.

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This family of Iron Knights was migrating, ready to submit to Liszt's command, to follow the new Dragon Knight.

“Seeing the Flame Family grow bit by bit brings me great satisfaction,” Li Weiliam remarked contemplatively as Lady Marie walked over from her room, “Although it's not the Tulip Family that became the Dragon Rearing Family, Liszt's Flame Family is a branch of the Tulip Family, sharing the same glory.”

“Yes, the family is flourishing, and many noblewomen are envious of us.”

“That proves you had vision from the start,” Li Weiliam said with a proud smile. After Melissa's death, he met Lady Marie.

Back then, Lady Marie was known for her beauty, with two choices ahead of her.

One was to marry a Viscount on a distant island, where her offspring would inherit a Viscount's title; the other was to marry the middle-aged widower Li Weiliam, whose children would not be able to inherit a title. Ultimately, Lady Marie didn't consider her future son and chose Li Weiliam, becoming the new Earless.

Perhaps it was this debt that made Li Weiliam take special care of Lidun.

However, fate always favors the beautiful. With Liszt's sudden rise, Li Weiliam rose with the tide and had now attained the title of Marquis.

Lady Marie benefitted from this association.

Once Lidun came of age and was given his own title, assigning him a Viscount would be a walk in the park, even an Earl wouldn't be too difficult—Levis would find it hard to complain, as Li Weiliam's property was not inherited, but earned by himself. Naturally, he could give it to whomever he wanted.

If Li Weiliam had inherited his father's Marquisate, according to tradition, he would have had to pass on all his estates to his own son.

He would just be a successor in the family, with no right to divide the family's property at will.

It was only because Li Weiliam had inherited a Viscount's title and earned the titles of Earl and Marquis himself that he had the right to decide how to assign them. It was still customary in this era for the eldest son to inherit everything, leaving the younger son to set out with nothing—rules may be rigid, but people can be flexible, and there's certainly room for interpretation.

"Of course, my vision is excellent," Lady Marie said with a satisfied smile. "However, those noble daughters from major families have even better vision. They have set their sights on Liszt."

Upon hearing this, Li Weiliam huffed, “In the future, disregard these young ladies from the small islands. Liszt is a Dragon Knight, a future ruler of a nation. His marriage partners should be real princesses from Kingdoms on the mainland... The new nation will need the Kingdom’s support as well.”

“Just afraid Liszt might not be willing, as you know, his sister is not ordinary,” Lady Marie noted.

“That... well, it’s out of our hands, out of our hands. Whether it’s a Kingdom Princess or an Archmage, it’s Liszt’s own private matter, not something we need to worry about,” said Li Weiliam, caught in a dilemma. A Kingdom Princess could help a new nation gain support from a Kingdom, but an Archmage could also suppress a nation’s fate.

A tough choice indeed.

And then again.

He also understood that Liszt was a man of strong conviction, and marriage was not something he could casually arrange... As a father, he still had to rely on his son.

Just then, Butler Silva knocked on the door, “Master, the messenger knight from Thorn Castle has arrived.”

“Let him in,” Li Weiliam instructed and then turned to Lady Marie, “Go check on the kitchen. I want to eat flamingo meat for lunch today. Tell Mrs. Fēilīsī to take care when cooking; the cuisine at Tulip Castle is far behind that of Thorn Castle!”

“Hm,” Lady Marie left the balcony.

The messenger knight quickly stepped forward, saluted, and said, “Marquis, His Highness has asked me to inform you that he has recently captured a Super Magical Beast Pitch-Black Albatross at Thorn Castle. If you wish to tame it as a mount, you can go to Thorn Castle and try to subdue it.”

“A Super Magical Beast!”

Li Weiliam could hardly sit still, nearly jumping up in excitement, “What are we waiting for, let’s go at once!”

Forgetting about the flamingo meat he wanted for lunch, he rode his Black Blood Treasured Horse and set out for Fresh Flower Town. He arrived there just after three in the afternoon, in time for the night boat to Black Horse Island, and boarded the merchant ship with his Retainer Knights. After swaying for more than ten hours, they reached Black Horse Port at dawn.

It wasn’t yet light, and they hurried to Thorn Castle.

Waking Liszt from sleep and descending to see Li Weiliam pacing about, he couldn’t help complaining, “Father, do you really need to be this anxious?”

“Liszt, my son, you don’t understand how I feel,” Li Weiliam said as he pulled him along, “Come on, I’ve taken a good look at that Obsidian Stymphalian Bird, and it indeed is a powerful Super Magical Beast... But I’m not entirely confident that I can tame it successfully, I need your help.”

“Don’t worry, I will subdue this big bird.”

They quickly reached where the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird was tethered. The east was just showing a pale streak of light, and the bird had already woken up. Having not eaten for a day, it was still spirited and alert.

Leo, however, was fast asleep beside it, never daring to make a move.

“It’s so beautiful, look at those glossy black feathers, those wide webbed feet, that hook-like beak, and those stern eyes.” Seeing such a majestic Super Magical Beast, Li Weiliam felt even more excited than when he had been promoted to Completion Level Sky Knight. It was a dream he’d had since his youth.

“Creak!”

“Squawk!”

Suddenly.

A few bird calls came from a distance, followed by three small birds with fiery red feathers, about the size of large roosters, flying around Leo. One of the birds, whose feathers were a slightly lighter yellow, circled around and then perched on Liszt's shoulder, chirping as if to curry favor with him.

"What's this?" Li Weiliam said in surprise as he watched the three little birds, feeling as if he were watching three fireballs. The abundant Fire Attribute Mana they emitted gave him a sense of faint pressure—this was the natural dominance of High Magic over Low-Level Magic. The three birds, though small, wielded High Magic.

"Ah, those," Liszt replied casually, "are what people call the Sub-dragon Phoenix. However, the term 'Sub-dragon' is not a very objective classification since they are far from dragons. Super Dragon Beasts are still considered part of the magical beast family, so I've given them a new name—Flame Dragon Birds."

"Phoenix!"

Li Weiliam was stunned for a moment, then widened his eyes, "You're saying they are Phoenixes, Sub-dragon Phoenixes, second only to dragons? You've been raising three Phoenixes?"

Liszt nodded indifferently, "Yes, I'm raising them for research, but mostly because Leo likes to eat them."

## Chapter 776: Utterly Bland

"Does Leo enjoy eating it?" the Marquis of Bull Tail squinted his eyes, trying to appear even more shocked to express his strong repulsion for the news, "So you're raising the Phoenix just to feed it to Leo?"

Liszt glanced at the animated Marquis of Bull Tail.

He had roughly understood the other party's thoughts. While a Super Magical Beast was certainly a flashy mount option, it simply didn't compare to the Sub-dragon Phoenix,



especially when it was one that could be tamed from a young age—Liszt used Super Dragon Beast as a new term, but Marquis Li Weiliam still favored the term Sub-dragon.

If you can't ride a Dragon, riding a Sub-dragon is also good, isn't it?

“Father, the Flame Dragon Bird, as a fire-attributed Super Dragon Beast, doesn't match your Dou Qi attribute. Moreover, they exist to help the growth of Fire Dragons, you should understand which is more important,” Liszt said.

After Liszt had spoken,

...

the Marquis couldn't say much more, “Of course, helping the Fire Dragon grow is more important... yet, I still find it hard to let go. You shouldn't have let them appear before me. Now, I doubt whether I would still have the enthusiasm to fully tame the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird after seeing the Sub-dragon Phoenix.”

It was like a 32B standing next to a 36D, making all interest in the 32B instantly bland and causing one to lose the urge to utter any flirtatious remarks that had been prepared.

“Father, you should consider it differently. The Flame Dragon Birds have a long growth cycle, it's possible they won't mature for decades, whereas the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird is an immediate combat force. The strength of a Super Magical Beast is not much less than that of a Domain Knight, meaning once you ride it, you would have the combat power of a Domain Knight...”

As Liszt spoke, he suddenly felt something was amiss. He was supposed to feel superior for giving the mount as a gift, so why did it suddenly feel like he was a salesperson trying to make a sale?

And the customer didn't seem too impressed?

So, he subtly shifted the topic, “Of course, if you don't like Super Magical Beasts, Father, then there's no need to tame the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird. We could simply slaughter it for its meat. Perhaps in the future, I might encounter a water-attributed Super Dragon Beast. Then, I could let you tame it.”

Upon hearing this,

the Marquis of Bull Tail, who had been covetously eyeing the Flame Dragon Birds, suddenly retracted his gaze, firmly stating, “No need, this Obsidian Stymphalian Bird is quite fine!”

He hadn’t read the story about losing a watermelon while picking up sesame seeds, but he clearly understood the principle. A longed-for mount was about to be his; how could he bear to give it up—it was just a bit of a pity. He had come here eagerly, ready to joyfully mount a Super Magical Beast and show off.

But the sudden interference of three Flame Dragon Birds had left him with a faint sense of loss over the Super Magical Beast mount.

Three Sub-dragon Phoenixes!

To look but not eat, how frustrating!

Taking a deep breath to clear his mind of distractions, Marquis Li Weiliam quickly displayed the resolute nature of an experienced Knight. When he looked at the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird again, his eyes held no other color except a deep desire to conquer, “Liszt, back me up!”

“Don’t worry, Father,” said Liszt, who had already awakened Fire Dragon Leo, ready to suppress the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird at any moment—if he wasn’t careful in standing guard, it was possible that the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird could turn the tables on Li Weiliam.

With a kick of his legs,

Li Weiliam leaped up and landed accurately behind the neck of the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird, grabbing its feathers to secure his hold around its neck.

Ridden for the first time, the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird grew irritable, “Gugua!”

Twisting its neck and shaking its body, it tried to throw Li Weiliam off. But Li Weiliam's water-attributed Dou Qi was deployed, his body sticking to it like a piece of cowhide candy, continuously invading the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird's body, trying to establish a connection between his Dou Qi and its magic power.

The best way to tame a mount was to mix one's own Dou Qi with the Magical Beast's magic, giving it one's own scent, thus reducing the Magical Beast's psychological resistance to the Knight.

However, the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird was clearly not fond of Li Weiliam's brusqueness.

It resisted fiercely, and even though its feet were shackled with mountain copper manacles, it still flapped its wings and rolled its body, attempting to crush Li Weiliam. But at that moment, Leo, who had been watching with open eyes, suddenly let out a fearsome dragon's roar, "Ooh ho!" And with that, Dragon Might surged toward the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird.

Boom!

The Obsidian Stymphalian Bird's body froze for a moment, then it dared not make another move, only letting out a soft, plaintive cry, "Gugua."

Leo slowly stood up, lowering his head as nostrils spewed fire, his evil gaze fiercely fixed on the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird.

Taking advantage of the situation, Li Weiliam finally managed to infuse his Dou Qi into the body of the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird. One was magic power of the water attribute, the other was Water-Attribute Dou Qi, both having similarities. As a result, the Dou Qi blended smoothly into the magic power of the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird, tainting it with his own scent.

"Goo-gah!"

The Obsidian Stymphalian Bird called out in discomfort.

Li Weiliam gently stroked its feathers, trying to make his Dou Qi more tranquil, to make the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird feel his amiability, “Black Albatross,” he said, “let’s call you Black Albatross!” The term “albatross” was a local general term for seabirds, especially those with webbed feet.

“Goo-gah!” the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird shook its neck irritably, still trying to shake Li Weiliam off.

But with the Fire Dragon watching it, it dared not move recklessly, allowing Li Weiliam to demonstrate his friendliness bit by bit, marking the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird with his Dou Qi continuously. Such torment continued until the first light of dawn, when the brilliant sunlight bathed the earth, and the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird finally could not help but surrender.

It lowered its head, letting Li Weiliam handle it freely.

The Marquis of Bull Tail could not hide his excitement in his voice, “Liszt, open the mountain copper manacles on its feet, I have tamed it!”

“Father, are you sure?”

“Sure,” Li Weiliam replied with confidence, “this super magical beast’s temperament is not very wild, I can feel it has submitted to me...”

In reality, it was more a submission to the cruel environment, being glared at by an evil dragon, it’s hard for a magical beast not to submit.

The manacles were opened, and it could move freely.

Li Weiliam tried commanding the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird to walk.

The super magical beast was majestic when flying over the sea, and swam with an unruffled pleasure, but its footsteps on land were somewhat clumsy, wobbling unsteadily—a bit of a misnomer for a supposed amphibious creature.

“Liszt, do you have a stock of magical beast meat? Lend me some,” he requested.

After driving it around for a moment, Li Weiliam borrowed a large quantity of magical beast meat from Liszt and began to feed the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird.

One couldn't deny that the more intelligent magical beasts generally knew how to assess the situation. Since they couldn't resist, they might as well try to accept it and enjoy the pleasures that came with it. When Li Weiliam finished feeding the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird, he could clearly feel that the super magical beast had become much more affectionate towards him.

Finished eating.

The day had already brightened.

Liszt had completed a round of knight training, while Li Weiliam was still cooperating with the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird.

The cooperation went well, and with Li Weiliam's shouts, "Black Albatross, run, fly!" the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird rapidly flapped its wings, began to run, and its massive body clumsily took to the air. It flew simply around Thorn Castle before heading straight for the sea.

Splash, it plunged into the sea and started swimming on the surface.

Moments later, Li Weiliam returned to Thorn Castle riding the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird, his face alight with triumph, the wind whooshing as they landed—the sizable Black Albatross was quite imposing indeed.

However, a few "click-clack" and "screech-screech" bird calls quickly shattered Li Weiliam's pride.

No matter how impressive a super magical beast was, it couldn't compare with the majesty of the three creatures known as "Sub-dragon Phoenixes," the Flame Dragon Birds, which Liszt kept merely as "snacks for Leo."

Comparison is the thief of joy.

Li Weiliam took a deep breath, readjusted his attitude, “Liszt, for now, the Black Albatross still needs to be raised in Thorn Castle, under Leo’s supervision, until it truly forms a partnership with me.”

## Chapter 777: Learning Makes Me Super Happy

Although the atmosphere left something to be desired, the Marquis of Bull Tail finally had his own Magical Beast mount, and it was a Super Magical Beast.

In terms of results, it was a success.

Therefore, in the following days, Li Weiliam simply stayed at Thorn Castle, spending every day bonding with the Obsidian Stymphalian Bird, the Black Albatross.

Liszt naturally wouldn’t accompany Li Weiliam every day, as he had a plethora of matters to attend to. Nami had already been rushed to Yidao Mangrove Forest by Ach to complete the Smoke Mission soon; the Crystal Firmiana had been transported to the Crystal Workshop, where Brad and others continuously carved various Crystal Utensils.

Although glassware could replace most Crystal Utensils, Magic Equipment made of crystal remained an indispensable part of life for the Nobles.

The cultivation of the Crystal Firmiana was still being patiently studied by the Magicians of the Magic Guild, striving to cultivate a Crystal Firmiana that could grow without the help of Dragon Magic Power.

...

The improvement of Magic Platform 2.0 was overseen by Chris Truth; during usage, Magic Platform 2.0 still revealed problems like its lack of precision, cumbersome communication processes, and a tendency to malfunction. Thus, the improvement work of the Magic Platform was destined to require a great deal of effort, and it wouldn’t be an easy fix.

In fact, Liszt had plans to involve other Grand Magicians in the improvement of the Magic Platform.

However, the Grand Magicians were still engrossed in the research of Natural Magic. Druid transformation magic was restricted by the blood of the Child of the Sun, and couldn't be performed. But the deciphering of other magic plant cultivation like Magic Bean Planting, Magic Wheat Planting, Magic Melon Planting, Magic Lotus Root Planting, Magic Eggplant Planting, Magic Pepper Planting, Magic Ginseng Planting, Magic Pear Planting, Magic Sunflower Planting, Transforming Tree Planting, and Magic Tangerine Planting was already complete.

Liszt specially approved a trial field for the Magic Guild to use for the planting of these Magic Power plants, which although growing slowly, were all developing steadily.

Pairing the scientific farming techniques of the territory with these Natural Druid Magic practices, in a few years or even a decade, truly miraculous plant fruits could be harvested.

What concerned Liszt the most these days was actually the agitation of the Rubber Bug triplets.

Ever since the completion of the Smoke Mission to find the Three Islands, the Rubber Bugs had slowly begun to grow agitated, not as violently as when the Cordyceps were nurturing, but it was a synchronized agitation among the triplets. And today, after casting the Tri-Phase Force once and restoring the Rubber Trees in the rubber garden, the agitation had peaked.

Subsequently, under Liszt's Eye of Magic, the Magic Power of the Rubber Bug triplets began to change, slowly settling and expanding outward, gradually causing the triplets to swell.

Visible to the naked eye, the Rubber Bug triplets had entered the Fat Pupa Stage.

Their progression into the Fat Pupa Stage was much faster than the individual Elf Bugs, especially with the Magic Power of the three Rubber Bugs reflecting off one another like the tremors when releasing the Tri-Phase Force, continuously promoting the development of each other's Fat Pupa Stages. The changes in Magic Power became faster and faster, displaying the details of the Elf Bug's evolution into a Minor Elf at fast-forward speed in Liszt's eyes.

“So the agitation of the Rubber Bug triplets means they are all about to evolve into Little Minor Elves... but the most miraculous part about the triplets is that they have shown me the secret of evolution,” Liszt said.

Liszt called over the returning Ach to participate in the evolution of the Rubber Bug triplets.

Unfortunately, Ach could only rely on the Magic Web to sense the Magic Power changes and was unable to visually discern the precise trajectory of the Magic Power changes—no matter how detailed Liszt’s descriptions, they still couldn’t reproduce the subtleties of the actual changes.

“Ach,” Liszt said, “according to my observations, the biggest change during the Fat Pupa Stage of an Elf Bug can actually be described as ‘boiling water.’ The Magic Power is continuously heated, until eventually it reaches a boiling state, which is the process of an Elf Bug transforming into a Little Minor Elf... But during this process, Magic Power constantly dissipates, affecting whether the ‘water’ can ultimately boil.”

Liszt became more and more excited as he spoke, “A normal Elf Bug’s evolution loses Magic Power and vitality during the Fat Pupa Stage, and if too much is lost, it becomes difficult to ‘boil,’ leading to a failed evolution. However, because the Rubber Bug triplets influence each other and accelerate the process, they shorten the boiling duration, losing very little vitality and Magic Power, which significantly increases the chances of successful evolution!”

Ach concentrated on sensing, trying to understand his words.

And during the conversation, the three Rubber Bug siblings, now enlarged, fattened, and darkened, gradually quieted down, lying motionless inside the box.

Liszt, however, knew that the magical changes inside them were still ongoing; they were merely accumulating their final strength, “This process might last three to five days, which is far less draining than the half-month or even month-long fat pupa stage of normal Elf Bugs.”

“So what you’re saying, brother, is that if we can artificially accelerate this process, Elf Bug breakthroughs will no longer fail?”



“Failures are still possible, but artificially accelerating the fat pupa stage will definitely greatly increase the likelihood of success. I think this is a very good research direction.”

“But Ach still doesn’t understand the ‘boiling water’ process that brother mentioned.” Ach felt a bit disheartened.

Liszt rubbed her azure hair, “Not understanding is okay, just observe slowly. Knowing this direction is enough, don’t try to bite off more than you can chew... Haven’t you noticed? Since becoming an Archmage, you’ve devoted too much energy to magic experiments. That’s not good.”

“Why is that?” Ach asked.

“The Ach I first met was an innocent, lovely Sea Serpent who loved to sing, not a Magician who’s hopelessly obsessed with magic experiments.” Liszt reminisced about the times in the Worm Room, where he played the piano while Ach sang, feeling suddenly emotional, “Do you remember Iris?”

“The Conch Siren.”

“Right, actually, I feel Iris is like a true Sea Serpent, living in the sea, climbing onto the rocks to sing with the moonrise, or listening to the shouts of sailors passing by on ships. That’s a kind of freedom belonging to the sea, but you, Ach, have been locked in the ‘search for truth’ cage by magic.”

Saying this, Liszt himself also became somber, although not a Magician, but isn’t he too locked in a “search for truth” cage masquerading as scientific research of magic.

This life has so many joys worth pursuing, and one should not plunge headfirst into the truth.

Truth is too vast, too distant, too immense; impossible to fully explore in a lifetime. Without a joyful mindset, one will inevitably fall into the distorted paranoia that plagues many Magicians, without even realizing it.

However, Ach retorted, “Brother, Ach doesn’t feel unhappy now, though. Researching magic is very joyful. The life of someone like Iris is like a Sea Monster, full of ignorance.”

Liszt, who had been immersed in his self-created atmosphere of “lack of freedom,” felt a bit embarrassed at the remark: “Er...”

It was like when a poor student complained that studying made life constrictive, claiming a loss of freedom, equating happiness with living as a zombie.

Then a top student suddenly chimes in: “Studying makes me super happy.”

If the person was not Ach, Liszt would have certainly walked away in mid-conversation, disinterested in pursuing such a topic any further. No one could speak such words in front of him so casually!

But it was Ach, the underage little Sea Serpent, speaking earnestly, truly finding joy in the study of magic.

After a pause.

Liszt quickly dispelled his awkwardness, speaking out loud, “No matter what, from now on we must make time every day, to play the piano, to sing songs.”

Chapter 778: The Root Red Tree

“Brother, do we really have to take time out every day to play the piano and sing?”

“Yes.”

“But Ach feels like there’s no time, there’s so much research to do. The Mage Plan of the Eye of Magic needs to be implemented as soon as possible, without the Eye of Magic Ach will find studying magic very inconvenient; the study of the nature changes in Elemental Incarnation also takes time, otherwise Ach’s strength will be greatly limited...”

“Taking a break to clear your head can actually help improve your research efficiency. There’s no need to say more, Ach, this is a must-do daily routine.” Liszt said decisively,

regardless of whether Ach was happier studying magic, he didn't want the little sea monster to become the stereotypical image of a magician.

The following two days.

The Marquis of Bull Tail finally left riding the successfully tamed Obsidian Stymphalian Bird, and after Nami worked for several days in the Yidao Mangrove Forest, the Smoke Mission was also completed.

...

"Task completed, reward: new variant of mangrove with root mutations."

"Root mutations, what is it?" Liszt quickly learned what this mutation meant when Ach returned to Black Horse Island with Nami, at which point Nami scattered a batch of mangrove seeds like presenting a treasure.

These mangrove seeds rapidly turned into seedlings, whose roots occupied two-thirds of the entire plant and quickly sank into the water, embedding themselves into the coastal mud.

"I see, the root mutation means that the mangrove seedlings have more developed roots and can land more easily, allowing the mangrove forest to grow rapidly!"

For mangrove seedlings to detach from the mother plant and secure themselves in the mud, very harsh conditions are required to prevent them from being washed away by seawater. In some places where the tidal flats have rapid water flow, mangrove seedlings cannot take root at all, which means the mangrove forests cannot expand. With the introduction of the new variant of mangroves, the expansion of mangrove forests will undoubtedly be rapid.

There are many benefits to mangrove forests.

Rearing green caterpillars, green-headed ducks, and flamingos are the most vital functions, but they can also protect against wind and waves, promote sediment accumulation, reinforce shorelines, purify seawater and air, and additionally, mangrove plants themselves can serve as livestock feed. Some mangrove species possess medicinal value.

In “Aris’s True Herb Classification,” there are records of the medicinal value of several types of mangrove plants, as well as their value as spices.

“Since it’s a mangrove with root mutations, it shall be named – Root Mangrove.” Liszt quickly named the new mangrove and rewarded Nami with many pieces of peanut nougat candy.

Carrying a bag of peanut nougat candy, Nami was very happy. “Chirp,” it offered a piece of peanut nougat candy to Liszt as a gesture of sharing.

“Thank you.” Liszt smiled and accepted the peanut nougat candy. Even though he didn’t like it, he stuffed it into his mouth to give face to Nami.

Seeing Liszt eat the peanut nougat candy, Nami offered another piece to Ach.

Ach also didn’t like to eat it but ate the peanut nougat candy all the same.

Both having eaten it, Nami was overjoyed. “Chirp, chirp, chirp!” It went around knocking on every door of the Worm Room with its rubber bag crafted from rubber tree leaves.

The minor elves had a not bad perception of Nami. Although they were not overly enthusiastic, they quickly accepted the peanut nougat candy gifts. Even the corn minor elf Mickey, who liked counting corn kernels, took a piece of peanut nougat candy and then peeled off the wrapper to count how many peanuts were in it.

One, two, five, three, one, seven, three, two... a bit annoying, better count again, one, three, four, six, seven, five...

Passing by Pea Great Elf Ash’s door, Ash shook his head at Nami, then pulled out a piece of rope. “Nami, peanut nougat candy is hard to eat, would you like to try the art of rope instead?”

Nami quickly waved its hands and then flew away.

Finally, it knocked on Thorn Greater Elf Jela’s door.

Jela knew Nami the earliest, but its attitude towards Nami was lukewarm, it didn't refuse the peanut nougat candy. "I don't like peanut nougat candy, next time give me Jade Powder!"

"Chirp."

"You can't talk, Nami, you blockhead!" Jela snorted with her nostrils pointing skyward.

Nami, still grinning cheerfully and not taking offense, peeled a piece of peanut nougat and took a bite, crunching loudly, "Chirp." Then she flew back to Ach's side, perched on her shoulder, and began chirping and gesturing. She was indicating that Ach should take her to the underwater Worm Room; she wanted to deliver peanut nougat to Pike and the others.

Seeing this, Liszt touched the little sapling on top of her head and said, "If Nami were to evolve into a Dragon Elf, she would definitely make a qualified major Elf Butler."

Endearing and hardworking free elves like Nami are truly a rare find.

...

After Nami offered sweets to everyone, she continued with her work. Much like Ach, who loved researching magic, Nami took great pleasure in her work.

Liszt had planned to stay in the castle and observe the triplet Rubber Bugs' evolution closely, but a new task forced him to set out immediately.

"Mission: The volcano on Dodo Island is about to die out. Both you and Leo have felt the desperate crisis brought by the dying volcano. Although the situation isn't reversible, the volcano can still emit its last glimmers of glory. Why not try to control the volcano with Leo and accomplish one last eruption? Reward: Dragon Breath Heating."

This was an unusual task, actually seeking to induce a volcanic eruption with the help of Leo.

Even though he did not understand the purpose of the Smoke Mission, the reward being Dragon Breath Heating made it impossible for Liszt to refuse. The temperature of Leo's Dragon Breath wasn't particularly high, roughly around one or two thousand degrees, mainly serving as an avenue for the release of magic power and not as a regular attack method.

Previously, Liszt had been using the Dragon Breath to train, a technique known as Dragon Breath Tempering, which constantly strengthened his physique through the dragon's magical power.

But now the effects of Dragon Breath Tempering were less noticeable. The human body has significant limitations. His skin could be harder than steel when tightened with Dou Qi, but beyond that further improvement seemed impossible.

"Perhaps, once Leo's Dragon Breath heats up, the effects of Dragon Breath Tempering can once again enhance, breaking the current limits and making my body even stronger!"

Growing stronger was the ever-lasting theme of personal struggle in this world and never out of date.

Arriving at Dodo Island.

The first thing Liszt did was meet with the Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree Greater Elf Annie, asking Annie to pack up the cordyceps—since the volcano was about to reach its final splendid moment, they would no longer live on Dodo Island.

Next, he asked Ach to safeguard the sleeping Light Green Gemstone Dragon.

He then rode Leo to the mouth of the Dodo Island Volcano where, at the crater, only a lake was left, still emitting wisps of smoke, the once-molten lava lake having completely solidified. Leo landed on it, stomping his feet in frustration against the solidified volcanic rock. Unfortunately, aside from causing some cracks, it had no effect.

He could no longer turn into Flame and blend into the magma.

"Oh-ho!"

A growl of dissatisfaction caused small rocks to clatter down from the walls of the volcano crater.

Liszt used Dragon Eye Trajectory to carefully examine the crater, and traces of magic power appeared in his vivid field of vision. Even though the volcano had gone out, he could still catch the magic veins of the volcano: “I can see the composition of the volcano’s magic, but how am I supposed to trigger its eruption?”

After a moment.

A burst of inspiration shone through.

“Perhaps I can try to extend the Dragon Knight Resonance to encompass the entire volcano and accomplish one super Dragon Knight Resonance?”

#### Chapter 779: Volcanic Eruption

Once he thought of it, he acted on it.

Liszt immediately rode on Leo, carefully circling around the Dodo Island Volcano Crater to scout each path of volcanic magic power. He then located the nodes, guiding Leo to unleash the Fire Dragon Overmagic, to merge and resonate with the volcanic magic power.

This was a colossal project.

Liszt attempted the resonance several times and ended in failure, but he gradually identified a pattern from these failures. He realized that to induce a volcanic eruption, a precise resonance was not necessary. He just needed to initiate the flow of the Fire Dragon Overmagic, causing tidal fluctuations in the volcanic magic power.

When the fluctuation peaked beyond a certain limit, the magma inside the volcano, yet to cool completely, would boil again with the tidal magic power.

However, such an action would consume a vast amount of Leo's Fire Dragon Overmagic, the treasure trove he had diligently amassing, which was crucial for his growth.

...

"Oh ho!"

He was somewhat reluctant.

"Don't be reluctant, Leo. Triggering a volcanic eruption will greatly benefit your growth. As a Fire Dragon, if you can't even initiate an eruption, wouldn't that be too much of a failure as a dragon!"

"Oh ho!"

Leo agreed with Liszt's plan, equally yearning for growth. As a young dragon, without any shortcuts, it might need hundreds of years. Meeting Liszt might seem like a huge misfortune in terms of freedom, but from the perspective of growth, it was an incredible stroke of luck.

With the assistance of the Smoke Mission, Liszt could casually pull the threads of destiny to help it mature in advance.

Just like now, as he was guiding the volcanic eruption.

Leo invested heavily in his Fire Dragon Overmagic, quickly reactivating the dormant Dodo Island Volcano. The mountain began to rumble and thick smoke billowed. Moments later, the extinguished volcano of Dodo Island spewed out the first stream of magma from the shattered crater, which quickly solidified upon contact with the air.

"Not enough, put more effort into it, Leo!"

"Oh ho!"

Leo and Liszt were in perfect harmony as Leo instantly channeled the long-stored Fire Dragon Overmagic in his body for a wildly violent output. At that moment, the tidal magic



power of the Dodo Island Volcano erupted like a tsunami, instantly causing a chain reaction. The magma inside went into a furious surge throughout the volcanic structure.

Boom!

Boom! Boom!

Amidst the billowing smoke, a massive column of fiery red magma burst forth, shooting a hundred meters into the sky. The violent Fire Attribute Mana tore through the atmosphere, shredding any stray magic power to tatters, leaving only the Fire Attribute Mana rampaging wildly. The falling magma flowed down the mountain, and everywhere there were flames and smoke.

And a strong scent of sulfur.

“Oh ho!”

Looking at its own masterpiece, Leo was excited, lunging straight into the magma column, bathing in it. Meanwhile, Liszt swiftly took out a giant knight's shield from the Space Ring and curled up within the Dragon Tooth Platform, avoiding the scorching magma, bathing with Leo in the magma.

In and out they went, Leo's Fire Dragon Overmagic naturally resonated with the Volcanic Super Magic of the magma column.

During this resonance, Liszt distinctly felt the magic power inside Leo undergoing a transformation, shedding its immaturity and greenness. The boundaries between High Magic and Superior Magic were blending, no longer distinct, but progressing in layers.

Boom!

The volcano, after a flurry of eruptions, ran out of all its magma, unable to form a magma column anymore. The tidal magic power slowly dissipated as well, and the entire Dodo Island Volcano swiftly fell silent again, with only the yet-to-cool magma still flowing down the mountain, radiating intense heat.

“Oh ho!”

Leo opened his mouth, instantly spewing out a breath of Dragon Breath, no need for precise measurement to know the temperature of the Dragon Breath had significantly increased – at least two or three thousand degrees. In an instant, it could melt steel, no longer just a means of venting magic power, but a potent attack.

However, after exhaling the heated Dragon Breath, Leo visibly fell into a listless state, having consumed too much Fire Dragon Overmagic in the process of triggering the volcanic eruption.

“Let’s go back, Leo.”

Riding the Fire Dragon, they slowly flew towards the shore; Liszt jumped off, and Leo followed suit, transforming into a flame and merging into his body.

“Mission complete, reward: Dragon Breath Heating.”

The smoke rose, shaping into new Serpent Script content: “Mission: After the caravan search of the Duchy of Sapphire’s major Magical Beast exchange markets, and finally transporting back a Female Tyrant Earth Hound pup, you may begin the Bloodline Fruit evolution operation. Please feed the Bloodline Fruit to the Female Tyrant Earth Hound pup. Reward: New Super Dragon Beast clue.”

“Hmm!”

“I thought the reward for the mission would be a new Blizzard Beast to appease me,” Liszt couldn’t help but find his own thoughts amusing.

Based on the usual pattern of Smoke Missions, the rewards tend to follow suit. Feeding the Bloodline Fruit to the Fierce Earth Dog should award an evolved Blizzard Beast.

But this time the reward was a new clue about a Super Dragon Beast.

“Obviously, the clue about the Super Dragon Beast is of greater value... Anyway, it’s time to go back. This Dodo Island is considered to be destroyed for the second time.” Liszt

glanced at Dodo Island, completely covered by volcanic lava. The extensive forests of Human Skull Trees and scattered Hemp Rope Vines had been submerged.

Only the area protected by Ach still had a few intact Human Skull Trees.

The Light Green Gemstone Dragon still hadn't awakened; it had been in a deep slumber for three to four months, without any signs of waking up, which gave Liszt a lot of trouble.

Mind Island was probably already evolving into the Light Green Gemstone Mine, yet the Light Green Gemstone Dragon, being the creator, remained quasi-lifeless.

"What exactly happened to the Mind Fruit Tree back then, causing such grievous harm to it?" Liszt pondered slowly as he walked over and touched the scales of the Light Green Gemstone Dragon.

If it weren't for its steady breathing and the robust state of its mind world, Liszt would have suspected it had become a "vegetative dragon."

...

The Light Green Gemstone Dragon ultimately did not awaken under Liszt's gaze, so he had no choice but to leave it to continue sleeping on the now-desolate Dodo Island.

Upon returning to his territory, the caravan had just delivered a still-young Female Tyrant Earth Hound pup.

Confined in a cage, the Little Fierce Earth Dog snarled viciously, surrounded by Douson and the Eight Tiny Ones, along with Douson's mate, Earth Matron.

They were all immensely interested in the Little Fierce Earth Dog.

"Woof woof!"

When Liszt stood in front of the cage, the Little Fierce Earth Dog barked even more furiously, sensing the terrifying threat emanating from every move Liszt made.

However, Liszt didn't care about the Little Fierce Earth Dog's reaction; he simply took out the planting of the Bloodline Fruit Tree, buried it in the soil, and let it continue to grow. Seeing the Bloodline Fruit, Douson and the Eight Tiny Ones immediately turned envious, but without Liszt's permission, they wouldn't dare snatch the Bloodline Fruit.

Far away, the Landwalker bird Loki grazing, and the three Flame Dragon Birds, Little Yellow, Little Red, and Little Purple from Thorn Castle, also flew over, eagerly fixated on the Bloodline Fruit.

The Little Fierce Earth Dog in the cage was drooling profusely.

After a long wait, the Bloodline Fruit finally ripened. At that moment, Liszt quickly picked the Bloodline Fruit and fed it to the now almost dehydrated Little Fierce Earth Dog.

Watching the pup wolf down the fruit, he felt full of anticipation inside, "Eat up, eat up, get full and evolve quickly, the Fierce Earth Dog army is counting on you... Oh right, let's give you a name first. Your evolution is like food fermenting, nurturing new delicacies, so let's just call you Yeast."

Douson, Juan Fu, Earth Matron, Yeast.

Somehow, there seemed to be a connection in the depths of fate.

## Chapter 780: Pop Pop Pop

The Female Tyrant Earth Hound's pup, named Yeast, had been pinned with great expectations by Liszt, who hoped its arrival would bring him an army of Blizzard Beasts.

However, the outcome was disappointing. Before Yeast, who consumed the Bloodline Fruit, had a chance to grow, it bled from all orifices and died suddenly—the evolution with the Bloodline Fruit had failed.

Looking at the dead Little Fierce Earth Dog, Liszt shook his head and sighed, "If it isn't a Bloodline Fruit from the Smoke Mission, it's just like the ordinary ones, with a very high

chance of failure... I wonder if the Smoke Mission also failed and what kind of punishment follows a failure.”

He ordered the scene to be cleaned up and the corpse of the dead Fierce Earth Dog to be sent to the Magic Guild, handed over to the magicians for dissection and study to extract any remaining value.

Then he returned to Thorn Castle and summoned the Smoke Mission.

“Mission completed, reward: new Super Dragon Beast clue.”

...

“Hm?” Liszt exclaimed in surprise. He didn’t expect the mission to still be completed even though the Little Fierce Earth Dog had died suddenly, “It seems the task only required feeding the Little Fierce Earth Dog, without requiring successful evolution... Though losing a Bloodline Fruit is a loss, it’s still within an acceptable range.”

He didn’t plan to give up on the Blizzard Beast Legion plan. If he found Bloodline Fruit in the future, he would still attempt to evolve new Blizzard Beasts—the Blizzard Knights were destined to become an elite part of the Burning Knights Group.

Putting aside the disappointment of the Little Fierce Earth Dog’s sudden death, he continued to look at the Serpent Script in front of him.

In an instant, a new Smoke Mission was issued.

“Mission: Archmage Acherloides Truth is diligently researching the Dou Qi Secret Technique ‘Eye of Magic Power’ to improve it into a casting system for magicians, but she needs your full cooperation to acquire the minutiae of Dou Qi circulation and methods. Reward: The improved version of ‘Eye of Magic’ super magic.”

Seeing the contents, Liszt couldn’t help but feel elated, “Achy is finally going to improve into a magician’s version of ‘The Eye of Magic’, good, good. With the magician’s version of the Eye of Magic, Achy will handle magic research even more adeptly, and she will also better help me oversee the territory, discovering resources.”

Elfs, Magic Potions, Magical Beasts.

With the Eye of Magic, these resources of the territory simply cannot escape.

Liszt's own energy was limited, managing the land was strenuous, and attending to the sea was difficult. Even with the help of Rainbow Whale Rose, searching the sea for resources was rare. Once Achy learned the Eye of Magic, the sea's resources could be thoroughly delegated to her for harvesting.

As his thoughts flickered, he had already thought of a name for Achy's soon-to-be-completed improved magic—'Eye of Magic Power.'

As it happened, Achy was in the laboratory at Thorn Castle conducting experiments, so Liszt went directly to the laboratory, ready to have an in-depth exchange with her.

...

Improving Dou Qi Secret Technique into magic was not an overnight affair.

As time crept by, the middle of February passed, and after several days of brewing, the Rubber Bug triplets finally lived up to Liszt's expectations and successfully completed their magic eruption, struggling out of their dead Elf Bug skins.

Three plump Little Minor Elfs flew out in succession, lining up to fly around the laboratory.

And they issued synchronous cries, "Pop pop pop!"

"Pop pop pop!"

"Pop pop pop!"

Liszt disbanded his Eye of Magic and beckoned with his hand.

The three Rubber Minor Elfs immediately landed in unison on his arm, almost identical in appearance but very easily distinguishable. One had a rubber tree seedling on its head with a very thick trunk, another had a round fruit on the rubber tree on its head, and the last had two large leaves on the rubber tree.

They represented the different varieties of their Cordyceps, Fountain Rubber, Fruit Rubber, and Fan Rubber, respectively.

“Usually, I no longer name Minor Elfs, but the three of you have provided rich data for Elf evolution, and perhaps we’ll soon research a method to accelerate evolution. So I’ll make an exception and name you... You’re Big White, you’re Two White, and you’re Little White.”

The Fountain Rubber Minor Elf was named Big White, as its cordyceps was the first ordinary rubber to evolve into Fountain Rubber.

The Fruit Rubber Minor Elf was the second one to birth a cordyceps, named Two White; the Fan Rubber Minor Elf was the last to birth a cordyceps, hence called Little White.

“Pop pop pop!”

“Pop pop pop!”

“Pop pop pop!”

The three Rubber Minor Elves were very happy, liking their new names.

Liszt could feel that they still shared synchronized thoughts, with identical gestures and movements, yet amidst those thoughts, there were vague separate little ideas, no longer as in sync as during the Rubber Bug phase. However, they were still capable of invoking the Tri-Phase Force.

Moreover, the Tri-Phase Force was greatly strengthened, now able to fully expand within the cordyceps’ area of influence.

Big White's cordyceps covered around 1200 mu, Two White's covered about 900 mu, and Little White's about 1100 mu, combined, enabling the exercise of the Tri-Phase Force over an area of 3200 mu. And the consumption of using the Tri-Phase Force was also much smaller; they could invoke it once every three days.

"Then from now on, every three days, follow the castle's servants to invoke the Tri-Phase Force in the gardens to help me grow rubber trees, alright?"

"Pop pop pop!"

"Pop pop pop!"

"Pop pop pop!"

The three Rubber Minor Elves all agreed together, very obedient to Liszt's command, with a peaceful mindset devoid of any restlessness. This reassured Liszt, glad that the minor elves he had nurtured had normal personalities, otherwise, he would have started to doubt whether there was something wrong with himself for producing problematic minor elves.

With the triplet Rubber Minor Elves, the expansion of the rubber plantation was natural, and the future output of rubber was bound to surge, enough to support the current needs of the territory's construction.

Just after the successful evolution of the triplet Rubber Bugs,

A fleet arrived from Blue Dragon Island, bringing with it two special teams.

One team was originally following the Sapphire Duke: the Iron Knight Family, transferred to the Flame Family as part of the deal to support the founding of their own kingdom, came to Flames Territory to pledge loyalty to Liszt.

The other team came from the Steel Ridge Kingdom, the Steel Ridge Envoy Team Leader Kent Magic Elephant, his sister Kenley Truth, accompanied by a group of magicians, came to partake in a pilgrimage.

The Iron Knight Family was first to meet.



“Respected Prince Dragon Knight, Nickel Bellows extends to you his most sincere greetings.” The leader, an elderly man around fifty years old, kneeled on one knee as a salutation, “The Fengxiang Family is willing to follow Your Highness, provide dedicated assistance, and forge knightly equipment for Your Highness.”

“Count Nickel, I, Liszt Flames, accept your loyalty in the name of Dragon Knight.” Liszt touched Count Nickel’s shoulder with his own Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword, symbolizing his acceptance of the other as his follower.

The Fengxiang Family, known for their Iron Knight heritage, held the title of Earl but rarely took to the battlefield, staying on Blue Dragon Island to craft various weapons and armor for the knights of the Sapphire Family. Strictly speaking, the Fengxiang Family also belonged to the Blue Blood Alliance, because Nickel’s title was Earl of Anvil City.

Now, while he still held the title of Earl of Anvil City, when the Sapphire Duke sent his family to Liszt, the Anvil City territory had already been retracted.

Liszt, fully aware of the importance of Iron Knights, pondered briefly and then said, “For now, you will still maintain your position as Earl of Anvil City, with all resources supplied by me, and once I establish my kingdom, I will provide you with a new fief.”

“I leave all decisions to Your Highness.” Nickel said straightforwardly, even as an Earl, his destiny was not his own to control.

The Dragon Knight commands all.