

The Mighty 801

Chapter 801: Heaven and Earth Overturned

“Magic arrays, it’s actually a magic array!”

I don’t know how many times Liszt had come to the bow to gaze at the massive whirlpool in the distance, his exclamation filled with excitement. The pitch-black night, illuminated by moonlight, made the great whirlpool resemble the gaping jaws of a monstrous beast, sending chills down one’s spine. Yet, for Liszt at that moment, it brought limitless excitement.

Ever since he had arrived here, he had heard numerous legends about the Moon Empire, among which the most widespread involved magic arrays.

The legends claimed at the very center of the Legendary Continent was Mount Mulagao Ding, impossibly tall, unclimbable by mortals, and even Dragon Knights couldn’t fly to its summit. Halfway up the mountain, ferocious storms could tear both man and dragon into shreds, but at the mountaintop, the Moon Empire had established a magic array.

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Thus, according to legend, those Archmages could climb to the mountain’s peak, activate the magic array, and teleport to the moon.

The name of the Moon Empire stemmed from the moon itself, and even the name “Mulagao Ding” is a modern translation of the ancient Moon Language, representing “Guardian Knight of the Moonlight”—during the time of the Moon Empire, the knight cultivation system had already emerged, yet they were mostly retainers to the magicians.

To this day, these stories about teleportation magic arrays had become mere absurdities.

For unknown reasons, the Magic Web had shriveled, and the magicians’ dominant status had been overturned by the knights.

The pursuit of truth fell short of the thirst for dragons, the exploration of empirical research couldn't match the rush for wealth, and the investigation of magic paled compared to the admiration of Dou Qi. It had been over a hundred years since an Archmage had appeared in a corner of the continent, and magicians had gradually devolved into technicians who manufactured magic equipment and refined magic potions.

They occasionally stirred up minor events, created some news, but they couldn't influence the grand scheme.

Source: , updated on NovGO.co

People had gradually begun to deny the existence of the Moon Empire and dismissed those fantastical yet non-existent elements in the legends as fallacious.

The teleportation magic array was one of those fallacies.

Having encountered so many instances where the legendary proved to be real, Liszt had developed a robust acceptance and started to believe that those teleportation arrays, moon-dwelling humans, and Elf Kings truly existed. It was this very attitude that led him from studying the Message Transmission Magic Circle to gradually progressing toward the Teleportation Magic Array.

To think, there really was a true Teleportation Magic Array in this world.

The surprise was overwhelming.

“Ach, where do you think this Teleportation Magic Array leads? Could we teleport if we jump into it?” he swallowed hard, speculating with a fervent tone, “Does it lead to an underwater kingdom, or to the moon, or perhaps to Mount Mulagao Ding? Should we perhaps give it a try?”

Ach didn't share Liszt's enthusiasm.

She considered more the Teleportation Magic Array itself: “Brother, this magic array's structure is very stable, perhaps accurate enough to teleport without errors. But to traverse the teleportation array, we still need a lot of preparation, thoroughly study it to reduce the risks to a minimum.”

“Of course, I know, but... it’s a Teleportation Magic Array, Ach!”

“Mm, I know,” Ach smiled.

Watching Ach respond to his excitement with a strained smile, Liszt felt somewhat deflated. Ach was great in many ways but was somewhat “quiet”, increasingly resembling a nerd. As a non-nerd himself, Liszt admired, revered, and envied the nerds, but he actually preferred to go wild with other non-nerds.

In any case, it was now time for Ach to arrange various experiments to study the Teleportation Magic Array.

...

On the other side.

Nigel Bark Roundshield was diligently logging the nautical journal.

As one of the first Elite Earth Knights of the Eagle Kingdom to surrender to Liszt, he had been trusted and appointed as the captain of the Discovery. He was lucky to have survived this peculiar shipwreck, and his first priority was to initiate the entire ship’s self-rescue operations, while his second priority was to record the log.

In order to ensure that His Highness could be informed of the expedition’s status at all times.

He looked up.

He glanced at the magician busy repairing the Magic Platform by the bonfire, then looked at the knights and sailors who were cooking porridge and roasting meat, and at the Discovery, which had been smashed into a pile of broken wood.

Then he looked out towards the vast, primeval jungle around them, and at the enormous mountain waterfall thundering under the moonlight in the distance. Nigel picked up his

pen and began to draw ink—within the captain’s room, there lay a specialized nautical black box that preserved items such as pens, ink, and paper for log writing, and these had remained intact through the shipwreck.

“June 5th, the weather was clear, everything happened so suddenly, I barely knew where to begin recording... At three in the afternoon, the Discovery had just set off from the third island of the New Archipelago, continuing our search southwest for the next island when the lookout spotted huge sea waves ahead, so I ordered us to move closer for inspection.”

Unexpectedly, as soon as the ship approached the waves, it was swept up by a surging underwater current and began to move forward in a spiral.

Captain Nigel immediately opened the Water Calming Pearl stored in his cabin, but activating the Water Calming Pearl still couldn’t stabilize the seemingly calm but dangerous undertow. The Discovery, beyond control, drew closer to the depths of the whirlpool; by the time the lookout noticed the whirlpool, it was too late to prevent it.

Thus, they had no choice but to seek help from Liszt and report the situation using the Magic Platform.

However, before the Flame Number could come to their rescue, the Discovery had already slipped into the depths of the whirlpool, swallowed by the Whirlpool Deep Well amidst the crew’s panic.

“The ship’s body was severely tilted, everyone had to cling to the railing to stabilize themselves, the surface of the Whirlpool Sea tilted more and more, the sky was upside down, and soon we could no longer see the sun, only able to see the churning Whirlpool Sea rotating above our heads. The ship’s rotational force grew stronger, some sailors couldn’t hold on and fell into the sea, disappearing without a trace.”

Like that.

The Discovery spiraled forward on the parabolic surface of the whirlpool, gradually being pulled toward the depths of the Whirlpool Deep Well.

“At that moment, it was like being caught in a surfing wave; I clung to the boat’s helm but couldn’t control any direction, even as the Discovery began to disintegrate, with pieces of the hull planks detaching... Just when I thought we were certainly doomed, the only

source of light disappeared, darkness prevailed, and the waters suddenly calmed, yet the Discovery continued to advance at high speed.”

“I don’t know how much time had passed, maybe five minutes, maybe ten minutes.”

“I tried to speak, opening my mouth but unable to utter a word, even unable to move my hands and feet; I saw countless arcs of light flashing around, resembling both lightning and aurora. In the next moment, a blinding light shone on us, and then I felt my body being lifted.”

“Not just me being lifted, but the Discovery itself lifted. When I could open my eyes, I saw the sky spinning violently, could behold the lush forests and majestic mountains, and the brilliant sunshine on the horizon. Unfortunately, the next second, the Discovery crashed into the forest.”

A thunderous boom, a strong dizziness assailed him.

Almost causing Nigel to faint.

“Withstanding the agony throughout my body, I crawled out from the damaged captain’s cabin, and shockingly found that the Discovery had been smashed into a pile of rotten wood, and our crash site had become the Wild Forest. The huge mountain waterfall in the distance made me realize, the Discovery had flown out from a cave at the mouth of the waterfall.”

“The ocean whirlpool and the mountain waterfall were connected, too inconceivable...”

Chapter 802: Project Approval

Closing his nautical logbook,

Nigel Bark Roundshield started his patrol around the makeshift camp established beside the ruins of the Discovery. He was surrounded by the Wild Forest; he had to maintain a strict watch. Otherwise, a Magical Beast might silently approach and threaten the survival of the crew.

At that moment, he suddenly heard a noise overhead, as if something was tearing through the air.

Then, a thudding boom echoed from the distant forest.

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“What’s going on!” Nigel and the others immediately tensed up.

Unfortunately, during the night, they dared not leave the camp to search the Wild Forest. Moments later, when no other sound arose, Nigel relaxed slightly, temporarily setting aside the idea of exploration and began to share a modest lunch with the knights—even this simple fare was tastier than the salted meat and pickles eaten at sea.

Regrettably, there was no atmosphere of a bonfire party; they had to remain vigilant about the forest and were filled with worry about the unknown world.

They did not know what situation they were in, having left the vast ocean and arrived in an endless forest in the blink of an eye, clueless about the distance covered.

They were even more uncertain whether they had appeared on an island near the Great Whirlpool or some other corner of the world.

“Let us have a moment of silence for our deceased teammates.” After setting up the simple dinnerware, Nigel signaled everyone to mourn—in this disaster, of the Discovery’s one hundred crew members, sixteen were missing, fifty-two were dead, and only thirty-two survived, seven of them critically injured with uncertain fates.

Source: , updated on NovgO.co

The moment of silence had just ended.

A “whoosh” of a tearing sound came from overhead, followed by a thunderous roar from the far-off forest, as if a large rock had fallen from the sky. Though it was much smaller than a meteorite, the ground still trembled slightly.

“What is this?”

Nigel could no longer ignore such commotion.

At this time, Archmage Granney Truth, who was repairing the Magic Platform, suddenly said, “I understand now; it is His Highness!”

“His Highness?”

“Of course His Highness. His Highness has already found the Great Whirlpool and is studying it!” Granney was very excited, “The great Lord Acherloides will surely unravel the secrets of the Great Whirlpool and then come to rescue us! We need to stay here, fix the Magic Platform, and work with His Highness and Lord Acherloides!”

Following that,

He loudly declared, “Tonight we shall not rest; we’ll repair the Magic Platform overnight, to make contact with His Highness as soon as possible!”

Another magician nodded deeply, “I support Archmage Granney’s opinion!”

The knights naturally had no objections; after all, the repair work was for the magicians to do; they would assist as needed. And as if to confirm Granney’s speculation, every fifteen minutes or so, a stone or some item would whoosh past overhead.

Tracking the source, it was coming precisely from that tall waterfall mountain.

...

The survivors from the ships stranded in the unknown forest were eagerly awaiting the archmage’s thorough research.

Indeed, the Flame Number was transporting stones, trees, and magical beasts from nearby islands and throwing them into the Great Whirlpool to study the changes objects underwent when passing through the vortex.

Liszt rode upon Leo, circling in the sky above the Great Whirlpool, casting Dragon Eye Trajectory, constantly probing for feedback on the magical power composition details of the whirlpool and ultimately congregated all the information into Ach's hands—this was an extremely intricate change, and even after dozens of experiments, they still hadn't unraveled the puzzle.

"Brother, Ach doesn't know whether this is a man-made Magic Array, but its operating principles are too profound, and there are many parts that Ach simply cannot understand," Ach said.

"Don't worry, be patient. We can consider this place as a long-term Magic Laboratory," Liszt suggested, guessing that the entire crew of Discovery might have perished. So, after his excitement had calmed down, he was not in a rush to explore what lay at the other end of the Teleportation Array.

The Great Whirlpool was right there; it wasn't going anywhere. There was no need to hurry.

He immediately issued orders to Explorer and Opportunity to continue searching for other islands in the New Archipelago and called the other two Adventure Fleets to conduct searches for islands as well—there was no need to have them come here to investigate and explore the Great Whirlpool, as apart from Ach who could control the currents to resist, no one else had any resistance.

In the latter half of the night,

Ach, in need of experimental materials, decided to take a trip back to Thorn Castle.

"Why don't you bring over a group of magicians," Liszt suggested, "and set up on an island not far from the Great Whirlpool, to establish a Magic Laboratory specifically for cracking the secrets of the whirlpool? I feel that the secrets of the Teleportation Magic Array won't be completely unlocked in less than a year or so."

"Mhmm," Ach nodded.

Thus, the Flame Number sailed back through the vast night and under the next day's sunlight, returned to the newly-built docks at the mouth of Tonghai Canal.

Liszt personally coordinated with the magicians from the Magic Guild.

"Chris, you identify a list of Grand Magicians that must be trustworthy, and who can be dispatched for a long-term assignment and comply with orders," he instructed.

Chris, now a competent administrator, immediately provided a list: "The Magic Guild has gathered eighteen Grand Magicians, among which seven meet Your Highness's requirements. They are Kenley, Lars, Cyrille, Dulac..."

"Then let's start with Kenley, Lars, Cyrille, and Dulac, and also call upon a group of trustworthy magicians to assist and accompany the Archmage on an overseas field Magic research project."

Kenley was a member of the Magic Elephant Family from Steel Ridge, while Lars and his group had once been Liszt's captives and had since been integrated into the Magic Guild, content and showing no desire to return home. Kenley had even been elected as the deputy chairman of the Magic Guild—Chris was the executive deputy chairman.

"Your Highness, may I know what the Magic research project is about?" Chris asked, curious.

There was nothing to hide from Chris, so Liszt replied directly, "Our Adventure Fleet has discovered a huge whirlpool at sea, you must already know about that... That Great Whirlpool has been confirmed by Ach to be the Teleportation Magic Array from ancient legends!"

"Teleportation Magic Array?" Chris's mouth fell open, and it took her a moment to come back to her senses, "Your Highness, I request to personally participate in the research of the Great Whirlpool!"

"You don't need to participate for now; the Magic Guild cannot do without your management, especially regarding the experimental resources needed for Magic research, which still need you to coordinate," Liszt implied—indeed, while Chris was decent at soul-level research, she was otherwise quite average.

After all, she was a newly-minted Grand Magician who was gradually transitioning into administrative work and becoming less familiar with Magic research.

“Alright, but I hope Your Highness will keep me updated on the progress of the Great Whirlpool research.”

“Of course, you need to be informed of the progress to better allocate resources.”

At noon, Chris convened Kenley and the other three.

The four Grand Magicians, upon hearing that they could study a Magic Array from ancient legends, immediately handed over their current Magic experiments to their assistants, eager to prepare the materials that might be involved in the Magic experiments with Ach, sharpening their skills to conduct in-depth research on the Great Whirlpool.

Chapter 803: Whirlpool Town

The gathering of experimental equipment required some time, and Ach didn't engage in theoretical research. He primarily focused on preparing these experimental materials.

The preparations were estimated to need a week's time in total.

During this period, Ach went to the Great Whirlpool three times and helped in scouting the surrounding archipelago, finally finding seven large islands within a week—measured against the standard of Black Horse Island.

However, the largest one was still the one discovered earlier, about the size of Coral Island.

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Besides that were many smaller sporadically scattered islets and reefs.

This archipelago clearly couldn't support the foundation of a Kingdom, and Liszt named it the Second Archipelago. It could only be used as a supply point for transiting, which left him quite disappointed. However, the discovery of the transport magic circle from ancient legends was significant, so the value of the Second Archipelago remained high.

Liszt unfolded the nautical map and studied it once more, this map drawn by Ach herself.

800 kilometers south of Black Horse Island lay Three Islands; First Island, Second Island, Third Island, each smaller than Black Horse Island.

1200 kilometers southeast from the Three Islands was Dragon Turtle Island.

A slight turn to the south-southeast from Three Islands and 2500 kilometers away was First Chain Island—with all of its islands being smaller than Black Horse Island.

400 kilometers south from the First Chain Island was the habitat of the Light Green Gemstone Dragons, now newly renamed as Midway Island, approximately the same size as Coral Island.

Another 500 kilometers south from Midway Island was the Second Archipelago, which contained seven islands larger than Black Horse Island, the largest nearly the size of Coral Island, named Whirlpool Island.

From Black Horse Island directly to the Second Archipelago was about 4000 kilometers distance.

The Great Whirlpool was located twenty-three kilometers south of Whirlpool Island, making a beach on Whirlpool Island the chosen location for the magic laboratory. To study the Great Whirlpool, Liszt even planned to build a small town on it, straightforwardly naming it Whirlpool Town.

Another Mage Tower would be built, and the magic laboratory would be set up inside the Mage Tower.

“It's best to build small towns on all the islands we can dock at and resupply. After all, the more serfs I buy, the easier it is to relocate them to cultivate the land... As long as the serfs in the supply towns can sustain themselves, I don't need to collect taxes from them.”

Usually, maritime trade in sea salt, white paper, and glass are lucrative businesses; and every year, a few Pioneer Mandates sweep in like an autumn wind among fallen leaves—filling sacks with real gold and silver.

Therefore, Liszt didn't care much for the meager tax revenue from serfs. If it weren't for the risk of disrupting the current societal structure, he'd seriously consider abolishing all agricultural taxes—he might not rely on tax revenue to feed himself, but other Nobles still needed to exploit serfs to live, including his father, the Tulip Family, which also required squeezing serfs.

“One town each on First Island among the Three Islands—Mangrove Town (Nami has managed a mangrove forest here), Crescent Island of the First Chain Island—a town called Crescent Town, and build another town on Midway Island—Greenlight Town, and on Whirlpool Island build Whirlpool Town... That's decided then!”

He added the four towns to the map; these were the plans for the future.

However, he then thought of an issue he hadn't paid attention to before: “I've been sending the Adventure Fleet to search for islands, but it seems I've forgotten to measure the distance of these islands from the mainland coastline... They should still be in the coastal waters of Eagle Kingdom, it's just that most of the coastline is likely undeveloped.”

Human settlements on the Legendary Continent mainly concentrate in the open plains and along freshwater rivers.

Mountain areas, primeval forests, and coastal populations are not as dense.

“When Ach has time, I should let her start from the Second Archipelago and explore toward the mainland coastline to see the land situation there. Perhaps in the future, developing the Second Archipelago, we could directly launch an assault on Eagle Kingdom from here, capture strongholds and grab resources.”

At least he could go to the continent for exploration from this direction—the wild, untamed jungles to him were like treasure troves yet to be discovered.

Liszt marked the map and walked out onto the balcony.

Gazing at the distant sky and just about to compose a poem, he was interrupted by the chattering of Little Yellow, Little Red, and Little Purple, three Flame Dragon Birds, circling around Annie's Cordyceps-Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree. Having left the volcano, Annie had eventually planted the Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree near Thorn Castle.

Little Fire Dragon Leo would often fall asleep beside the tree, which gave Annie the perfect opportunity to stealthily fondle Leo's scales and indulge in self-satisfaction.

Although this was a phenomenon of the Greater Elf's evolution, Liszt still found it rather odd.

In considering Annie, he felt it had even more peculiar tastes than Ash, the Pea Greater Elf who loved rope tricks.

Suddenly,

Another Greater Elf flew over— its appearance that of an elite with a pale green hue, a small sapling adorned its head, bearing a single red fruit. This Greater Elf landed gently in front of Liszt and chirped a clear, melodious question, “Chirp, Liszt, is Ach in the laboratory?”

“Yes, she is, Nami. Go look for her yourself.”

“Thank you, Liszt, chirp.” Nami flew from the balcony into the castle to find Ach to play with.

Just a few days earlier, Nami had finally shaken off her listlessness and sprang to life, growing rapidly and evolving into a Mangrove Greater Elf.

Becoming the fifth Greater Elf of the territory, following Giant Algae Greater Elf Pike, Pea Greater Elf Ash, Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree Greater Elf Annie, and Thorn Greater Elf Jela.

The five Greater Elves brought Liszt endless glory once more.

However, the response was much more subdued; whenever Liszt's Greater Elves were mentioned, all citizens and Nobles acted as if it was only natural: "Prince Liszt is a Dragon Knight, isn't it very normal for him to have several Greater Elves? If a Dragon Elf were born in the Flame Territory, then that would be something to talk about."

Actually, this was quite unusual.

But from the high-ranking Nobles like Marquis of Bull Tail down to the small street vendors, they all thought it was normal.

It had to be said, the radiance of the Dragon Knight's title was so intense that nowadays, unless Liszt did something as dramatic as slaying dragons, he couldn't make the headlines.

"Woah!"

Nami had just flown into the corridor when she came face to face with Thorn Greater Elf Jela, hands on hips, strutting with an air of arrogance as she inspected the Worm Room.

"Chirp, hello Jela."

Jela haughtily glanced at Nami, not wishing to acknowledge her.

Nami, as if by magic, produced a small bag of Purple Jade Powder, Jela's favorite treat: "Chirp, Jela, here's something for you to eat."

Jela tried to maintain her pride, but upon seeing the Jade Powder, she couldn't resist her inner desires. Snatching the powder, she sniffed it and then hung it on her waist. When she looked at Nami again, she gave a slight nod: "I like Purple Jade Powder; remember that."

"Chirp, Nami remembers."

"Hmm, bring me more Purple Jade Powder next time."

"Chirp."

“Woah!” Jela, face-savily graced with Purple Jade Powder, exchanged a few words with Nami and then resumed her haughty patrol of her “territory.”

Nami giggled to herself, her confidence brimming with self-assurance as she flew directly to the fifth floor—to the laboratory. Taming the prideful Greater Elf Jela was not a matter to rush; she’d take her time.

Chapter 804: A Thousand Miles Away

When Liszt had arranged his plans to build a town and the Mage Tower, and when the magicians like Ach had almost prepared all the necessary materials for the experiment,

in the laboratory, the twins Lucy and Rose operating the Magic Platform, received a signal from the “Discovery” through their Magic Platform.

Initially, the signal from the Magic Platform was chaotic and indecipherable, revealing no clear message, but after half an hour, the signal became clear.

The first message received was sent in the name of Captain Ganeel Treebark Roundshield.

“Report your Highness, the ‘Discovery’ has crashed, fifty-six perished, sixteen missing, twenty-eight survived... We fell into the Great Whirlpool and were ejected from a cave in a mountain waterfall, surrounded by a primeval forest with Magical Beast activity, unable to venture out, we can only hold our position at the camp... urgently hoping for rescue.”

“There are still people alive on the ‘Discovery’!”

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Liszt received this message, hardly believing his ears. The seemingly terrifying abyss of the Great Whirlpool was actually a safe passage through a magical array.

The only issue was that one end of the Magic Array was a bit thrilling, being located inside a waterfall cave on a mountain peak, causing the 'Discovery' to fall from the sky, and a majority of the crew perished.

"Lucy, reply to Ganeel, reassure him that they should wait safely, I am cracking the Great Whirlpool passage and will come to rescue them at any moment."

"Yes, Your Highness."

Lucy quickly pressed the keys on the compass of the Magic Platform, sending the message.

Ach reminded from the side, "Brother, we should immediately determine the coordinates of the 'Discovery'."

Liszt nodded, "Yes, Lucy, ask Ganeel for their position."

Moments later, the Magic Platform received a response: "Your Highness will not abandon us, Knight's glory shines upon us! The sextant is broken, we cannot determine the exact position, but according to the calculations of two esteemed magicians, we should be at..." A string of nautical coordinates came through.

It was a rough position.

Ach merely glanced at the data and had calculated, "Brother, if the coordinates of the 'Discovery' are accurate, their location is about seven to eight thousand kilometers south of Black Horse Island. Using the Great Whirlpool as a reference, it is about ten degrees south by west, nearly four thousand kilometers in straight line distance."

A Teleportation Magic Array had directly transported the 'Discovery' four thousand kilometers away.

Jay Chou and Fei Yuching would have to sing four songs of "Far Away" to cover such a distance, and if one "kilometer" equals two "li," they would need to sing eight songs!

"Lucy, ask them if anyone is experiencing any adverse health effects."

Moments later, the Magic Platform responded: “No adverse health reactions, some of the injured are yet to recover fully, but the Knights’ Dou Qi is functioning well, Magicians can freely cast Magic, sleep normal, spirit normal, consciousness normal.”

“Ask them if they saw the rocks, trees, and Magical Beasts we threw into the Great Whirlpool during the previous magic experiments.”

“They found them, but these items fell far from their location, and their path is blocked by Magical Beasts, making exploration impossible.”

“Have them describe in detail the process of passing through the Great Whirlpool and describe the specifics of the mountain waterfall.”

“...”

After more than an hour of detailed questioning, Liszt and Ach had clarified the situation with the Great Whirlpool’s Teleportation Magic Array, which indeed was a safe transport channel.

The only two dangers lay in, first, the whirlpool flowed extremely fast, which risked the ship falling apart; second, the instant they burst out of the waterfall’s cave, they would be thrown high into the air and then plummet.

As long as these two dangers were avoided, the Great Whirlpool essentially served as a safe and efficient Teleportation Magic Array.

“Brother, we should send a batch of supplies and experimental materials to the survivors of the Discovery, including a sextant and other equipment, and then have them collaborate with us on the research.”

“That’s for sure!” Liszt nodded, “But, Ach, you might need to personally make a trip to the waters seven or eight thousand kilometers away to see if there’s an island or perhaps a corner of a continent.”

“Mm.”

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Establishing unexpected contact with the Discovery had revitalized the research on the Great Whirlpool.

Though the experimental research still needed to be followed up on, it was no longer urgent, especially since Liszt's focus was now completely on the other end of the Great Whirlpool.

According to Ganeel's description, it was a massive, expansive primeval forest, indicating his location was either on a large island or at a continent's corner. With the Teleportation Magic Array of the Great Whirlpool negating thousands of kilometers, the developmental value was substantially high.

Communications continued, and Ganeel reported on their situation every hour.

Ach had already rapidly started on his journey to the unknown waters, while Liszt began organizing supplies, ready to dispatch them to the Discovery through the Great Whirlpool.

"All supplies must be wrapped with fan-rubber leaves, padded with cotton hemp inside, and finally bound tightly with ropes woven from hemp rope vine!"

When instructing Administrative Officer Isaiah from Giant Algae City to gather supplies, Liszt took extra care in his instructions: "Also, continuously reinforce the ships. Do not fear wasting materials; it's best to apply several more layers of rubber solution to ensure the ships can withstand great impact forces, even from high falls."

Now a Baron, Isaiah grew increasingly steady and capable: "Your Highness, please rest assured, Isaiah will strictly package the supplies and reinforce the ships, ensuring every step minimizes the possibility of damage."

Having arranged the tasks,

the night had already fallen. Liszt stood on the balcony, gazing at the star-filled sky, inwardly hoping Ach would bring good news—he wasn't worried about Ach's safety. Ach

had become an Archmage, mastering Water Magic and proficient in Ice System Magic, powerful enough to dominate the seas.

Moreover, Ach's swimming speed in the sea could approach the speed of sound, that is, well over twelve hundred kilometers per hour.

No creature in the sea could catch up to Ach, not even a Water Dragon—in fact, whether Water Dragons lived in the ocean remained a speculation. Recorded Water Dragons had been found in a great marsh on the continent, far from any ocean.

From Black Horse Island to the Discovery's position, covering seven or eight thousand kilometers, Ach's full-speed swimming round trip took less than half a day.

However, Ach took along a Magic Platform,

and before dawn the next day, Rose, working the night shift, led by a servant, knocked on Liszt's bedroom door: "Your Highness, Acherlroides Teacher has sent a message. She has reached the coordinates of the Discovery and found several huge islands, the biggest of which is several times larger than Iron Hoof Island!"

"Several times bigger than Iron Hoof Island?"

Liszt immediately got out of bed and, still in his pajamas, went to the Magic Laboratory to communicate with Ach via the Magic Platform.

Ach described her discoveries. Since she couldn't pinpoint the exact location of the Discovery, she intentionally toured the nearby waters and had identified over ten islands. The largest was several times the size of Iron Hoof Island and even bigger than Blue Dragon Island; additionally, there were several other large islands nearly as big as Iron Hoof Island.

"It's settled!"

Hearing the narration, Liszt immediately declared, "My Founding Archipelago is settled!"

Ach returned with the discovery of a super archipelago to Black Horse Island.

Liszt was excited for an entire day. An island several times larger than Iron Hoof Island and even much bigger than Blue Dragon Island could fully bear the weight of founding a nation.

In addition, with the surrounding large islands, this was essentially the chosen site for the Flame Country.

And according to Ach's account, the distances between the islands were very narrow, which would significantly reduce sailing time between them, making them even more suitable for living and development.

The only flaw was that this archipelago was too far from the Duchy of Sapphire, precisely seven thousand kilometers away according to Ach's re-measurement. Even if the Great Whirlpool Magic Teleportation Matrix were created in the future for ship navigation, it would still only shorten the distance by a bit over three thousand kilometers.

Moreover, the Great Whirlpool Magic Teleportation Matrix seemed to be one-way, only allowing passage one way and not the return.

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For trade between the two nations, the round trip would be at least eleven thousand kilometers, and with the Court's fast sailing ships at a speed of 10 knots, it would take more than fifty days; for ordinary sailing ships at 3 knots, at least half a year. Relocating the domain's industries would be truly troublesome.

Liszt himself did not need to worry. He and Ach could take to the seas any time on Flame Number, reaching speeds of five hundred kilometers per hour, making ten thousand kilometers merely a 20-hour trek.

With rest included, a round trip in two days would be easy.

But it was not feasible to use Flame Number to help with the domain's relocation. To move all the industries, Flame Number would have to sail back and forth for months.

“Perhaps the Lightning Dragon Turtle could be employed as a mover?”

Though not the fastest, the Lightning Dragon Turtle was much faster than the Court's fast sailing ships, and the ordinary dragon turtles on Dragon Turtle Island were not slow either. Once tamed, they would happily pull the ships—sadly, taming dragon turtles to pull ships is likely as difficult as inventing steamships.

Regardless, despite its remote location and sailing difficulties, the discovery of the New Archipelago was still tremendously good news.

From now on, Liszt could start preparing to relocate his domain and develop the New Archipelago to prepare for nation-building.

“Should I start by establishing a Grand Duchy as a transition, or go straight to a kingdom? It's a bit troublesome. My old friend, the Formless Dragon hasn't come yet; I feel uncertain without it.”

What a pleasant dilemma.

Liszt pulled his thoughts back from wandering and finally set his sights on the Magic Teleportation Array, “What I should most do is support Ach in deciphering the Magic Teleportation Array, striving to master the manufacturing method of the Teleportation Magic Array, so I can directly build one on Black Horse Island.”

The Great Whirlpool at sea could directly send the Discovery four thousand kilometers away, the most efficient mode of transportation.

Once he developed the Magic Teleportation Array, Liszt could fully realize his dream of ruling the seas around the Legendary Continent, then slowly hunt and farm the Legendary Continent as his own.

The idea was good.

But the study of the Magic Teleportation Array was no simple matter.

Judging by the tempestuous aura of the Great Whirlpool, it was clear that the Magic Teleportation Array wouldn't just be a simple door to push open to teleport to another door or a metallic array to stand on and wait to be magically 'whooshed' thousands of miles away.

However, no matter how difficult, Liszt had to study the Magic Teleportation Array; this magic was the cornerstone for ideals to soar.

"Give me the Magic Teleportation Array, and I have the confidence to change this world!"

There was a time when his dream was very simple: to be well-fed, ride a dragon, and live carefree. After riding a dragon, his dream evolved into protecting a nation, preserving the bloodline, and then exploring the wonderful world. Now, his dream had ballooned once again: exploring was no longer a challenge; the real challenge was to change the world.

"Contract with the Immortal Dragon and become an eternal Dragon Domain Landlord!"

"Open up the Magic Teleportation Array, collect various dragons, rule the Legendary Continent!"

"Melding Magic with Dou Qi, I'll forge a brand-new era where technology and Magic Power are equally emphasized!"

"And then, to comprehend this planet and journey to the moon for a look, if possible, I could embark on an impromptu interstellar voyage!"

The more he pondered, the more his spirits surged.

After indulging in wild fantasies, he gradually reigned in his thoughts, discarding these exaggerated ideas and returning to reality. Despite the constant opportunities that came his way, he couldn't deny that his foundation was still quite shallow, and supporting two dragons was proving to be very strenuous.

He still needed to keep working hard and striving towards the goal of building a nation.

...

News of the discovery of the Founding Archipelago was temporarily sealed by Li Si Te (Liszt).

He didn't want to expose his hand before the situation became clear, especially since he hadn't taken enough advantage of the Duchy of Sapphire—he risked being hunted by dragons to save the Sapphire Family, and not to skin the Sapphire down would be a huge loss.

In short, it was about getting money, goods, and technology from the Sapphire Duke's hands.

Under his persistent urging, the shipyard in his territory, supported by technology, finally launched a brand-new three-masted merchant ship, which passed navigational testing and met all the required standards.

After the new ship's return from its maiden voyage, Li Si Te generously rewarded all the shipbuilders and personally named the merchant ship "Expedition," signifying that the trade of the Flame Territory would venture far across the seas. It also meant that he was about to lift the curtain on the great age of sailing.

The Duchy of Sapphire may have started the age of sailing, but it was still confined to its own small world.

Yet Li Si Te's ambition was unstoppable, even by the Devil's Sea.

Only when he would traverse the four seas surrounding the Legendary Continent, and then set sail into the Devil's Sea, transitioning from green waters to the blue, could it be considered the true age of sailing!

After concluding the commemoration ceremony of the ship's launch, Li Si Te rode on the back of the Landwalker bird Loki, leisurely calling out the Smoke Mission, "Complete the mission, reward: the anomalies of Mind Island."

“It’s finally time to complete the mission, time to investigate Mind Island once again.”

He suddenly felt a weary sentiment, “I have to go with Ach... ever since Ach became an Archmage, it seems I can’t do anything without her. It’s not just that she might be more inclined to use her brain than I am, but more because her speed at sea is unmatched, saving time and improving efficiency.”

Without Ach, Li Si Te didn’t know how long it would take to embark on naval explorations; building a nation would be even further off.

Fortunately, he had Ach.

Although he had trained Ach to be not quite like the naïve Little Sea Monster she once was, their intimacy continued to grow day by day.

With the corners of his mouth curving up into a smile, Li Si Te adjusted the light golden locks of hair on his forehead, lifted by the wind. His nineteen-year-old face still retained some childishness, but his aura was unmistakably noble.

A red cape, silver armor, a multicolored mount.

He was the brightest light on Black Horse Island.

As he passed by, whether it be officials, Knights, or the working commoners and Serfs, all showed sincere expressions of reverence, bowing their heads in respectful salutation.

He was accustomed to such displays, untouched by them.

He was only concerned with the new Smoke Mission.

“Mission: Last year, the blood of the Light Green Gemstone Dragon drenched Mind Island, turning the entire Mind Island green. Although much of the Magic Power was drawn by the Mind Fruit Trees and absorbed by the Crystal *Alsophila spinulosa*, it still nurtured vast Crystal and gemstone mines; please proceed with mining. Reward: Shattered Jade.”

Chapter 806: Jade Dream

“The reward for mining the Light Green Gemstone Mine is a shattered jade?”

In this world, there is jade, a type of gemstone, colored emerald green, which many Elves like to consume as jade powder. However, a piece of shattered jade clearly isn’t sufficient as a reward for the Smoke Mission—even if sometimes the Smoke Mission uses readily available resources as rewards, they have never been this cheap.

“So the shattered jade isn’t just any jade, it’s very likely...”

Liszt’s heart suddenly raced uncontrollably, trying to suppress but unable to restrain the wild thoughts in his mind, “It’s very likely related to clues about the Jade Dragon!”

...

The Jade Dragon, one of the five Sacred Dragons, represents the power of dreams, and it’s said to be able to enter the dreams of any creature.

All the Sacred Dragons truly exist, Liszt firmly believed in this, so the Jade Dragon must also truly exist. He had fantasized more than once about the different abilities of the Sacred Dragons—the Formless Dragon, resembling a special Gemstone Dragon, can produce Space Gems; the Smoke Dragon holds the power of fate, changing destiny at will.

The Immortal Dragon probably possesses eternal life, whereas the Twilight Dragon has the ability to alter time. As for the powers of the Jade Dragon, Liszt had also thought a lot about it.

There are generally two directions to speculate.

One is the dream world, linking the dreams of all creatures, similar to the Emerald Dream protected by the Green Dragons in “World of Warcraft”, which is a reflection of the real world.

Another is mental power, manipulating creatures’ thoughts through entering dreams, just like the legendary nightmares that trap people in endless torment.

“Shattered jade, Mind Island, Mind Fruit Tree, Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruit!” Liszt, riding the Landwalker Bird Loki, calculated like a fortune teller, “I should’ve realized, the Mind Fruit Tree, such an incredible plant, even Space Gems can’t stop it, it’s definitely extraordinary!”

Dragon magic has an extreme nature, belonging to a unique class of Superior Magic, Super-energy Magic Power.

Thus, ordinary items definitely can’t break the dominance of Superior Magic; only magic of the same level can counteract each other. The Mind Fruit Tree is clearly a product of Superior Magic, just like Space Gems.

“Could the shattered jade refer to the remains of the Jade Dragon? Upon its remains grows the Mind Fruit Tree, and the Mind Fruit Tree has produced Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruit because it possesses the powerful mental powers of the Jade Dragon, thus the Mind Fruit can bind the minds of dragons!”

From the current clues, this is the most reasonable speculation.

Having thought everything through, Liszt had already returned to Thorn Castle and found Ach, who was drawing nautical charts, “Ach, pause your work, come with me to Mind Island.”

“Brother, are you in a hurry to mine the gem mines on Mind Island?” Ach was a bit reluctant to leave; she was now captivated by the Magic Teleportation Array.

“Very much so because there might be clues about another dragon hidden on Mind Island!”

Ach also likes dragons, and upon hearing the clues about a dragon, she immediately put down her work, “Another new dragon? That’s great, brother can ride a new dragon.”

Magicians cannot ride dragons, yet the love for dragons is in everyone’s heart.

Moreover, for Ach, dragons are excellent research material. Initially, the nearly dead Light Green Gemstone Dragon Ethan had provided her with a wealth of information to explore the mysteries of magic. To this day, she would from time to time ask Liszt to let her study Leo.

And so, they set off, and on the way, Ach asked, “Brother, what kind of dragon’s clues did you find?”

“It’s a Jade Dragon.”

“Sapphire Duke, you mentioned the Jade Dragon representing dreams?” Ach wasn’t overly surprised, as she already knew about the Formless Dragon and was prepared for the Sacred Dragons.

“It might just be the remains of a Jade Dragon.”

“Remains?”

“Yes, even dragons die, but it’s unclear why they didn’t die in the legendary Valley of Dragons, but here, in the Sea of Azure Waves.” Liszt was really curious about what had happened to these powerful dragons, starting with the Smoke Dragon, which seemed to be dead, its power inhabiting his body.

Then he encountered a dragon that seemed to be in its youth, the Formless Dragon, not knowing whether it had been resurrected after death; followed by finding the remains of a Fire Dragon, from which Little Fire Dragon Leo was born.

Now, there appeared to be remains of a Jade Dragon.

Counting it up, there were exactly four dragons intersecting in the Sea of Azure Waves, among them three Sacred Dragons, one Elemental Dragon. There were too many unknown secrets that baffled him, so much so that Liszt even wondered whether the Sea of Azure Waves was the legendary Valley of Dragons, but he felt it couldn’t be possible.

However, the Fire Dragon had died thousands of years ago, even the dragon bones, which almost never decay, had degraded to ordinary bones.

In a trance.

Mind Island had arrived; from afar, Liszt understood what “the anomaly of Mind Island” meant—the island was enveloped in a layer of light green mist emitting light, clearly the power of the Light Green Gemstone Mine, mingling with the free magic power in the air to form a misty aura.

Sapphire Duke had told Liszt that the gemstone mine sometimes formed a gemstone mist under special weather conditions.

“We must mine it as soon as possible to prevent Mind Island from being discovered by others!” Such an anomaly could be seen from a great distance, making it extremely exposed.

Moments later, they landed on Mind Island.

Liszt immediately took out a Bone Spade and began to dig where the Mind Fruit Tree had previously grown. After digging through a meter of soil, they gradually reached the rock layer. He forcefully chiseled the rock and discovered that inside the rock were visible Light Green Crystal raw stones, clusters of light green glimmers twinkling.

Upon close inspection, one could even see Light Green Gems, as large as a fist, inside some of the crystals.

These raw stones had to be handed over to the Crystal Craftsman to be carefully cut open, so that the gemstones growing inside could be extracted without damaging the overall structure of the crystals.

Liszt simply stored the raw stones in his Space Ring and continued digging.

After chiseling through a three-meter-thick layer of rock, he excavated dozens of Light Green Crystal raw stones, yet hadn’t reached the shattered jade he had hypothesized about.

However, he wasn’t in a hurry. Although Mind Island was a small island, it had an elevation of at least several tens of meters. The broken jade might just be hidden within

those thick layers of rock... From digging during the day to nightfall, taking a brief sleep, then continuing to dig, from three meters deep to ten meters.

Even for a Dragon Knight with a formidable physique, it was exhausting. The Bone Spades and Bone Chisels made from Fire Dragon Bones broke more than a dozen times.

Finally, on the afternoon of the third day, they had dug through the distribution layer of the Light Green Gemstone Mine.

Next, they pried open layer upon layer of a type of jade-like green shale, brushing off the rock powder, and finally exposed a vibrant and beautiful vivid green.

Despite both being green, the green of the shale above was only jade-grade, yet this touch of green was indescribably verdant.

“It’s like the tender sprouts of a freshly sprouted tree, vibrant life coursing through it! Ach, come see, I’ve found the remains of the Jade Dragon!” Liszt gripping the Bone Spade, his fatigue swept away, “Beneath Mind Island indeed lies the corpse of the Jade Dragon!”

Chapter 807: Crossing the Great Whirlpool

Dig, dig, dig; randomly strike with a chisel.

Wanting to excavate the shattered jade from a rock layer several meters below was not just ordinarily difficult. It kept requiring the prying open of the upper layer of rock; with each dig, a large piece was extracted. If Liszt hadn’t been a Dragon Knight and hadn’t consistently practiced Dragon Dou Qi, making his physique incredibly strong, this task could not have been achieved without a couple of months of work.

Dragon Breath Tempering constantly tempered his body, giving him enough strength to kill a Magical Beast with a single punch.

Of course, the reason he could excavate so violently was that he discovered that the “shattered jade” had a hardness that was downright terrifying—striking it with the bone

chisel left not even a slight mark. Therefore, he continuously chiseled apart layers of layered green shale jade, exposing more and more jade.

...

After continuous work for one day.

He finally excavated all the shattered jade, and when the jade revealed itself in full, Liszt and Ach suddenly realized this was actually a lifelike thigh—a dragon's hind leg, exquisitely and magnificently carved out of emerald jade, including the dragon claws and dragon scales in meticulous detail.

At the base of the dragon's hind leg, there was also a large piece of dragon meat attached, with a smooth cut at one end of the meat.

It looked as if severed directly by some sharp weapon; this must be the Jade Dragon's hind leg. From the cut, you could see a mix of deep and light green traces, likely representing tissues such as dragon bone, dragon meat, dragon vessels, and dragon skin.

Liszt and Ach exchanged glances, "So, could the cutting marks on this Jade Dragon's hind leg imply it met an unnatural death?"

Ach was quite puzzled, "But what kind of weapon could cut through the body of a Sacred Dragon? Brother once tested the hardness of Jade Dragon remains; it's extremely difficult to cause damage. It should have been even stronger and virtually impossible to sustain such severe injuries when it was alive... It's really strange."

Not just strange, but also horrifying.

A Sacred Dragon, the legend itself, one of its limbs buried here, still lifelike after who knows how many years.

That clear cut loudly declares how sharp the weapon that severed its limb was, and how powerful the wielder of that weapon must have been.

Eye of Magic was deployed.

Liszt shifted his perspective to observe this approximately eighteen-meter-long Jade Dragon's hind leg—based on the size of the hind leg, it could be deduced that the Jade Dragon's size while alive was about forty-five meters in length, with a wingspan of about forty-five meters as well. Basically, that was the size of a Light Green Gemstone Dragon.

The magical hues of the hind leg were not multi-colored; instead, they were chaotic. However, he could feel its energy level, which definitely belonged to Superior Magic.

Contained within every inch of the leg tissue, with no signs of dissipating to the outside.

“The magical power hasn't dissipated at all; it's hard to say when exactly it was beheaded in the Sea of Azure Waves... It most likely died from decapitation, as the whole hind leg was chopped off, it definitely couldn't have survived... So where did the rest of its body fall, could it be right here in the Sea of Azure Waves?”

Countless thoughts swirled in Liszt's mind.

Among them, the biggest one—that made him feel horrified—was who exactly had killed the Jade Dragon!

Even, the remains of the Fire Dragon on Black Horse Island could possibly be from the same battle—the adult Fire Dragon also killed by the person who killed the Jade Dragon.

Of course, it wasn't necessarily done by humans.

But whoever crafted that weapon must certainly be a higher intelligent being.

“Not quite, Ach, look at this cut, it's indeed smooth and even, but it doesn't necessarily have to be caused by a weapon. If it's the sharp claws of some creature, it could also make such a cut... But to so smoothly sever such a thick hind leg, the creature's claws must be at least twenty meters long, and how large would its body have to be?”

Adult Fire Dragons can be up to a hundred meters in body length and wingspan, but their claws are at most three to four meters long. With claws twenty meters long, the creature itself would have to be six to seven hundred meters in length.

“Brother, maybe that kind of creature has particularly long claws,” Ach suggested.

“It’s possible... Never mind, it’s useless to think too much about it now. Let’s first transport this Jade Dragon’s hind leg away, and we can study it slowly later! Then I’ll prepare to organize a group of loyal knights to come mine and at the same time thoroughly search Mind Island to see if there are any other remains of the Jade Dragon.”

...

That very night, Ach and Liszt transported away the Jade Dragon’s hind leg.

They stored it in the cargo hold of the new ship, Flame Number Two, used for nautical voyages, and then docked Flame Number Two at the end of the Tonghai Canal below Thorn Castle, where it was tightly guarded.

Then Liszt quickly organized a group of Earth Knights, ready to head to Mind Island to excavate the Light Green Gemstone Mine—these knights had already signed an agreement to bring their families to settle on a new island after the mining, serving as the first batch of reinforcement to develop the Flame Islands.

Which was also the newly discovered Founding Archipelago.

After they finished mining, they would not return to Black Horse Island.

However, these knights could be promoted from commoners to Honored Knights, and upon setting foot on the Flame Islands and constructing the first city, they could further be promoted to Barons.

Busy deciding on the knights,

Liszt finally found time to look at the Smoke Mission: “Complete the mission, reward: Remains of the Jade Dragon’s hind leg.”

The Light Green Gemstone Mine was only just started, but the task was already completed, it seems there wasn’t a strict requirement to completely excavate the gemstone.

“Mission: The Great Whirlpool has been verified as a Magic Teleportation Array, whether it is a natural wonder or the masterpiece of an Ancient Mage is unknown, but the urgent matter is to study and utilize it—please successfully traverse the Great Whirlpool once. Reward: Deep understanding of the Magic Teleportation Array.”

“I was originally planning to wait, but now it seems the danger of the Great Whirlpool might not be too high, and I can traverse it directly... With my Dragon Knight strength, crossing the Great Whirlpool should be quite easy... Of course, it’s best to first send a Sky Knight in a large ship to try to traverse it once.”

So, he quickly summoned several Sky Knights and disclosed the plan of traversing the Great Whirlpool to them.

He selectively told them part of the information—the Great Whirlpool was dangerous, but many Earth Knights, magicians, and even several Apprentice Knight sailors, had survived traversing it.

The survival pressure for Sky Knights was not significant.

“The choice is yours, as of now, except for Durt who is an Earl, the rest of you are Viscounts. I am not stingy with rewards, the battle honors for crossing the Great Whirlpool will be established according to the standards from Viscount to Earl,” Liszt casually offered an Earlship.

After all, the Flame Islands were vast in area, and he didn’t mind allocating a bit of land—it was actually more concerning for him that there were no nobles to develop the barren land on his behalf.

Thus, he eagerly promoted the knights’ titles to motivate his followers.

The bait was thrown, it was a chance for promotion, and the danger was not considered very high; the Sky Knights had quite a struggle, but eventually, Cross·Thorn seized the opportunity.

He was one of the nine Sky Knights who had surrendered during the Battle of the Sea, and as an ordinary level Sky Knight, his strength had faintly begun to step into the Sword Saint Level, just lacking a significant achievement and a title to reach it.

For the sake of the Earlship, he was willing to take a gamble.

Chapter 808: Wormhole Space

First, they sent the Earth Knights to mine on Mind Island, followed by dispatching Cross·Thorn to the Great Whirlpool, accompanied by a meticulously reinforced two-masted sailing ship.

The ship was equipped with highly-accurate sextants, Magic Platforms, and other devices for positioning.

After reaching the Great Whirlpool, Ach directly pushed the two-masted sailing ship into it, while Cross clung to the main mast, anxiously keeping his eyes fixed on the Whirlpool Deep Well at the whirlpool's center. The ship was surrounded by a dense array of crystal spotlights designed to illuminate the environment.

Liszt rode the Little Fire Dragon Leo circling above the Whirlpool Deep Well, his special telescope aimed at the inside, waiting for the sailing ship to enter and cast light into the depths, hoping to discover some new secrets.

...

The two-masted ship kept circling within the whirlpool, rapidly approaching its center.

Ach, standing on a seashell, was lifted by a Water Tornado at the edge of the Great Whirlpool—the Water Tornado could not continue deeper into the whirlpool; the rapid water currents and chaotic magic power could easily shred it.

The Eye of Magic Power was deployed to observe changes in the Great Whirlpool.

After about half an hour, the sailing ship finally plunged into the Whirlpool Deep Well at the whirlpool's center.

Liszt carefully peered through his telescope at the deep well and saw the ship's crystal spotlights indeed illuminate its interior; however, the inner walls still seemed to be just fast-moving water. But then, in the next moment, the ship suddenly passed through a hazy mist, and its hull quickly disappeared into the fog, with the lights extinguishing too.

The Great Whirlpool then returned to its previous calm.

As if nothing had happened.

Liszt retracted his telescope and, piloting Leo, returned to the deck of Flame Number, with Ach following swiftly back inside. Inside the cabin, Kenley and several Grand Magicians were eagerly manning the Magic Platform, maintaining continuous communication with Captain Ganeel Treebark Roundshield.

"Report the communication results," Liszt commanded as he entered.

Kenley, directly operating the Magic Platform, didn't look up as she responded, "Feedback from Discover's Magic Platform shows everything is normal; no new ships have been detected."

Ten minutes later.

The Magic Platform finally relayed new information: "Your Highness, we report that a ship has flown out from the mountain waterfall cave and fallen into a forest nearby... A Sky Knight is flying towards us, it must be Viscount Cross!"

A few minutes after that.

The Magic Device continued to report: "It is indeed Viscount Cross; Viscount Cross is in good physical condition and states that the voyage through the Great Whirlpool was successful... After entering the Whirlpool Deep Well, the crystal spotlights went out, but the surroundings lit up with myriad lightning-web or lightning-like light trajectories."

"Explain in detail."

“Viscount Cross, clinging to the mast and unable to move, felt the ship enveloped by a tremendous force and cast out directly. After being thrown about for five minutes, it finally passed through the dense web of lightning and emerged at the mouth of the waterfall cave, where the spotlight’s light returned.”

“Describe the physical sensations while passing through the Great Whirlpool.”

“The body felt good, with no abnormalities, but Viscount Cross remembers not breathing during the transit, as if even his heart had not beaten; it was as though everything was paused, and only the ship was wrapped by some force, flying along a twisted course.”

It’s flying, not sailing, which means there’s actually no water in the channel.

The waterfall is normal, but the ship took flight, indicating that although the channel is within the waterfall cave, it has no connection to the waterfall.

After all questions were asked, Liszt signaled Kenley to send a message: “Prepare to welcome me; I will personally traverse the Great Whirlpool and come to your location.”

“Your Highness, without more experimental data, it’s very dangerous to traverse the Great Whirlpool rashly, and nobody can compare with your safety,” Kenley raised her head to advise, her magical research career in the Flame Territory had been wonderful, and she didn’t want any turmoil because of an accident with Liszt.

Ach didn’t speak, but simply cast a worried glance; everything was said without a word.

Liszt gave a slight smile, replying with a reassuring look, and said nonchalantly, “My decision is made; there is no need for any delay in this trip, it’s just a magic teleportation array, after all. As a Son of Glory, bathed in the knight’s glory, what is there to fear?” It was actually the power of fate that gave him great confidence.

The Smoke Mission led him through, suggesting that the power of fate had already shrouded the Magic Teleportation Array.

In a word—Arranged!

“^

...

Ach stood at the edge of the Great Whirlpool.

Liszt soared in one leap, landing on Leo's Dragon Tooth Platform, waving his hand towards Ach before quickly resonating in Dragon Knight Resonance, entering Dragon Rider Mode.

Immediately, he activated the Dragon Eye Trajectory, allowing the world's magic structure to present itself clearly within his field of vision.

“Oh ho!”

Leo let out an excited roar, its spirit in perfect harmony with Liszt's, brimming with the courage and passion for adventure within their inner worlds.

Wings flapping in flight, Dragon Dou Qi circulating as one, Dragon Might subtly inherent.

Slicing through the air above the sea, they headed straight for the center of the distant whirlpool, and looking into the pitch-black Whirlpool Deep Well, Liszt couldn't help but shout for himself and Leo, “Forward, Leo; let us conquer the Great Whirlpool together!”

“Oh ho!”

Leo folded its wings, diving headfirst into the depths of the Whirlpool Deep Well.

At first, the deep section was nothing more than an ordinary whirlpool, with currents, roaring sounds, and the gravity of falling. Within the Dragon Eye Trajectory were countless chaotic but orderly magical lines, outlining every detail of the well's structure. But just one second into the fall, a sudden burst of light enveloped them.

Then, he and Leo vanished into the misty vapor of the Whirlpool Deep Well.

Or rather, they had left the sea's Great Whirlpool and entered another unknown space. A powerful stalling force enveloped them in an instant, making it difficult to move, but unlike Cross·Thorn and the others who were completely immobilized, he and Leo managed to struggle and move.

However, there was also a tremendous repulsive force — the tossing power that Cross had spoken of — propelling him and Leo forward, unable to stay in this space.

After adapting to the intense light, the Dragon Eye Trajectory gradually revealed the magical structure inside the space.

A dense network of threads sketched out a wormhole-like space, where the magic didn't belong to any known element like water, fire, earth, wind, lightning, light, ice, or dark.

But it gave Liszt a familiar feeling.

"Is this... the magic of spatial power?" His thoughts were clear, and the Dragon Dou Qi within flowed normally, "The Space Gem left by the Formless Dragon, which I use every day, gives me this feel — both solid and ethereal, void yet tangibly real."

Suddenly.

He discovered that behind these strands of space magic power, there was a faintly discernible huge net. This net revealed only the tip of the iceberg, with the rest hidden deep in the unknown space. However, Liszt quickly sensed that this net was the source of Ach's magic — the Magic Web!

The Great Whirlpool had opened a Magic Teleportation Array, carving out a wormhole space as if it punctured the Magic Web and thrust a tube through it, straining to maintain the web's compression of the wormhole space.

The Magic Web seemed to devour the wormhole space, whereas the space's magic power steadily maintained the wormhole's existence.

One active, one still, achieving a balanced rhythm.

Boom!

Before Liszt could continue observing, his vision violently changed, and he had burst out of the wormhole space, arriving inside a mountain peak. A roaring waterfall above him, rock cliffs below — or rather, he had flown out of the wormhole space upside down.

“Maneuver and rotate, flap wings and fly!”

Man and Dragon, minds connected, swiftly twisted their bodies to maintain balance, and as the repulsive force behind them disappeared, Leo suddenly flapped its wings, taking flight once more!

Before their eyes.

A brand new world lay before them, an endless expanse of Wild Forest, with damp air filled with a primitive essence, and behind them, a mountain peak towering thousands of meters high.

Flame Islands!

The future kingdom!

The king had arrived!

“

Chapter 809: I Came, I Saw

The island was indeed boundlessly vast.

Li Si Te rode Little Fire Dragon Leo to several thousand meters high in the sky, yet he still couldn't see the island's borders, as if the forests stretched endlessly and the land had no edges.

“The bigger the better!”

Li Si Te felt exhilarated and couldn't help but want to burst into song.

But in the end, he didn't sing, because he couldn't find a suitable tune. Instead, he dove downward towards the forest. He quickly located the crash sites of the Discovery and the new sailboat, two spots starkly evident amid the Wild Forest, toppling a large swath of trees and leaving behind substantial debris.

As the Fire Dragon was about to hit the ground,

...

Leo suddenly spread his wings, stirring up the air currents, halting his descent, and hovered steadily a few meters above the ground before slowly landing, releasing an impassioned roar, “Oh hoo!”

The crossing through the Great Whirlpool was also a sufficiently novel experience for him.

After touching Leo's scales, Li Si Te dismounted, while Cross·Thorn, Ganeel Treebark Roundshield, and others hurried over, all bowing to Li Si Te: “Your Highness!”

Li Si Te nodded at Cross, “Well done, Cross, you have shown me your courage, so from today, I will promote you to Earl... As for the fief and noble title, we'll discuss them after founding the nation.”

“Thank you for the honor bestowed, Your Highness. Cross is willing to charge into battle for you!” Cross knelt on one knee.

Li Si Te drew the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword, and gently tapped its tip on both of his shoulders, simply completing the ceremony. But for Cross, this was not just a simple ceremony; it was the crucial step from being a minor noble to a Great Noble, and from now on, his duty was to strengthen the Thorn family.

Without paying attention to Cross's excitement,

Li Si Te then turned toward Ganeel: “Captain Ganeel, your performance has impressed me profoundly even though you plunged into the Great Whirlpool because of a lack of caution, leading to most of the crews’ deaths. However, maritime exploration is inherently fraught with dangers, and the fact that you discovered the Great Whirlpool and made it to this island is a guiding light of knightly glory.”

Ganeel, kneeling on the ground, was emotionally overwhelmed.

Li Si Te smiled slightly and said directly, “From today onward, I will promote you to Viscount, and we will discuss the fief and noble title after the founding of the nation!”

“Thank you for the honor bestowed upon me, Your Highness. Ganeel swears his loyalty to you and is ready to charge into battle for you!”

Li Si Te then looked at the remaining crew of the Discovery.

Apart from Captain Ganeel and two magicians, Granney and another, there were twenty-five people.

Of those, seven Earth Knights had been ennobled as Honored Knights after the previous sea battle, and thirteen remained unennobled Knights, along with five civilian sailors.

“My fellow Knights, for discovering the Great Whirlpool and the new island, you have all contributed. Honored Knights will be promoted to Baron, and those without titles, along with the civilian sailors, will all be ennobled as Honored Knights.”

The knighting command was issued.

Over twenty Knights and sailors knelt down, excitedly expressing their readiness to charge into battle for Lord Landlord.

Then Li Si Te’s gaze fell upon the two magicians, recognizing only one of them as Granney Truth. He was the first magician Li Si Te had dealt with. Though somewhat obstinate, his skill in creating Magic Equipment was significant. His contribution had been crucial in the repair process of the Magic Platform on the Discovery.

“As for the rewards for the two of you, they will be discussed and decided by the Magic Guild later.”

The Magic Guild autonomously managed magicians, a right he had granted to Ach, Chris, and Kenley; thus, he was hesitant to bypass them and grant any rewards directly.

...

Liszt let Granney and another magician continue to operate the Magic Platform, maintaining contact with the Flame Number near the Great Whirlpool.

He didn't stay at the simple camp for long. After instructing everyone to quickly use the sextant to determine their position, he flew Little Fire Dragon Leo back towards the waterfall mountain.

The mountain stood desolate and alone, enveloped by lush trees, but its outer appearance vaguely revealed that it was part of a fractured mountain range. The fractured side formed a cliff that was not too steep, with a large waterfall cascading down it.

The source of the waterfall was near the mountaintop, a pitch-black cave.

The entrance was wide, stretching hundreds of meters across.

Liszt flew close to the cave entrance, constantly scrutinizing the cave with Dragon Eye Trajectory, but he saw no complex lines of magic power, as if it were just ordinary mountain water.

He and Leo carefully flew into the cave, ready to rush into the Magic Teleportation Array again.

However, after flying almost fifty meters deep, they still hadn't encountered any Magic Teleportation Array, “Something isn't right. When I burst out of the Wormhole Space, I felt I was near the entrance. It couldn't possibly be fifty meters deep... Could it be that the Wormhole Space is in another dimension, inaccessible from this cave?”

Looking at the point where the cave became too narrow to enter, Liszt could only guess that.

Then, he retraced his path.

He had Leo land on a huge protruding rock by the waterfall and gazed at the immense flow of water, contemplating the entire Great Whirlpool Magic Teleportation Matrix.

Unconsciously, a segment of Smoke Serpent Script appeared before his eyes, “Complete the mission, reward: profound understanding of the Magic Teleportation Array.”

The task was complete.

The smoke then transformed, forming a new segment of Smoke Serpent Script.

“Mission: Situated within the Flame Islands, a new nation will rise from here. As the future ruler you need a clear understanding of the Flame Islands. Why not map out the rough distribution of the islands and the area of the sea for comprehensive planning. Reward: Lost Old Friend.”

Without a doubt,

Liszt now had a deep understanding of the Magic Teleportation Array. However, he was still clueless about the theoretical basis and the principles of operation of the magic power. He could only wait for Ach to arrive, and share all his findings with her, relying on her to research.

Coming back to his senses, he looked at the new Smoke Mission.

Mapping the map of the Flame Islands was the implied task.

However, the reward made him delighted, “Indeed, as I’ve been longing for my old friend, destiny naturally drives them closer to me... However, this year’s reward is no longer ‘old friend’s wandering’ but ‘lost old friend.’ Could the Formless Dragon be lost?”

The more he thought about it, the more likely it seemed.

Both encounters with the Formless Dragon were due to the scent of Smoked Grass. The second time, it lingered for a long time before reaching Black Horse Island. It knew Smoked Grass was here but forgot where Fresh Flower Town was, and eventually, it managed to make its delayed appearance thanks to Liszt arranging the dishes.

Perhaps this fellow was directionally challenged.

“However, my old friend possesses the power that represents space; might there be a connection to the Magic Teleportation Array?”

With too few clues, it was hard to judge.

But there was no rush; mapping the Flame Islands, the old friend would inevitably be drawn by the power of destiny right to him.

He stretched his body, feeling the surging power within, filled with anticipation for the future.

As his power grew, the power of destiny represented by the Smoke Mission was also strengthening. Whether or not the Smoke Dragon is dead, he felt more like a human-shaped Smoke Dragon: “Now, the power of destiny is within my grasp, ready to arrange at any time!”

Chapter 810: Epic Battle

Leaving the waterfall cave.

As Liszt rode on Leo, he had already thought of a name for the mountain—the Whirlpool Mountain, with the Whirlpool Cave within, and the Whirlpool Waterfall outside.

Below the waterfall lay the Whirlpool Pool, whose waters flowed outward into Whirlpool Creek. The Whirlpool Creek grew steadily into Whirlpool River, and following it from the

air, Liszt eventually found a flat valley and named it the Flame Origin. The Flame Origin was only one kilometer away from the crash site of the Discovery.

“Cross, Ganeel, start moving the camp immediately and establish a new base in the Flame Origin. From now on, use the Flame Origin base as a home ground to slowly explore these unknown lands. It won’t be long before the Great Whirlpool Magic Teleportation Matrix becomes a major thoroughfare, and this place will quickly become a new city!”

Liszt had already thought of a name for the city—Flame City.

This was the starting point for the Flame Country, where the first flames rose. The land was covered with kindling, and once ignited, the fire was destined to burn unabated.

...

“As you wish, Your Highness!”

Cross Thorn immediately led the team to cut down trees and clear a road to the Flame Origin. With the Fire Dragon emanating its Dragon Might, all Magical Beasts were frightened off. Within a radius of ten or so kilometers, there should be nothing threatening for the time being, so they could work in peace.

However, after only a short period of cutting down trees, Liszt found their efficiency too low.

“Everyone, step back!”

Waving others away, he directly communicated with the sun-bathing Leo using Dragon Heart Electrical Signal: “Come over and burn a path with fire.”

“Magic Potion.” Leo lifted his eyelids and shamelessly began to extort.

It looked like he needed to cut down on some of that greed.

Liszt grudgingly agreed to Leo’s extortion, and the Little Fire Dragon promptly got up, following Liszt’s instructions to exhale Dragon Breath.

The Dragon Breath had a temperature of over three thousand degrees, instantly vaporizing trees. As it flew over the forest, breathing fire, a scorched path some seven or eight meters wide was laid bare. Then, it incinerated the entire Flame Origin with Dragon Breath, making it easier to construct the campsite.

Of course, Liszt had previously scouted the area with Dragon Eye Trajectory and confirmed there were no Magic Potions or Elves in the vicinity.

There was no regret in burning it down, nor fear of a forest fire. Wherever Leo's body passed, it absorbed all the flames into itself, preventing any fire from spreading under its control. The Fire Dragon, representing the power of flames, innately possessed the talent to manipulate fire.

As he was busy constructing the camp, Ganeel, controlling the Magic Platform, reported, "Your Highness, the great Lord Acherloides, is preparing to cross through the Great Whirlpool Magic Teleportation Matrix personally."

"I understand. Tell her to cross with ease; I'll be waiting at the Whirlpool Entrance for her."

The Great Whirlpool posed a grave threat to ordinary people, but not so much to the powerful. Basically, as long as one wasn't torn apart by the whirlpool or killed in a high-altitude fall, they wouldn't die. Acherloides, just by erecting a Water Wave Shield, was practically invincible and surely wouldn't be killed.

As for being shredded by the whirlpool, even less likely, as she was a Sea Serpent of the ocean, born with the ability to control water.

Thus, after preparations were complete, the Magic Platform soon sent information that Acherloides had rushed towards the Great Whirlpool riding on a seashell.

After waiting for a quarter of an hour, Liszt suddenly saw a cocoon-shaped ball of light emerge from the Whirlpool Entrance, and under Dragon Eye Trajectory's vision, traces of the Magic Web appeared out of thin air, along with the torn sections—those were the rends made by the Magic Teleportation Array on the Magic Web.

Just as he was about to rush over and catch the cocoon-shaped ball of light, to embrace Acherlroides.

Suddenly, the waterfall's flow roared up into a Water Tornado, enveloping the cocoon-shaped ball of light. The water flow tightened, forcibly pulling the ball of light back from outside the cave entrance.

Following that,

The cocoon-like light sphere dissipated, and Ach stood steadily on the shell, which hovered securely above the Water Tornado. A joyful smile emerged on her delicate, elfin face: "Brother, Ach has successfully traversed the Magic Teleportation Array."

"Hmm, very good," Liszt said as he steered Leo over to pluck Ach from atop the Water Tornado and into his embrace, before beating his wings to soar into the sky. "I'll take you to have a good look at this beautiful new world first, and by the way, we can share our understanding of the Magic Teleportation Array."

Wrapped in the Magic Cloak, Ach's body was petite and light, which made Liszt easily think of the phrase "delicate and fragile."

But who could have imagined that this body harbored a power capable of destruction—the Magic Power?

The two of them rode on one dragon, circling Whirlpool Mountain, admiring the vast landscapes. They also continuously discussed the connections between the Magic Web and the Magic Teleportation Array. Though Ach's Eye of Magic Power did not see the void Magic Web that enveloped Wormhole Space, as an Archmage, she could clearly sense the existence of the Magic Web.

Through Liszt's unceasing narration, her understanding of the Magic Teleportation Array improved significantly.

"Brother, if Ach hasn't miscalculated, then I've mostly grasped the principle behind the formation of the Magic Teleportation Array. It seems essentially akin to the principle of the Space Ring in hand," she lifted her slender finger, adorned with the Space Ring that Liszt had given her.

“I’ve also noticed the similarity in sensation between the two, but I didn’t realize they were essentially the same. It feels like the Gemstone Space is an independent space, while the Magic Teleportation Array seems to be a presence that traverses the Magic Web.”

“Because the Gemstone Space is like an isolated ‘node’ that’s enlarged and has melded into the Magic Web, it’s treated as a part of the Magic Web itself. The Magic Teleportation Array, however, connects two nodes together, tearing the stability of the field of the Magic Web, constantly under pressure from the Magic Web.”

Theoretically speaking, it gave Liszt a headache—he was more concerned with the outcomes: “So, to realize the functioning of the Magic Teleportation Array, is it difficult in practical terms?”

“Very difficult.”

“Is it, how difficult?”

“First, you need to find a relatively fragile spot within the Magic Web that’s ripe for tearing open to form connections between nodes; second, the Magic Array must be powerful enough to maintain the node connections; and last, stabilizing the node connections and expanding them into a passage is even more challenging.”

As she spoke, Ach took a deep breath.

Her chest, previously hidden beneath the Magic Cloak, puffed out: “Although I haven’t seen any man-made traces, Ach still believes that this Magic Array is the work of Ancient Magicians... at the very least, they discovered it and expanded it into the current Magic Teleportation Array.”

“Created by Ancient Magicians, huh? Does that mean this isle might have once been visited by humans?”

“Yes.”

Magic translocators, Ancient Magicians, the withering of the Magic Web... the Formless Dragon, Fire Dragon, Jade Dragon, Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruit... the Smoke Dragon, the Child of the Sun's Sky Sunken Ship... and also that weapon or claw which severed the Jade Dragon's Hind Leg.

Liszt connected these seemingly disparate clues, suddenly feeling that the only conceivable reason that these formidable elements could come together had appeared.

War!

Perhaps, in ancient times, possibly towards the end of the Moon Empire era, a world-shattering war had unfolded over the Sea of Azure Waves... Giant Dragons roared as they fell to the ocean, the dazzling light of magic pierced the Magic Web to form a Teleportation Array, and even the Smoke Dragon—wielder of the Power of Destiny—couldn't escape obliteration.

Only a few seeds of destiny escaped, biding their time to sprout.

Until one day, alongside a young boy's stumbling growth, they thrived, though never anticipating to be greatly harnessed by another transmigrator.

Liszt stroked his chin: "I don't know if it's like this, but anyway, the picture I've conjured up in my mind sure feels tangible."