

The Mighty 861

Chapter 861: Chin with a Big Shovel

Bone Lake was filled with water, and to establish a Magic Gate, these waters needed to be drained. Draining Bone Lake was simple, merely requiring a breach to be dug to connect it to the nearby Red River. Positioned higher than Red River, Bone Lake could not retain its water.

Then, with some further excavation, Bone Lake was transformed into a plaza, where the Magic Gate would be activated.

“I wonder whether the Magic Gate arranged by Ach will cause too much turbulence and repulsive force. If it ejects users like the Whirlpool Cave Entrance does each time, commuting would still be a major hassle... I hope to continuously reduce this repulsive force so entry and exit can be at a normal speed.”

Although he thought this, he did not take immediate action. Everything still had to wait until Ach personally surveyed the site before making a decision.

Expertise matters.

Overall coordination and battling also were his strengths, whereas magic was Ach's forte.

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He shifted his focus to a new Smoke Mission, feeling a vague sense of annoyance upon checking the details.

“Mission: To get rich, build roads first. Developing Flame Island faces many challenges, one important constraint being the poor road conditions, particularly for knights who can't fully utilize their combat potential without sufficient open space for charging. Please construct a 500-kilometer raceway on Flame Island. Reward: Emily's Dou Qi rebirth.”

The reward for the mission was significant.

Dou Qi rebirth referred to the progression from Intermediate Dou Qi to Advanced Dou Qi, and Emily was about to become a Sky Knight, which was exciting news. As the only person in the territory eligible for potential Dragon Knight status and a prodigy, Liszt had high hopes for this fourteen-year-old girl.

He had always been training her to be a Light Green Gemstone Dragon Knight.

However, Emily, without any cheats, was not as monstrously talented as Liszt, who ascended from Earth Knight to Sky Knight in half a year, and then to Dragon Knight a few months later. She had spent a full year at the Earth Knight stage, and it may take even longer to advance to Dragon Knight.

It seemed unlikely she would become an immediate combat asset soon— unless the Light Green Gemstone Dragon recognized her and agreed to assist in hastening her Dragon Dou Qi Cultivation.

If so, Advanced Dou Qi mastery was imminent.

“Emily is fourteen this year, fifteen next year, sixteen the year after. If we give her a few more years, she might be able to ride a dragon before she turns twenty. Such talent might truly terrify people... The only concern is that once she physically matures, being female might impose significant constraints.”

Historically, female Sky Knights have existed, but there have definitely been no female Dragon Knights—female powerhouses are generally concentrated among magicians.

Among the six ancestral statues of the Moon Slayer people, though barely recognizable now, one can discern that one of them, the one holding the Knowledge Ancient Book, is a female statue.

“I hope Emily can break this norm and become the first female Dragon Knight.”

No matter what, Liszt would fully dedicate himself to training Emily, even if she could not become a Dragon Knight in the future, she could still learn from the “Dou Qi Domain Manual” and become a Domain Knight. Her displayed talent justified this investment, and Liszt couldn’t deny a certain unspoken thought in his heart.

Nurturing a young girl, perhaps...

“This Smoke Mission needs to be completed soon to assist Emily’s Dou Qi rebirth, but the task is daunting—constructing a 500-kilometer raceway on Flame Island.”

A raceway is not a mere path, but a thoroughfare designed for knights to charge freely. It does not necessarily need to be paved with stone; a dirt road can suffice. However, the standard for a raceway requires a very wide and flat surface, without excessive curves, typically constructed around major cities.

Around Iron Hoof City, there is a raceway that leads to Bull Castle, thirty kilometers long.

They need to construct a 500-kilometer expressway, and given the current capabilities of Flame City, it might take almost half a year. They’d need to build bridges over rivers and dig tunnels through mountains, and if the terrain proved too complex, even half a year might not suffice.

“Let’s just take it one step at a time!”

...

The discovery of natural nodes on Black Horse Island had made it possible for Liszt to shuttle freely between Black Horse Island and Flame Island.

Flying in the physical world for half an hour, he easily located the wave fluctuations of the wormhole space within the Great Whirlpool Magic Teleportation Matrix. Then, riding the Formless Dragon Bard, he crossed the wormhole space directly and flew out from the Whirlpool Entrance.

Looking at the cascading waterfall behind him.

He suddenly thought of something, “I have four Space Rings, and Ach has two. Together, that’s about four hundred cubic meters, roughly equivalent to a large warehouse. Before the Magic Gate is established, I can act as a porter and transport materials with the Space Rings.”

While he couldn't transport large bulk items, he could personally transport valuable items.

He didn't find Ach in the Mage Tower laboratory.

Only after asking the twin sisters, Lucy and Ruth, did he find out that Ach had gone out and wouldn't be back until evening. Liszt was considering taking this time to return to Black Horse Island and transport a batch of rubber water back. Suddenly, he received a report that the knights who had gone to conquer the Xia Tribe had encountered a large invasion of giant elephants.

The Xia Tribe couldn't resist and had already evacuated to within the sphere of influence of Flame City.

"Giant elephants?"

Liszt asked in detail before understanding that these were a very strong species of Earth Attribute Magical Beasts that moved in herds. They didn't harm people but had entirely raided the Xia Tribe's food storage warehouses and wantonly destroyed buildings and scavenged for food, flattening the ground wherever they passed.

"The ground was trampled flat?"

"Yes, Your Highness. The group of giant elephants is too powerful. It's difficult for our knights to charge at them. When they stomp their feet, the ground shakes, and then our mounts can't stay upright. The magicians' magic can't hurt them either; they all know Magic—Firmstone Armor."

The Firmstone Armor, an Earth System Advanced Magic, was a skill also known by Douson. It formed robust rock plates over the body, providing a defense not inferior to Mithril Armor.

With a thought,

Liszt directly rode the Formless Dragon Bard and headed for the Xia Tribe. After a few flashes, he arrived at the valley where the Xia Tribe was located. After a brief search, he

spotted the group of giant elephants the knights had mentioned—about a hundred or so, large and small, forming a large familial group.

The giant elephants looked very peculiar, different from ordinary elephants.

The most unique feature was the huge lower jaw under their trunks, which appeared infinitely elongated, both long and wide, with a pair of large tusks in front.

It looked like a large shovel attached to their chin.

Their tusks, which should have been long, were not prominent, only about a meter in length. Given their height of at least six meters and a body weight of more than twenty tons, the tusks were very short, and even the trunk was not long enough. The limbs were stubby and thick, making their overall physique appear more bloated than ordinary elephants, and their heads were not large enough.

Liszt observed from the air using Crystal White View and quickly noticed something unusual: “Earth Attribute giant elephants with a faint Dragon Might on them—so these are the Mid-Level Dragon Beast Group awarded by the Smoke Mission!”

Chapter 862: Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephant

With their huge bodies and exaggeratedly large jaws, Liszt had already named this group of giant elephants in his heart—the Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants.

Seeing their rich Earth-Attribute Magic Power and the strength to flatten the ground beneath their feet, he birthed an immense desire to tame this group of Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants.

Then.

To use them for road construction!

“With this group of Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants, the construction of the five-hundred-kilometer road should not be a problem. I knew the Smoke Mission wouldn’t present an insurmountable challenge; it turns out everything was arranged by the Power of Destiny!

Without this group of Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants, there wouldn't have been the task of building a five-hundred-kilometer road!"

A sudden clarity shone in his heart as the Formless Dragon felt his thoughts, letting out a sharp "Wu Yi Ya" as it flew out from the boundary of the material realm, revealing its body, as clear and sparkling as flowing water.

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The wild Dragon Might gushed out like a waterfall, striking against the ground where the Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants were foraging.

"Ang!"

"Ang!"

"Ang!"

The Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants, searching for food, were suddenly bombarded by such fierce Dragon Might, immediately sending out continuous cries of alarm. Then, one after another, they prostrated themselves on the ground, not daring to move.

Magical Beasts of the dragon lineage feel a clearer sense of hierarchical pressure in the presence of a Dragon.

"Bard, continue to maintain suppression over the Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants; I will personally take action to tame them!" Liszt communicated, then jumped off the dragon's back to land amidst this group of Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants.

Elephant herds usually have a leader.

Liszt noticed that among them, there was one Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephant whose body was particularly huge, followed by many others, so he understood that this one was the herd leader.

“Ang!”

As Liszt stepped nearer, the herd leader, which was being oppressed by the Dragon Might, tried to move its body but failed to do so. The reason was simple: Liszt could also unleash Dragon Might, imposing a heavy pressure on the elephant herd’s leader. It could only let out a terrified cry of despair.

However, it wasn’t long before the elephant herd leader became perplexed when Liszt dispersed his Dragon Might. On the contrary, he took out a large portion of fruits from the Gemstone Space—food he had prepared prior to setting out.

He had anticipated this encounter with the elephant herd upon receiving the news about them, so he had prepared in advance for taming them.

The carrot and stick approach—the food was the carrot, and the stick was the power.

This was a very skilled technique for Liszt, as he had developed a set of methods for dealing with wild beasts when he first tamed Douson.

After several attempts, under the intermittent envelopment of Liszt’s Dragon Might and attracted by the tempting scent of fruits, the elephant herd leader finally understood its destiny—to submit to the human before it. To submit meant food, to resist meant punishment; the logic was clear.

“Wu Yi Ya!”

The Formless Dragon circled around the elephant herd, faithfully playing the role of a minion—compared to Fire Dragon Leo, Formless Dragon Bard’s mental will was easier to blend with, and reaching the perfect state was just around the corner. In the order of reaching completeness, Light Green Gem Dragon Ethan would come first, Bard second, and Leo last.

Fire Dragon’s baleful thoughts were always suppressing Liszt’s guidance, causing the blending to fluctuate.

Turning around to mount the elephant herd leader, he sat cross-legged on its back, throwing down a piece of fruit every now and then. In this way, he led the elephant herd,

with the other Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants following behind. The procession slowly left the valley of the Xia Tribe, heading towards Flame City. With the sunset and sunrise, after a day and night of travel, they finally crossed Whirlpool River.

They encountered a patrolling Knight Squad.

“Your Highness!” The knights on guard, spotting Liszt atop the elephant, hurriedly saluted in amazement after a moment of surprise.

“Have Durt and Emily come here immediately, and bring along a few carts of fruit as well. If there are stored wild bananas in the warehouse, that would be best,” Liszt instructed.

“Yes, Your Highness.”

Moments later, Durt and Emily hurried to where the herd of elephants had stopped, bringing with them six carts of fruit—in this season, fruits were scarce, so having six carts filled was quite good.

“Ugh!”

“Ugh!”

“Ugh!”

The herd occasionally made noises, but overall they were under the control of Liszt.

“Your Highness, what are your instructions?” Durt, watching the herd driven by Liszt, wasn’t surprised—this incredible Dragon Knight Landlord always had unexpected achievements.

“These Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants are Intermediate Dragon Beasts I’ve just tamed. I really like their Innate Magic; if they help with road construction, the work will surely be twice as effective with half the effort,” Liszt motioned for the knights to distribute the fruit to the elephants. “However, I don’t have time to tame them myself, so the detailed taming plan will be left to you.”

Durt had a troubled look on his face: “Your Highness, I haven’t much knowledge about taming beasts...”

Emily, however, replied loudly: “Please rest assured and leave it to Emily!”

“In that case, Durt, you fully cooperate with Emily. The task of taming the Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants will be carried out by her,” Liszt was pleased with Emily’s response. A qualified follower should accept the tasks set by their lord without hesitation, rather than complain.

Durt also realized he had spoken out of turn and quickly remedied: “Please rest assured, Your Highness, I will fully cooperate with Emily to tame the herd!”

“Whatever you need, people or goods, give priority to taming the Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants!” Liszt glanced at Durt.

Then he said to Emily: “These Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants have a gentle nature; they’re actually quite easy to tame. However, it will take some effort to teach them how to cooperate in road construction. You have experience taming the Blizzard Beasts, and they should know how to work with you to tame the Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants.”

“Mm!”

“Then follow me for these two days, and I will make the elephant herd leader obey your commands.” Without Liszt’s power to suppress them, it would be difficult for a Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephant to submit to an Earth Knight.

Emily’s face lit up when she heard this: “Yes, Your Highness!” She was eager for the opportunity to work with the lord she admired most. In the heart of her youth, Liszt occupied a massive space, a mix of various emotions and adoration.

Of course, she wasn’t a girl to be overwhelmed by emotions. She had an iron will and a clear mind: “Your Highness, food is the fundamental guarantee if we are to tame the herd. The Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants’ consumption of food certainly will be astonishing. I fear the current food reserves in Flame City may not suffice.”

“I’ll arrange that; you go ahead and bring the Blizzard Beast Squad over here. We’ll meet up in an hour.”

Liszt turned and communicated with the Formless Dragon Bard using the Dragon Heart Electrical Signal, instructing Bard to maintain the calm of the herd and prevent them from disturbing the nearby plantations.

Then he headed straight to the Flame City Mage Tower to find his brother Ach, who had returned.

“Brother.”

“Ach, I’ve located the natural node on Black Horse Island. Now, I can freely travel between Black Horse Island and Flame Island. If you can temporarily spare your Space Ring, hand it over to me for transporting supplies. Make a list of any materials you need, and I’ll bring them over.”

“Mhm.” Ach moved all the items in the Space Ring to his laboratory, then handed it back to Liszt.

Six Space Rings were on his fingers.

Liszt returned to where the elephants were; Emily had already gathered the Blizzard Beast Squad nearby. Seeing Liszt, Douson and the Eight Tiny Ones wagged their tails; they had not forgotten their former master.

“Woof!”

“Woof!”

“Douson, come here!” Liszt called with a smile, and Douson immediately rushed over, affectionately rubbing its head against Liszt’s pants.

It was huge in size, like a small elephant, yet it behaved as gently as a lap dog.

After patting Douson's big head, Liszt then spoke seriously: "Emily, the task of taming the Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephant herd starts now."

Chapter 863: Mammoth Knight Brigade

The Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephant could cast three kinds of Advanced Magic, namely Firmstone Armor, Rock Thorn Rampart, and Earth Trample.

Firmstone Armor was like covering themselves with a shell of rock; Rock Thorn Rampart was somewhat similar to Rock Spike, but protruding in a straight, sharp wall of rock; Earth Trample was an unprecedented Earth Attribute Magic which the Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephant activated by stomping its feet, enabling it to rapidly flatten the ground.

It was like a large-scale jackhammer suddenly striking the ground.

Depending on the strength of different Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants, the area affected by Earth Trample varied. For instance, when the leader of the herd initiated Earth Trample, the area reached a circular shape with a diameter of ten meters; for newly matured Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants, it might only be around five meters in diameter; and for young elephants just learning this magic, the range was centered around where they stomped, approximately one meter in diameter.

Firmstone Armor and Rock Thorn Rampart were not the focus; the main focus of taming was on Earth Trample. Liszt required Emily to adeptly control the herd to execute Earth Trample.

At the same time ensuring the disciplined movements of the herd.

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Once the herd had shed its wild nature, riders would begin to mount them. Only when ridden and controlled by a Knight could these one hundred and twenty-one Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants move in a uniform manner.

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Throughout the second half of January, Liszt assisted Emily in training the Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephant herd, constantly shuttling between Black Horse Island and Flame Island, transporting essential supplies, and encouraging the regular functioning of his territory.

“Forward, Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants!”

Emily, mounted on the lead elephant’s back, issued the command. Behind her were over a hundred Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants of varying sizes, each bearing a knight predominantly younger ones.

“Roar!”

“Roar!”

The elephants periodically lifted their trunks, emitting a dull roar.

Then they formed a somewhat tidy formation, starting from the “Elephant Park,” and proceeding along a forty-meter wide pathway that had been trampled into compacted soil chunks. Their pace was not fast, but the momentum was majestic and grand, continuously rolling up dust from the road, spreading it far and wide as if it were smoke.

Surrounding the elephant herd, Blizzard Beasts under Douson’s lead continuously circled the Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants, preventing them from straying.

Under the dual control of the knights and Blizzard Beasts.

The herd gradually adapted to their current way of walking, no longer wandering freely.

“This is the fledgling form of my Mammoth Knight Brigade. In the future, I will continue to expand the Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephant population, train more Earth Knights with Earth Attributes, and synchronize with the Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants to carry out engineering construction!” Liszt, riding on a Formless Dragon, was veiled at the edge of the material boundary.

He was in a good mood.

He had already decided to rename his personal Knight Brigade to the Burning Legion.

And within the Burning Legion, the first brigade would be the Mammoth Knight Brigade just viewed, not primarily focusing on combat but on engineering construction.

“Stop advancing!”

Emily loudly commanded once the elephant herd reached its destination. The elephants abruptly halted their slightly disjointed movements, messily stopping and slowly shifting positions, forming a more organized line. Ahead of them, where there once stood a small hill, now remained just a bare mound of soil.

Riding on the lead elephant, Emily slowly turned around and issued a new order to the herd behind her, “First column, step forward!”

The first row of Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants, guided by the knights, moved forward to the designated position and then, following Emily’s command, the knights shouted to their mounts, “Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephant, Earth Trample!”

“Roar!”

“Roar!”

“Roar!”

The Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants lifted their forelimbs and heavily stomped on the ground, unleashing the force of the magic instantly, as if the ground was brutally smashed by a weight of tens of thousands of pounds.

The ground shook like an earthquake.

You could see with the naked eye, the ground that was already compacted until it was impervious to water, sank down another few dozen centimeters and solidified even more.

If you were to try digging with a shovel now, you'd probably warp the edge of the shovel and still not turn up an inch of soil—this soil had almost reached the hardness of rock.

It was such powerful magic that had managed to flatten an entire mountain.

“Second row, advance!” Emily issued the command again, and the second row of shovel-tusked giant elephants, under the knights’ command, repeated the previous action, stepping down a few more centimeters into the ground.

Thus, row after row of shovel-tusked giant elephants continually repeated the Earth Trample, back and forth over the ground.

Liszt watched from the sky, feeling quite satisfied, “Although cooperation is still not perfect, the Mammoth Knight Brigade is already capable of starting the construction of the expressway. It doesn’t need to be forty meters wide; twenty meters is enough... and the expressway doesn’t need to be so compacted, just let the elephant herd tread over it once.”

The most suitable road for a knight’s charge is one that has a medium hardness, a smooth surface. A truly hard surface is not suitable at all—it’s too damaging to the hooves.

That evening.

After the Mammoth Knight Brigade finished their training, Liszt summoned Emily to the castle to discuss the road construction. Durt, Cross, and other brigade leaders were present at the meeting.

“My plan is to build a road from here to here...” he gestured on the map.

Starting from Flame City, heading towards the Flame Mountain, and extending all the way to Jade Mountain where the Light Green Gemstone Dragon resides, the straight-line distance was approximately four hundred kilometers. However, there was a mountain range in the way, requiring the expressway to take a large detour around the mountain range—shovel-tusked giant elephants could easily flatten small hills, but large mountains were unlikely.

This distance was just right for five hundred kilometers.

“In the end here, I want to build a new city. Originally, I planned to build King’s Castle here, but let’s put aside the King’s Castle for now, and start by building a Jade City... The subsidiary range of the Flame Mountain Range is called Jade Mountain, which as the name suggests, contains a massive jade mine!”

“Jade mine?”

“Is it really a jade mine?”

At first, Durt and Cross were somewhat confused as to why Liszt didn’t first build the expressway to Estuary City but wanted to build this road.

Now they understood—if there was a massive jade mine, everything was worthwhile.

“I give you two months. The Mammoth Knight Brigade will take care of the road construction; you must ensure their safety along the way, and also arrange for serfs to transport materials.”

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The expressway, named the Jade-Flamefire Expressway, officially began its construction ceremony on February 1, starting a grand road-building project.

Liszt was still involved in logistics, traveling back and forth between Black Horse Island and Flame Island, mainly transporting food.

Of course.

The task of finding natural nodes did not stop, but finding new natural nodes was not something that could be achieved overnight. He allocated more of his time to training, frequently practicing at Jade Mountain with the Light Green Gemstone Dragon and practicing at the Doomsday Volcano Crater with the Fire Dragon.

Most of the time, he practiced with the Formless Dragon.

“Formless Dragon Knight-Dragon Qi Secret Manual” was nearing completion with the addition of “Phantom-Swipe”, “Shadow-Lure”, “Avalanche-Snow Mountain”, and newly created the fourth move “Sonic Boom-Stab” and the fifth move “Poison Dragon-Drill”.

“Fire Dragon Knight-Dragon Qi Secret Manual” also followed Dragon Slash-Chop, Sky Burning-Sweep, Swallow Sun-Stab, Sea-Boiling-Strangle, Earth-Shaking-Hammer, and created the sixth move “Magma-Point” and the seventh move “Tai Sui-Whittle”.

The practice with the Light Green Gemstone Dragon was progressing rapidly, and a faint outline of a knight’s figure began to form in the dragon’s mind.

The knight’s figure was still vague, the expressions unclear, just a silhouette, but it was essentially consistent with Liszt’s form. Mounted on the mind world’s Light Green Gemstone Dragon, holding a blurred five-meter long dragon lance and draped a faint gray cloak formed of smoke.

Essentially, this was the imprint Liszt had left in the mind of the Light Green Gemstone Dragon.

When it became clear, it would be the moment Liszt became a Completion-term Dragon Knight, and the first Dragon Knight.

Chapter 864: Hippolyta

In the mind of Light Green Gem Dragon Ethan, a faint silhouette of Liszt had formed, and the branding was gradually taking shape.

However, in the mind of Formless Dragon Bard, no mind branding had yet appeared; likewise, Fire Dragon Leo, the one with whom bonding had taken the longest, also had no branding. Perhaps it would be the most difficult dragon to develop a mind brand with, as the breeding of malevolent thoughts would always destroy Liszt’s influence over it.

Basically, once a month Liszt would cleave through Leo’s mind, filtering out malevolent thoughts and leaving behind only the pure, original intentions.

“If I wish to explore the world, taking Leo would be most suitable, its combat capability is the most powerful... However, Formless Dragon Bard would also be quite fitting.”

Sometimes, he would struggle with the decision of who to choose as his ultimate mount.

Luckily, there was still plenty of time before he had to make that choice.

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He was now waiting for Ach's cultivation, repeating the Magic Gate experiment over and over, just waiting for Ach to perfectly master the Space Elemental Incarnation, then it could be implemented. At present, Ach had achieved full bodily elementalization, but her control over Space Magic Power was still lacking the final touch.

But it was close, with her terrifying talent, perfect mastery was just around the corner.

“Once the Magic Gate is established, I won't have to work so hard, almost traveling three times a week to Black Horse Island to transport supplies, which is really troublesome.” Flame Island was in a dry and cold winter, with all things ceasing to grow, and food being in severe shortage, especially with the continuous recruitment of Moon Slayer Natives.

And feeding a group of gluttonous Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants meant even greater consumption of food.

Flame Territory had bulk trade in sea salt, glass, and white paper, and in addition to perfumes, soaps, and the porcelain that was being explored, it could barely maintain the current supply.

Just as he was rubbing his hands in eager anticipation of the Magic Gate,

Another piece of good news was brought back by the Knights who had been subjugating the Moon Slayer Natives, accompanied by a Moon Slayer girl only twelve or thirteen years old.

“Your Highness, this little girl is called ‘Hippolyta’, and her father is ‘Pontelesi’, the Listener of the small ‘Luo Tribe’. We found traces of Elves in the Luo Tribe and when our request for ransom was refused, we captured all the natives of the tribe.”

The Knight Captain reported truthfully, “Then we discovered in Hippolyta’s stilt house, a group of Elves that had all made contracts with her, so we brought back the Elves and the Cordyceps.”

Behind the Knight Captain, his men brought out a large wooden box, and upon opening it, inside were the Elves firmly tied up—among them one Greater Elf, and three Little Minor Elves, as well as two Elf Bugs.

Liszt was surprised and delighted.

He had thought that the Elves mentioned by the Knight Squad were just a few Elf Bugs, after all, the Luo Tribe was a small tribe with a population of no more than two hundred people. Unexpectedly, they had brought back one Greater Elf, three Minor Elves, and two Elf Bugs; the value of the harvest far exceeded capturing a large tribe.

“Very good, you have done well. Captain Celt, what is your title of nobility, and whom do you follow?” Liszt inquired.

Captain Celt trembled with excitement upon hearing this, barely suppressing his elation, “Your Highness, Celt is an Honored Knight, following your lead!”

“So you are a direct follower of mine. Then, from now on, I promote your title to Baron. Do any of your men hold noble status?”

“Thank you, Your Highness... No, they are all commoner Knights!”

“Then all shall be appointed Honored Knights.”

“Thank Your Highness!”

“Thank Your Highness!”

The members of the Knight Squad all took to one knee, paying their respects to Liszt with solemn loyalty oaths, their faces brimming with excitement and exhilaration—indeed, such scenes were common on Flame Island, with Knights frequently being ennobled or promoted for their military achievements.

He then rewarded the Knights.

Liszt finally turned to look at the trembling Moon Slayer girl, Hippolyta.

This lean native child hadn't fully developed yet, but she was already quite tall, just over 1.6 meters. Her skin was the color of wheat, and she wore animal skin clothing, barefoot without any shoes. Her hair was parted down the middle, hanging shoulder-length, glossy, and black.

Between the strands of hair were inserted a row of feathers.

This was a decorative method favored by Moon Slayer women—older Moon Slayer women liked to stick various colored feathers in their hair to form beautiful feather crowns.

Hippolyta's feather crown was not yet fully formed.

But perhaps because she was the Listener's daughter, she had better living conditions and was cleaner than ordinary Moon Slayer children, and was also rather pretty.

Especially the middle part in her hair. It was quite interesting.

Liszt really wanted to say, "Call me 'big brother' from now on, and I'll teach you how to part your hair in the middle..."

Of course, he was too embarrassed to utter such juvenile lines and just smiled at Hippolyta. The fact that the little girl had hidden an Elf and hadn't killed it made him feel very fond of her, "Your name is Hippolyta?" he asked in the awkward Moon Language, having taken some time to learn it recently.

The spoken Moon Language wasn't too difficult; the pronunciation methods were traceable. After all, most languages on the Legendary Continent, including Wind Language and Serpent Script, inherited vocabulary from Moon Language.

"Va ai tai ke..." the little girl plucked up the courage to utter a series of guttural questions.

Liszt didn't understand.

He turned to look at the Magician Translator beside him—most knights had studied Moon Language, but they weren't proficient, usually communicating according to a manual.

Magicians who focused on Moon Language were more suitable for translators.

"Your Highness, she's asking why you took away her father, her friends, and her family."

"This is a misunderstanding. I invited them to live in my territory, where life is far better than in the Luo Tribe. You will start a new life here too." Liszt said, and the translator translated, the conversation went fairly smoothly, "So there's no need to worry, no need to be afraid."

"You really won't kill us?"

"Yes, we won't kill you. In fact, we have many Moon Slayers here who have come from various tribes to start new lives."

"Then can you release my father and my brother?"

"Of course, but as a condition of the trade, could you release these Elves from their contracts?" Liszt revealed a grandmotherly smile, exhibiting great patience—not because the other party was a little Lolita, but he was willing to respect those who respected Elves.

"They are my friends, gifts my father gave to me, please don't kill them," Hippolyta said anxiously.

"You like them very much?"

“Mhm, I really like Elves. They’re very cute and shouldn’t be killed. But my father only allows me to wish for an Elf on my birthday... I’ve been wishing since I was seven until I turned twelve, and I only managed to wish for six Elves. The rest were killed.”

Obviously, the people of the Luo Tribe were still Moon Slayers.

It’s just that this little girl, Hippolyta, happened to have a fondness for Elves.

“Hand them over to me, and I will take good care of them. No Elf will be killed in my territory; they live happily. You’ll often see them running around freely and unrestrained on the land... As for you, you should go to school.”

In this place, school for Moon Slayers was less about teaching skills and more about reshaping worldviews.

Chapter 865: Kuchi and Poppy

“Who is the principal of the School of Moon Slayer?” Liszt asked after Hippolyta had been taken away.

“Baron Rick Footprint.”

“Rick.” Liszt remembered that Rick had been his classmate at the Knight Academy, followed him since the Fresh Flower Town era, and had been seriously injured and nearly died on his first battlefield. After that, he had lingering physical issues and started on the administrative path, “Tell Rick to educate Hippolyta well. He’s someone I’m particularly focused on.”

“Understood, Your Highness!”

As the Moon Slayer Tribe continued to be integrated, the serf population from the tribe on his territories had exceeded two hundred thousand, including as many as four thousand ancient mages. The knights, magicians, and civilians who had migrated from the Flame Territory—that is, the “Flame People”—totaled less than twenty thousand.

Such a disproportionate ratio made the rule of the Flame People perilous.

...

Although, in terms of high-end combat strength, he and Ach alone were sufficient to suppress any disturbances, they couldn't be everywhere, and stability still needed to rely on the Flame People. However, as the number of Moon Slayers increased, the control that the Flame People had over them was bound to diminish.

Given the spread of the Moon Slayers on Flame Island, there were certainly millions of them, or even tens of millions, as they were scattered throughout most of the forests on the island.

Even if they opened a Magic Gate and maximized immigration, it would be difficult for the number of Flame People to quickly rise to several hundred thousand.

The abundance of Moon Slayers and scarcity of Flame People meant that Liszt felt he had to adopt more secure means to control Flame Island. His plan was to assimilate the Moon Slayers, to integrate them into the knight system and make them loyal citizens to him. At the same time, he wanted to divide the Moon Slayers, to break their collective unity.

Standing on the castle balcony, looking at the still bright Sun that, however, provided little warmth.

He was very clear in his mind, "Equality for everyone is not realistic, the hierarchical disparities under the knight system must be maintained, but the contradictions between the various classes could be dissolved through channels of ascent... Nobles, Flame People, Moon Slayers, these are three classes, but each class must have a route to nobility..."

His gaze shifted toward the distant plantations where a Knight Squad was patrolling. In the fields, serfs from the Moon Slayer Tribe, under the supervision of Flame People stewards, were busily turning over the soil, preparing for the upcoming spring sowing: "Especially young Moon Slayers like Hippolyta can be cultivated to join the Knight Class in appropriate numbers."

As for the ancient mage class of the Moon Slayers, they would be broken, prohibited from killing Elf Bugs to produce Magic Dust. Indeed, Moon Slayers had no better innate magic abilities than Flame People.

Of course.

The cultivation of a Moon Slayer Knight Class still had to prioritize talent; those without talent would continue to be serfs.

“Young people are the true future candidates for knights in the Burning Legion. They will embrace the new concepts I bring, rather than continuing to adhere to the rigid knight system.”

“Angchi, Angchi, Kuchi!”

The calls of the Potato Great Spirit Kuchi interrupted Liszt’s thoughts, bringing him swiftly back to reality. He saw Kuchi pulling another Great Elf of similar height, flying toward him.

“Liszt!” Kuchi arrived at the balcony, chuckling merrily.

Kuchi, who had been captured by the Holy Tribe and had endured a miserable time until Liszt rescued him, was only then able to be completely happy. He was recently assigned by Liszt to help the newly arrived elves get accustomed to their new life at Flame Castle.

Elf Bugs had been successively rescued from various Moon Slayer Tribes.

But there were only Great Elves and Little Minor Elves, the one big and three small ones brought by Hippolyta. On the head of the Great Elf was a small tree sapling with large leaves, and hanging from it was a small bunch of bananas—it was a Banana Greater Elf. Bananas are a fruit and are much loved by Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants.

The arrival of the Banana Greater Elf provided a stable food source for the Shovel-Tusks.

“Poppy, say... Liszt.” He teased the Great Elf, whose eyes were filled with curiosity and who was a bit shy due to the recent contract, and could not speak the Serpent Script.

Its name was Poppy.

That was the name Hippolyta had given it, and Liszt, thinking it was nice, had not changed it.

“Hippo, Poppy.” Poppy mumbled in its own language, then compelled by the contract, tried to say, “Liszt, Hippo, Te?”

“It’s Liszt.” Kuchi corrected from the side.

“Liszt, Liszt, Liszt.”

“Liszt.”

“Liszt, Liszt, Liszt.”

“Poppy is so dumb,” Kuchi mocked, then continued to correct, “Liszt, Liszt Flame, Kuchi’s Liszt!”

Poppy seemed to understand that he was being mocked and shouted angrily, “Hippolyta, Poppy.”

“Alright, go play off to the side.” Liszt didn’t care about Poppy’s learning progress, once the elves planted the cordyceps, they could do whatever they wanted; there was no real teaching purpose.

On this occasion, besides the Banana Greater Elf Poppy, there were also three Minor Elves, which were the Rafflesia Minor Elf, Silver Fan Grass Minor Elf, and Big Fluff Ball Minor Elf.

Among them, the Rafflesia is a parasitic plant that generally lives on the roots, stems, and branches of other plants, somewhat similar to mushrooms. But it’s indeed a plant, with flowers as big as a washbasin and belonging to magic potions. In other words, the Rafflesia Minor Elf is a magic potion type of Minor Elf, highly valuable.

The only downside is that it’s difficult to cultivate, requiring it to parasitize a large tree.

Silver Fan Grass is an ornamental plant, its mature fruit looks like silver coins or small silver fans. Big Fluff Ball is also an ornamental plant, related to onions but of a different family, with a plant stalk in the middle that grows a cylindrical, nearly man-high flower stalk topped with a purple onion flower ball, which is quite interesting.

The value of these two Minor Elves has yet to be discovered.

Furthermore, there's no need to mention the two Elf Bugs—up to now, the Elf Bugs rescued from the Moon Slayer Tribe have exceeded forty, and most have not shown any value.

...

In Coral Island, within a small tavern near the docks of Fresh Flower Town.

Two guests dressed as merchants were sitting in the corner of the tavern, quietly speaking with each other.

“Did you find out everything?”

“Did you bring the Gold Coins?”

“Don't worry, you won't be short on money, here you go!”

“Hehe, with Gold Coins, everything is easy to discuss... It's all clear, that knight returns to Black Horse Island two to three times a week, the timing isn't fixed, but the pattern remains mostly the same. The other magician has never appeared, staying on Flame Island and not returning.”

“What's his mount, and what does he do every time he returns?”

“The mount hasn't been spotted, but each time he transports a batch of goods, sometimes it's food, but that's hard to inquire about. Moreover, he always stays a night at Thorn

Castle and leaves the next day. I didn't dare to ask too much; I'm still unclear on the specifics of how the goods are transported."

"Keep digging, I want to have a clearer grasp of that knight's whereabouts!"

"Hehe, Black Horse Island has strict household registration management. I'm risking being hanged to get this information for you. If you want me to continue investigating, you'll need to pay more!"

"As long as the information is valuable, remember, money is not an issue!"

Moments later, the two merchants took their leave, each departing Fresh Flower Town after purchasing a batch of goods—one heading towards Black Horse Island, the other towards Coral City.

The merchant heading to Coral City arrived at the docks, then immediately penned a letter and handed it over to another merchant to take along, sailing all the way to the Eagle Kingdom. Eventually, the letter arrived at a majestic castle, near which, on a mountainside not far from the castle, a Bronze Dragon was deep in sleep.

The castle's master opened the letter, expressionless as he read its contents, then burned the letter.

Sitting in silence in a chair, it was a long while before he quietly murmured, "Liszt Flame... The humiliation you've inflicted on me, I will return it tenfold, just wait..."

Chapter 866: Light Green Figure

December, January, and February on Flame Island belong to the winter season. Although the dry and cold climate halts the growth of plants, it provides an excellent opportunity for construction projects.

Without rain for long periods, the land remains dry. Utilizing this time frame, Flame City and the settlements surrounding Whirlpool River sprang up rapidly. Stilted wooden houses and stone offices were built, each settlement planned as a small town awaiting its residents.

All these towns were owned personally by Liszt.

On the vast land of over three million square kilometers on Flame Island, only nobles from the Burning Legion could be granted fiefs, no other nobles could. There were plenty of large and small islands in the archipelago, enough to grant to his followers—since honors were achieved too easily, the quality of the fiefs wasn't the best.

Generally, the titles granted to his followers did not match their military achievements; Liszt often had to make up excuses to award military honors for promotions.

...

Everyone understood this, and naturally, they didn't mind the poverty or richness of their territories.

For instance, Cross·Thorn, who after crossing the Great Whirlpool once, was promoted from Viscount to Earl. Such a tremendous reward thrilled him so much that he wouldn't dare complain even if he was granted a desert as his fief.

Riding on the back of a Formless Dragon, Liszt was also carrying Ach.

He moved along the material boundary, inspecting his territory.

"We still lack people, especially a strong middle class of knights. Although the Knight Academy continues to train youths, it takes time for them to mature. Time is the greatest enemy in developing Flame Island, and the loyalty of the ancient mages is always a problem, even though both you, Ach, and I have forcibly become Seki of the Moon Slayers."

Seki means saint.

With dragons as companions, it was natural for Liszt to become Seki; Ach, being an Archmage, was undoubtedly the best candidate for Seki. However, the two of them were only Seki in power, and in appearance, they were very different from the Moon Slayers, so it was impossible for the Moon Slayers to truly and sincerely believe they were Seki.

Only the ancestors of the Moon Slayers were considered true Seki in their eyes.

“Brother, don’t worry. Ach will help suppress the ancient mages. Their magic is outdated. A single magician, equipped with a few pieces of Magic Equipment, can take on a Grand Magician among the ancient mages by himself. They can’t stir up any trouble.”

Ach had already entered the material boundary.

Her ambition exceeded even that of Liszt, not regarding the ancient mages seriously.

It was likely because the magicians all flattered her, making Ach profoundly understand her influence as “the incarnate of Truth walking the mortal world.”

“I’m not worried about them stirring up trouble, I just feel that the development of Flame Island isn’t fast enough... How much longer until you master the perfect Elemental Incarnation of space?”

“Pretty soon, in a couple of days,” Ach replied.

The reason she rode the Formless Dragon with Liszt was to become familiar with the material boundary and speed up her familiarity with Space Magic Power.

Sure enough.

Two days later, in late February, Ach finally mastered the Space Elemental Incarnation perfectly and could independently enter the material boundary at any time. She could ride the Formless Dragon with Liszt outside the material world and experience the unique aspects of this world.

And to observe and study natural nodes.

“Brother, the preparations for establishing the Magic Gates are complete. Ach will now choose the natural nodes and start building the Magic Gates!” Ach, after comparing all

natural nodes near the Flame Islands and Sapphire Archipelago, started the long-awaited practical project of the Magic Teleportation Array.

There were a total of six suitable nodes for opening Magic Gates.

Volcano Crater, Jade Mountain, Reed Marsh, Ruins Entrance, Mind Island, and Bone Lake.

“Let’s first build the Bone Lake-Jade Mountain Magic Teleportation Array, connecting Black Horse Island with Flame Island,” Liszt excitedly suggested. The geographical positions of these two natural nodes were optimal, which would maximize the convenience of transportation—especially since Jade Salary Avenue was about to be completed.

The construction ability of the Mammoth Knight Brigade was more impressive than anticipated. With continuous refinement, the Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants could build 30 kilometers of road in a day.

By then—

Bone Lake connected to Jade Mountain, and Jade Mountain connected to Flame City, was to become the major artery for the development of Flame Island.

However, Ach raised a different opinion, “Brother, the first construction of a Magic Teleportation Array is bound to encounter unexpected situations, and may even disrupt natural nodes. Ach suggests building an unimportant Magic Teleportation Array first to accumulate enough experience before constructing the Bone Lake-Jade Mountain Magic Teleportation Array.”

“Is that so...” Liszt, though reluctant to give up, also understood that Ach made sense, the first time was bound to invite failure, “Then which one do you think we should start with?”

“The Mind Island-Reed Marsh Magic Teleportation Array would be best, firstly to test if the connection of long-distance natural nodes is feasible, and secondly, it won’t interfere with the main trunk of the future Flame Island Magic Teleportation Array. Once the Magic Teleportation Array is confirmed to be stable and feasible, it can be directly dismantled to build a new one.”

“Then let’s build it this way, you arrange and I will cooperate!”

Thus,

the complex and intricate construction of the Magic Gate began, Ach’s plan involved a great amount of magic materials, including Space Gems.

If it weren’t for the six Space Gems, Liszt would have been reluctant to use such precious gems for establishing a Magic Gate.

Time elapsed day by day during the preparations, February turned its page, March arrived, and spring rains began to pour extensively over Flame Island, with spring farming work busily progressing. A large number of seeds brought from Black Horse Island were scattered in various plantations prepared during Winter.

Once the seeds in these plantations germinated, many Elves from Thorn Castle would be able to migrate to Flame Castle.

While Liszt was busy, the Mammoth Knight Brigade finally built the Jade Salary Avenue up to Jade Mountain and discovered a Light Green Gem Dragon perched there.

“My heavens!”

“A Dragon!”

“This is... the Light Green Gem Dragon, the one lost by Eagle Kingdom!”

“It’s actually on Flame Island!”

“Quick, quick, report to His Highness!”

“Carlo Violet’s former mount!”

The Knights exclaimed in shock at the sight of the distant light-green Dragon perched on the mountain, oblivious to the Mammoth Knight Brigade, feeling deeply stunned.

However, Emily, riding atop the leader of the elephant herd, sternly called for silence, “Silence, everyone!”

“Commander Emily, this is a Light Green Gem Dragon!” exclaimed Knight Commander Fernal Ink, unable to restrain his excitement.

“I know!” Emily, though youthful in appearance, spoke with seriousness, “This Light Green Gem Dragon, it’s His Highness’s mount, His Highness has already become a Light Green Gem Dragon Knight!”

“Ah!”

“Knightly glory favors us!”

“Incredible!”

“The third Dragon!”

“His Highness has already subdued the Light Green Gem Dragon!”

“We, forever favored by the knightly glory of His Highness, who now possesses three Dragons!” The knights couldn’t describe their feelings.

They constantly elevated their Lord Landlord’s illustrious image.

Still feeling incapable of showcasing their Lord Landlord’s greatness.

A Dragon Knight owning three Dragons, the twenty-year-old Lord Landlord, who surprisingly became a Dragon Knight of three Dragons, such exaggerated achievements, how could words convey them!

Even Emily, who had been informed by Liszt and knew of the existence of Dragon Ethan, felt equally shocked, with worship-like flames seemingly burning in her marrow.

Fortunately, she still maintained her composure on the surface, again shouting firmly, “Silence, total silence! His Highness has already instructed that the Light Green Gem Dragon will not disturb us! And we need to flatten this valley to prepare for the future construction of Jade City!”

Chapter 867: New Record

Revealing the Light Green Gemstone Dragon was a choice made by Li Si Te (Liszt), as the news of the three dragons would sooner or later be exposed. At the moment when Flame Island was within grasp, revealing it wouldn’t hurt. Besides, the Jade Mountain was the Dragon Nest of the Light Green Gemstone Dragon, and mining there was unavoidable to encounter the Light Green Gemstone Dragon.

Moreover,

once the Mind Branding with the Light Green Gemstone Dragon was complete, Liszt planned to let Emily interact with the Light Green Gemstone Dragon to see if they could get along well, and perhaps in the future, she could become a new Dragon Rider—having talent and loyalty, the girl deserved to be cultivated vigorously, sharing the burdens on Liszt’s shoulders.

Considering everything, he was only twenty years old, yet he had to shoulder the pressures of an entire kingdom; it was indeed no easy task.

Of course, Emily was only fourteen this year, and the pressure of becoming a Dragon Rider was equally immense. Even Archmage Archy, at the age of forty-four, was still considered a juvenile Sea Serpent by Sea Serpent standards, a minor—Flame Kingdom was a nation founded by the youth.

“Captain Emily, this... is this truly His Highness’s Dragon Mount?” Fernal Ink could hardly believe it.

...

“Of course!”

Emily stood with her head held high, filled with an indescribable pride by association.

Every time Liszt achieved something incredible, she felt an intense thrill. She remembered clearly that night when the great Lord Landlord stroked her hair and said to her—grow up quickly, Emily, you’re my potential Dragon Rider!

Ethan, the Light Green Gemstone Dragon, was the Dragon chosen by Lord Landlord for her. All she had to do was grow, pass Ethan’s test, gain approval, and ultimately succeed in Dragon Riding.

“I will surely become a Dragon Rider and follow His Highness!”

Emily looked toward Ethan lying on the distant hill, her heart burning with an even fiercer desire, her Thunder Attribute Dou Qi overflowing in her meridians as if it were about to burst forth and rage wildly. Despite trying to regulate her breathing, she could not suppress the restlessness of the Dou Qi, which felt like boiling water that kept bubbling.

“Novad, I leave the Knight Brigade in your hands to continue flattening the earth!” She quickly instructed her deputy before leaping down from the leader of the elephant pack.

She dashed a few moves and reached Jade Salary Avenue nearby.

Standing in the vast open space, she drew the Crimson Blood Sword she carried—this sword was the side-arm of Liszt in the past, the Ruby’s purpose being to amplify Dou Qi, later re-forged by the Iron Knight, making it more in sync with Emily’s Thunder Attribute Dou Qi.

Although merely a Gemstone Weapon, it was dear to Emily’s heart.

At this moment, holding the Crimson Blood Sword, she wildly executed the Dou Qi Manuscript to vent the tumultuous energy within her meridians. Gradually, a special transformation occurred within her meridians, as if all the Dou Qi ascended into another form, making her body feel lighter and lighter.

Then, with a sudden leap.

She soared to a height of over ten meters, hovering momentarily before landing with ease.

“I...”

A touch of unstoppable delight appeared on her youthful, delicate face, as she instantly realized her Dou Qi had rejuvenated, graduating from Intermediate Dou Qi to become Advanced Dou Qi, rising to the rank of a Sky Knight!

Boom!

The newly-born Advanced Thunder Attribute Dou Qi burst forth, and she turned into an arrow, flying towards the hundred-meter-high sky. Even with her newly upgraded Dou Qi, she could forcefully control it, allowing her body to fly short distances smoothly—her relentless practice day and night had honed her control over Dou Qi to a terrifying extent.

She streaked across the sky, then plummeted fiercely to the ground, landing amidst the Mammoth Knight Brigade, stamping two footprints into the compacted earth.

With bent legs and sword blade thrust into the ground,

a cloud of dust was kicked up.

The knights of the Knight Order turned their heads one after another, disturbed by the commotion she had caused, and then saw Emily descending from the sky. Some knights were still in a daze, while others had already realized, “Captain Emily... has been promoted... to a Sky Knight?”

Fernal was the first to rush over, “Captain Emily, have you really been promoted to a Sky Knight?” He found it unbelievable, even more so than encountering a dragon.

The appearance of the Light Green Gemstone Dragon was abrupt, but the Eagle Kingdom had lost it for over a year, so everyone had some guess in their hearts.

However, how old was Emily, fourteen!

A fourteen-year-old Elite Earth Knight was already sensational, and her appointment as the captain of the Knight Order was a figure no one could ignore. Everyone's view of Emily was that of a "prodigy", a promising "rising star" and the future would belong to Emily.

However, without waiting for the future, Emily had become a Sky Knight now.

When Liszt was seventeen and became a Sky Knight, he broke the historical record of the Duchy of Sapphire and became the youngest Sky Knight, shocking countless people and causing envy and resentment. Who would have thought that today Emily would push Liszt's record forward by three years!

"Yes, I am now a Sky Knight!" Emily mounted the leader of the elephant herd.

She really wanted to continue flying in the sky, feeling the exhilaration of just becoming a Sky Knight, but she managed to restrain her emotions well, as willpower had always been her greatest talent for progress.

"You are only fourteen this year, graced with knightly glory, Captain Emily, your talent is even more terrifying than His Highness's!" Fernal still spoke with a tone of shock.

Emily raised an eyebrow, "His Highness's talent is not something you or I can imagine, and I am just continuously chasing after His Highness's shadow. Captain Fernal, focus on your work." After that, she maneuvered the herd leader and returned to the Mammoth Knight Brigade, immediately giving the order for silence.

She was not Liszt; though she had been promoted, she could still control her impulse to show off well.

If it were Liszt, he probably could have flown around the Mammoth Knight Brigade for an entire day.

Watching the girl riding the elephant's retreating figure, Fernal slightly shook his head, finding it difficult to let go for a long time.

He thought the young Dragon Knight Lord he followed was already a legend. Who would have thought the young female knight working with them would also become a legend soon. Becoming a Sky Knight at fourteen, something that is almost impossible even for Dragon Knight candidates in the Kingdoms of the continent.

Not to mention a female Sky Knight.

When the young girl's figure merged into the Knight Order, he looked again at the distant Light Green Gemstone Dragon.

Suddenly narrowing his eyes, he thought of a possibility, "If Emily is a talented knight carefully trained by His Highness, could she be a candidate for the Dragon Knight of the Flame Kingdom... Although she is female, becoming a Sky Knight at fourteen, who can guarantee she won't become a Dragon Knight?"

Once this thought emerged, it couldn't be suppressed, Fernal knew it was a real possibility — as long as Liszt was willing, Emily would have enough time to bond with the Light Green Gemstone Dragon!

As he pondered,

A slightly lewd smile appeared on his face, "Lord Acherlodes, Archmage... Captain Emily, Dragon Knight... Suddenly it feels like the Flame Kingdom need not worry about succession... His Highness must enjoy nurturing talent... tsk, tsk..."

...

Unaware of his follower's disparaging thoughts, Liszt was looking at the Smoke Serpent Script materializing before him, "Task completed, reward Sky Knight – Emily."

"Hmm!"

"Jade Salary Avenue has been completed, my little Emily is finally going to be promoted, a fourteen-year-old female Sky Knight, it's all worth my full cultivation of her!"

Emily's growth was a pleasure to witness, but as the Smoke Serpent Script changed and revealed the content of the new task, his expression suddenly shifted.

He began to darken.

Chapter 868: Laying the Net in Wait

“Mission: Your daily routine has been the target of prying eyes, and danger lurks in the shadows, inching ever closer. Even as a Dragon Knight, you cannot guarantee your safety against a beatdown, and fighting is the best way to resolve this threat. Please eliminate the looming danger from the shadows. Reward: Carnivorous Ogre Shadow Tracing.”

Carnivorous Ogre Shadow Tracing as a reward did not alarm Liszt.

It was the content of the mission that made him pale, “Someone is investigating me, danger from the shadows is approaching... The only force in the Sea of Azure Waves that could possibly threaten me is definitely the Eagle Kingdom. Having killed one of their Dragon Knights and lost a Dragon, the Eagle Royal Family will surely not let this go, and there's also Alonso Xiankelai!”

He quickly regained his composure, his gaze filled with calm determination, “They want to gang up on a Dragon Knight, these people are really looking for trouble.”

Although the crisis had already begun to set its ambush, he wasn't overly worried. Back when the Steel Ridge Kingdom was at war with the Blast Furnace Fortress Kingdom, he had already considered the possibility that the Eagle Kingdom was gathering strength to deal with him—if the Dragon hadn't been lost, maybe the Eagle Kingdom would be the one at a disadvantage.

But the Dragon was lost.

...

That was a big issue; even the King couldn't just swallow his pride and let it be. Each Dragon represented a massive amount of resources.

“Investigating my routine to gang up on me, a new round of dragon-slaying wars is about to happen. The Power of Destiny has already sensed the opponent’s eagerness to move. This great battle is inevitable!” Liszt, as a Dragon Knight determined to establish a kingdom, was on the cutting edge of momentum, and he would not back down at this moment.

What’s more, there was no reason to back down. With Archmage Archy in the sea, they stood on invincible ground. In the sky, there was the Formless Dragon Bard, who could enter the realm of matter. What could they do against a Dragon Knight?

Even Little Fire Dragon Leo didn’t need to come into play; he could still escape this dragon-slaying war.

“On the foundation of being invincible, I must expand the fruits of victory and make the Eagle Kingdom regret seeking vengeance on me!” He contemplated his plan of action.

In fact, with the existence of Formless Dragon Bard, Liszt could take the enemy by surprise and kill a Dragon Knight.

Source: , updated on NovGo.co

Based on the existing intelligence, even if the Eagle Kingdom could stabilize their situation with the Blast Furnace Fortress Kingdom and Steel Ridge Kingdom, and withdraw Dragon Knights and Dragons from the frontier, it would not be possible to withdraw all Dragon Knights and Dragons. It’s likely that the Eagle Kingdom, at a certain cost, could manage to redeploy around three Dragon Knights and two Dragons.

In total, the Eagle Kingdom had eight Dragons, among which were five Dragon Knights—the White Maw Iron Dragon Knight, the Bronze Dragon Knight, the Purple Sapphire Dragon Knight, the Topaz Dragon Knight, the Lead Dragon Knight—along with the Silver Dragon, another White Maw Iron Dragon, and the Brass Dragon.

Their five vassal states had five Dragons, with two Dragon Knights—the Purple Copper Dragon Knight, the Crimson Gem Dragon Knight—and a Grey Iron Dragon, a Pink Gemstone Dragon, a Golden Green Gemstone Dragon.

Of these, the White Maw Iron Dragon Knight named Alex White Iron was stationed on the outskirts of the Blast Furnace Fortress and could be deployed; the Bronze Dragon Knight

named Alonso Xiankelai was stationed on the outskirts of the Steel Ridge, and could be deployed; from the vassal states, the Purple Copper Dragon Knight named Loyle Bronze had good relations with the Eagle Royal Family and could be deployed.

In addition, the Royal Family's symbolic Silver Dragon and the vassal state's Grey Iron Dragon could also be deployed.

A Dragon is an entity that fortifies a nation's fortune and is not easily mobilized. The cost of deploying even once is tremendous, and it might even spark the start of a border conflict. If the Eagle Kingdom truly gathered three Dragon Knights plus two Dragons for this luxurious lineup, it would be a mighty act that could shake the foundation of their nation.

"If they win, all is well; perhaps swallowing me could help the Eagle Kingdom swiftly recover its full strength. But if they lose, the Eagle Kingdom will at least lose a layer of skin... If they dare come, they must be prepared to lose that layer!" Liszt's eyes were piercing, showing no fear whatsoever.

Without much hesitation,

He headed straight for the Doomsday Volcano Crater, summoning Leo from the volcanic magma, "A great battle looms ahead, stay inside me for now, ready to fight at any moment!"

"Oh-ho!"

Leo did not decline; although he was fond of the warmth of the Volcano Crater, he also longed for the thrill of battle. How could an Evil Dragon fear the fight!

Returning to the construction site at Reed Marsh, he spoke to Archy, "Pause the construction of the Magic Gate for now. Archy, I need you to be in sync with me during this time. A dragon-slaying battle is waiting for me!"

"Ach understands, Ach will protect big brother!" Ach clenched his fist and declared.

"Mm, I believe you."

Right after.

The two of them rode the Formless Dragon Bard together, entering the world beyond physical matter, and traveled from the natural node at Bone Lake to Black Horse Island. Liszt quickly summoned Mary Dawn Break and Xavier Bull Dung to Thorn Castle.

“Your Highness.” Mary, who appeared youthful, no longer flaunted her alluring figure. As the leader of the Blood Servants and one of Liszt’s eyes, she held a position of high standing and influence. In the Flame Territory, she had chosen many talented youths, planning to increase the Vampire population.

“Mary, I need you to lead the Blood Servants and conduct an in-depth investigation into the movements of the Dragon Knights and Dragons of the Eagle Kingdom and its vassals, with special attention to Alex, Alonso, Loyle, the Silver Dragon, and the Grey Iron Dragon.”

“Mary will clarify the movements of these Dragon Knights and Dragons for Your Highness!”

“Be quick, we just need a general idea of their movements, not the details.”

“As you wish, Your Highness.”

Liszt then ordered Xavier: “Your task is to find out what the Sapphire Family is up to, especially the Grand Duke and his Sapphire Dragon!” Liszt had not considered joining forces with the Sapphire Duke for this dragon-slaying battle because the stance of the Sapphire Family was difficult to judge.

He preferred to handle things on his own and did not like to collaborate with others, especially those he did not trust enough, as they could betray him at any moment.

Xavier bowed and replied, “Yes, Your Highness!”

“Are you prepared for the activities of the rats on your territory?”

“All suspicious rats are under our surveillance, and some of the intelligence is deliberately released by me; we can essentially ensure that everything is under control.”

“Good, then continue to leak my routine to these rats, remember, it should be regular and fixed over a period. Moreover, I want you to spread the word that I often travel to Dodo Island, where there is a volcano that serves as a training ground for Leo.”

Liszt decided to actively set up the battlefield, employing a fishing-law enforcement strategy—nobody knew he could rely on the Power of Destiny to avoid danger in advance, and this was exactly what he intended to exploit.

Without asking for reasons, Xavier accepted the command: “Understood!”

Thus.

Instructions were given to both the Vampire and Rat spies.

Without any delay, Liszt crossed the natural node with Ach and arrived at Mind Island. Then they set out from Mind Island, heading stealthily to the Eagle Kingdom. He wanted to find natural nodes along the coastline of the Eagle Kingdom, especially those related to the Dragon Knights’ flight paths.

It was only right to respond to an action with a reaction.

If the Eagle Kingdom dared to initiate a dragon-slaying war, then they must bear the painful consequences.

Liszt knew he could not win against the enemy’s group attack on the frontal battlefield; what he had to do was to use the Formless Dragon to contend with the opponents, making the dragon-slaying war a farce. Once the Eagle Kingdom realized they could not capture Liszt, they would surely retreat, and during their retreat, there would be opportunities for the Formless Dragon to strike.

“I wonder if killing another Dragon Knight and capturing a Dragon on the way would cause the Eagle Kingdom to collapse?”

Chapter 869: Everything is Ready

Fresh Flower Town's dockside tavern.

Two merchants sat together, the same two as the last transaction, but this time there was new news about the transaction: "I've got the information you wanted; it took a lot of effort to bribe a servant from Thorn Castle... That knight always transports supplies to Dodo Island before setting off!"

"Dodo Island?"

Indeed, that's an island to the north. I've even brought you the nautical charts. How many Gold Coins will you give me?"

"How about ten?"

"Twenty!"

...

"Don't be greedy, fifteen!"

"Heh heh, seventeen. It's not just for me—I had to pay a high price to bribe that servant from Thorn Castle!"

"Is there a risk of exposure?"

"Don't worry, the servant is an old hand at the castle; no one will suspect him."

Only after the other party agreed to pay seventeen Gold Coins did the merchant reveal everything about Dodo Island in detail, including information about a volcanic crater and a Human Skull Tree Forest on the island, and that the knight was training there—if anyone investigated, they'd discover that Dodo Island was indeed undergoing major construction.

But it wasn't a training facility being built, rather a small town, and they would begin to mine volcanic ash there to produce cement.

Source: , updated on novGo.co

This message took only half a month to reach Alonso Xiankelai's hands.

To convey the message promptly, he had already arranged for Vampires to infiltrate the Duchy of Sapphire again. However, to avoid detection, the Vampires from the Black Knight Family were very careful to hide their Blood Magic fluctuations, because the family had learned that a group of Vampires had revolted and pledged allegiance to Liszt.

"Dodo Island..." Alonso called his trusted knight and gave the order, "Deploy the Falcon Knights to notify Prince Alex, Duke Loyle, and Duke Pierrot. The fire extinction operation officially begins. On April 3rd, we'll assemble and lie in wait at Sapphire Hot Spring Island!"

The Falcon is an Intermediate Magical Beast with wind attributes, not strong in combat, but incredibly fast.

Mounting a Falcon marked with Alonso's beacon, the Falcon Knights took off swiftly from Alonso's castle and flew toward the lands of the Eagle Kingdom.

Watching the knights vanish into the sky, Alonso clenched his fist securely: "Your Majesty still trusts me, putting me in charge of this operation, and I will not fail this trust! Liszt Flame, you must be quite pleased with yourself now, young and successful, and in a hurry to establish your nation, yet not realizing that the old huntsman has already set the perfect trap for you. Heh heh."

...

The layout of the battle against Dragons is often a protracted affair.

After making all the preparations he could, Liszt quickly headed to the coastline of Eagle Kingdom, in search of natural nodes. Unfortunately, the material boundaries here seemed more stable than those in the Flame Islands, and after more than half a month of searching, he had barely found two natural nodes.

One of them was in a place he was familiar with—Trapped Dragon Mountain Iron Mine.

The other was located not far from the coastline, among a group of reefs, also a very familiar place; it was here that he once encountered the elderly Sea Monster Yisi—he thus named the area Siren Reef Cluster. Sadly, Yisi was not here, and he failed to meet this still-charming Sea Serpent again.

“Two natural nodes, I hope they are just on the route of the Dragon Knight’s return; otherwise, I might have to attempt trailing assassination... Bard is still underage. If he were an adult and all his capabilities reached their peak, I could go directly to each Dragon Knight’s station for assassination!”

The Formless Dragon is only eighty years old and its combat strength is not dominant enough; infiltrating behind enemy lines for an assassination carries significant risks.

Who knew these Dragon Knights, with years of legacy behind them, might have countermeasures, such as space-locking magic and combat skills.

Staying steady and not acting rashly was Liszt’s primary strategy at the moment.

Soon, he received news from his Blood Servants—the White Maw Iron Dragon Knight, Alex White Iron, who should have been stationed on the outskirts of the Blast Furnace Fortress Nation, was not at his post and had already returned to the King’s Castle. Ever since the daughter of the Eagle Kingdom’s King married Duke Haisiburgh, the brother of the King of Blast Furnace Fortress Nation, relations between the two nations had become complicated.

Under normal circumstances, kingdoms wouldn’t become one big family just because of marriages. In fact, going back several generations, nearly every kingdom had intermarried, but they would still fight when they needed to.

“Alex, as I had predicted, has been released by the Eagle Kingdom in their collusion with the Blast Furnace Fortress Nation. If a dragon-slaying battle is to occur, he will surely be one of them!”

The White Maw Iron Dragon was formidable in combat, and Alex was known as the first master of the Eagle Kingdom.

The Eagle Kingdom had two White Maw Iron Dragons, one of which had yet to find its Dragon Knight. However, that dragon had previously almost killed the first-generation Sapphire Dragon Knight in a solo fight, which spoke volumes of its fierce combatant prowess. And Alex himself had killed an Ice Dragon, earning the title of Dragon Slayer.

After some thought, Liszt instructed Ach through the Magic Platform to give orders to Mary Dawn Break, “Continue to track down information on Alex. Report directly to me as soon as he makes a move or shuts himself away!”

He had the Magic Platform.

With Mary and the other Blood Servants carrying the Magic Platform and lurking in the Eagle Kingdom, messages were transmitted rapidly.

Unfortunately, Magic Platforms were not easy to produce, and their security measures also had not been perfected. Furthermore, training undercover personnel was challenging and Vampires needed time to develop. Otherwise, he could have directly set up an espionage department to reside permanently in all the major kingdoms. For now, only some Blood Servants had access to Magic Platforms.

As the Blood Servants gradually took their places, more information constantly flowed in—Alonso had left his station Dragon Riding, Purple Copper Duke Loyle of the Purple Copper Duchy had not made any appearances for several days, Duke Pierrot of the Grey Iron Duchy was also refusing visitors, and Prince Alex was doing the same.

There were also claims of a Silver Dragon leaving its Dragon Nest.

Then more news arrived that the Blast Furnace Fortress Nation had once again had a border skirmish with the Steel Ridge Kingdom.

The whole of March seemed quite ordinary, but Liszt was aware of all the actions initiated by the Eagle Kingdom. If not for the early warning from the Smoke Mission, these movements wouldn’t be surprising... However, under Liszt’s close watch, all these actions became anomalies.

“It can be almost confirmed that Alonso, Alex, and Noil, three Dragon Knights, will participate in the Dragon Slaying Battle, along with the Grey Iron Dragon from Grey Iron Duchy and one Silver Dragon. The trails of other Dragon Knights and Dragons are still unclear.”

“Then, where would they choose to ambush me?” Liszt looked at the map of the Duchy of Sapphire, pondering in his mind. The Dragon Knights would surely gather before launching an attack, so somewhere between Dodo Island and Black Horse Island would definitely be the location of the attack.

This was the battlefield Liszt had actively arranged.

With this sea area as the central point, the surrounding islands could all potentially be ambush sites.

“The most likely is Hot Spring Island—the Count of Hot Spring Island is an old-established Earl; it remains to be seen if he will be involved. The Rats I sent to investigate might discover some traces... Then these other islands could also be ambush points. With the Eagle Kingdom having operated for many years, who knows if there are any Noble Landlords that have been turned.”

During the Dragon Slaying Battle at the Sea of Azure Waves, the Light Green Sapphire Dragon Knight Carlo Violet had unexpectedly emerged. The Sapphire Duke had thus speculated that among his followers, there was a traitor.

Someone had provided Carlo with a place to stay.

But the traitor had not been found, as the Sapphire Archipelago had many deserted islands where a Dragon Knight could station. The matter had been left unresolved.

Liszt stroked his chin, his eyes seemed to see the threads of fate trembling incessantly: “Even so, the Sapphire Duke may reach an agreement with the Eagle Kingdom, plotting against me to pave the way for Anthony?” He added the Sapphire Duke into the equation of the Dragon Slaying Battle.

Preparing for the worst.

Once the Sapphire Duke truly betrayed him, he would definitely wipe out the Sapphire Family without hesitation.

Chapter 870: The East Wind Rises Suddenly

Flame City was facing a food crisis, but Liszt still took time to transport several batches of materials to support the construction of Flame City. At the same time, he celebrated the successful promotion of his follower Emily to Sky Knight.

He presented the prepared Thunder Attribute Advanced Dou Qi Manual”Thousand Thunderstrike Sky Flash”to the young girl, “Emily, the glory of the knight has favored you. You have inherited my brilliance and become the youngest Sky Knight in the Sapphire, the Flame, and even the whole Legendary Continent.”

“No, it is Your Highness’s glory that has favored me!” Emily replied loudly.

“Ha ha, that’s too grandiose,” Liszt laughed as he ruffled the head of the girl who now stood at one meter seventy. Though she was still lanky, her face had grown more delicate, with an exotic charm that made her especially captivating. “Female Sky Knights are rare; I hope you continue to climb to new heights!”

“Emily will definitely become what Your Highness expects, and will follow Your Highness’s lead without pause!” The girl was speaking of Dragon Knights, which was Liszt’s expectation for her.

Looking at the girl’s determined face and the vibrant energy she radiated,

...

He couldn’t help but sigh, “Perhaps this is what youth is... Emily, I don’t have a suitable weapon to give you as a gift. This Swift Shadow Bow has accompanied me in battles for a time; I entrust it to you, hoping you can practice your archery whenever you have time.”

After becoming a Dragon Knight, Liszt had long since stopped archery, and the Swift Shadow Bow had become merely a decoration.

Emily excitedly took the Swift Shadow Bow, her animated expression conveying all her inner feelings to Liszt—ready to make any sacrifice for him, whether it was a sword or a bedsheet.

In the time that followed,

Liszt once again conferred nobility titles. For her military accomplishments in training the Mammoth Knight Brigade and constructing the Jade Salary Avenue, Emily was directly bestowed the title of Viscountess, while other knights were also promoted according to their achievements—essentially, whenever an opportunity arose, Liszt would confer titles on his followers.

The Flame Islands were vast, and what he lacked were followers to help him develop them.

Source: , updated on Novgo.co

After leaving Flame Island, Liszt estimated the time, realizing it was nearly April. Judging by the movements of the Dragon Knights of the Eagle Kingdom, they would soon be within the territory of the Duchy of Sapphire. To show his relaxed state and complete lack of vigilance, he even made a showy trip to Iron Hoof Island, inspecting his domain, Iron Hoof City.

“Viscount Fox, Baron Goltai, Baron Blair... you must make preparations quickly, recruit more knights for me, and migrate to Flame Island, where countless military achievements await you... You can directly draft knights from the whole territory of Iron Hoof Island and promise them nobility titles.”

Liszt still felt that knights from Sapphire were more to his liking, wanting as many as he could get.

At the banquet,

Goltai created a very lively atmosphere.

Even though Liszt didn't like to drink, he still occasionally indulged in a few cups of Fresh Flower Brew.

Taking advantage of the heated atmosphere, Goltai said with a smile on his face, "Your Highness, the development of Iron Hoof City is on the right track, and it's been a long time since I've been bathed in your brilliance. I'm anxious, always longing for the time following you... May I know when will you allow me to go to Flame Island?"

"But I think you're living quite comfortably in Iron Hoof City," Liszt teased.

Goltai's wife and children all lived on Black Horse Island, and his children had entered the officialdom of the territory. Meanwhile, he lived leisurely in Iron Hoof City with the lover he met in Fresh Flower Town, Freya, and their illegitimate son, Donald.

"Ah, but no matter how good, it cannot compare to the time spent following Your Highness!"

"Alright, when the time comes, you all will go to Flame Island. For now, manage Iron Hoof City well and handle the transport of knights," Liszt stopped Goltai's flattery, raised his glass, and declared, "My followers, glory belongs to me, and I stand with you!"

"To Your Highness's glory, cheers!"

After inspecting Iron Hoof Island.

Liszt once again made his way to Tulip Castle to have a reunion with Lady Penelope, Marquis Bull Tail, and other family members, discussing the development of Flame Island and Tulip Island.

As he was about to leave, Lady Penelope had her servants bring over another potted plant. "Liszt, my dear boy, you have become a Dragon Knight and possess a vast expanse of land, with elves flocking to you. But this is a token of your grandmother's affection, imbued with the care of a knight's glory!"

Scanning with his Eye of Magic, he saw the potted plant did not foster any Elf Bugs, but he still accepted it with a smile, "I will take good care of these plants, in hopes that they will bring forth more elves for me."

His sister, Li Vera, said with a laugh, "Liszt, I hope you can attend my wedding with Hubert Rollo next month."

Hubert Rollo, the son of the Earl of Longwhite Isle, was well-matched with Li Vera. After more than a year of acquaintance, Li Vera had come to appreciate this Earth Knight, a year her junior, and was advancing to the stage of marriage, which was deemed a blessed match.

"Of course, I'll attend," Liszt replied to his sister, not particularly fond of her but without any intention of estrangement, "If they wish, the Rollo family can consider developing on the Flame Islands."

"It would be wonderful for you to attend the wedding... I will discuss it properly with Hubert. Father also hopes we can move to the Flame Islands."

Li Weiliam, of course, wanted his children to go to the Flame Islands.

The reason was simple: Liszt had three dragons and Ach the Archmage, whose potential for development far surpassed that of the Duchy of Sapphire. The choice between one dragon and three was obvious even without thinking too hard.

"The knights of the Tulip Family have not had an easy time establishing themselves on Tulip Island, despite the Moon Slayer serfs you provided. Lack of food on the island means they've had to hunt Magical Beasts for sustenance and have lost many knights in the process," Li Weiliam confided his troubles as he saw his son off, his son who was becoming more of a stranger.

"Don't worry, Father, the difficulties are only temporary. In a while, you will see things clear up."

Li Weiliam was somewhat skeptical, "Is that so?"

"Of course, when have you ever known me to joke?"

“Well...” Li Weiliang wanted to say that their conversations always seemed like a joke, yet every seemingly impossible jest turned out to be true.

Four years ago, how could he have imagined that his cowardly, worthless son, handsome but otherwise useless, would rise to such an overwhelming stature?

So, the seven thousand kilometers of great voyage seemed like an immense difficulty.

But because Liszt said so, he believed it.

...

Leaving Tulip Castle.

Liszt spent a night at Thorn Castle before setting off for Dodo Island. He planned to spend the entire month of April shuttling between Dodo Island and Black Horse Island, intending to provoke the Eagle Kingdom into attacking him—the crisis lurking in the shadows needed to be resolved for peace of mind.

He preferred to spend a month wearing down the Eagle Kingdom, aiming for a permanent solution to the problem.

While Liszt began to bait the hook with himself, the Count of Hot Spring Island sent his knights to seal off a corner of the island, forbidding anyone from entering or exiting. Only his own servants were allowed to drive carts, transporting vast quantities of supplies to that secluded corner of the island every day.

Such trivial information, which would normally go unnoticed, crossed paths with someone attentive and was discovered by the rats under Xavier’s command.

Then the news reached Liszt’s hands.

“Sealing off a corner of the island and transporting large amounts of supplies daily suggests that the Eagle Kingdom’s Dragon Knights have already arrived. Judging by the current amount of food, there should already be two dragons gathered on the island... Should I strike first?”