

The Mighty 871

Chapter 871 Darkness Before Dawn

Assassinating a Dragon Knight isn't difficult, the challenge is assassinating a Dragon.

Because there is an indistinct connection among Dragons, especially when Dragon Magic Power is fully operational, the sensing between Dragons is particularly strong.

Only when an Elemental Dragon becomes possessed can one evade this sort of sensing.

And to assassinate a Dragon Knight, one only needs the Dragon Knight to temporarily leave the Dragon, unable to receive the Dragon's warning and timely support. After all, it's impossible for a Dragon Knight to always be with the Dragon, never leaving its side even to sleep or eat.

"If I infiltrate Hot Spring Island, the Formless Dragon might likely be sensed. By the time the Dragon Knights react, I might have to face two of them... Facing two Dragon Knights head-on isn't very stable. Although I'm not afraid, I might not be able to intercept them."

Li Si Te (Liszt) was now riding Formless Dragon Bard, with Little Fire Dragon Leo possessing his body, while Archmage Archy kept living with him.

Only the Light Green Gemstone Dragon could not hide nor pursue for thousands of miles, so he left it at Jade Mountain continuing to guard the Jade Mine and sleep.

With his current combat configuration, he could barely manage to assassinate a Dragon Knight through a stealth attack; for a frontal assault on two Dragon Knights, the difficulty was indeed a struggle. Especially since he temporarily didn't know who these two Dragon Knights were, whether they were dragons with strong combat capabilities like the White Maw Iron Dragon.

Moreover, if a battle were in full swing and another Dragon Knight rushed over, it would be a case of trying to steal a chicken only to end up startling the snake.

After careful deliberation, he dismissed the idea of an early stealth attack, "Forget it. I will stick to the original plan, wait for their retreat and then find a way to stealthily intercept

and assassinate them. For now, I just need to stay patient." It all boiled down to the fact that his own strength was still developing. If the Fire Dragon and the Formless Dragon were adults...

Why bother keeping a low profile!

Bring a few, kill a few, charge up and slaughter away, regardless of how many Dragon Knights there are, they are all just delivering themselves to my doorstep. Unlike now, under the advance warning of the Smoke Mission, I still have to cautiously play my schemes.

Calculating the food supply for Hot Spring Island.

By the time April 2 arrived, the food requirement for the sealed-off area was equivalent to that of five Dragons, with no increase in the following days.

Li Si Te waited on Dodo Island, knowing full well: "Five Dragons, three Knights, such a scale is truly luxurious. They're really giving me face!"

Prince Alex White Maw Iron, a White Maw Iron Dragon Knight of the Eagle Kingdom.

Summit Marquis Alonso Xiankelai, a Bronze Dragon Knight of the Eagle Kingdom.

Duke Loyle Purple Copper, a Purple Copper Dragon Knight of the Purple Copper Duchy.

The Silver Dragon raised by the Royal Family of the Eagle Kingdom.

Duke Pierrot Grey Iron of the Grey Iron Duchy, and his unmounted Grey Iron Dragon.

"And accounting for the Grand Duke Andrew Sapphire, the Sapphire Dragon Knight of the Duchy of Sapphire... That makes six Dragons, four Knights. I must be careful and prudent."

...

Hot Spring Island.

Alex sat in the central position of the tent, with Alonso, Loyle, and Piero to the left and right. There was also a middle-aged man, the confidant Butler of the Eagle Kingdom's King and the keeper of the Silver Dragon, temporarily in charge of communicating with the Silver Dragon. The area around the tent was empty, with only these five men discussing.

"Is the investigation clear?"

"Yes, Li Si Te frequently travels between Black Horse Island and Dodo Island. According to the schedule, he will be on Dodo Island tomorrow to cultivate the entire day."

"Shall we wait a bit longer to gain a clearer picture?"

"The night has many dreams. Waiting further will only be a waste of time. Moreover, considering Andrew's cunning, he'll likely have a hard time continuing to ignore our movements. Perhaps he'll find an opportunity to send a message to Li Si Te, letting him create even more trouble for us."

...

"In my opinion, we should have wiped out Andrew first, and then turned our attention to finishing off Liszt and purging the Sea of Azure Waves!"

"Last time, we missed our chance, and if we move against Andrew now, Steel Ridge will definitely not sit idly by. This time it's just against Liszt, so Steel Ridge and our kingdom have an understanding, allowing me to withdraw from the frontline. If we were to touch Andrew, I'm afraid a new dragon-slaying war would erupt," Alonso said calmly.

Of course, he wanted to annihilate the Duchy of Sapphire; his worst defeat had been at the hands of the Sapphire, after all. But there were some rules that even a Dragon Knight would not dare break lightly.

If the balance among the three nations—Steel Ridge, Blast Furnace Fortress, and Eagle Kingdom—were to be disrupted, the situation would become very difficult.

Ultimately, Alex made the decision: "Don't think about attacking Andrew, at least not for the time being. Killing Liszt, capturing the Fire Dragon, and retaking the Light Green Gemstone Dragon are our top priorities! And that Archmage, we must capture him to make up for the losses of the Eagle Kingdom!"

"Prince Alex, the worth of an Archmage cannot be measured, I trust the Eagle Kingdom will not break its word, correct?" Loyle said softly.

"Of course, Duke Loyle, rest assured, the knowledge of magic will be shared with you all by the Royal Family."

"So when do we make our move?"

"Tomorrow!"

The next day dawned before break of day.

Alonso had already woken up and was affectionately feeding the Bronze Dragon; he hadn't slept well the night before but had now adjusted his attitude. Gone was any excitement or nervousness, as well as the humiliation of the past, leaving only his determination for this dragon-slaying war: "Old buddy, it's time for us to use Lightning Strike and prove that we are deservedly Dragon Knights!"

Hmph!

The Bronze Dragon didn't roar but merely snorted twice through its nostrils, signaling its eager thirst for battle—it, too, remembered the disgrace of the previous dragon-slaying war.

Being a noble and invincible creature, to have run away with its tail between its legs!

Such a disgrace must be avenged by dragon law!

Shortly afterward, Duke Piero arrived with his Grey Iron Dragon: "Prince Alonso, I'm placing the Grey Iron Dragon under your command temporarily, hoping it returns cloaked in glory."

"Please be at ease, Prince Duke, this dragon-slaying battle will surely end with universal rejoicing!"

On another front, Loyle was also feeding his Purple Copper Dragon.

Prince Alex, meanwhile, was taking care of the White Maw Iron Dragon and the Silver Dragon. Since the Silver Dragon caregiver was only responsible for feeding and couldn't command the dragon in combat, it was left to him, a Dragon Knight, to give the orders. As a member of the Royal Family, Alex was no stranger to the Silver Dragon; they were old friends.

Thus, the three Dragon Knights, along with their five dragons, having confirmed the attack plan and timing, swiftly disappeared into the darkness before dawn. Wings spread wide, clouds churned, and a grand dragon-slaying operation commenced in the early hours of April 7, Sapphire Year 155.

However, these Dragon Knights were unaware.

A rat was watching this place.

When the carriage convoy transported food ahead of time in the middle of the night, the rats had already reported back to an inn in a nearby small town; hiding in the inn, the Magician immediately used the Magic Platform to send information to Dodo Island: "Food delivered at dawn, exactly the amount for a full meal... The rat didn't dare get close, no other movements noticed."

Archmage Archy, who slept lightly, quickly received the message from the Magic Platform and woke Liszt: "Brother, there's a message, it might be today that Eagle Kingdom launches their surprise attack."

"So, it's coming. Sooner than I expected, but the sooner it comes, the sooner it's over!" Liszt rubbed his face, not a hint of nervousness, but rather a sense of relief—the tension had been relentless with the attack date uncertain, but once the time was set, it was as if a burden had been lifted.

Pushing open the cabin window, there was pitch black outside. Yet the air was exceptionally fresh due to the new sprouts of Human Skull Trees struggling to germinate from the volcanic ash.

Breathing in the fresh air, Liszt stretched lazily without a care about appearances.

What's to come will come, let it come!

Chapter 872 Earth-Shattering

From Hot Spring Island to Dudu Island of the Flying Islands, it was a considerable distance.

Liszt had ample time to take a nap, get up, wash, have a hearty breakfast, and then don his equipment.

The "Dragon Lance Fury of Thunder" was kept in the Space Ring, the "Armor Thunder Roar" was worn, and the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword hung at his waist. Coupled with various gemstones that enhanced strength, recovery speed, and Dou Qi, as well as a tricolor cape of red, black, and gold, his imposing manner was unmissable.

Ach was still wearing the Magic Cloak, also adorned with various gemstone ornaments—these were crafted from gemstones provided by the Steel Ridge Royal Family.

In her hand, she held a Longsword, the Divine Artifact Eight Dragons God Sword.

Liszt ultimately didn't wear the sword but gave it to Ach to use. The reason was simple; the Eight Dragons God Sword was more a magic staff than a sword. Originally a weapon of Ancient Magicians, it greatly amplified the power of eight types of Magic Power.

In Ach's hands, the Eight Dragons God Sword's effects could be maximized.

He himself fought on dragonback, using the dragon lance as his means of attack, which made Unity of Man and Dragon easier.

"Ach, with the Magic Power boost from the Eight Dragons God Sword, your Water System and Ice System Magic will surely reach the level of Superior Magic, inflicting great damage on Dragon Knights," said Ach, fully confident in the boost to her Elemental Incarnation provided by the Eight Dragons God Sword.

The once timid Little Sea Monster who had been relentlessly pursued by the juvenile Six-Headed King Serpent—Dulu Miqita—and had hidden by the rocks, weeping quietly, had now become a confident and great Archmage standing at the pinnacle of Magic.

No trace of timidity remained.

"However, you should still focus on support, don't rashly engage in combat with Dragon Knights. Your magic development isn't deep enough yet, and you lack a variety of combat methods," Liszt reminded.

Ach's Water Elemental Embodiment developed three kinds including Super Magic - Chainsaw-Style Super High-Pressure Water Knife, Spiral Ultra-High Pressure Water Drill, and Centrifugal Water Molecular Shield.

The Ice Elemental Incarnate had only developed one kind, Super Magic - Super Compressed Ice Shield. It involved compressing ice infinitely into a shield—technically not complex, but the shield's defensive power was very strong, especially against physical attacks, superior to all other defensive magic.

The Space Elemental Incarnate had just been perfectly mastered; however, she had also barely developed Super Magic - Vectorial Cut, which was modeled after the Formless Dragon's "Dragon Breath Shattering Space," utilizing cutting through space as a means to inflict damage.

Moreover, there was the basic Super Magic - Eye of Mana.

"Ach knows how to protect herself, don't worry, brother. During the battle, Ach will cover you and Bard with water and ice shields to prevent the Dragon Knights from harming you. Then, using Advanced Magic to manipulate the battlefield, Ach will wait for an opportune moment to strike at the Dragon Knights."

"Alright!" Liszt smiled, pulling off a playful head pat, not worrying about rubbing Ach bald, "Let's go, to battle!"

...

The serfs working on Dudu Island didn't know that a legendary dragon-slaying battle was about to take place; they were busy constructing the town's foundation.

Meanwhile, their Landlord had already mounted his dragon, soaring at the material boundary, continuously scouting the surrounding seas of Dudu Island, trying to detect any invading Dragon Knights in advance.

It wasn't known by what sensing principle dragons detected each other, but even hidden at the material boundary, the Formless Dragon could still be sensed by other dragons at close range, albeit over shorter distances.

This significantly reduced its ability to ambush.

Otherwise, Liszt would have acted sooner.

"I anticipate that the Eagle Kingdom's attack tactics will involve encirclement, so I plan to find a way to maybe kill the enemies quickly!" he said to Ach.

Before he could finish, his heart suddenly lurched—the Formless Dragon had sensed the Magic Power and aura of a dragon straight ahead in the sea, flying towards Dudu Island.

"Let's go!"

Liszt was not one to hesitate; spotting the enemy, he immediately communicated with Bard to head toward the opponent. Flying like a flicker of light, in an instant, the dragon's presence grew clearer, and likely the opponent had sensed the Formless Dragon too. Yet this did not hinder Liszt's aggressiveness at all.

Suddenly,

Within the view of the Crystal White Trajectory, a bright magical color suddenly appeared — it was like the luster of metallic copper, also flickering with a faint purple light.

"Purple Copper Dragon Knight, Loyle Purple Copper!"

He had recognized the identity of the other party, by now the Purple Copper Dragon Knight was not flying fast, adopting a defensive stance, and looking around nervously, anxious-- it must be that he sensed the presence of a dragon, but could not catch sight of it, which baffled him.

No other dragons or their aura were detected around him.

That is to say, Loyle was acting alone.

Such a godsent opportunity, how could Liszt let it slip: "Charge, spiral maneuver charge!" Man and dragon harmoniously united, sharing one thought only— to strike. They did not take the usual straight path but adopted a spiraling rush to blur their location sensed by the dragon.

The distance was closing bit by bit, the connection between the dragons growing incredibly profound.

In the Purple Copper Dragon Knight's Crystal White Trajectory, all the fine flows of magic were fully captured in Liszt's mind, undoubtedly revealing the Purple Copper Dragon Knight's next move to him.

"The magic flow is very strong, he is ready for a thunderous strike, it looks like Loyle is not as nervous as he appears... No wonder he's a rare Dark Attribute Dragon Knight, his feigning techniques fit well with the Dou Qi attributes, but unfortunately, you're dealing with me!"

Information about Loyle flashed through his mind—Dark Attribute Dragon Knight, Dou Qi filled with corrosive, sticky properties, like venom that can't be shaken off. Once hit, the Dark Attribute Dou Qi would cling to the bones like maggots, causing continuous damage.

But no matter how tricky, it was still a physical attack.

Facing the Formless Dragon that could enter material boundaries at will, it wasn't much of a threat.

Wrath of Thunder ready, man and dragon moved forward in a spiral, Dou Qi and magic power resonating continuously, amassing energy for the move "Phantom," ready to strike.

Close now!

Almost making contact.

At this moment, Liszt could see the cold fierceness in Loyle's eyes, as if he had long anticipated this surprise attack. Before Liszt could thrust his Dragon Lance, Loyle swung his Dragon Lance, a jet-black spear from end to end.

"Die!" Loyle roared, his Dragon Lance piercing the air, silent as if even the sound was corroded by the Dark Attribute Dou Qi.

Faced with this fiercely lethal thrust, Liszt simply glanced dismissively, man and dragon already flickering off the attack path, arriving at the back of the Purple Copper Dragon Knight.

Wrath of Thunder thrust out.

Phantom strike.

A gentle swipe.

Blood bloomed like roses.

"Roar!"

The Purple Copper Dragon let out a painful scream, its dragon spine harshly split open by the tip of the Wrath of Thunder, revealing the bone. Dragon blood spurted, scattering in the air above the sea.

The thirty-five-meter-long Purple Copper Dragon with a wing-span of thirty-five meters was much larger than the fifteen-meter-long, fifteen-meter-span Formless Dragon, yet it was the Copper Dragon that got injured.

Often, size is not the measure of combat capability!

Back in severe pain, Loyle's face instantly turned purple-red with rage, his eyes flaming, he bellowed: "Presumptuous!"

The Obsidian Dragon Lance shifted position, harshly smashing toward the now visible Formless Dragon, Dark Attribute Magic Power bursting forth, layers of black waves flickering, hitting only an afterimage.

After the strike, the Formless Dragon once again slipped into the material boundary, spiralingly accelerating, preparing for the second strike.

Chapter 873: One Shot, One Kid

Recall!

Retrieve!

Liszt, riding the Formless Dragon Bard, flashed in front of the Purple Copper Dragon after Loyle's furious attack.

Wrath of Thunder, carrying the magic power of the Formless Dragon and his own Dou Qi, furiously discharged at the spear tip and harshly executed a move called "Sonic Boom." Although the spear tip did not create an actual sonic boom, it burst a mass of blood on the neck of the Purple Copper Dragon, slightly off target, or else it could have pierced through the dragon's neck.

At the same time.

Bard suddenly turned his head, taking advantage of the brushing pass, and spewed a Dragon Breath Shattering Space onto the face of the Purple Copper Dragon. That white mist capable of shredding space hit the Purple Copper Dragon's finely scaled face like a knife, making a sound like the crackling of exploding beans.

Ach also seized the opportunity to act, grabbing Liszt's armor with one hand while wielding the Eight Dragons God Sword with the other, lightly waving it.

A Super Magic – Vectorial Cut then struck towards the Purple Copper Dragon Knight, Loyle.

Compared to the large-bodied Purple Copper Dragon, attacking the Dragon Knight was obviously more effective. However, their position on the Dragon Tooth Platform itself was very concealed, providing good protection for the knight. Just as Vectorial Cut was about to hit Loyle, a purple metallic luster flashed, and Loyle's whole body was coated with a layer of metallic copper.

Bang, clang!

The sound of metal cutting overshadowed the explosions of beans.

At a crucial moment, the Purple Copper Dragon also stirred its magic power, encasing its body with a layer of metallic copper, timely suppressing the violent strike from the Formless Dragon Knight.

The two dragons flashed past each other.

Once again, the result was the Purple Copper Dragon getting injured, but it was strong and tough enough to don a layer of metallic copper for defense. After dodging, it endured the severe pain from the wounds and turned to fire a metallic stream of Dragon Breath toward where the Formless Dragon vanished into the material boundary.

Dragon Breath is a special magic product.

Each dragon's Dragon Breath is distinct; the Fire Dragon breathes high-temperature flames, the Light Green Gemstone Dragon emits crystal particles like hail, and the Formless Dragon exhales space-shattering mist. The Dragon Breath of the Purple Copper Dragon, however, is a metallic stream—a special metallic liquid formed by magic that packs a strong impact force.

Upon contact with air, it quickly turns into droplet-shaped copper and shoots faster than bullets.

Whizzzzzz!

A dense swarm of bullet noises tearing through the air, buzzing like a swarm of hornets, numbing the ears. Yet the metallic stream turned into a shower of metal bullets that still failed to hit the Formless Dragon Knight, who had vanished into the material boundary. Loyle's retaliatory Dragon Spear assault also missed.

"Damn it!"

His temper seemed ignited, his gaze even colder, not pondering why he was dealing with a mysteriously appearing and disappearing Dragon Knight instead of the Fire Dragon Knight he was supposed to face. He focused solely on finding traces of the Formless Dragon, seeking ways to counter, confident in his own strength.

"Just let me catch you, and I'll send you back to the Valley of Dragons!"

However, before he could vent his feelings, the Formless Dragon reappeared behind and beneath the Purple Copper Dragon, using a spiral maneuver. Wrath of Thunder stabbed crazily, performing the move "Poison Dragon" focused on a drilling force, launching a fierce assault on the belly of the Purple Copper Dragon, the softest part.

The Formless Dragon took the opportunity to spit Dragon Breath Shattering Space onto the dragon's belly.

Ach then adopted another method of attack, switching to Super Magic – Chainsaw-Style Super High-Pressure Water Cutter. Suddenly, a huge crystalline water blade condensed in the vast sky, slashing down towards the Purple Copper Dragon.

"Roar!"

The Purple Copper Dragon was quick to react, but still caught off guard; it frenziedly plated itself with copper on its body surface as "Poison Dragon" had already pierced its abdomen, erupting a mass of blood, and continued drilling inward until it encountered resistance and was withdrawn.

In those moments of delay, Loyle sneered, “Caught you!”

He raised the Obsidian Dragon Spear high, and the Purple Copper Dragon skillfully spun around, placing the Formless Dragon above and itself below, then the Obsidian Dragon Spear thrust out from between the flapping wings.

At that moment,

An alarming surge of magic power suddenly emanated from behind Loyle.

He could not afford to be distracted by what was happening behind him, but he continued thrusting the Obsidian Dragon Spear, determined to kill Liszt first!

Just as the Obsidian Dragon Spear was about to strike, almost within reach of the still material-bound Formless Dragon, a bright white light suddenly emerged, rapidly freezing the air and condensing into a shimmering transparent ice shield.

Boom!

The ice shield only blocked for a second before shattering under the powerful force of the Obsidian Dragon Spear, but that second allowed the Formless Dragon to once again vanish into the material boundary.

Perched on its back, Ach raised the Eight Dragons God Sword, its previously dull blade now flickering with blue-white bright light, an activation of amplified water and ice magic powers. Saying she would protect Liszt wasn’t arrogance; her perfect mastery of Elemental Incarnation and instant Superior Magic were proof!

Archmages in ancient times ruled the world, not just for fun. Their confidence stemmed from the powerful magic they drew from the Magic Web.

“Huh?”

Loyle couldn't believe he was blocked by an ice shield, his attack once again futile, and the sense of danger at his back grew even more intense.

The next moment.

There was no time to react.

A scorching airstream descended, as if he had bathed in magma for an instant, almost melting the scales of the Purple Copper Dragon.

Then, a massive weight slammed hard onto the Purple Copper Dragon, sending its body tumbling uncontrollably, unable to stabilize flight, falling in a freefall trajectory.

“Well done, Leo!”

Liszt laughed heartily.

As soon as the Formless Dragon appeared, he had released Little Fire Dragon Leo to lead the attack, Leo taking the opportunity to ambush. At this moment, Leo's performance was flawless, and the results were very pleasing. Without stability, how could the Purple Copper Dragon evade the powerful ambush ability of the Formless Dragon Knight?

Bard burst out of the material boundary, heading straight for the Purple Copper Dragon.

Wrath of Thunder roared again, another fierce strike “Snow Mountain”, as if causing mountains to crumble, exploded on the shoulder blades of the Purple Copper Dragon, damaging one of its wings and further disrupting its balance.

“Charge!”

“Bard! Leo! Ach! Take it down!”

Once Liszt entered combat mode, he transformed into a fierce offensive force, without any concept of flanking or holding back—just attack until it was over.

Leo repeatedly collided with the Purple Copper Dragon, while Bard flickered about, stabbing with the Dragon Lance time after time!

Ach occasionally cast water shields and ice shields for Leo and Bard to protect them from occasional counterattacks by the Purple Copper Dragon Knight, and found time to release vectorial cuts or high-pressure water blades, water drills.

In the minutes that followed.

Liszt, Bard, Leo, and Ach, two humans and two dragons, brutally pummeled the Purple Copper Dragon Knight. They beat him down from four thousand meters in the sky to just a few hundred, continuing to press him downward. Despite the ongoing copper plating applied by the Purple Copper Dragon for itself and Loyle, it could not withstand the damage inflicted.

Blood spurted continuously along the way, alongside constant screams.

The strong defensive power of the Metal Dragon ensured it wasn't grievously wounded, but couldn't guarantee an escape, especially when they descended to a hundred meters above ground.

Originally calm seawater, under Ach's talented control, suddenly turned into awakening giant pythons. It whipped up countless water tornadoes, roaring as they spiraled toward the high skies, tightly ensnaring the Purple Copper Dragon, binding its final struggles, leaving it to rely only on its copper plating for protection.

"Now, Loyle, you're dead!" Liszt gripped the Dragon Lance – Wrath of Thunder, executing the most explosive move "Sonic Boom".

"Stop!"

A thunderous roar rang from afar, but it was a new Dragon Knight rushing over, a huge gray dragon that seemed cast from steel, its wings obscuring the sun, reflecting the metallic brilliance of sunlight.

White Maw Iron Dragon Knight, Alex White Iron had arrived.

But his shout had no deterrent effect.

Liszt's hand didn't tremble at all, Wrath of Thunder brutally pierced the copper-plated Loyle. The metallic copper's defense was strong, but the impact force of Wrath of Thunder was stronger. The tip of the spear continuously emitted mixed Fire Attribute and Space Attribute magic power, burning and tearing, forcibly breaking through the metallic copper.

Pfft!

Human blood splattered, Loyle, who had just relieved to see Alex's arrival, was now impaled through the chest by the Dragon Lance, the violent magic power instantly erupting inside his chest, rampaging uncontrollably.

Under the watch of the Crystal White Trajectory, Loyle's Dark Attribute magic power could no longer maintain operation, dissipating and beginning to fade away.

He was dead!

After Carlo Violet, he became the second Dragon Knight to die at Liszt's hands, a mighty ruler of the nation, the Grand Duke of the Purple Copper Duchy, falling in an unobserved battle of slaying the dragon.

After killing Loyle.

Liszt didn't pause, quickly summoning Leo to transform into the Magic Form, attaching to his chest. Then, controlling Formless Dragon Bard, he released the continuously reinforced, yet no longer damage causing, Purple Copper Dragon. Quietly sliding into the material boundary, he retreated towards the distance—this burst of activity had drained him tremendously.

It was temporarily unsuitable to battle the White Maw Iron Dragon Knight again, especially since behind the White Maw Iron Dragon, a shiny Silver Dragon had appeared.

Chapter 874: Peak Power

Bang thud.

The Purple Copper Dragon plunged into the sea, gulped down a few mouthfuls of salty water, and after retracting its copper-plated scales, it barely managed to struggle and fly up from the sea's surface—Before coming here to wage dragon warfare upon the sea, these dragons had all learned the basics of swimming, except for Fire Dragons like the fire elemental kind, all other dragons could roughly learn to swim.

On its Dragon Tooth Platform, Duke Loyle had not been released from his copper-plated state, still enshrouded in a layer of purple-tinted metallic copper, clutching the Obsidian Dragon Spear, frozen in his final stance.

He was dead.

No signs of life.

However, the Purple Copper Dragon had not given up on him, instead, with sorrowful eyes, it soared into the sky to reunite with the White Maw Iron Dragon Knight and let out a massive roar.

“Loyle!” Prince Alex approached the Purple Copper Dragon and shouted loudly.

There was no response.

Prince Alex was suddenly taken aback, contemplating a very dire situation. Moreover, he had witnessed with his own eyes that dragon, transparent as crystal, thrust a Dragon Lance through Loyle's chest and withdraw it in a flash, before disappearing without a trace.

“Loyle!”

The second call still went unanswered.

“Roar!” The Purple Copper Dragon's roar was filled with desolation, making it even clearer to Prince Alex that Loyle was dead—unbelievable but true nonetheless.

“Impossible!”

Prince Alex's face darkened with anger reaching its peak. He and Loyle had known each other since childhood, one a Prince of the Eagle Kingdom, the other a Duke of the Purple Copper Duchy. Both had been selected for the Eagle Kingdom's Dragon Knight candidacy program, although Loyle had inherited the dragon from the Purple Copper Family.

There might have been bumps along the way, but their friendship was solid.

Moreover, their countries maintained a good relationship, one the suzerain and the other a vassal, and this time they had united for the dragon-slaying campaign, having rejoiced in wine and conversation just the day before.

Today they were parted by death.

Suppressing his grief and rage, Prince Alex coldly commanded, "Purple Copper Dragon, follow me, avenge Loyle! After I slay that despicable beast Liszt, I will personally return Loyle's body to the Purple Copper Duchy!"

"Roar!"

The Purple Copper Dragon's body was covered with wounds, great and small. Its once beautiful purple-tinted metallic scales were badly damaged. Some were sliced by Dragon Breath shattering space, some scorched by high-temperature Dragon Breath, others torn by Dragon Lances, plus damage caused by magic water blades and water drills.

The wounds had stopped bleeding, muscles beginning to heal, demonstrating its remarkable recovery ability.

Yet its magic power was severely depleted, particularly from those special uses of Dragon's Super Magic during multiple plating processes, severely diminishing its combat effectiveness.

Only its spirit was lifted, driven by vengeance for its Knight!

Different from Light Green Sapphire Dragon Knight Carlo Violet, the Light Green Gemstone Dragon was one nurtured by the Eagle Royal Family, with Carlo merely

selected as its knight, having no relation to the First Dragon Knight; Loyle, the Purple Copper Dragon's knight, was indeed a descendent of the First Dragon Knight, his bond with the dragon much deeper.

Nevertheless.

At this moment.

Prince Alex and the three dragons searched far and wide, yet found no trace of Liszt. The three dragons could faintly sense the presence of the Formless Dragon, but its distance had grown too far to pinpoint a precise location. There was only a vague direction.

"He went that way, towards Dodo Island... Alonso's direction, let's catch up!" Prince Alex's eyes flashed, realizing Liszt's intent.

This was about hunting isolated Dragon Knights, now heading to intercept the Bronze Dragon Knight.

However, Prince Alex wasn't just tense but also saw it as an opportunity handed by fate because Alonso wasn't acting alone but was accompanied by a Grey Iron Dragon.

There were many types of Iron Dragons, classified into five kinds based on the iron ore they produced—White Maw Iron Dragon, Malleable Cast Iron Dragon, Grey Iron Dragon, White Heart Iron Dragon, Black Heart Iron Dragon. All formidable in battle, part of the mighty Metal Dragon lineage, especially notable for their large size, usually exceeding sixty meters.

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Dodo Island was within sight.

Alonso Xiankelai, to say he wasn't feeling smug, would be impossible.

In his scheme, Liszt had fallen into a trap, only awaiting the seasoned hunter himself to make the capture. But soon, he realized something was amiss; according to the plan, he

should be the second to arrive at Dodo Island and join the battle. Yet, there was no dragon-slaying warfare happening on Dodo Island.

Everything on the island was calm, with only a group of serfs busy at work when they suddenly pointed at the sky with trembling exclamations.

They saw the Bronze Dragon and the Grey Iron Dragon approaching closer, and despite having seen the Lord Landlord's Fire Dragon, the serfs still shivered in fear of these two metal dragons.

He couldn't help but want to kneel down.

The Metal Dragons above paid them no mind.

Alonso's gaze searched continuously, confirming that there were no traces of Dragons on Dodo Island, "Liszt isn't here? Could it be that he fled upon seeing Prince Alex?" According to the plan, Prince Alex was to lead the White Maw Iron Dragon and the Silver Dragon in a sudden attack, with Alonso making his move only when the battle was at its height.

When it was time for Liszt to escape, Duke Loyle would join in blocking him.

Unexpectedly, it seemed something had gone awry with the plan.

Just then, he suddenly received a surge of Dragon Magic Power. It was the White Maw Iron Dragon sending out a magic power fluctuation, a signal reminding him of "danger" and demanding he immediately converge in the direction of the White Maw Iron Dragon. This was a simple remote communication method among Dragon Knights.

As long as one was within the range of the Dragon's senses, they could communicate in this way.

"Hmm?" Alonso frowned, unable to understand why Alex would warn him of "danger," "What danger could there be in killing Liszt? Even if he has an immature Fire Dragon, an ordinary Light Green Gemstone Dragon, and a newly promoted Archmage with him, what could they possibly do!"

He still felt somewhat relaxed.

However, his actions were without any hesitation, as he quickly rode the Bronze Dragon toward the White Maw Iron Dragon, with the Grey Iron Dragon tightly following behind.

The flight was brief.

He then felt a new Dragon presence. While different from the Fire Dragon presence he had experienced in his last Dragon-slaying battle, it wasn't the Light Green Gemstone Dragon's either.

But he knew, this was Liszt's arrival.

"Good, you've come!" Alonso's spirits lifted, and he quickly swooped over.

Their distance closed rapidly, but when the Bronze Dragon sensed the other party right in front of them, there was no trace of any Dragon in sight, even as he descended from the high clouds. There was no Fire Dragon, nor a Light Green Gemstone Dragon.

Even when the Bronze Dragon continuously alerted that the other party was within one kilometer, no trace was found.

"What's going on, why can't I see them?" Alonso's eyebrows rose as he faintly understood the meaning behind Alex's warning of "danger," and then it struck him, "Is it some invisibility magic concocted by the Archmage? Ridiculous, I've already locked onto your position... to the left, in front!"

He shook the Dragon Lance, uniting man and Dragon, fiercely ready for combat, aiming a brutal charge at the position indicated by the Bronze Dragon's senses.

The Dragon Lance, carrying the momentum of wind and lightning, emitted a piercing sonic boom as it lashed fiercely into the void. But just when he felt that he was about to strike his opponent, the Bronze Dragon suddenly sensed the presence behind him. Before he could react or prepare to dodge the sneak attack...

A transparent figure, crystal-like in its appearance, suddenly became visible, charging swiftly with a lethal glow on the Dragon Lance, as if aiming to skewer the Bronze Dragon in one ferocious blow.

“Roar!”

“Wooh-ya!”

Just as the two Dragons were about to cross paths, something unexpected happened!

A violent aura rushed over from the side, forcing the Formless Dragon to change its course and abandon the chance to deal a severe blow to the Bronze Dragon.

“Roar, roar, roar!”

The unbridled Dragon’s roar resonated thunderously between heaven and earth. It was the Grey Iron Dragon that had been closely following the Bronze Dragon, now spreading its sixty-meter wingspan in the manner of a top predator, lunging at the Formless Dragon that had just revealed itself.

The airflow stirred up by the wings seemed almost visible to the naked eye.

Producing wisps of mist.

Even the sunlight was obscured.

The fifteen-meter-wide Formless Dragon was much smaller than the thirty-meter-wide Bronze Dragon, let alone when compared to the sixty-meter wingspan of the Grey Iron Dragon.

“Dammit!”

Liszt, riding on the Formless Dragon Bard’s back, frowned secretly under the immense pressure from the Grey Iron Dragon. Without any hesitation, he immediately chose to

abandon his attempt to assassinate the Bronze Dragon Knight Alonso and darted into the boundary of matter, fleeing into the distance.

Boom!

Just as he entered the boundary of matter, the Grey Iron Dragon's tail, like a true Dragon Lance, stabbed at the place where the Formless Dragon had disappeared, leaving behind only air.

Even such a strong attack missed its mark.

But Liszt, hiding within the boundary of matter, felt a slight tingling on his scalp. He clearly sensed the tail tip of the Grey Iron Dragon lacking just a bit more force to pierce through the boundary of matter and strike both him and the Formless Dragon — that was a brute force attack that relied purely on physical strength, violently breaking through the material space.

The Grey Iron Dragon, in its prime maturity, was likely as powerful as an Elemental Dragon in its adult stage.

The Crystal White Trajectory opened.

Looking back from afar at the Grey Iron Dragon whose magic was as solid as steel, Liszt unconsciously swallowed, "Very strong... Leo, perhaps only when you reach maturity can you fight it head-on!"

Chapter 875: I Came, I Left

Bronze Dragon Knight Alonso Xiankelai narrowly escaped disaster.

Before long, he had joined forces with Alex White Maw Iron, but what had originally been five dragons and three knights now amounted to five dragons and two knights, plus one corpse.

"Prince Alex, how could things have turned out like this?" Alonso was still in shock, "Is that Liszt? His mount isn't a Fire Dragon, nor a Light Green Gemstone Dragon!"

“It’s a Formless Dragon.”

Alex spoke expressionlessly, as if mentioning an irrelevant matter, “The Holy Dragon Order, possessing the power that represents space, Liszt is far more than the Fire Dragon Knight we anticipated, and he has acquired the Light Green Gemstone Dragon... He has become a Formless Dragon Knight. Loyle died by his assassination.”

“Do Sacred Dragons really exist?” Alonso furrowed his brow.

“I wasn’t certain before either. It’s been many years since I’ve heard any news of the Sacred Dragons. When I traveled through the Kushan Imperial in my youth, I heard some tales about them. I believed the Sacred Dragons had vanished along with the fall of the Moon Empire era, but unexpectedly, they have been reborn in the Sea of Azure Waves.”

“There are also Archmages, who have not appeared for many years. Prince Alex, the situation has exceeded our expectations,” Alonso took a deep breath, seriously speculating, “I suspect that Liszt has gained control of the Moon Empire’s relics, otherwise there wouldn’t be the continuous emergence of an Archmage and a Formless Dragon.”

Alex glanced at the copper-coated corpse of Loyle and said dispassionately, “This little creature has become a force to reckon with; killing him now, I fear, will be very difficult.”

Alonso’s face darkened, then he raised an eyebrow, “Do you, Your Highness, intend to give up on this dragon slaying battle?”

“What do you think?”

“Pursue!”

“Pursue?”

“Now that it’s come to this, there is no turning back from an arrow released from the bow. If we do not kill Liszt, he will remain a constant threat. We must keep pursuing him and completely strangle the threat, to ensure that the situation does not spiral out of control... otherwise, it will be the gravest crisis for the Eagle Kingdom!”

“But how can we kill him if Liszt is a Formless Dragon Knight with the ability to traverse space?”

“Lure him out.” Alonso seemed resolute, “I will act as the bait to draw him out. He likes to ambush lone Dragon Knights, doesn’t he? We will split up in our search but keep in constant contact with each other. The moment he shows up, we will fight to the death to pin him down and leave him no way to escape!”

Alex’s eyes flickered momentarily, “What do you think the chances of success are?”

In terms of combat strength, he was undoubtedly the top of the Eagle Kingdom, but when it came to tactics and cunning, he was slightly inferior, which is why he relied on Alonso for strategy.

“Seeing the fate of Duke Loyle, to tell the truth, I don’t have much confidence. Liszt always seems to have an ace up his sleeve that we’re not aware of. For now, all we can do is give it our all. If we can kill him, that would be the best outcome. If we can’t, we’ll have to retreat first and find another way to resolve the crisis later.”

“Then let’s kill!” Alex burst out.

As the invincible White Maw Iron Dragon Knight, he had his own pride.

In the time that followed, Alonso took the initiative to leave, roaming alone around the sea near Dodo Island, searching for traces of the Formless Dragon.

Alex, on the other hand, led the four dragons in another direction to search but maintained a magical aura of communication with Alonso.

The Dragon Lance was gripped in his hand.

Alonso suppressed his nervousness and observed his surroundings with a cold eye. He eagerly hoped that Liszt would appear to attack him. In doing so, he could utilize the desperate strategy they had prepared, to entangle the Formless Dragon and wait for Alex’s reinforcement—only such a tactic could turn the tide of the battle.

Otherwise, if they were to fail in this second dragon slaying battle, he would be utterly disgraced.

In the life of a Dragon Knight, one does not know how many dragon slaying battles one may partake in. And he, having participated in two, would become a laughingstock an embarrassment among Dragon Knights if both were to end in failure.

At that moment,

he suddenly felt the presence of the Formless Dragon from afar.

His heart leapt with joy, and he gripped the Dragon Lance even tighter, though the presence quickly vanished without a trace.

It turned out that Liszt had merely flown out from the material boundary, scanned the surroundings with his telescope to determine the location of the Bronze Dragon, then left without looking back.

“Knowing that I killed Loyle and yet you still deliberately divide your forces, are you tempting me, or testing my intelligence?” Liszt did not consider himself to be of high intelligence, but he was certainly not a symbol of low intellect. Alonso’s tactic was clearly mocking him.

He walked away.

In the time to come, it would be like walking a dog.

He had already instructed Ach to notify Black Horse Island with the Magic Platform, to ensure that the Elves were safely relocated—though in reality, whether they moved or not did not make much difference. Dragon Knights generally do not attack lower-class knights and civilians, let alone kill Elves. The game naturally has its rules, and Dragon Knights vs. Dragon Knights is the main one.

Otherwise, if today your Dragon Knight kills my citizens, and tomorrow mine kills yours, no one benefits.

Moreover, compared to the Eagle Kingdom, Flame Territory is destitute with hardly any resources. Even if decimated by Dragon Knights, Liszt's losses would be limited; he could easily compensate from the Eagle Kingdom, or effortlessly slay enough to recoup his losses. As long as Alex and Alonso aren't foolish, they wouldn't choose to break the rules.

He was mainly on guard against them becoming desperate and taking out their frustration on Black Horse Island.

After all, they were all Dragon Knights.

An occasional lapse of reason—who would dare to pursue it? Since he himself had once thrown dignity to the winds to take to the battlefield and capture ordinary Knights, he couldn't guarantee the other side wouldn't resort to the same tactics.

"I hope you won't do such a thing; otherwise, if my territory suffers losses, the Eagle Kingdom will need to pay tenfold, a hundredfold in compensation!"

Riding the Formless Dragon Bard, constantly shuttling through the material boundaries, he flew towards Alex. Upon sensing the dragon's aura, he shockingly discovered four dragons beside Alex—the White Maw Iron Dragon, Grey Iron Dragon, Purple Copper Dragon, and Silver Dragon.

Obviously, he couldn't just approach recklessly.

"What a pity, all these precious Metal Dragons, yet none belong to me," Liszt sighed.

Suddenly, Ach said, "Brother, aren't we waiting for the Eagle Kingdom to retreat before intercepting the isolated Dragon Knights?"

Liszt shook his head, "That's true, but since I killed Loyle, it's unlikely that they would split their forces. And if they do, it would be a lure for me... Even if they really do split up after retreating, it would be difficult for me to track them down given the lack of a positioning method and the ability to clearly discern the location of each dragon."

"Maybe Ach has a way."

“Hmm?” Liszt was startled for a moment, then overjoyed, “Ach, tell me quickly, what is the method!”

“It’s a Magic Beacon that Ach just thought of. By utilising spatial magic to leave a mark on a dragon’s body, we could then use the resonance between the material boundary and the beacon to determine position and distance... However, the range of resonance shouldn’t be too far, at most a hundred kilometers.”

A hundred kilometers; this distance had already exceeded the extreme sensing range between dragons.

After pondering a moment, Liszt knew this was an excellent opportunity, “Ach, can you differentiate the beacons for different dragons?”

“It seems not.”

“Then let’s return to Black Horse Island first. We’ll experiment on Little Fire Dragon Leo.” Liszt, having decided to proceed, did not hesitate at all. He moved at high speed, tearing through the material boundary, entering the world beyond matter. He found the natural node at Bone Lake, returned to his territory, then flew a distance outward.

Once he was certain no one was around to disturb him, he called out to Leo and had Ach place the beacon on him.

It was tiny magic. After being released, if it weren’t for the Formless Dragon’s sensitivity to space magic power, it would have been nearly undetectable.

As for Leo, he was even less aware that he had been marked.

“Leo, fly straight ahead until we are a hundred kilometers apart.”

“Oh-ho!”

Thus, Formless Dragon Bard flew south, and Little Fire Dragon Leo north, continuously flying and extending the distance. After a hundred kilometers, Ach had lost the sense of the

Space Magic Beacon. To their surprise, though, the Formless Dragon could still sense this Space Magic Beacon.

“Bard is amazing,” Ach said happily.

The farther the sensing distance, the higher the success rate of tracking. When Leo and Bard were three hundred kilometers apart, the beacon finally disappeared from Bard’s senses.

After flying back for a moment, they sensed it once again.

“We’ve confirmed it, the beacon’s limit is three hundred kilometers. The tracking plan can be perfectly executed!” Liszt was in a cheerful mood, “Next, we’ll tease Alex and Alonso while discreetly placing beacons on each of their dragons!”

...

The plan unfolded perfectly according to Liszt’s design.

He located Alonso, made a feint attack, then entered the material boundary; dashed out again to give a scare, then back into the material boundary; after repeating this several times, Ach successfully managed to place a beacon on a Bronze Dragon before leaving without looking back.

Next, he continued the task of placing beacons on Alex and the four dragons.

The task was somewhat challenging, but after spending some time and energy, and risking the Formless Dragon getting slightly grazed by Alex’s attacks, all the beacons were successfully in place.

“Let’s go!”

With a smile on his lips, Liszt lingered no longer.

He left behind a trifled Alex, muttering through gritted teeth, “Just give me a chance, Liszt, and I’ll make you wish you were dead!”

Chapter 876: Caught You

Night had already fallen.

From the sensing of the Space Magic Beacon, all five dragons were back on Hot Spring Island. Liszt sent a message via the Magic Platform to the Magician stationed on Hot Spring Island, instructing him to keep a close watch on the food transportations.

Liszt no longer dallied and headed straight back to Black Horse Island to rest.

After a whole day of laborious traveling on the sea, Bard was exhausted. He needed to conserve his energy to prepare for tomorrow’s events.

The next morning, Liszt continued to approach Hot Spring Island to monitor the five beacons. He also kept calling on the Smoke Mission.

“Mission: Your daily routine is being probed, danger lurks in the shadows inching closer. Even as a Dragon Knight, you cannot guarantee safety from ambush, and fighting is the best solution. Resolve the crisis in the shadows. Reward: Carnivorous Ogre Shadow Tracing.”

The mission had not changed; the crisis in the shadows was still unresolved.

This meant that Alex and Alonso had not given up and wanted to attack again. Hence, Liszt couldn’t relax yet, he needed to continue monitoring the five dragons.

However,

By midday, the Smoke Mission changed.

“Mission completed, Reward Carnivorous Ogre Shadow Tracing.”

The mission had been successfully completed; after some discussions, Alex, Alonso, Piero, and others decided not to continue and chose to give up the dragon slaying battle.

“But did you ask me before giving up?”

Liszt’s eyes flickered.

The Smoke Mission also seemed to shift with his feelings, slowly transforming into another Serpent Script: “Mission: A dragon slaying battle was averted with correct handling and you achieved the surprising result of killing a Dragon Knight. However, ‘pursue the desperate enemy with your remaining courage, do not sell fame to learn from tyrants.’ Why not continue to strive for more glorious results in this dragon slaying battle. Reward: Man-Eating Tree Cluster.”

This was his resolve.

When he noticed the beacons of the five dragons started to move, he quietly followed. Along the way these beacons didn’t scatter; they continuously flew towards the interior of the Sapphire Archipelago. Liszt maintained a distance of two hundred kilometers, not too far yet not too close, quietly trailing behind, waiting for the team to disperse.

From afternoon to evening, the five dragons finally stopped moving at one spot.

Using the map of the Duchy of Sapphire and the sextant to determine their position, Liszt quickly identified their landing spot as an inhabited island.

It wasn’t big.

It was merely the domain of a Viscount Lord—Square Island. The lord of the island was the Viscount of Square Island, and he was a follower of Marquis Deep Throat, Wallace Pineapple Green.

“Is this a traitor, or have the five dragons not alarmed the lord of the island?” Liszt also found an island and quietly landed to rest.

Regardless, the Viscount of Square Island was highly suspect of betrayal.

...

At the same time Liszt was quietly tracking the dragons of the Eagle Kingdom.

Far away on Flame Island, Emily was leading the Mammoth Knight Brigade to build the second raceway—Charcoal River Great Road, connecting Charcoal River Parkway between Flame City and Estuary City.

Whirlpool River twisted and turned—it wasn't straight.

Therefore, Charcoal River Great Road needed to be built deep into the jungle. These days, the construction reached deep into a dense forest, yet numerous serfs transporting materials went missing along the way. Gradually, a legend about carnivorous ogres erupted among the serfs of Moon Slayer people, starting first with the serfs of the River Tribe.

According to the serfs of the River Tribe, they were a large tribe ten years ago until they encountered a murderous, formless carnivorous ogre, which reduced them to a small tribe of less than five hundred people.

Against their will, they moved to another forest that had been conquered by knights.

Unexpectedly, after ten years of hiding, the carnivorous ogre appeared again, and the ancient mage of the River Tribe confirmed the serfs' accounts were true.

Originally, investigating the carnivorous ogre was not under Emily's management, but when a knight disappeared while camping, it raised her alertness.

After several days of close investigation, she finally discovered the reason for the Knight's disappearance; "Is it this tree?"

"Yes, Captain, we saw with our own eyes how it bound the serf bait and then other similar tree creatures dismembered the serf. Unfortunately, these tree creatures run fast, and we only captured this one. It seemed to realize that it couldn't escape and just turned into what it looks like now, motionless."

This was a slender tree, over three meters tall, with sparse branches and leaves and an even thinner trunk and branches, without many other distinguishing features.

However, the Knights earnestly assured that the tree could move like a vine and pull out its own root system to run on the ground.

“Set it on fire!” Emily said.

Torches ignited the branches, crackling as they burned, but the tree showed no reaction at all, as if a regular, nonresponsive tree was being burnt.

Watching as the tree’s branches were being burned completely.

With a youthful accent and a mature tone, she said, “Interesting.”

...

After leaving Square Island, Alex and Alonso’s Dragon Knight Squad passed through two deserted islands and finally left the Sapphire Archipelago three days later. What followed was a nautical journey of over a thousand kilometers, but soon Liszt discovered there were still some deserted islands in the sea where they could make stops.

It was these islands that allowed the Eagle Kingdom to let Dragon Knights tread freely across the Sapphire Archipelago.

With insiders like Count Hot Spring Island and Viscount of Square Island, they initiated a dragon slaying battle involving five dragons, but, unfortunately, the outcome was still a failure.

“Have they not split up yet?” Liszt was sitting on a seashell, next to a huge block of ice. Bard lay on the ice block, grumpily chewing on some smoked grass.

“Woo ee ya!” Bard responded, indicating that it hadn’t sensed the beacons splitting.

Ach was swimming cheerily in the sea, she retracted her cloaks using Magic Armament and swam freely in the sea as before, with only a water strip covering the key areas. Liszt's gaze followed her figure, a smile forming at the corner of his mouth.

Then, he took a cup of steaming semip tea from the Space Ring and savored it slowly.

Chasing over the seas was not arduous for him, merely a relaxing journey.

A moment later.

Bard stood up; "Woo ee ya!"

It detected the beacon starting to move, so Liszt and Ach immediately set off, continuing to track the beacon. After tracking another hundred kilometers, the eyes of man and dragon suddenly lit up—they sensed that the consistently grouped five beacons had finally dispersed, with four continuing together.

But there was one that left the group.

"Who could it be leaving?" Liszt immediately abandoned the four grouped beacons and steered the Formless Dragon Bard towards the lone beacon.

However, he didn't approach rashly, wary of it being a counter-ambush.

They quickly neared the coastline of the Eagle Kingdom, the other four beacons had long disappeared, presumably the four dragons had returned to the Eagle Kingdom from another direction.

At this time.

Liszt was pleasantly surprised.

Because the lone dragon flew near the Siren Reef Cluster, close to a natural node there that allowed Liszt to directly shuttle through space.

“So what are we waiting for, Bard, let’s go!”

“Woo ee ya!”

Flying high-speed, tearing through the material boundary, entering a world outside of matter, Magic Return Positioning locked on the natural node at the Siren Reef Cluster.

Open.

Back to the real world.

The beacon response was just twenty kilometers away, and he had already sensed the breath of that dragon: “Grey Iron Dragon, so it’s Duke Piero from Grey Iron Duchy, trying to take a straight line back to his own territory... Iron Dragon... Had it been Alex White Iron, I might not have dared to engage, but you’re just a lone dragon without a rider!”

He pulled out the Thunder Fury Dragon Lance.

Liszt roared, “Bard, charge!”

Chapter 877: The Collapse of the Ash King

“Roar!”

The Grey Iron Dragon let out a solemn roar, flapping its wings to accelerate upward into the sky.

Perched on its back, Duke Grey Iron Piero Grey Iron was instantly puzzled, “Ash King, what’s wrong?”

“Roar!”

The Grey Iron Dragon couldn’t speak or connect telepathically with Piero, relying solely on its body language and varying tones of dragon chants to communicate tentatively. Fortunately, although Piero was not a Dragon Knight, he had grown up with the Grey Iron Dragon and could somewhat understand its intentions.

“Are you saying we’ve run into danger... is it that Formless Dragon from before?” Piero quickly guessed the truth.

“Roar!” the Grey Iron Dragon confirmed.

Piero’s face instantly darkened, “Formless Dragon Knight, Liszt Flame, has been tracking us all along, seeing me flying alone, he wants to assassinate me?”

“Roar!”

“Ash King, can you contend with the Formless Dragon Knight?”

“Roar!” The Grey Iron Dragon let out a domineering response and then opened several scales on its back, signaling Piero to hide underneath them.

It was about to face the battle alone!

The sun-blocking wings continued to flap, passing through layers of clouds, climbing higher into the sky—it was wary of the seawater stirred up by the Archmage, which could trap it. Being a highly intelligent creature, the dragon naturally understood that the sky was its battlefield, the higher it went, the better the chance of winning the battle.

When it climbed to twenty thousand meters, the air had become extremely thin.

Although the Grey Iron Dragon didn’t feel discomfort, it didn’t continue to climb any further; even with the dragon’s prowess, it was difficult to ascend any higher.

Slowly hovering in the high altitude, it closely sensed the increasingly near and clear aura of magic from the Formless Dragon.

Its body appeared strong and powerful, its steel-gray scales reflecting the sunlight with a natural metallic chill. Its tail was relatively slender compared to its body, constantly swinging behind it. The tip of the tail had a few protrusions, resembling a bending Dragon Lance, always ready to strike.

However, what made the Grey Iron Dragon uneasy was that it clearly felt the magic aura of the Formless Dragon but couldn't pinpoint its location.

Left and right, front and back, up and down, it felt as if it wasn't facing a single dragon but countless dragons hidden around it.

Of course.

The Grey Iron Dragon knew that the opponent was not just the Formless Dragon Knight; there was also a Fire Dragon that could appear at any time and a very strong Archmage—that was why it climbed to twenty thousand meters, to evade the Archmage's attacks.

“Roar, roar, roar!”

Time ticked away, and the Formless Dragon had still not appeared; the Grey Iron Dragon had grown restless and irritable.

Even Duke Pierrot hiding under its scales was suffering immensely; the thin air made it hard for him to breathe. If this continued, he might become the first ruler to be suffocated to death.

But the Formless Dragon just wouldn't show up.

It kept changing positions, taunting the Grey Iron Dragon's will.

Occasionally, it would disappear for a moment, and just as the Grey Iron Dragon thought to retreat, the magic aura would slowly approach again, the Formless Dragon taunting it once more.

The entire process repeated over and over, lasting for two hours.

It made Pierrot turn blue all over, unable to help but beg the Grey Iron Dragon, “Ash King, I'm about to suffocate. Let's quickly retreat to the coastline!”

“Roar!”

The Grey Iron Dragon was reluctant and ignored Piero. Another hour passed, and with Pierrot having fainted from the lack of oxygen, the Grey Iron Dragon was still orchestrating its stance in the high sky. Although Pierrot no longer nagged, its own mental and physical endurance had reached its limits.

Its state abruptly collapsed.

“Roar!”

With an irate dragon chant, the Grey Iron Dragon flapped its wings, not looking back as it headed towards the coastline.

But just as it couldn't help but turn to flee, the Formless Dragon that had been toying with it in the shadows finally revealed itself. Liszt, who had been ready to strike, grasped the Wrath of Thunder and infused all his wild magic power and Dou Qi into the tip of the Dragon Lance, unleashing the move “Snow Mountain” with ferocious speed.

The reaction of Grey Iron Dragon was not slow, but having already suffered a breakdown once, its tail swung a beat too late.

Brushing past the body of the Formless Dragon, a sharp pain then erupted above the thigh on its side where the ferocious attack of Wrath of Thunder struck solidly. Penetrating the incredibly hard steel-like scales, the scorching Dou Qi and cutting magic power exploded violently, shredding several crucial muscles at the root of the thigh.

Not waiting for the Grey Iron Dragon to turn and counterattack, Liszt withdrew the Wrath of Thunder, allowing Ach to casually throw out an ice shield to block, while steering the Formless Dragon Bard back into the material boundary.

The Grey Iron Dragon turned around to bite.

And exhaled a metallic stream of Dragon Breath, turning into countless blades that shattered the ice shield, yet unable to harm the Formless Dragon in the slightest. The Grey Iron Dragon circulated its magic power, solidifying the wound at the root of its thigh and erecting its scales, arming itself like a steel porcupine.

Iron Dragons cannot use the copper-plating state like Purple Copper Dragons.

It could only erect its scales, forming a hedgehog formation to protect itself.

But this was doomed to be a futile attempt; the scales impeded air flow, significantly slowing its flight speed. Thus, the Formless Dragon intermittently dashed out, struck with a lance, and slipped back into the material boundary. Each strike would inevitably erupt a burst of Dragon Blood on the Grey Iron Dragon.

“Roar roar roar!”

The Grey Iron Dragon, immensely irritated, grew increasingly fearful as its condition weakened further, causing the urge to flee to dominate its mind increasingly.

Sometimes, enduring a powerful strike from Liszt, it would desperately push forward in flight. It seemed that flying a bit further could bring it to land and then safety.

However, Liszt, following closely behind, laughed proudly, “Lost your cool, haven’t you? At this point, in this state, if you turned to counterattack, you might still inflict heavy damage on me. Beyond that, you have no chance of escape!” When it came to speed, the Grey Iron Dragon simply couldn’t match the Formless Dragon!

The Dragon Lance danced, Dou Qi raging.

All of Liszt’s thoughts about the “Formless Dragon Knight-Dragon Dou Qi Manual” were displayed and confirmed during the chase—Phantom-Wipe, Shadow-Flick, Snow Mountain-Avalanche, Sonic Boom-Stab, Poison Dragon-Drill, along with some newly formed ideas not yet refined were all utilized.

“Woo-ee-yah!”

Bard was equally thrilled; its slender body relentlessly pummeling the bulkier Grey Iron Dragon excited it beyond measure. It didn’t even need to spray its Dragon Breath Shattering Space; it simply used its claws to leave marks on the Grey Iron Dragon. Dragon

Breath, related to the origin of Dragon's superior magic, could harm the body if used excessively.

Thus,

Liszt's Dragon Lance and combat skills, Bard's Dragon claws and biting, and Ach's ice shield and high-pressure water blade continually inflicted damage on the Grey Iron Dragon, the whole process easier than the hurried slaying of Purple Copper Dragon Knight Loyle—because the entire environment for output was very quiet.

No Dragon Knight could come to support the Grey Iron Dragon within a short time.

A pursuit and a flight,

Blood spraying all the way.

Rapidly covering dozens of kilometers, the Grey Iron Dragon finally sighted the coastline of Eagle Kingdom, gathering all its strength, enduring its agonizing injuries, determined to make it back to land at once.

“Roar roar roar!”

Once it landed, there was still a hope of turning the tables.

But reality would not accommodate its wishes, as Liszt reappeared, his Dragon Lance striking deeply into its body. Bard also spat out a reluctant burst of Dragon Breath Shattering Space, continuously slicing its scales. Ach's Vectorial Cut and High-Pressure Water Blade were released simultaneously, breaking open its damaged scales again.

Then,

What truly drove the Grey Iron Dragon to despair was the sight of flames blossoming ahead, forming a Fire Dragon with wings nearly thirty meters wide, covered in black-red scales. Under the fierce Dragon horns and twisted facial scales were a pair of crimson eyes filled with boundless malevolence.

As if staring at death itself!

Without any unnecessary movement, the Fire Dragon collided fiercely with the Grey Iron Dragon!

For a moment, both dragons emitted sounds of breaking bones, both losing balance and plunging towards the ocean. Only Fire Dragon Leo had enough time to regain balance, while the Grey Iron Dragon faced a tempestuous assault from Liszt, Bard, and Ach.

Strike them when they are down!

This was Liszt's life motto; usually reserved, but during battle, he turned into a bold African warrior, unconcerned with life and death, ready to face any challenge.

Moreover, how could he not seize the opportunity to finish off a weakened foe?

"Grey Iron Dragon, mine!"

Chapter 878: The Tyrant Forces His Bow

Nothing went as planned.

Another dragon battle unknown to the world slowly drew to a close.

The severely injured Grey Iron Dragon could no longer control its body, and shook as it slid down towards the sea, its body covered with countless wounds.

No one could provide it with supplies.

Compared to Liszt constantly feeding the Formless Dragon magic potions, its treatment was miserable, and the outcome was also dreadful. When it crashed into the sea surface, the Grey Iron Dragon could no longer struggle; it was helplessly bound by the seawater that Ach controlled and emitted feeble, breathless sounds.

“It really wasn’t easy,” Liszt casually tossed a few magic potions into the Formless Dragon’s mouth, then let Bard grab the tail of the Grey Iron Dragon to pull it up.

They flew towards a few nearby rocky islands.

Thud!

The massive body of the Grey Iron Dragon was thrown onto the rocks, shallowly soaking in the seawater, with a water tornado controlled by Ach still wrapped around it to prevent it from suddenly lashing out—an injury to humans from a dragon was possible under any circumstances; a moment of weakness might just be accumulating power for the next surge.

“Oh-ho!”

Little Fire Dragon Leo landed on another rock with a magnificent presence, very proud of the final deadly blow he dealt to the Grey Iron Dragon.

With a naturally combative nature, the Fire Dragon felt incredibly proud of defeating the adult Grey Iron Dragon, larger in size than itself.

“Woah!”

The Formless Dragon was the proudest of all, with the consecutive dragon battles won thanks to its innate abilities. However, it didn’t show off like Leo, but quietly stayed by Liszt’s side, watching as Liszt jumped onto the Grey Iron Dragon, plotting against this dragon of steel.

Ach smiled slightly, also delighted to have retained the Grey Iron Dragon, as the nixie too loved dragons—the more dragons by Liszt’s side, the happier she was.

As for Liszt himself.

He was following the iron scales, moving towards the position of the Dragon Tooth Platform on the Grey Iron Dragon. Now that the Grey Iron Dragon was completely

defeated and bound, what followed was naturally to forcefully ride it, making the Grey Iron Dragon his fourth dragon, adding iron ore resources to his territory.

The value of iron ore was not much less than gold or silver, especially important for the nation.

Moreover, the combat power of an adult Iron Dragon was something Liszt urgently needed. Once he had the Iron Dragon, he could confront dragon battles head-on, rather than relying on the young Formless Dragon and Fire Dragon to sneak attacks bit by bit.

“Eh?”

Just as he reached the back of the Grey Iron Dragon, he suddenly noticed several raised scales; from the gaps, he could see a person lying inside. He couldn't help but pry open those scales, only then clearly seeing the person inside, dressed in gorgeous armor, motionless.

Their complexion was blue, lips purple, with only a slight breath remaining.

“This person must be Duke of Grey Iron Piero Grey Mouth Iron, right?” Liszt pulled the other up, checking his breath, as if seeing a pile of dragon coins beckoning to him.

Capturing a Duke, that ransom—unless someone brought a Dragon Elf, they couldn't think about redeeming him back!

Seizing the unconscious Duke Piero, Liszt locked him up with Dou Qi restraining shackles, and threw him at Ach's feet, “Ach, take care of him, this is a big shot who can be exchanged for a Dragon Elf.”

“Dragon Elf? Great!” Ach cheered. She had long wanted to study Dragon Elves.

Piero was just an accident.

Liszt continued to climb the body of the Grey Iron Dragon, finding the position of the Dragon Tooth Platform, but it was surrounded by iron scales, tightly sealed, and absolutely impossible to open.

Liszt couldn't help but walk over to the head of the Grey Iron Dragon, looking down from a height at the unwilling eyes of the Grey Iron Dragon, "Grey Iron Dragon, I speak Wind Language, you should understand, open the Dragon Tooth Platform, become my dragon!"

Humph!

The Grey Iron Dragon puffed out a blast of hot air from his nostrils, responding with a disdainful expression.

"Do you want me to kill you?" Liszt glared and questioned fiercely, not expecting that the Grey Iron Dragon, even at this juncture, still wouldn't submit, instead showing nothing but disdain for him.

"Roar!"

The Grey Iron Dragon let out a roar as if it were declaring its refusal to submit to death.

Liszt tried questioning and negotiating multiple times but couldn't change its stance; it absolutely wouldn't open up the Dragon Tooth Platform. Frustrated, he walked over to the platform and tried to forcibly cut the scales to mount it. However, the scales near the Dragon Tooth Platform were too hard; sparks flew as the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword scratched against them without creating even a notch.

After struggling for a long while, the sky gradually darkened.

He still couldn't open the scales of the Dragon Tooth Platform.

He then called Bard and Leo to come and tear at it, the scales were torn bloody, but they still couldn't find the closed Dragon Tooth Platform. The Grey Iron Dragon's eyes were filled with a resolute will, a silent determination to die rather than submit. And with a deep hostility, it let the blood flow and death approach.

Dragons are proud by nature; seldom do they submit to being conquered.

The Grey Iron Dragon was no exception, and from its eyes, Liszt read the impossibility of the situation. To forcefully conquer it, unless it was knocked unconscious, but the willpower of the Grey Iron Dragon was astounding. Even if he really managed to mount it, the Mind Battle would be hard to win against a dragon resolved to die.

Silently, a quarter of an hour passed.

“Grey Iron Dragon, I admire your perseverance, but do you really think I can’t make you submit and become my dragon?” he stared directly into the cold eyes of the Grey Iron Dragon, “I was only trying to save some resources, but now, I’ve decided to spend resources on you!”

As he spoke,

he took out a rainbow-colored fruit from his Space Ring: “You’re worth a Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruit... Leo, Bard, pry open the mouth of the Grey Iron Dragon!”

“Whirrya!” The Formless Dragon glanced at Liszt, its eyes full of profound meaning—it had once witnessed Liszt wrap a Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruit in roasted beef and bring it to its mouth.

Leo looked at the Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruit as if having a sense of déjà vu. However, he didn’t think deeply about it, excitedly joining Bard under the promise of a double dose of Magic Potion for three months, they forcibly pried open the clamped jaws of the Grey Iron Dragon.

Liszt acted swiftly, and the fruit dropped.

A Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruit slipped down into the throat of the Grey Iron Dragon.

Then he instructed Bard and Leo to close the Grey Iron Dragon’s mouth, preventing it from spitting out the Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruit. After waiting for a moment, the eyelids of the Grey Iron Dragon began to droop, and then its gaze gradually became dazed—it was a sign of falling asleep. Soon after, the once defiant Grey Iron Dragon shut its eyes and began to snore heavily.

At its neck where it joined the body, a few bloody steel scales slowly relaxed, revealing the concealed Dragon Tooth Platform.

In the pitch-black night, the stars blinked.

Liszt's calm heart quickly heated up, he stepped into the deep crevices of the Dragon Tooth Platform and sat down.

Boom!

In that moment, the world changed.

He entered the mental world of the Grey Iron Dragon, a very peculiar place. It resembled a smithy, but with a volcano as a forge and rocky mountains as an anvil. A young Iron Dragon wielded a massive iron hammer, pounding on a red-hot iron block; opposite the dragon, a tall knight, brandishing a small hammer to give direction.

Clang!

The small hammer hit the anvil.

Boom!

The large hammer struck the red-hot iron block.

But this scene didn't last long; with Liszt's arrival, the young dragon collapsed to the ground, ensnared by a rainbow chain. The knight opposite suddenly turned around, a well-featured, middle-aged man now glaring coldly at Liszt.

With a clang, he drew the Knight's Longsword he was carrying.

Just as he was about to attack, he suddenly found himself entwined in rainbow chains, binding all his movements; he could only watch as Liszt, forming a smoky, fiery red Dragon Bone Longsword, leisurely walked towards him.

“The Mind Branding of the First Dragon Knight?” Liszt chuckled.

He swung the Fire Attribute Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword without hesitation, slicing down; splash! The First Dragon Knight was cut into two from one stroke.

Chapter 879: Blacksmith in Furnace Village

The corpse disappeared, and the figure of the First Dragon Knight appeared again in the smithy, still entwined with Rainbow Chains. Thus, Liszt repeatedly hewed at him, repeatedly splitting the Iron Knights in two, even though each time a new First Dragon Knight emerged, the figure kept fading more and more.

After dozens of attempts, the figure of the First Dragon Knight ultimately vanished without a trace.

At the same time, the mental world of the Grey Iron Dragon began to collapse, and in the blink of an eye, the smithy, naturally heated, was utterly destroyed; then a new mountain peak rose abruptly, with the now mature Grey Iron Dragon perched at its summit, nodding at Liszt.

The next moment.

Liszt saw a blur before his eyes, and he was already riding on the Grey Iron Dragon, whose massive wings stretched out, and strong hind limbs kicked, leaping high from the mountain peak.

Soaring above the skies of the mental world, flying higher and higher, as if stepping on the sky itself.

Suddenly.

Liszt opened his eyes, and it was still that pitch-black night, and beneath him, the Grey Iron Dragon was still sound asleep. However, he had already understood that a connection had formed between him and the Grey Iron Dragon—the effective influence of the Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruit was vividly demonstrated in this Mind Battle.

Even the stubborn Metal Dragon had to succumb to the power of the mind.

“So what exactly is the power of the Jade Dragon, and what exactly counts as the power of the mind, is it a dream or the soul?” Liszt realized a question was troubling him.

The legendary Jade Dragon represents dreams, but are the powers of dreams and the soul indeed the same?

Or if the Jade Dragon had to enter a dream, how would it enter the world of dreams? Turning into a wisp of smoke, or creating a new world?

It was hard to fathom.

Right before Liszt stepped onto the Dragon Tooth Platform, Piero had awakened. Although the night was dim, he could vaguely see everything happening nearby. As Liszt rose from the Dragon Tooth Platform with a smile, Piero’s heart was in agony—the Grey Iron Dragon that had been the heirloom of Grey Iron Duchy for over three hundred years was lost!

Thump!

Liszt soared into the air, then plummeted down in front of Piero.

A crystal lamp illuminated the surroundings and Piero’s bloodless face.

“Liszt, what have you done to my Ash King?” Piero put away his myriad thoughts and asked with a façade of friendliness, clinging to his last hope.

But Liszt mercilessly shattered that hope, “Ash King, you mean the Grey Iron Dragon? I am sorry, Duke Pierrot, but from now on, the Grey Iron Dragon belongs to me, Liszt Flame. It no longer has any connections with the Grey Iron Duchy or the Grey Iron Family. I hope you understand that.”

“No, no, no!” Piero gritted his teeth, “You can’t just take the Ash King, the Eagle Kingdom will not stand by idly, you are blatantly challenging the kingdom’s system!”

“Duke Pierrot, stop talking nonsense, you need to realize your current status. I am the victor of the Dragon-Slaying Battle, Loyle has been slain, and you are fortunate to have survived and become a captive. So, next, you need to think clearly about what ransom you will use to redeem yourself.”

“Captive?” Piero was stunned, realizing only then his status as a prisoner, yet he still did not give up, “Fine, I will pay the ransom, but you must return the Grey Iron Dragon... Liszt, you are a newly appointed Dragon Knight, and might not be aware of some traditional rules—stealing dragons is taboo among the great kingdoms.”

Liszt smiled, feeling that Piero was still delusional, “Would it be more serious than the Dragon-Slaying Battle, or in other words, will the three great kingdoms convene Dragon Knights and then launch a third Dragon-Slaying War against me?”

Piero’s gaze flickered, persisting, “Indeed, you were victorious in the Dragon-Slaying Battle, but your strong performance will disrupt the balance of the kingdoms, especially your Formless Dragon—once it grows, it will make all the Dragon Knights of all kingdoms uneasily... They won’t let you keep expanding!”

“Indeed, the deterrent power of the Formless Dragon is greater than that of a Fire Dragon.”

Liszt echoed, but then his expression became serious, “For this reason, I must gather more dragons and strengthen my forces, so that no one dares to contemplate against me! In the age where knights rule the world, Duke Pierrot, you should understand, weakness is the only sin!”

“Your ideas are insane!”

“No, they are very wise.” Liszt boasted, no longer arguing with Piero on this matter, always believing in ‘having a gun in hand, having no fear in heart’—the more dragons he had, the safer he was, rather than being harmless without dragons, “Duke Pierrot, spare the nonsense, you now need to seriously consider how much ransom to pay.”

...

Under the starlight, the Grey Iron Dragon still slumbered, weakened by the powerful effect of the Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruit, rendering this enormous creature vulnerable to manipulation.

Fortunately, the Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruit in ancient times was called Jade Fruit, a product of the Jade Dragon.

If Mind Fruit Trees could naturally grow and then bear Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruits, none of the Dragon Knights would feel secure—who knows when one’s dragon might be stolen.

“Brother, is it called Ash King?”

“Ash King is the name given by the Grey Iron Duchy. In the Flame Kingdom, it should have a new name.” Liszt thought briefly, “Let’s call it Ornn...”

Chapter 880: Choices After the Battle

“Complete the task, reward: a Man-Eating Tree Cluster.”

Tracking down the dragon, the Smoke Mission had undeniably been perfectly completed, and the reward was forthcoming. Liszt presently didn’t understand what a Man-Eating Tree Cluster was, nor did he pay much attention to it.

At this moment, his mood was still immersed in the joy of having slain the fourth dragon.

The Smoke Mission quickly transformed into fresh Serpent Script.

“Mission: Perfectly complete the second Dragon-Hunting War, your name will shake the entire Legendary Continent, even the sea will tremor at the sound of your name. The battle is now over, but the matter is not yet finished; why not punish the traitor within the Sapphire yourself? Reward: Elf Shadow.”

“Punishing a traitor, that task is simple... Elf Shadow, what kind of reward is this?”

Liszt pondered for a moment with no clues, then decisively gave up. Oftentimes, the reward from a Smoke Mission supplements the content of the task, and one could deduce the nature of the mission from the clues provided by the reward. However, most of the time, there’s little connection between the reward and the mission.

Like this Smoke Mission and its reward that seemed unrelated, so there was no need for deep thought; upon completing the mission, he would naturally come to know what an Elf Shadow was.

“Time to sleep, tomorrow I’ll head straight back to Black Horse Island, then deliver a message to the Sapphire Duke... Although he didn’t take part in the Dragon-Hunting War, I absolutely do not believe that he was oblivious to the war unfolding within Sapphire—it’s not so easy to sit back and reap the benefits!”

And Liszt wasn’t wrong in his expectations.

In the Azure Sky Peak Palace, the Sapphire Duke was receiving a report from the Rat Leader about the situation on Hot Spring Island: “The Dragon Knights of the Eagle Kingdom have withdrawn, and the Count of Hot Spring Island has taken steps to erase any traces on the island. However, our rats have discovered another wave of rats active on Hot Spring Island.”

“Rats under the Marquis of Flames?”

“Highly likely. They’ve been inquiring about the transportation of goods on Hot Spring Island right from the start and clearly knew full well about the Eagle Kingdom Dragon Knights stationed there.”

“So ends the Dragon-Hunting War, with the death of the Purple Copper Duke as its conclusion?” the Sapphire Duke mused from the head seat, his eyes deep and inscrutable.

Crown Prince Anthony, sitting at a lower seat, wanted to interject, but did not dare interrupt the Duke’s conversation with the Rat Leader.

The Rat Leader replied, “We have no deeper information as of yet. However, everything in the Flame Territory is running smoothly. But on the night of the Dragon-Hunting War, the Marquis of Flames returned to Thorn Castle to rest for the night... If my deduction is not mistaken, the Dragon-Hunting War was a victory for the Marquis of Flames.”

“Fire Dragon, Light Green Gemstone Dragon... How did he defeat Alex, Alonso, Loyle, and the other three Dragon Knights, as well as a formidable team of five dragons?” the Duke wondered, finding it incomprehensible.

Anthony couldn't help but interrupt, “Father, do you believe this result, that the Marquis of Flames, however strong, could withstand the might of five dragons?”

“I cannot see through it, nor can I comprehend it, but one thing is clear to me: since the rats of the Flame Territory were previously active on Hot Spring Island, it indicates that Liszt already knew the situation of the opponent. He could prepare at ease, whether to hide away or to stand out. The outcome of Loyle has also proven this point.”

“But...”

“There is no ‘but’.” The Duke cut off Anthony's words with a cough, his aged face revealing a profound exhaustion, “The situation now is that Alex and the other Dragon Knights have been forced to leave, they failed in the Dragon-Hunting War; otherwise, it would have already been proclaimed far and wide.”

He paused, allowing his breathing to become smoother, “And what we are now facing is Liszt, the victorious Marquis of Flames from the Dragon-Hunting War, the future King of the Flame Kingdom!”

“King of the Kingdom, he really dares to adopt such a title for himself!” Anthony said indignantly.

“Having won the Dragon-Hunting War twice, he is entitled to become the new overlord of the seas and the new King of the Flame Kingdom. The sea is no longer calm; the Sapphire Family has reached a moment of decision again. Anthony, this state will ultimately be handed over to you; what do you think our choice should be?”

“This...” Anthony had a lot to say, but when the words reached his lips, they wouldn't come out, “How about we first annihilate Hot Spring Island to secure the Marquis of Flames and then send someone to contact the Steel Ridge Royal Family? Once the Flame Kingdom is established, Steel Ridge should feel unsettled.”

“Let's not interfere with Hot Spring Island,” Li Si Te (Liszt) had already noticed Hot Spring Island, and it's best to leave it to him to handle personally, to test his thoughts...

We find ourselves in an awkward position, Anthony, external forces can never last long, the only one we can truly rely on is the Sapphire Dragon.”

Moreover.

The Sapphire Duke felt somewhat bitter inside, having signed a defensive and offensive alliance with Li Si Te (Liszt) yet he stayed out of the fray—the young Dragon Knight was not someone who could be dismissed easily.

...

After returning to Black Horse Island.

Li Si Te (Liszt) arranged accommodations for Duke Pierrot, a Completion Level Sky Knight with no small amount of strength, so despite being treated well, necessary shackles had to be placed.

Subsequently.

Without a moment’s rest, Li Si Te (Liszt) proceeded to Tulip Castle on Coral Island to see the Marquis of Bull Tail, “Father, there is a matter I need you to handle.”

“What is it?”

“The day before yesterday, there was a dragon slaying battle at sea to the north.” Li Si Te (Liszt) explained the battle succinctly, not exaggerating the severity of the fight nor using a dramatic tone.

But when he casually mentioned the death of Purple Copper Dragon Knight Loyle Purple Copper, the capture of Duke Grey Iron, and how Grey Iron Dragon Ornn became his mount, the Marquis of Bull Tail was so shocked that he was speechless for a long time.

Until Li Si Te (Liszt) quietly finished a cup of tea.

Only then did he manage to digest the news and regained his fatherly authority, “Are you saying that you were ambushed by five dragons, killed one Dragon Knight, and captured one of the Iron Dragons? The Eagle Kingdom witnessed the collapse risk of two vassal states in the blink of an eye, while you came out unscathed?”

“As you can see, I am indeed in good health.”

“This is so sudden, Liszt, if I hadn’t seen you standing here, I might have doubted you were my son. I always thought I had some talent, but I never imagined my son achieving such glorious feats, you are even more legendary than what’s described in Knight’s Novels.”

In Knight’s Novels, the protagonists ride just one dragon to a stylish end, but Liszt, at the rate of two dragons a year, just keeps on Dragon Riding.

“Perhaps these seas need a King to stand up, and it just so happens that I’m that choice.” He acknowledged with rare humility, “Father, the stance that the Sapphire Family took during this dragon slaying battle chills my heart. As allies supposed to aid each other, they watched idly as the Eagle Kingdom encroached and seriously infringed upon my interests.”

“A Grand Duchy by the sea submitting to a Kingdom by the sea, isn’t that a very normal scenario? Oh, and Father, dispatch a group of Knights to help me eliminate Viscount of Square Island, I suspect he’s a traitor planted by the Eagle Kingdom, and I shall personally head to Hot Spring Island!”