

The Mighty 881

Chapter 881: Crystal Helen

“Captain Marcus, assemble all Knight Orders on the island and follow me to Hot Spring Island!” Liszt pointed with his longsword, and Black Horse Island immediately erupted.

“As you wish, Your Highness!” Marcus was inexplicably excited.

He had now become a Baron. Four years ago, he was just an untitled commoner, following a lord who seemed to have no future, going to the declining, rundown Fresh Flower Town.

Who would have thought that one day, he would walk on familiar land as a Baron.

Looking at Liszt’s shadow in the sunlight, his heart was filled with boundless loyalty and reverence, for he understood that all of this was bestowed by the young lord before him—who had long since shed his childish air to become a towering Dragon Knight.

This young lord had also won the second Dragon Slayer battle and was now setting out to eliminate traitors, emanating the untouchable glory of a Dragon Knight.

Marcus quickly conveyed Liszt’s command, assembling various Knight Squads and issuing the call to war. His strength was not formidable, merely an Elite Earth Knight, but his position was significant, and everyone knew he spoke for Liszt, commanding the elite Fresh Flower Knight Order.

It wasn’t just the knights of the Fresh Flower Knight Order who were assembling; all Earth Knights staying on Black Horse Island were gathering towards the docks.

In fact, Liszt alone could have taken care of the Count of Hot Spring Island, but he mobilized all knights of his territory anyway. Regardless of their condition—old, weak, ill, disabled—as long as they were Earth Knights, were mobilized, seeking weapons and equipment, boarding the fast sailboats—the dockyards were already capable of producing two-masted fast sailboats, and three-masted ones were still not fully mastered.

“Your Highness, should the patrol squad also proceed?” Paris, riding a Black Blood Treasured Horse, came to inquire.

As a Great Light Magic Swordsman, on par with Sky Knights and Grand Magicians, her strength had grown rapidly and was now able to compete with Sword Saints without falling behind.

She was one of Liszt’s early confidants, currently holding only the title of Baron, which Liszt found somewhat dissatisfying. This voluptuous, beautiful follower, though not very bright, was highly appreciated and trusted by him. He hoped to promote her soon to a higher position to counterbalance the “Captive Faction.”

The Captive Faction was a concept in Liszt’s mind referring to those Sky Knight followers captured from the Eagle Kingdom, numerous and strong, prone to forming cliques.

“Screen the patrol group, all Earth Knights must join the battle, Paris, not just your patrol group, Charles’s security team must also deploy Earth Knights... The campaign on Hot Spring Island is the best reward I could give to the elders following me.”

“Your Highness, you are a lord who honors old loyalties, worthy of every knight’s allegiance,” said Paris respectfully, yet her eyes could not fully hide a hint of irrepressible affection.

No woman could resist being moved by a Dragon Knight, especially one so handsome and imposing.

If the Duchy of Sapphire had a media outlet issuing a “Most Attractive Male Knight in the Eyes of Women Nationwide,” Liszt would undoubtedly be chosen unanimously.

“Honor is mine, and I am with you,” Liszt said, patting Paris on the shoulder.

Seeing this Great Light Magic Swordsman, he was reminded of the Light Dragon residing in Red Maple Mountain of the Maple Leaf Duchy—a huge Evil Dragon, eighty meters in length, formidable and elusive. No Dragon Knight dared to easily slay this dragon and attain the title of Dragon Slayer.

Liszt was indeed interested in joining the fray.

But the time had not yet come; it was not suitable to venture out recklessly.

However, that said, he was already a Dragon Knight who had achieved two kills. Light Green Gemstone Dragon Knight Carlo Violet, Purple Copper Dragon Knight Loyle Bronze, both had fallen by his hand. This record was splendid among Dragon Knights, as most would die of old age; dying in battle was rare.

“Your Highness, Charles reports that the security team has assembled all Earth Knights and is ready to fight at any time!” Charles Trap quickly arrived.

He was far more enthusiastic about military exploits than Paris.

Paris, being a woman, was naturally a bit more laid-back and, with her strength comparable to a Sword Saint, would eventually ascend to a high noble rank. Unlike her, Charles, an Elite Earth Knight, had to seize every opportunity to achieve military honors.

“Captain Paris, Captain Charles, since the Knight Orders have assembled, then you both are to board immediately and follow Captain Marcus’s command.”

“Yes, Your Highness!”

In a moment, Black Horse Island had assembled five Knight Orders—Marcus leading the Fresh Flower Knight Order, Sky Knight Derec Iron Armor, Joyce Dandelion each forming their own Knight Orders, and the unorthodox Knight Orders of Paris and Charles, leaving only Sky Knight Spark on the territory for security.

The five Knight Orders boarded the ships, setting sail majestically towards Hot Spring Island.

On the other side, Tulip Castle also gathered a large number of knights, rushing toward Square Island to eradicate the Viscount of Square Island. However, the Marquis of Bull Tail did not participate personally; he had already started his journey to Blue Dragon Island, preparing to discuss the details of the second Dragon Slaying Battle with the Sapphire Duke meticulously.

Standing behind, with his son riding four dragons, he ignored those shocking strikes and felt better than ever.

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Hot Spring Island.

The Count of Hot Spring Island was caressing batches of treasures in the cellar, all gifts from the Eagle Kingdom, for he had risked his life to act as a spy and naturally demanded high rewards.

“How beautiful, this ‘Crystal Helen’ statue, definitely the work of the top crystal craftsmen of the Eagle Kingdom, completely imbuing the statue with lifelike beauty... Ah, great Crystal Helen, you once guided the Moon Empire forward, now would you guide me, a knight lost in his path, to your heart?”

He closed his eyes, as if intoxicated in a fantastical love, with an extremely beautiful woman embracing and kissing him...

Snap!

Whoo-whoo-whoo-whoo!

Suddenly, urgent bugle sounds filled the air above the castle, interrupting the Count of Hot Spring Island from his fantasy. Just as he was about to explode in anger, he remembered that this bugle sound was an alert sounded only when the territory was invaded.

“What’s going on!”

He hurriedly wrapped the half-human-height Crystal Helen statue in soft cloth and, unable to contain his anger, rushed out of the cellar, shouting at the knights who were hastily lining up outside.

“My lord, it’s the knights from Flame Territory who are invading!” A knight captain rode over hurriedly, urgently reporting, “The knight order of the Flame Territory is launching a major invasion of our Hot Spring Island, having already overtaken the coastal city, Sand

Grain City, and is now charging toward Hot Spring Castle! My lord, you need to prepare for battle immediately!”

“Flame Territory?”

The Count of the Hot Springs felt a sudden squeeze in his heart, which contracted violently.

Despite it being the warm spring of April, it felt as if he had plunged into an icy cellar, feeling a bone-chilling cold, “Flame Territory... Liszt Flame... the Dragon Slaying Battle... has it begun?”

He didn’t have time to think it through.

In the distance, the lining-up knights suddenly started shouting, “Dragon!”

“It’s a dragon!”

“Fire Dragon, the Fire Dragon of the Marquis of Flame Territory!”

“Why is the Flame Territory attacking us at Hot Spring Island!”

“Isn’t he afraid of the Grand Duke’s punishment!”

“It’s over, it’s over, the Dragon Knight himself is attacking!”

Amid the shouts, a Fire Dragon appeared in the sky, its thirty-meter wingspan gently flapping, carrying boundless flames towards Hot Spring Castle. There were no breaths, no impacts, just the flames stirred by its wings, scorching Hot Spring Castle in a sweeping blaze.

Horses neighed as all the lined-up knights scrambled, covering their heads and fleeing.

The knight order of Hot Spring Castle dispersed without any resistance. The Fire Dragon swept past overhead, and Liszt, riding on the Fire Dragon, glimpsed at the towering castle with an indifferent look. Behind him, the charge of five knight orders from Black Horse Island was assembling.

A surge of Dou Qi instantly submerged Hot Spring Castle.

On one corner of the battlefield, Paris, Derec Iron Armor, and Joyce Dandelion, three formidable figures, soared up, charging towards the fleeing Count of Hot Spring Island, forcibly blasting him back.

All settled.

The dust settled.

Chapter 882: Enormous Sin and Extreme Evil

Betrayers must die, but before the trial, the Count of the Hot Springs had not been killed, only captured. Then, they began to appeal to his knight order — punishing the betrayer was just a ruse; what Liszt really needed were the resources of Hot Spring Island, both material and human.

The Count of the Hot Spring Island's betrayal conveniently gave him a legitimate excuse to plunder those resources.

At that moment, standing in the cellar surrounded by a dazzling array of treasures, Liszt, intrigued, questioned the Count of the Hot Springs, who was bound hand and foot.

“The Eagle Kingdom must really value your loyalty, giving you so many treasures. I often visit the Tulip Family's cellar, and it doesn't even compare to a tenth of what is here. Tell me, when did they turn you against us, making you a spy within the Duchy of Sapphire?”

“Your Highness, I am willing to dedicate all my wealth to you, and my family and I are willing to follow you for life!” the Count of the Hot Springs hurriedly said.

“And then what, continue being a spy?”

“How could that be, Your Highness, I truly intend to reform, to start anew and faithfully follow you forever!”

Such nonsense was truly uninteresting, but the Count of the Hot Springs had to say it even if there was just a slim chance of receiving forgiveness. However, Liszt cared nothing for his posturing; bargaining with a dead man seemed too undignified, especially for a true Dragon Knight like himself.

“When did you become an internal collaborator for the Eagle Kingdom?”

“Ten years ago, when my son was taken prisoner by the Eagle Kingdom during the Pioneer Mandate War, I became the contact for Alonso... Alonso’s men. But Your Highness, I did not commit any acts of betrayal against the Grand Duchy of Sapphire, I and your father, the Marquis of Bull Tail, were old friends.”

“Receiving Dragon Knights from the Eagle Kingdom, launching a war of dragon slaying — you call that no betrayal?”

“Ah, that... I didn’t know their purpose for coming here; I just thought they were searching for something,” the Count of the Hot Springs, sweating from his forehead, knew his lies were full of holes but still had to continue.

“What is this?”

Liszt suddenly noticed a half-human height crystal statue.

The crystal statue seemed to be made of pink crystal, likely a type of Pink Gemstone ore. However, the statue was immaculate and flawlessly clear, obviously of very high-quality ore. The figure carved was a magician, dressed in a tight magic robe.

Although the crystal was tinted with a pink transparency, the statue’s features and figure could only be described as perfect.

Even used to exquisite Nixies like Ach, Liszt couldn’t help but be amazed by the magician in the statue, embodying sexiness, allure, and majesty all in one. Particularly, the clarity of

the crystal, combined with the angle of carving, made it seem as if the figure inside the statue was a living person, watching him with a gentle smile.

With the Eye of Magic activated, he could see every line on the statue's clothing was a magical line, bearing traces of a magic array; this was a piece of magic equipment.

"It is Crystal Helen," the Count of the Hot Springs said, his tone filled with melancholy and confusion, but he quickly regained his composure, "Your Highness, this is the most precious item in my collection, crafted by a top-tier crystal craftsman master along with a magician, turning it into a treasure combining beauty and magic!"

"Crystal Helen?" Liszt seemed to have heard this term before.

The Count of the Hot Springs continued eagerly, "It not only reaches the pinnacle of beauty but also has special effects. When placed within a castle, it smoothenes the stray magic power, refreshing everyone. Ordinary people bathed in its aura live without ailments, while knights and magicians enjoy the convenience it brings to their training."

After a pause,

The Count of the Hot Springs, as if parting with a beloved woman, said, "I am willing to offer it to you, Your Highness, for such a treasure is only worthy of someone of your stature."

"Who is Crystal Helen?" Liszt suddenly asked.

"Ah, she was a legendary empress of the Moon Empire," he began, "the supreme leader of magicians. Her beauty made the moon pale in comparison, and even dragons submitted to her charm, willing to be commanded by her."

"I remember now."

Liszt nodded. He had read a magic book that mentioned the great emperors from the era of the Moon Empire. Although it was a world ruled by magicians, it was also an imperial and slave system, one of the emperors was called Helen Truth, and she had a fondness for crystals.

Because of her beauty, the magicians who worshipped her had built her a palace made entirely of crystal.

Columns, roofs, arches, steps, including thrones, tables, chairs, clothing, carriages, dinnerware, even toilet bowls—all were made of crystal.

Ridiculous.

However, the lore from the era of the Moon Empire had become blurred, and no one knew whether that crystal palace truly existed, or even if Crystal Helen herself was real.

The statue in front of him, however, made for a fine decoration. Naturally, Liszt was eager to accept it and have it moved to his own castle to enhance the artistic atmosphere there.

“Pack it up, pack up everything and take it away!” he declared with a wave of his hand.

As for the Count of the Hot Springs, once he had gone over the provenance and use of the collectibles, he could be taken to the execution ground to be prepared for hanging.

Usually, noble knights could ransom their freedom, but this did not apply to traitors.

Sapphire Duke had once initiated a bloody purge on Iron Hoof Island, and for Liszt, eliminating a count and landlord was equally effortless.

Right in front of the plaza of Hot Spring Castle, he had many recruited knights come to witness.

An official from Black Horse Island read out the charges in front of the gallows: “The Count of Hot Spring Island... despicable in character, murderer of knights, torturer of commoners, conspirator with the Eagle Kingdom, assassin of a marquis of the Grand Duchy and schemer against the Flame Territory, utterly depraved and unforgivable! Let the hanging be carried out immediately!”

After the charges were read, amidst the dread of all knights, the Count of Hot Spring Island was hanged alive.

His servants and confidants, charged with various offenses, were also hanged on the gallows. It is unknown whether there is a hell or some other place for the dead to go, where they might continue to follow the Count.

Liszt stood on the balcony of Hot Spring Castle.

He watched the hanging clearly.

Marcus reported to him on the side about the spoils collected from the clearing of Hot Spring Castle. The Count of the Hot Springs, being an old noble and having conspired with the Eagle Kingdom, possessed astounding wealth. There were massive amounts of gemstones, jades, gold coins, and also elves— one Greater Elf, sixteen Little Minor Elves, and one hundred thirty-six Elf Bugs.

All were bound to his son.

But they would soon be all transferred to Liszt.

The knights and serfs on the island were also being inventoried. Those fit for migration to Flame Island would be relocated directly, while the remaining assets that could not be moved could be sold back to the Sapphire Family.

“The gains are truly rich; this kind of thing makes money fast!” he thought delightfully.

Compared to the Grey Iron Dragon from the dragon-slaying battle, these resources might not seem much. But, after all, there was only one iron dragon, whereas the resources of Hot Spring Island were diverse and varied, offering a more stimulating sensation.

“I wish there were more traitors from the Grand Duchy of Sapphire!”

Chapter 883: Like a Thorn in the Back

One Millet Greater Elf, a type of grain, valued highly.

Five Millet Minor Elves, two Barley Minor Elves, and one Wheat Minor Elf, all grain types, and all highly valued.

One Jasmine Minor Elf and one Half-Lotus Minor Elf, both are Magic Potion types, highly valued.

One Tomato Minor Elf and one Apple Minor Elf, both fruit and vegetable types, decently valued.

One Black Tea Tree Minor Elf, used as a common source of tea by Nobles, similarly valued decently.

One Sempervivum Minor Elf, one Lithops Minor Elf, and one Campion Minor Elf, all ornamental types, with average value.

Also, there were one hundred thirty-six Elf Bugs, among which about ten were Magic Potion types, all fairly valued. In total, the resources scavenged from Hot Spring Island were enormous and could be said to have fattened Liszt in one gulp. All of these resources were readily usable.

“This Greater Elf shall be named Tick, the Harbinger of Doom, Fiddlesticks.”

In “League of Legends”, Fiddlesticks is a scarecrow.

After seeing the farms around Hot Spring Castle filled with millet and many scarecrows, Liszt named the Millet Greater Elf this new name.

The only regret was that the Millet Greater Elf Tick was already one hundred fifty years old, and according to the two-hundred-year lifespan of Greater Elves, it had only fifty years left. Moreover, its personality was somewhat rigid. The Count of Hot Springs regarded Elves merely as tools, so they were all quite wooden.

Not lively enough.

But now, having become Liszt's Elf, they would enjoy better living conditions and a happier and comfortable environment.

The Count of the Hot Springs had four followers who were Viscounts.

Liszt had planned on a thorough cleansing, but these four Viscounts reacted swiftly, kneeling before Liszt even before the Flame Territory's Knights could charge. Pleading ignorance, they sought Liszt's forgiveness and pledged their allegiance to the new landlord.

They each proclaimed their willingness to migrate to Flame Island and develop the abundant lands for the Flame Family.

Seeing their former landlord executed, they harbored no thoughts of retaliation; after all, they faced a Dragon Knight. The dealings between the Count of Hot Springs and the Eagle Kingdom were too clear for them to deny, and they had no loyalty to the Count of Hot Springs.

Knights boast of loyalty, but how much truly remains when a ransom can redeem them?

Interests are the only values tirelessly pursued by the Nobility.

In any case.

The banner atop the castle had changed.

Besides the downfall of the former rulers of Hot Spring Island, not much else had changed. The Knights were reorganized but still stationed on Hot Spring Island, and the Serfs who were meant to farm still had to farm—the migration would have to wait until the Magic Teleportation Array was operational.

Currently, there wasn't the transportation capacity to relocate the manpower and resources from Hot Spring Island to Flame Island, and with spring plowing already past, the crop growth could not be delayed.

After cleaning the Hot Spring Castle, it had become Liszt's palace, the Elves still housed there but now guarded by specialized Servants and Knights.

Liszt stayed there for two days, then set off.

He had to transport new food supplies to Flame City, which although had just harvested a crop of potatoes, was facing a burgeoning population nearing three hundred thousand after the winter campaign against the Moon Slayers. The Knight Order, busy gathering food in the forests, still couldn't sustain the increasing food consumption.

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Meanwhile, Liszt was reveling in the spoils of his search.

Prince Alex of the losing party in the battle against the dragon, along with Alonso and the dragons, headed straight back to the King's Castle of the Eagle Kingdom.

The fate of the Grey Iron Dragon and Duke Pierrot remained unclear.

The news of the Dragon Knight's return wasn't leaked; only a few in the Court were aware. The King had summoned Prince Alex and Marquis Alonso to the palace.

When the corpse of Loyle Purple Copper, the Purple Copper Dragon Knight, was carried into the great hall, the King immediately furrowed his brow, a bad premonition rising in his heart.

Afterwards,

He heard from Alex the full details of the battle against the dragon.

"So, Duke Loyle has died in battle, and the enormous national effort invested in this battle against the dragon has failed again?" The Eagle Kingdom's King, his thick beard masking his expression, his eyes devoid of much color, asked as though inquiring about something trivial.

But Alex and Alonso, who were familiar with the king, both knew that he was extremely angry.

Alonso immediately knelt on one knee, “Your Majesty, Alonso has mishandled his duties, delaying the Kingdom’s war efforts, and is willing to accept your punishment!”

As a Prince, Alex did not need to kneel; he merely clasped his fists and said, “Your Majesty, I am not shirking my responsibilities. The reason for our defeat in this battle lies more with the appearance of the Formless Dragon. Who could have expected that Liszt would possess a Formless Dragon as his mount?”

“Formless Dragon!” The Eagle Kingdom’s King slammed his scepter heavily onto the floor, “Who can tell me why the Sacred Dragon was born in the Sea of Azure Waves, and why it has fallen into Liszt’s hands!”

At this moment, excuses like the favor of a knight’s glory clearly wouldn’t suffice.

Alonso said gravely, “If I am not mistaken, Liszt has already taken control of a relic from the era of the Ancient Moon Empire. The legend of the Sacred Dragon prevailed during the Moon Empire era and has not appeared for many years. The birth of Archmages must also be related to the relics of the Moon Empire!”

Changes in the Magic Web shrinking were not unfamiliar news to Dragon Knights.

The advancement of a new Archmage did not mean the recovery of the Magic Web, so Alonso believed that Ach’s advancement as an Archmage was achieved through the relics of the Moon Empire era.

Such a speculation couldn’t be considered wrong; indeed, it was through the Divine Artifact, Mermaid’s Tears, that Ach touched the Magic Web, laying the foundation for his advancement. The Fish Ugly Temple and the Moon Empire are more or less connected, saying that it pertains to relics from the Moon Empire era wasn’t wrong either.

However, they all overlooked the reasons behind Liszt as an individual—his entire strength originated from personal struggles, after all, the Smoke Mission was a part of his body, and the Power of Destiny had long merged with him.

But strictly speaking,

The death of the Smoke Dragon and the remnants of the Power of Destiny also seemed related to the Ancient Moon Empire.

Alonso's speculation on the general direction had not been incorrect.

"The Moon Empire... an ancient empire that has decayed who knows how many years ago, Alonso, do you think this reason can convince me?" The King of the Eagle Kingdom spoke in a stern tone, "For this battle against the dragon, how many resources has the Kingdom consumed, how many relationships utilized! Now can you tell me how great the losses of the Kingdom are from the failure of the battle against the dragon!"

"Please punish me, Your Majesty!"

"Would punishing you help the situation?" At this moment, the Eagle Kingdom's King still did not know that the Grey Iron Dragon had encountered issues. "The Purple Copper Duchy has always been the western barrier of the Kingdom, Duke Loyle was a strong supporter of mine, but now he is dead, how am I supposed to explain to my aunt and cousin!"

The King of the Eagle Kingdom's cousin was none other than the wife of Duke Loyle, the Duchess.

Prince Alex sighed, "This matter is because I did not support in time, Your Majesty, please allow me to personally escort Duke Loyle's body back to the Purple Copper Duchy. Regardless of what the Purple Copper Family requests, I will do my utmost to satisfy them!"

The Eagle Kingdom's King looked at Alex, without speaking.

After a long while, he finally sighed deeply, "Alonso, rise. Tomorrow, return to the frontier to continue your duties... As for the sacrifice of Duke Loyle, I will personally contact my aunt... Now I need you to immediately come up with a response plan, I want to know how we can curb Liszt's growth!"

He paused.

The Eagle Kingdom's King murmured softly, his tone exceedingly somber, "If he continues to grow, I feel a thorn in my back..."

Chapter 884: Master of the Seas

The battle of dragon-slaying on Dodo Island did not take place in full view, so the nobility of the Sapphire Archipelago were still unaware of this unprecedented great war.

However, the annihilation of Hot Spring Island by the Knights of the Flame Territory was by no means concealed. With the promotion of merchants and covert rats on the island, the news spread to the ears of all nobles, great and small, within the Sapphire Isles in almost a week.

"What's going on?"

"Why would the Marquis of Flames destroy Hot Spring Island?"

"Even a Dragon Knight shouldn't be so reckless. Is the Grand Duke really indifferent?"

"The Count of Hot Spring Island is known for his integrity and sincerity, and although the Marquis of Flames is indeed powerful, he shouldn't bully the weak like this!"

"This is a trampling of a knight's dignity!"

Many noble landlords dared not comment on this matter in public, but after social pleasantries, they would inevitably make pointed remarks over drinks, criticizing the actions of the Flame Territory for bullying the weak. Some even directly entreated the Sapphire Duke, hoping he would intervene to stop this.

However, just as the news of the Flame Territory's eradication of Hot Spring Island began to spread, merchants and rats brought new explosive information—the Knights of Bull Tail Domain had annihilated Square Island in a single day, the attack was brazen and without any concealment, nor did it have the permission of Marquis Deep Throat.

The Viscount of Square Island was a follower of Marquis Wallace Pineapple Green of Deep Throat Island, so his downfall would naturally require Wallace's consent, or else it would be a provocation.

Here, Dragon Knight Liszt blatantly annihilated a fellow Dragon Knight's follower.

There, Marquis Bull Tail openly destroyed another marquis's follower.

It completely set the public opinion of Sapphire ablaze.

"What exactly are the Marquis of Bull Tail and the Marquis of Flames, this father and son duo, trying to do!"

"I have dealt with Li Weiliam. He is a knight of utmost loyalty and honor. How could he do such a thing?"

"If it's said that Marquis Wallace had offended Marquis Bull Tail, attacking the Viscount of Square Island as punishment could be understandable. But for the Marquis of Flames to annihilate the Count of Hot Spring Island, what does that mean?"

"Could the Tulip Family be seeking to turn against the Grand Duke?"

"The Grand Duke must not ignore this, or else, with Dragon Knights and Archmages, the Tulip Family could overturn the rule of the Sapphire Archipelago!"

"We must advise the Grand Duke!"

Yet before these public opinions even had the chance to ferment, an edict from the Sapphire Duke was delivered by the knights of the Ashen Hawk Knights to all the major landlords of the islands.

A message that left everyone agape then erupted.

"The Lord of the Sea of Azure Waves, Landlord of the Sapphire Archipelago, the great Sapphire Duke, hereby announces to all followers and knights: the Count of Hot Spring

Island and the Viscount of Square Island colluded with the Eagle Kingdom, provided help for the invasion by the Eagle Kingdom's five dragons and three knights, plotted against the Marquis of Flames, and instigated the war of dragon slaughtering!”

“The Marquis of Flames resisted staunchly... and with the killing of the Purple Copper Dragon Knight Loyle Purple Copper as the conclusion, he thwarted the sinister plan of the Eagle Kingdom and swiftly took action to annihilate the two traitors, the Count of Hot Spring Island and the Viscount of Square Island... The Marquis of Flames and Marquis Bull Tail are the embodiment of loyalty, justice, bravery, and fearlessness, exhibiting the noble qualities of knights in the finest manner!”

Simultaneously.

Detailed news released by merchants and rats from the Flame Territory and Bull Tail Domain rapidly spread—every battle of dragon slaughtering was the best headline news of the year, and without effort of promotion, it naturally caused an explosion.

“White Maw Iron Dragon Knight Alex White Iron, Bronze Dragon Knight Alonso Xiankelai, Purple Copper Dragon Knight Loyle Purple Copper, the Grey Iron Dragon, the Silver Dragon—five dragons and three knights joined forces to besiege the Marquis of Flames, but the great Fire Dragon Knight, Formless Dragon Knight, Light Green Sapphire Dragon Knight Liszt Flame, powerfully killed Loyle and crushed the united front of the five dragons!”

“Unbelievable! Unbelievable!”

“The dragon-slaying battle of Dodo Island involved eight dragons, with Prince Liszt alone commanding three dragons, powerfully defeating five dragons and knights, his strength boundless and limitless!”

“The Formless Dragon is a Sacred Dragon, the legendary Sacred Dragon!”

“So powerful, the knight's glory shines upon him. The Marquis of Flames is not just the Son of Glory, he is glory itself!”

“The horror of it all!” exclaimed one onlooker.

“The Earl of Hot Spring Island and Viscount of Square Island colluded with the Eagle Kingdom, traitors must die,” another voice declared. “The war the Marquis of Flames waged to annihilate them was a just one!”

“Marquis Wallace personally thanked the Marquis of Bull Tail for exterminating the traitorous Viscount of Square Island,” someone recounted.

“Can someone tell me if this is really true?” a bewildered voice asked. “Why has his highness Liszt gained the recognition of three dragons? Is he the embodiment of knightly glory?”

In an instant,

noble landlords who had previously objected to Liszt’s actions against the Earl of Hot Spring Island changed their tune, lavishing praise upon Liszt as if there were not enough hours in a day to do so.

They feared their earlier complaints might reach Liszt’s ears.

If Liszt were merely a Dragon Knight with an Archmage as his assistant,

they might have been backed by the Sapphire Duke, defending noble class interests and hoping to gain favor from the Duke for their outspokenness.

But now the news was too terrifying: Liszt had single-handedly mounted three dragons, cleanly killed another Dragon Knight, and repelled three Dragon Knights and five dragons from the Eagle Kingdom with just his own might. Coupled with that spectacularly stylish Archmage, the team was overwhelmingly powerful and cool beyond measure.

It was said that even if the Sapphire Family were to be destroyed, no one would dare utter an unnecessary word.

In a world ruled by a knightly order, where strict order and rules apply, when someone’s strength reaches a certain level, what are rules to them?

“The master of the sea has changed...” Marquis Wallace Pineapple Green stood at the prow of his ship, feeling a sense of weary resignation.

Back when the tulip family was sweeping Square Island, he took his Knight Order to confront them and questioned their leader, Levis, “What does the Tulip Family mean by this? What does your father mean, killing my followers for no reason!”

Levis rarely took part in wars; he was mainly there to earn military merit.

Still, as a newly made Sky Knight, he had cultivated a composed demeanor and casually replied, “Marquis Wallace, the orders I follow are from Dragon Knight Liszt. Perhaps there are some things you are not aware of, but Liszt has killed another Dragon Knight!”

He briefly mentioned the dragon-slaying battle.

After that, Wallace’s face went from pale to ashen, ending in a deep sigh. He turned and departed without another word, ceasing to care about the fate of Square Island.

That same night, Wallace took a ship to Blue Dragon Island.

When he arrived at Blue Dragon Island, he saw the Sapphire Duke having tea with the Marquis of Bull Tail at the Azure Sky Peak Palace. Accompanying them were Duchess Sarette Dahua Huilan, Crown Prince Anthony, Marquis Glendenton Red Maple Leaf of Red Maple City, and Marquis Nesta Big Flower Hydrangea of Quicksand City.

Essentially, the entire high command of the Sapphire Family was there to join Li Weiliam for tea.

Such high-level company was simply unbelievable.

Seeing this gathering, Wallace knew then that the seas were no longer ruled by the Sapphire Family. After spending a night in Azure Sky Peak Palace and receiving a handwritten decree from the Duke, Wallace left Blue Dragon Island feeling dispirited, returning to his own territory.

He felt old, ready to retire and enjoy his twilight years, no longer engaging in the noble power struggles.

Marquis Merlin Taro of Red Crab Island had grown up with the Sapphire Duke, and Wallace Pineapple Green had been just as loyally dedicated since his youth.

“The master of the sea has changed...” Wallace repeated to himself as he looked at the address on the decree.

The Sapphire Duke’s formal correspondence used to open with “Master of the Sea, Lord of All Islands, the Great Sapphire Duke.” Yet, this decree began with “Master of the Sea of Azure Waves, Lord of the Sapphire Archipelago, the Great Sapphire Duke.”

The shift from “the Sea” to “the Sea of Azure Waves,” from “All Islands” to “the Sapphire Archipelago.”

The implication was clear.

The real master of the sea had officially changed following the dragon-slaying battle on Dodo Island.

Chapter 885: High-Profile Actions

The landmass was too vast, making the dissemination of information inconvenient.

Piero Grey Iron’s capture and the Grey Iron Dragon becoming Liszt’s mount had not yet spread. In fact, the results of the dragon-slaying battle had just begun to ferment among the high ranks of the Duchy of Sapphire and the Eagle Kingdom. Of course, the rats of various kingdoms and grand duchies were already carrying the news to their respective nations.

It wouldn’t be long before the entire northeastern corner of the Legendary Continent would be boiling over.

Some felt like they had a sword hanging over their heads, some listened as if it were a story, others worshiped with a mad fervor, and some were enviously puzzled—all typical reactions. However, Liszt was destined to add another log to the fire.

The reason was simple.

He himself was quite low-key, but the Smoke Mission, after completing the traitor's punishment, issued a rather high-profile new mission:

“Mission: The Duchy of Sapphire has begun to sing your name, and the high echelons of the Eagle Kingdom are plotting to contain your growth, but a true man fears no sordid machinations in the dark. It is time to mount the Grey Iron Dragon and visit Blue Dragon Island, to enable the Sapphire Family to make the right choice. Reward: The first vassal state to surrender.”

It was evident, the Sapphire Duke was still hesitant.

This was to be expected, as Liszt's ancestors had been followers of the Sapphire Family—their roles reversed one day, with the Sapphire Family now to become followers of Liszt. Indeed, from the perspective of interests, having numerous dragons and archmages, Liszt possessed the qualifications of a king.

It was only natural for a grand duchy to seek allegiance to a kingdom, especially those located on the great seas.

However, on an emotional level, there were considerable difficulties. Moreover, the Sapphire Family still held hopes for the Steel Ridge Royal Family, wishing to draw benefits from both the Steel Ridge Kingdom and the prospective Flame Kingdom, unwilling to easily switch allegiances.

“The Sapphire Duke's thought process is not unreasonable... Although he belongs to the treacherous party in the alliance of offense and defense, he has after all been the landlord whom the Tulip Family has followed for generations; being overly harsh wouldn't be good for the family's reputation.”

In sentiment and reason,

The Sapphire Family was the old master of the Tulip Family; their lord-vassal relationship was amicable. The Tulip Family hadn't betrayed, nor was the Sapphire Family ever harsh.

This friendship needed to be considered.

Otherwise, Liszt's reputation after his rise would suffer—the reputation mostly served as icing on the cake, but as part of the noble class and the top Dragon Rearing Family, they ultimately relied on the knight system for governance, and a good reputation was still required.

“Then mount the Grey Iron Dragon Ornn and pay a visit to Blue Dragon Island. Let the Sapphire Duke weigh the situation himself,” he decided, looking at the Smoke Mission.

After completing the food transport, he directly traversed through space, arriving at Mind Island.

Ornn, the Grey Iron Dragon nursing his wounds, had mostly healed. It hadn't suffered the grave injuries that the Light Green Gemstone Dragon did; these were mostly external wounds. Thus, with the dragon's powerful regenerative abilities, he quickly returned to his original state. Only the depleted Dragon's Superior Magic needed more time to replenish.

Normal riding and fighting were no longer an issue.

“Roar!”

Ornn held no good feelings towards Liszt—after all, submission had been forced through a Mind Battle—but after erasing the Mind Branding of the First Dragon Knight, Ornn accepted Liszt as his Dragon Knight, united in soul.

“Bard, you carry Ach, while I will ride Ornn!” Liszt quickly arranged the mounts.

“Woo yee ya!” Bard did not refuse Ach's riding—naturally, the Dragon Tooth Platform was reserved for Liszt alone; even if Bard favored Ach, he would not allow Ach to sit there.

Just as the Grey Iron Dragon had protected Piero, the Dragon Tooth Platform was not a place for him to sit.

And so,

One man and one dragon flew towards Blue Dragon Island, with the Magic Form of Little Fire Dragon Leo at Liszt's chest. Since he was going to demonstrate his authority on Blue Dragon Island this time, he might as well reveal his full hand; if it weren't for the Light Green Gemstone Dragon still being on Flame Island, he would have brought all four dragons with him.

The situation was set, and he did not mind being exposed to the gaze of various kingdoms on the Legendary Continent.

While the Formless Dragon's combat ability was not particularly remarkable, its capacity for Space Shuttle was incredibly strong, enough to ensure his escape from any dangerous situation.

The Smoke Mission mentioned that the Eagle Kingdom was contemplating a plot to restrain Liszt.

Other kingdoms on the continent, upon learning of Liszt's rise and his possession of a Sacred Dragon like the Formless Dragon, would certainly weave their own schemes. However, these stratagems boil down to either dragon-slaying battles or economic sanctions—no one can tackle a fleeing Formless Dragon in battle, and economic sanctions are even less effective.

If Liszt couldn't do business, he could simply resort to robbery.

Robbing Hot Spring Island once fattened him up, and if he were to rob a few Marquises from the Continental Kingdom, wouldn't he become a big, fat pig?

He could even rob Dragon Knights.

A lone Dragon Knight was no match for him, not with his luxurious lineup that included himself, Bard, Leo, and Ach – slaughtering a solitary Dragon Knight was too easy—if it weren't for the fear of pushing the Continental Kingdom too hard, leading these kingdoms to reach an agreement and deploy all their Dragon Knights to capture him, Liszt would have adopted this tactic long ago.

“Besides, I have the Smoke Mission for early warnings...”

He had a clear understanding of the situation on the continent. With the Eagle Kingdom failing twice in dragon-slaying battles, the other kingdoms would likely try to court him instead.

Perhaps a King would even offer his daughter's hand in marriage.

Of course.

The notion of marrying a princess from some kingdom did not particularly appeal to him. What he now coveted most was not the submission of the Grand Duchy of Sapphire but the reward from the previous Smoke Mission.

“Complete the mission, reward: one Man-Eating Tree Dragon Sprite.”

This was the prompt in Serpent Script when he completed the Punish the Traitor mission. While transporting food to Flame City, he directly sought out Emily, who was overseeing road construction, to inquire about his Man-Eating Tree Dragon Sprite.

He had already heard about it through messages sent by the Magic Platform.

Emily had been investigating the man-eating ogre incidents, the reward from the mission three Smoke Missions ago called “Trace of the Man-Eating Ogre”; they ultimately found the true culprit behind the man-eating ogress, the reward from the second to last Smoke Mission “Man-Eating Tree Cluster”; and finally, the third part of the man-eating ogre series of missions granted him the desired “Man-Eating Tree Dragon Sprite” from the previous mission.

Dragon Sprite!

A Dragon Sprite!

Although this reward fell short of that of a dragon, it was still staggeringly alluring to Liszt, who harbored an extraordinary desire for sprites.

He had long yearned for a Dragon Sprite.

After all, a Dragon Rearing Family without a Dragon Sprite would seem embarrassingly poor.

He had assumed that Dragon Sprites would scarcely appear in the wild, given the harsh evolutionary conditions for sprites; a Greater Elf evolving into a Dragon Sprite would need to spend an extended time in the company of dragons. Dragons themselves were exceedingly rare, and those that fell into the wild were mostly evil dragons with malevolent temperaments—unwilling to tolerate a Greater Elf's proximity.

Hence, he had little hope for wild Dragon Sprites and deemed stealing one unrealistic; his only option was to cultivate one himself—the Greater Elf Annie, who loved to touch the Little Fire Dragon, was the Dragon Sprite he was eagerly anticipating.

As time went by, Annie kept touching but did not evolve.

Then, unexpectedly.

A Chain Mission, which he didn't pay much attention to due to a dragon-slaying battle, suddenly rewarded him with a Dragon Sprite, much to his surprise and delight.

Regrettably, Emily and the others had spent a long time tracking the Man-Eating Tree but had not found the Dragon Sprite. According to Emily's conjecture, the Man-Eating Tree could burrow into the ground—the Dragon Sprite might be hiding underground. After Liszt himself fruitlessly searched the forest three or four times, he instructed Emily to continue the search.

He was determined to find this Dragon Sprite, even if it meant digging three feet into the ground.

What was destined to come could not escape.

He decided to relax a bit and made his way to Blue Dragon Island first—eager for another encounter with the Sapphire Duke.

Chapter 886: Descent of the Emperor

Traveling upstream along the river valley, after a month-long journey through dense jungles, the Knight Squad led by Yevich finally found a human settlement.

It was a small village where there were neither Knights nor Elves, and they did not engage in farming crops. The men in the village hunted for a living, while the women gathered wild fruits from nearby mountains and bred a clumsy bird that resembled a chicken but was larger in size and had brighter feathers.

Confrontation and communication.

The language barrier made communication difficult, but, by combining gestures and drawings, they managed to get across some basic information.

The villagers did not know which country they belonged to and none could write. They only knew that they were under the authority of the “Lord of Huzha,” and every year they needed to submit a large number of furs and “Fritillaries”—the colorful large chickens with delicate and smooth meat.

After handing over a few colorful shells, hunters willingly led Yevich and others to the small town where the Lord of Huzha resided.

In a dilapidated castle near the small town, Yevich met the Lord of Huzha.

Another session of gestures combined with intimidation, and this barely an Earth Knight landlord disclosed his identity—he followed an Honored Knight who served a Viscount who followed an Earl in the Snowstorm Mountain Duchy; he was not a native of the Eagle Kingdom but belonged to a duchy that had never been heard of.

“Snowstorm Mountain Duchy?” Yevich sketched out his new question on the paper he was carrying, “Which kingdom does this duchy belong to?”

The Lord of Huzha was utterly amazed by the white paper in Yevich’s hands, then took it and drew an abstract complex family crest on it, along with some unfamiliar writing. He tried his best to translate the meaning of the text, which roughly referred to a vast yellow stone plain.

“Yellowstone Kingdom?” Yevich immediately caught on.

He had heard of this kingdom, to the southwest of the Eagle Kingdom, practically a neighboring country. However, the year-round snow-covered plateau between the Yellowstone Kingdom and the Eagle Kingdom, which was also home to a host of Magical Beasts, created an extremely harsh environment that led to very little interaction between the two kingdoms.

There were a few duchies arranged between the two kingdoms that traded with the Eagle Kingdom.

However, Yevich had never heard of the Snowstorm Mountain Duchy—the southern border of the Eagle Kingdom was still undeveloped and the environment harsh, so it was no surprise he was not aware of the duchy’s existence here.

He continued to communicate a lot of information with the Lord of Huzha, but in vain, as the lord, being a stay-at-home Honored Knight, had limited knowledge. He was unclear about their exact location, only knowing that his Viscount landlord lived even further to the west, a day’s horse ride away.

When he followed his Viscount to help the earl they served in a war, they had to ride for five days and cross several mountains.

As one went westward the climate became colder, but the land grew more fertile, and to the far west lay the Marquisate’s territories, and further beyond was the true highland heartland of the Snowstorm Mountain Duchy.

“This is a bit awkward. Sailing west from the Third Archipelago, other than discovering a large island, we went straight to the mainland coastline. His Highness wanted me to clarify the distribution of power here, but within hundreds of kilometers of the coastline, it’s utterly desolate. How are we supposed to launch a war in the future?”

He referred to the model of the Sapphire, which developed by looting the Eagle Kingdom.

The Flame Kingdom would also have to follow a looting model in the future, but now it turned out that the mainland coastline directly opposite was undeveloped. Venturing

deeper inland would only lead to the highlands where the climate was as cold as in the Flame Kingdom, which implied that robbing the Snowstorm Mountain Duchy would be very difficult.

“Let’s contact His Highness first and inquire about his next instructions.” He occupied the Lord of Huzha’s castle and indicated to the Magician who had come with him to send a message through the Magic Platform.

...

While Yevich was blending into the Legendary Continent, gathering intelligence on the surrounding national forces,

Liszt had already left Mind Island and quickly entered Blue Dragon Island and flew toward the city of “Blue Dragon City,” flying high above without alarming the humans below.

When he entered the vicinity of Blue Dragon City and sensed the Sapphire Dragon nesting in the valley’s Dragon Nest, only then did he signal Grey Iron Dragon Ornn to lower the flight altitude.

He also signaled Formless Dragon Bard to reveal itself and summoned Little Fire Dragon Leo, forming a three-dragon formation.

During the low-altitude flight, they just happened to sweep over Blue Dragon City. The appearance of a grey-white Grey Iron Dragon, a red-and-black Fire Dragon, and a transparent crystal-like Formless Dragon in the sky above the city threw the first major city of the Sapphire, with a population of two hundred thousand people, into a frenzy of chaos.

“Dragon! Dragon! Dragon!”

“What’s this, a dragon!”

“There are three dragons!”

“By the knight’s honor, what am I seeing!”

“Is this a Dragon Knight invasion?”

“Too terrifying, three dragons... Are these dragons here to destroy Blue Dragon City!”

The peasants were terrified at the sight of the dragons, and many of them even crouched on the ground, holding their heads, afraid to look up at the dragons overhead. Many women quickly took their children and hid inside their homes, fearing that the evil dragons would come to plunder the city. Of course, there were also some brave civilians who shouted at the three dragons, their excitement uncontrollable.

Even the residents of Blue Dragon City might not have seen a Sapphire Dragon, let alone three unfamiliar dragons all at once.

The nobles in the city, however, immediately thought of the recent edict from the Sapphire Duke and quickly recognized the Fire Dragon that showed its might in the Dragon Slaying Battle near the waters of Iron Hoof Island.

“It’s the Fire Dragon!”

“His Highness Liszt, His Highness Liszt himself has come to the Azure Sky Peak Palace!”

“By the knight’s honor, what am I seeing? That’s the Marquis of Flames’ dragon in the middle, the Fire Dragon, over there is the holy Formless Dragon, and there’s the Light Green... Huh, isn’t that a Light Green Gemstone Dragon? That’s an Iron Dragon, isn’t it?”

“When did His Highness Liszt get another Iron Dragon?”

“Great Dragon Knight!” Some knights worshipped fervently.

The stories about Liszt that circulated in the market were so unbelievable and enviable that listening to them was more exciting than even the best Knight’s Novel.

“Has the Marquis of Flames come to Blue Dragon Island for something, could it be...” Some knights instantly considered conspiracy theories, immediately growing anxious.

“My god, His Highness Liszt is on those three dragons, right? My god, is he watching me from the sky right now? My god, if I could ride the same dragon as His Highness Liszt, I would do anything he asked!” Countless noble young ladies watched the dragons in the sky, their cheeks flushed with excitement.

The three dragons simply swept past Blue Dragon City and flew towards the peaks in the distance, heading for the Azure Sky Peak Palace.

But the commotion they left in Blue Dragon City was long in subsiding; the nobles hustled to tell each other, speculating on the significance of Liszt’s arrival; the peasants prayed silently, boasting about the Dragon Knight stories they had heard; the young ladies either gathered to talk about Liszt or secluded themselves in their rooms, lost in daydreams.

It was as if a stone had been thrown into a lake, its ripples spreading outward endlessly.

The Blueblood Knight Order stationed outside the city had already quickly assembled, ready to respond to the Sapphire Duke’s call—at once the glory and the fall of the Sapphire Family affected them, and they were ready to offer their loyalty, no matter how dire the situation.

But this was bound to be a false alarm.

As the Sapphire Dragon rose to meet them, Liszt had already landed with the three dragons in the square in front of the Azure Sky Peak Palace.

He jumped down from the back of the Grey Iron Dragon, catching Ach as he leaped from the Formless Dragon.

They walked leisurely toward the grand and majestic palace, which seemed like the focal point of the sky and the mountains.

The knights guarding the palace had already been alerted and quickly formed a guard of honor, nervously approaching the three dragons and surrounding Liszt and Ach.

At the palace gates, the Sapphire Duke himself came out to welcome them.

Chapter 887: Joyful Atmosphere

“Prince Liszt, Lord Acherloides, welcome to the Azure Sky Peak Palace as guests,” the Sapphire Duke looked at the tall and spirited Liszt, his eyes calm yet unable to fully conceal a faint sense of loss.

A nobody who used to grovel before him.

Now, he had become a Dragon Knight on equal footing with him, no, more precisely, a high and mighty new overlord who required a slight bow from him upon meeting.

Especially when he saw that grey-white Grey Iron Dragon, his heart clenched painfully—clearly, it was the Grey Iron Dragon from the Grey Iron Duchy.

Last time, he had slain Carlo Violet in the Dragon Slaying Battle and snatched away the Light Green Gemstone Dragon.

This time, in the Dragon Slaying Battle, he killed Loyle Purple Copper and took the Grey Iron Dragon.

The Sapphire Duke could hardly imagine how this young man, barely twenty years old and smiling, managed to achieve all this.

But the Grey Iron Dragon was perched right there in the palace square, leaving him no choice but to believe.

“It’s not the three dragons previously mentioned, but four... With such a luxurious lineup, I’m afraid the visitors have ill intentions. This time, the Sapphire Family probably has no choice at all,” the Sapphire Duke thought bitterly, feeling a continuous sense of weakness throughout his body, thankfully supported discreetly by the Duchess, Lady Sarette, by his arm.

So as not to show it.

“Grand Duke, I hope my uninvited arrival hasn’t disturbed you,” said Liszt, not arrogantly but still with the gentlemanly demeanor, greeting him properly.

His gesture was a salute between equals, giving full respect to the Sapphire Duke.

He then turned to the Marquis of Bull Tail and bowed, “Father.”

This made the recently overjoyed Li Weiliam even prouder, his smile barely concealable, “Liszt, why isn’t the Light Green Gemstone Dragon here? Instead, you’ve brought the Grey Iron Dragon?” He did not know that the Grey Iron Dragon had already been ridden by Liszt, as it was the dragon’s first public appearance.

“I have captured Duke Pierrot. The Grey Iron Dragon and I are compatible; it has become my dragon!”

As if in response to Liszt,

the Grey Iron Dragon let out a long “roar,” casually glancing over the Sapphire Duke and his entourage, as well as the Sapphire Dragon perched on a hilltop not far away.

“Prince Liszt is indeed the most outstanding youth of this era, a veritable incarnation of knightly glory,” observed Lady Sarette, aware of the Grand Duke’s frailty, and extended an invitation, “After a long journey, perhaps Prince Liszt and Lord Acherlroides would like to enter the palace for some tea and rest.”

Acherlroides, not fond of such social occasions, remained silent, staying close to Liszt and lost in his thoughts.

Liszt readily agreed, “Very well.”

And thus, everyone returned inside the Azure Sky Peak Palace.

The Azure Sky Peak Palace could be said to be less a single palace and more a conglomeration of castles, sprawled across a mountaintop and connecting from summit to base. Its grandeur was something the few castles on Earth could not match by even a hundredth.

Furthermore, it had magical creations, such as a floating garden suspended over one of the castle rooftops.

That was the private chamber of the Sapphire Duke.

Standing on the castle corridor, one could see the distant Blue Dragon City and the vast blue lake that was Tranquil Lake, the largest lake on Blue Dragon Island. The pearl jewelry that was all the rage throughout the Grand Duchy was harvested from the low-level magical beasts, pearl oysters, farmed in the lake.

However, the Black Pearl products from Black Horse Island were now renowned throughout the nation.

Compared to the white pearls produced by pearl oysters, black pearls were bigger, more scarce, and thus more expensive.

The top-grade black pearls were kept by Liszt for making Calming Wind Pearls and not sold to outsiders. Likewise, pink pearls and golden pearls were not sold to outsiders—the cultivation of the black tridacna, fen hai luo, and golden-lipped clams had yet to expand significantly, with production levels insufficient even for their own needs.

Perhaps in a few years, or even a dozen or so years, with the maritime development of Flame Island, it would be possible to develop and expand the cultivation of these three kinds of shells. For the time being, there was no likelihood of expansion.

...

In the luxuriously decorated palace hall.

Liszt and the Sapphire Duke sat at opposite ends of a huge round table, surrounded by the Marquis of Bull Tail, the First Prince, the Quicksand City Marquis, and the Red Maple City Marquis—and of course, Acherlroides, who held a magic book and did not look up.

“Your Highness, Liszt, I warmly welcome your visit. If it’s not a formal visit, shall I take it as a private exchange between the Sapphire and Flame Families?” the Sapphire Duke had recovered his health, the previous moment of weakness merely an emotional fluctuation.

Liszt neither confirmed nor denied, “Of course, this is a private exchange. However, concerning the Dragon War, I felt it was necessary for you, Duke, to have a more detailed understanding, so I came over.”

The Sapphire Duke nodded, “Then, what else do I need to be filled in on?”

Neither of them had any intention of engaging in empty pleasantries.

Liszt thought for a moment, “The situation of the Dragon War is completely under my control. Whether it’s the Eagle Kingdom, Steel Ridge Kingdom, or Blast Furnace Fortress Kingdom that sets off a Dragon War, it is all but a laughable act to me. I need the Sapphire Family to understand that the seas should be controlled by the knights who sail them.”

The Sapphire Duke likewise pondered for a moment, “Concerning the invasion by the Eagle Kingdom, I apologize, and there will not be a next time when dragon knights from the continent brazenly cross the Sapphire Archipelago.”

“That is necessary,” Liszt said with clear determination. “Whether it be the Tulip Family or the Flame Family, both were once followers of the Sapphire Family. Though the situation has changed, I hope that the two families can still cooperate closely without being impeded by outsiders.”

“Then, how should the position of the Sapphire Family be defined?” the Sapphire Duke asked in a serious tone.

Liszt retorted, “Duke, what do you think it should be?”

The hall fell into a brief silence.

Ultimately, it was the Sapphire Duke who broke it with a wry laugh: “Formless Dragon, Fire Dragon, Grey Iron Dragon, Light Green Gemstone Dragon, His Highness Liszt, Lord Acherloides... facing the current situation, I fear that I don’t have much room for choice.”

“That is not my intention.”

Liszt spread his hands, indicating he had no desire to pressure others: “But a stable maritime order is the prerequisite for the establishment and development of the Flame Kingdom. I am not afraid of the Dragon Wars, in fact, if every Dragon War could yield a dragon, I would look forward to it.”

He made a rather cold joke.

Continuing, he said: “However, if peaceful development is an option, I would prefer to patiently build a home. The Flame Islands are far from the continent, vast in size, and deserving of many years of cultivation, rather than relying on war to seize resources... Essentially, I very much prefer peace.”

After saying this, he laughed.

The Marquis of Bull Tail, the First Prince, the Red Maple City Marquis, and the Quicksand City Marquis joined in the laughter, and the Duke chuckled along, lightening the atmosphere as though it had instantly become more joyful.

Chapter 888: Glory All Over

The atmosphere of joy, though somewhat stiff, did not hinder the improvement of the previously tense situation; and after the Marquis of Bull Tail told a few jokes, the mood became even more cordial and friendly.

Eventually, after some mediation, a new alliance treaty was signed.

The treaty stipulated that the Grand Duchy of Sapphire must provide full support for the establishment of the Flame Kingdom. Once the Flame Kingdom was established, the Grand Duchy of Sapphire would formally become a vassal state to the Flame Kingdom,

paying tribute to it. At the same time, the Flame Kingdom and Liszt's Flame Family must ensure the security of the Grand Duchy of Sapphire.

Furthermore, the Sea of Azure Waves would be allocated to the Sapphire Family, and after the establishment of the Flame Kingdom, its influence would not extend there. However, Black Horse Island and Coral Island could be treated as leased territories of the Flame Kingdom within the Duchy of Sapphire, serving as a means of communication, with the lands belonging permanently to Liszt.

After signing the treaty, the Grand Duke felt somewhat dispirited.

It was not because he had followed Liszt, but because the lease of Coral Island and Black Horse Island within the treaty was a somewhat humiliating gesture of "cession for peace."

Nevertheless.

Liszt needed these two islands as leaseholds.

Within the study, he spoke to the Sapphire Duke privately: "Duke Andrew, the leasehold of Coral Island and Black Horse Island is not intended to humiliate the Sapphire Family. In fact, these two islands are of great importance to me. Let me share some news with you in advance."

"Please speak, Your Highness." Since the treaty had already been signed, the Sapphire Duke no longer dwelled on formalities and addressed Liszt directly as Your Highness in private. This was a term befitting of someone who took on the role of a follower—otherwise, the title "Your Highness" would be preceded by the name "Liszt," or be accompanied by a title like "Marquis of Flames," or the esteemed "Dragon Knight."

After the establishment of the Flame Kingdom, "Your Highness" would change to "Your Majesty."

"The Flame Islands lie nearly seven thousand kilometers from the Sapphire Archipelago. How do you think I manage rapid transit between the two archipelagos and migrate a large number of knights and serfs for development?"

“Does this... have something to do with the Formless Dragon?” The Sapphire Duke asked uncertainly.

“Yes and no,” Liszt did not play coy. “The Magic Teleportation Array from the ancient legends truly exist. I’ve discovered an ancient Magic Teleportation Array connected to the Flame Islands, and together with Acherloides, we’ve thoroughly researched and are able to construct new Magic Teleportation Arrays.”

The Sapphire Duke exclaimed in amazement, “Magic Teleportation Array!”

“Indeed.”

“I never imagined that ancient legends could be true, that such grand magic like the Magic Teleportation Array actually exists... It makes sense that only Lord Acherloides could research the Magic Teleportation Array... No wonder you rented Coral Island and Black Horse Island, is it to build the Magic Teleportation Array on the islands?”

“I plan to establish a Magic Teleportation Array on Black Horse Island to bridge the Flame Islands and the Sapphire Archipelago. Once the Magic Teleportation Array is successfully established, I can protect the Sapphire at any time. You will no longer have to worry about retaliation from the Steel Ridge Kingdom, nor the covetous gaze of the Eagle Kingdom.”

“Now that I understand the essence of the matter, I am completely reassured.” The Sapphire Duke poured two glasses of wine, handing one to Liszt, “Your Highness, I will fully support the establishment of the Flame Kingdom according to the treaty, hoping that the friendship between the Sapphire Family and the Flame Family will persist!”

Liszt smiled, “To friendship, cheers.”

With this, Liszt had accomplished all the goals of his visit to Blue Dragon Island, riding on the Grey Iron Dragon. In the following day, accompanied by the Grand Duke and his wife, Liszt thoroughly explored the Azure Sky Peak Palace and envisioned the palace he would establish in the future—considering how to construct and arrange it.

It had to be many times larger, more splendid, and more magical than the Azure Sky Peak Palace.

The most unique aspect of the Azure Sky Peak Palace was its floating gardens, an architectural feat wrought by magic. With Acherlroides the Archmage at his side and the ever-expanding Magic Guild for support, producing the most extraordinary buildings imaginable was not beyond his means—he even contemplated building a floating castle.

A castle on the ground was no longer befitting of his current identity, status, and power.

...

The midday banquet was grandiose and sumptuous, with all the nobility above the rank of earl stationed on Blue Dragon Island invited to join in the festivities.

The protagonist of the feast was not Liszt, but rather the Marquis of Bull Tail, who was lively and engaging in conversation with the Sapphire Duke and weaving through interactions with marquises, earls, and landlords with his toasting cup. After three rounds of drinks, he was brimming with achievement, feeling as if he had reached the pinnacle of life.

Of course, he understood this was because Liszt was deliberately putting on airs.

That's why the nobles were focusing on him.

After all, Liszt was too aloof—barely sipping his drink was enough to account for a toast in response to a greeting from an earl or landlord.

This Dragon Knight, not keen on socializing at the banquet, was somewhat distracted, pondering over the Smoke Mission, knowing that when the agreement was reached, the mission would be accomplished.

“Complete the mission, rewards granted: a vassal state—the Duchy of Sapphire.”

And then the new Smoke Mission promptly followed.

“Mission: Due to delays from the Dragon Slaying War, the construction of the Magic Teleportation Array in Mind Island-Reed Marsh has yet to begin. Now that the battles have subsided, why not seize the opportunity to establish the Teleportation Array, providing

significant assistance for the development of the Flame Islands? Reward: Dragon Pit Great Mine.”

Establishing the Magic Teleportation Array was an imperative mission, but what he was concerned with was the reward of the Dragon Pit Great Mine.

A great mine indicated a vast mineral resource, one whose yield might exceed imagination; Dragon Pit meant it was a certain pit related to dragons, perhaps even formed from the remains of dead dragons. The reward of the Dragon Pit Great Mine was definitely of extraordinary value, yet the type of mineral was unknown.

Not sure if he had grown too accustomed to chain missions, he always felt there was a connection between some of the rewards and the content of the Smoke Missions.

“The Man-Eating Tree Dragon Sprite has not yet been found, and Emily is leading the Mammoth Knight Brigade, leaving no stone unturned in the search. Could they possibly stumble upon the Dragon Pit Great Mine? The birth of a Dragon Sprite cannot be without dragons. There shouldn’t be any living dragons on Flame Island, perhaps the Man-Eating Tree Dragon Sprite evolved from the carcass of a dead dragon?”

No records suggested that Greater Elves could evolve Dragon Sprites through “scavenging,” but since the Man-Eating Tree Dragon Sprite’s existence was confirmed by the Smoke Mission, its evolution indicated it must have come into contact with dragons.

“How exciting!”

“If it’s just dragon carcasses, it’s all the same, it will at most add a new mineral resource, but if it’s a living dragon, wouldn’t it mean adding to my strength... I still have two Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruits, and as long as they are not Formless Dragons that can see through the fruits and have an oddness about the Mind Battle, I can pretty much subdue any.”

Now, whenever he saw a dragon, he thought of subduing it with a Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruit—ever since he unearthed the hind leg of a Jade Dragon, he had a premonition that there would be no shortage of Bewildering Dragon Mind Fruits, which he might be able to cultivate into a Mind Fruit Tree after some research.

Since there was no shortage of fruits.

Of course, he would use them freely, subduing any dragon that came his way without hesitation.

At this time.

The banquet had reached the point where the main course was to be served.

The Sapphire Duke stood up with his drink and announced loudly, “Today is a day of great significance, as His Highness Liszt has intimidated the Eagle Kingdom in the Dragon Slaying War and is sure to usher in a new golden age for our vast seas. Let us all wish His Highness Liszt glory in abundance and victory in every battle!”

“May His Highness Liszt be wrapped in glory and be undefeated in battle!” the nobility of the Blue Blood Alliance echoed as they stood and raised their glasses in agreement with the Sapphire Duke’s toast.

Liszt also stood up, lifted his cup, and drained it in one gulp, “Thank you, Your Grace and all for your blessings, I wish to share this glory of the marine kingdom with you all!”

Chapter 889: Eternal Agony

Liszt had left the Azure Sky Peak Palace, accompanied by Marquis Li Weiliam of Bull Tail, both of whom were riding upon the Grey Iron Dragon Ornn.

Of course, Liszt was seated atop the Dragon Tooth Platform, while Li Weiliam stood on a patch of scales.

“Viewing the landscape from atop a dragon’s back, versus from the back of a Black Albatross, truly provides a completely different experience,” the Marquis of Bull Tail said excitedly. His life was destined to be without the fortune of being a Dragon Knight, relegated to riding his own Obsidian Stymphalian Bird, so he treasured this rare dragon-riding opportunity all the more.

A sixty-meter long, with a wingspan to match, Grey Iron Dragon ranked among the larger dragons, rendering the riding experience truly exceptional.

“Father, upon your return, quickly start searching according to the material list Ach had drafted. These materials are crucial for the construction of the Magic Teleportation Array.”

“Rest assured, I will arrange it immediately,” Li Weiliam replied, then asked, “So, when is the latest the Magic Teleportation Array can be completed? If it can be done within half a year, I won’t send a fleet to resupply the pioneer team, as the sea voyage is too perilous.”

“As long as we have all the materials, it should show results within one or two months.”

“That’s good.”

“Also, father, make sure the Knight Order is in good shape. I plan to have Duke Andrew issue the Pioneer Mandate as scheduled this year, and take the opportunity to put some order in the chaotic seas while the Eagle Kingdom is preoccupied.”

Coming without reciprocating was not acceptable.

Although both of the dragon-slaying wars had ended with his victory and seizing dragons, with the spoils of war richer than ever, the Eagle Kingdom had dared to instigate these wars, and they would have to suffer his retaliation.

This time, without cutting a few pieces of flesh, he couldn’t swallow this bitterness!

“The subordinate nation of the Eagle Kingdom has suffered significant damage, but the Eagle Kingdom’s own strength hasn’t been shaken. You must be very cautious. With the situation greatly in our favor, it’s best not to take risks.”

“Father, please rest assured, I have it under control.”

With the Smoke Mission in hand, no schemes could be hidden, Liszt had no fear in facing the ordinary Dragon Knights of the Eagle Kingdom. Even Alex White Maw Iron, the most powerful White Maw Iron Dragon Knight, was just so-so. What was there to fear from

other Dragon Knights, even in a besieging scenario, he could still escape by the skin of his teeth.

“You being careful is good, I’m just reminding you,” said Li Weiliam with a hint of emotion. His second son’s broad vision was now beyond what he, a minor marquis of a remote dukedom, could see clearly.

After a slight reminder, he brought it up no more.

...

After Liszt had left.

The bustle of the Azure Sky Peak Palace also quickly dissipated.

Blue blooded Nobles returned to their respective domains and castles, while the Sapphire Duke and Lady Sarette retired to their aerial Little Flower Garden. The energy spent over two days of hosting, especially the emotional control and ideological changes, had nearly drained the couple completely.

Lady Sarette was alright, merely slightly weary, without showing much signs of haggardness.

But the Sapphire Duke had aged seemingly another year in an instant, wrinkles covered his entire face—he was only in his fifties, but seemed near his end.

“Ah...”

A sigh made Lady Sarette, who was brewing tea, turn around: “My dear, is there something you cannot let go of?”

“It’s not that I can’t let go, it’s just that the weight on my mind far exceeds what I can handle. These past two years, too many disheartening things have happened, with Andy betraying me, someone from the high ranks of Steel Ridge betraying me, and the Eagle Kingdom considering me a thorn in their side. Now, Liszt has almost become the ruler of the seas.”

The green tea was ready.

Lady Sarette presented it to the Sapphire Duke, her heart aching as she spoke, “None of these matters are as harmful as Andy’s betrayal to you. If it weren’t for his betrayal, which caused the Sapphire Dragon’s soul to be injured and its lifespan reduced, why would you use your own soul to mend the Sapphire Dragon.”

“Is this green tea new from Liszt?” the Sapphire Duke lowered his head to look at the cup, changing the topic.

“Yes, it’s from space rings, picked and roasted the same day, then immediately preserved... I really would like a space ring. No gemstone in the world can compare to the space gems he wears on his hands.”

“The space gems produced by the Formless Dragon, he’s probably unwilling to sell them. But giving me the Light Green Gems to handle is somewhat of a consolation.”

“Actually, my impression of Liszt isn’t bad at all. He doesn’t have the arrogance of youth. Although he brought dragons to force us to make a decision, he largely maintained the dignity of the Sapphire Family.” Lady Sarette became somewhat chatty, “It’s a pity I don’t have a younger daughter, otherwise...”

“Otherwise, what? Do you plan to compete with the Archmage by his side?”

“There is always an opportunity.”

“Perhaps,” the Sapphire Duke sighed softly as he blew on the tea leaves, “If that Archmage were not by his side, Steel Ridge Royal Family would probably have chosen a suitable princess to propose a marriage alliance by now... Eagle Kingdom might not have chosen to engage in that aggressive Dragon War to reclaim their pride.”

Noble wars have always been fought with marriages being forged at the same time.

Securing a Dragon Knight through marriage, especially a First Dragon Knight, was quite simply an exceedingly profitable deal.

Suddenly, Lady Sarette's eyes lit up as she thought of something, "My dear, I heard that Liszt's sister is still unmarried. If..."

At this, the Sapphire Duke's face fell immediately, "Stop thinking about these useless things!"

He then stood up without finishing his tea and left—he had already lost his dignity in front of Liszt. To allow his son to seek favor through marriage would be losing his character.

He did not care how Lady Sarette called out from behind him.

He directly jumped from the airborne garden towards the gloomy interior of the castle and, after several complications, arrived at a dark, concealed chamber.

"Your Highness!" There were not only Knights guarding the chamber but also Magicians.

"Open the door."

"Yes, sir."

Click, creak.

The door, made of an unknown metal, emitted a piercing screech as it was opened, and the Sapphire Duke walked right in, then gestured for the Knights to close the metal door.

The light from several Crystal Lamp fixtures brightened the room.

Beneath his feet lay a giant Magic Array emitting a faint Magic Radiance. At the center of the Magic Array was a large metal cage.

In the cage, a large male figure was bent over a desk, writing something.

Upon hearing the door open, the man did not stop writing until the Sapphire Duke approached the cage. He then turned his back to the Sapphire Duke and spoke in a raspy voice, “Andrew, it has been a long time since you visited me. Has something distressing happened that made you think of me?”

Duke Andrew dragged a stool over and sat down by the cage, coldly saying, “I have something to tell you that you might not like.”

“Let’s hear it.”

“The Eagle Kingdom has launched another Dragon War, which, unfortunately, not only cost them another Dragon Knight but also another dragon.”

“Really, did the dragon end up in your hands?”

“No.”

“Then why should I be unhappy?”

“Because the Eagle Kingdom’s power is waning and will eventually collapse. When that happens, your offspring will lose their protection, and I will personally bring them back here to send your entire family to the Exiled Lands intact.”

“You don’t need to scare me. The Eagle Kingdom won’t fall so easily. My offspring will live safely. Perhaps in a few years, my grandson Andre will become a new Dragon Knight. By then, he will help me procure what I desire,” said the large figure as he turned around.

The loose garment he wore bore a skull-like face.

His eyes, emitting a pale blue flame, were not at all human—they clearly belonged to the once Marquis Andy Sapphire, now transformed into a Lich.

“Hahaha...finally, a decent joke after all this time,” mocked the Sapphire Duke. “Andre helping you get what you desire, ha, you really dare to dream. Let me tell you straight, because of your betrayal, I now follow a new King’s Domain Lord, who is a Holy Dragon Knight!”

“A Holy Dragon Knight?” the Lich Andy’s blue flames flickered brightly and dimly.

“The Formless Dragon, which traverses time and space with ease and can kill a common Dragon Knight easily. Moreover, he owns not only a Formless Dragon but also a Fire Dragon, Grey Iron Dragon, and Light Green Gemstone Dragon, and most importantly, he has an Archmage...rest assured, I will ask him to act, so your soul endures eternal agony!”

Chapter 890: Do You Like Bondage?

“Increase the intensity of your research,” he demanded, “I want you to unravel the secret of the Lich’s existence as soon as possible. Otherwise, the Goat Assembly can forever leave this world and accompany the sinful souls in the Exiled Lands.”

As he left the metal door,

the Sapphire Duke coldly told the magician standing at the door,

The magician from the Goat Assembly, head lowered, replied in a tone full of appeasement, “Rest assured, Your Grace, the Goat Assembly has been immersed in souls for a long time. We will definitely master the secret of the Lich quickly, to atone for our past mistakes.”

It was originally the Grand Magicians of the Goat Assembly who had conspired with the Marquis of Bull to assassinate the Sapphire Dragon. Eventually, the Marquis of Bull was captured, but the Grand Magicians vanished. The vampires, including Mary Dawn Break, were originally ordered to Iron Hoof Island to search for these Grand Magicians.

It seems that the Grand Magicians were captured, one by one, by the Sapphire Duke,

to reverse-engineer the Lich.

“Remember, I will not give you too much time. One year—if you still can’t provide a satisfactory answer within the year, prepare your respectable clothes and get ready to do your research in the Exiled Lands.”

The magician trembled slightly.

Most magicians supported a theory that the boundary between magic power, matter, and spirit is a place where time and space cannot describe. It's a place where eternity and brevity reflect each other, a realm that can only accommodate souls walking within—this place is the Exiled Lands.

People guilty of heinous crimes would be subjected by the nobility to a certain ritual, allowing their souls to be condemned to the Exiled Lands.

Annute Lanbao, who originally targeted the Sapphire Dragon, was punished by the Sapphire Family, who condemned his soul to the Exiled Lands. Afterwards, in order to save his lover, Curtis Truth dared to become a Lich, crafted a ghost ship, and tried to smash open the gates of the Exiled Lands.

He ended up encountering Li Si Te (Liszt).

When he left the underground and walked onto the castle balcony,

the Sapphire Duke suddenly sighed, murmuring to himself, "I hope the Exiled Lands truly exist, to find the lost soul of the Sapphire Dragon quickly. Otherwise, once I die, the Sapphire Dragon will fall into unconsciousness again... The Sapphire Family cannot let every successor fill the life of the Sapphire Dragon with their own souls."

...

Boom!

The sound of the metal giant dragon flapping its wings resembled that of a massive airplane thundering overhead. This commotion, caused by the Grey Iron Dragon, drew fearful gazes from knights and civilians around Tulip Castle. Then, the Iron Dragon landed squarely in the front square.

Following this, Marquis of Bull Tail leaped down from the dragon's back and turned around to calmly wave his hand.

Suddenly, the Grey Iron Dragon crouched on its hind legs, its wings stirred a storm, and it soared into the sky again, quickly disappearing under Liszt's control.

Only the Marquis of Bull Tail remained, standing with his hands behind his back.

"Sir, was that dragon just now?" Knight Captain Miki approached, cautiously inquiring.

"It's nothing, just Liszt's new mount."

Captain Miki trembled in shock, "Prince Liszt has a new dragon again!"

This exclamation quickly spread among the surrounding knights. All tension dissolved, leaving only boundless admiration and envy, and threads of exhilaration—the Tulip Family's followers saw Liszt's strength as the best guarantee of their future prospects; one dragon could defend a nation, let alone four!

Lady Marie, Levis, Loria, Lidun, and others had also come out, but they hadn't managed to greet Liszt on the dragon's back.

This time, Liszt almost reached his home but did not enter.

"Father, what just happened? Why did another dragon appear, and you even jumped down from its back? I didn't see clearly, but was there someone else on the dragon's back — was it Liszt?" Levis asked urgently.

"Let's talk inside," replied Li Weiliam with an air of authority. "It was merely Liszt acquiring another dragon. I didn't follow the fleet and had him send me back directly. He had urgent matters to attend to, so I did not keep him. Dragon Knights have many responsibilities, and I too have a pile of issues to address."

...

"Ornn, you will stay here on Black Horse Island for now. Your Dragon Nest will be built on Flame Island in the future. However, the journey is long, so you will have to wait until I get the Magic Teleportation Array operational before you can head to Flame Island."

“Roar!”

The Grey Iron Dragon Ornn, very understanding, settled on a mountain top on Black Horse Island after Liszt explained the situation — the Superior Magic it had depleted during the great battle and its injuries had not yet fully recovered, and it indeed needed a quiet place to recuperate.

He instructed his servants not to forget to provide Ornn with food and Magic Potions.

Liszt then rode the Formless Dragon Bard with Ach, traveling through space, and directly appeared in the reed marshes of Flame Island to continue working on the Magic Gate.

Just after he left,

Pea Great Elf Ash, who had been studying the art of tying in the Worm Room, suddenly followed the scent of the Grey Iron Dragon and flew out of the castle, immediately followed by servants on horseback. Ash held a rope in her hand and, without stopping, flew directly to the mountain where Ornn was resting. The massive body of the iron dragon came clearly into her view.

“Ash, please stop. Up ahead is Lord Ornn. The master has ordered not to disturb him lightly,” the servant said. Though fearful of the Grey Iron Dragon, he was not too anxious — Thorn Castle often had visits from Little Fire Dragon Leo; it could be said that all residents of Black Horse Island were familiar with Dragons.

“You go back! I know what I am doing.”

Ash, although not as irascible as Jela, was still a Great Elf with a distinct personality. She continued towards the sleeping Grey Iron Dragon. As she approached, Ornn suddenly opened its eyes, staring fiercely at what seemed to it no bigger than a sparrow, the Great Elf.

Ash stopped.

But then she slowly approached and gave a smiling face, trying to make her voice as loud as possible – still thin as a mosquito’s: “Ornn, may I call you Ornn?”

Hmph!

The Grey Iron Dragon responded by snorting through its nostrils, a gesture of disdain.

Unfazed by Ornn’s attitude, Ash not only flew in front of its eyes but also waved the rope in her hand. “Ornn, do you like being tied up? I can tie you up nice and pretty. I’ve studied and delved deep into the art of tying. Would you like to give it a try?”

Ornn turned its head and blew a breath directly at Ash.

Whoosh!

Like a little bee in a gale, Ash wobbled for a while before stabilizing herself, but stubbornly flew back over. “Ornn, your breath blew away my rope, but I have another spare one.” She produced another red rope from somewhere.

Exasperated, Ornn simply closed its eyes and went back to sleep, ignoring the Great Elf.

So Ash circled around it, finally landing on a patch of steel-like scales, touched them, smiled, and wound the rope around the scales. Thus, she amused herself while Ornn treated her as if a fly had landed on it, chasing her away twice before losing interest.

The castle’s servants, helpless, could only relay the message to Chris Truth, then through the strictly guarded Magic Platform, send the message to Liszt, who had already reached the reed marshes.

Upon receiving the message.

Liszt’s face broke into a smile: “So it seems Ash is also ready to evolve?”