

The Mighty 891

Chapter 891: An Official Letter

Whether it was the Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree Greater Elf Annie or the Pea Great Elf Ash, both had already begun to attempt dragon evolution, and whether they would be successful was an unknown.

There were just too few cases of successful Greater Elf evolution to draw from, but fortunately, failed evolution among them did not lead to death.

“I wonder if Annie and Ash can be successful under the guidance of the Power of Destiny. Speaking of which, I have two Greater Elves undergoing evolution, but with so many Minor Elves, it seems it’s been a long while since any of them evolved into Greater Elves,” Liszt pondered.

The most recent case was last year when Nami evolved into a Mangrove Greater Elf.

Minor Elf Bugs evolving into Little Minor Elves also haven’t made a move in a long time, the last time being last year when the Rubber Bug Triplets became three distinct Rubber Minor Elves.

“Perhaps it’s because I’m not paying enough attention, and the Power of Destiny hasn’t poured into this area, so the elves are stuck in the normal efficiency of evolution... Thinking this way, the Power of Destiny I can command doesn’t seem to be that strong... No, that’s not right, even dragons have been tricked, so why not some Elf Bugs?”

Unable to fathom the mysteries concerning Smoke Dragons and the Power of Destiny, these concepts were too ethereal to grasp.

He didn’t bother to think too deeply either.

At the current stage, the construction of the Mind Island-Reed Marsh Magic Teleportation Array was his most pressing concern, and he also had to consider searching for Man-Eating Tree Dragon Sprites.

Emily was constantly sending him the latest updates on the search for the Man-Eating Tree.

She had also sent a batch of Man-Eating Tree samples. These slender trees didn't differ much from common ones; their trunks and branches were vine-like and slender. They had the toughness of trees, and while they didn't reach the quality of ironwood, they were definitely excellent timber, just too thin for making large objects.

"The Man-Eating Trees aren't widely distributed in the forest and move very quickly; they can burrow into the ground!" Emily mentioned the special abilities of the Man-Eating Trees in her reports.

They could burrow underground like snakes and move swiftly, leaving hardly any trace. It's less about physically burrowing and more akin to some kind of Earth System Magic. But no magic power fluctuations were detected in the Man-Eating Trees' samples, and no structures suggesting mobility were found upon chopping them up.

The Man-Eating Trees that could be caught were all rooted in the ground, immobile.

Those that couldn't be caught would burrow into the ground rapidly, disappearing without a trace.

"The ones captured don't move, and the ones we can't catch burrow into the ground. They are not animals, nor do they possess magic power," Liszt's interest in the Man-Eating Trees grew stronger, "This must be the Man-Eating Tree Dragon Sprite causing trouble behind the scenes, but is this really an innate ability of the Dragon Sprites?"

He had seen the Oat Dragon Elf of the Sapphire Family and the Juniper Dragon Spirit of the Original Bull Family in the Azure Sky Peak Palace.

Both Dragon Sprites were about one meter tall, their shapes becoming more and more human-like, though their bodies still had a translucent, crystalline appearance, like a large gemstone. Their intelligence was no different from that of ordinary people, they knew how to dress, were multitalented, helped their owners manage elves, and also took care of Sapphire Dragons.

They didn't know magic, but by relying on their innate instincts, they still possessed some magical methods, such as spreading seeds, hastening crop maturity, and improving species quality.

But no matter what, they couldn't make their cultivated crops fly or burrow.

"Maybe this Man-Eating Tree Dragon Sprite is cheating?" Liszt suddenly recalled the three Rubber Minor Elves, "The Rubber Triplets can unleash the Tri-Phase Force, instantly repairing Rubber Trees. Could the Man-Eating Tree Dragon Sprite have a similar trick to make the Man-Eating Trees burrow and run?"

If that were the case, catching this Man-Eating Tree Dragon Sprite would be a bit difficult.

Usually, the reason for capturing elves is that Cordyceps can't move, and elves dare not stray from them, ensuring a certain capture. Now, if the Man-Eating Tree Dragon Sprite enables the Cordyceps to move, they would run away at the sight of humans—the most crucial point being that Dragon Sprites hold a grudge against humans, hence its name, the Man-Eating Tree.

Back in the day, the Moon Slayers lost many people to the Man-Eating Trees, which led to the naming of these trees.

However, after carefully studying the samples of the Man-Eating Tree, Liszt did not think that this type of tree had the "man-eating" function. Any man-eating, scavenging, or insectivorous plant must possess an organ for digesting bodies. The Man-Eating Tree clearly didn't have such an organ, unless it buried the bodies under its roots and slowly absorbed them.

"Compared to killing and burying corpses, I'm more inclined to believe the so-called 'man-eating' of the Man-Eating Tree is the Dragon Elves' revenge against the Moon Slayers," Li Si Te speculated.

From antiquity to the present, the Moon Slayers have been using elves to make Magic Dust to learn magic; it's possible that the kin of the Man-Eating Tree Dragon Elves were among those killed. That could have sparked the Man-Eating Tree Dragon Elves to seek vengeance, demoting the River Tribe from a large tribe to a small one.

“If that’s the case, maybe I’ll have to take matters into my own hands and claim the reward that’s rightfully mine!” A thought occurred to him.

Once decided, he hesitated no longer.

He tossed the Magic Gate construction tasks to Ach and rode the Formless Dragon Bard himself to join the chase for the Man-Eating Tree Dragon Elf.

He slipped into the material boundary, closely following the Mammoth Knight Brigade that was digging three feet into the ground searching for the Man-Eating Tree.

He was going to use the Crystal White Trajectory to verify whether there were any magical feedback glows when those Man-Eating Trees burrowed into the ground, then use the glow to pinpoint the location of the Man-Eating Tree Dragon Elf.

“Little darling, stop messing about, come over here now!”

...

When the Grey Iron Dragon appeared on Blue Dragon Island.

The news spread like wildfire, soaring across the ocean from the Duchy of Sapphire, flying to the three kingdoms of the Legendary Continent and the numerous Grand Duchies.

In the grand hall of the palace of the King’s Castle in the Eagle Kingdom, the Eagle Kingdom’s King forcefully smashed a crystal goblet against a column, shattering it into fragments: “Who can tell me, who can tell me, why the Grey Iron Dragon has fallen into Liszt’s hands, why Duke Pierrot has become a captive!”

No ministers in the palace dared to respond, and the person involved, Alonso Xiankelai, had already gone to defend the borders. Alex White Iron was escorting Loyle Purple Copper’s body to the Purple Copper Duchy.

They were not present.

So.

The Eagle Kingdom's King's question was doomed to remain unanswered; he didn't even know how Pierrot and the Grey Iron Dragon were captured, or how Liszt managed to mount the Grey Iron Dragon so quickly—he wasn't a Dragon Knight, but having grown up with dragons, he knew how extremely difficult dragon riding could be.

However, among the Sapphire Flies that were like maggots clinging to bone, there was an oddity who successively mounted four dragons.

Just the other day he had been discussing with Dragon Knights how to contain Liszt, and in the blink of an eye, the man went from having three dragons to four. So much for containment.

“Who can tell me!”

The Eagle Kingdom's King didn't bellow, but his tone was nearly identical to roaring, clearly furious to the extreme, his beard quivering uncontrollably. The Noble Landlords serving as ministers for the day kept silent, letting the Eagle Kingdom's King breathe heavily in anger. An eerie silence filled the great hall where one could hear a pin drop.

Taking a deep breath, the Eagle Kingdom's King looked down at his ministers, who were as good as trash, and finally managed to rein in his anger.

He knew well that asking these ministers, who had not taken part in the dragon-slaying battle, would yield no results. He could only quickly send letters of inquiry to Alonso and Alex.

However, before he could dismiss the ministers, a Knight Guarding from outside the palace reported loudly, “Your Majesty, there is an urgent missive from the Duchy of Sapphire!”

“Sapphire... an urgent missive!” The Eagle Kingdom's King's face darkened again. “What now, the King of the Flies over the sea, Andrew, wants to show me his true colors as well? Knight, come in and read that urgent missive aloud. I want to hear what Andrew has to say!”

The knight walked cautiously into the grand hall, opened the urgent missive, and read woodenly, “To all masters of the sea territories, all lords of the islands, the great future King of the Flame Kingdom, the Fire Dragon Knight, the Formless Dragon Knight, the Grey Iron Dragon Knight, the Light Green Sapphire Dragon Knight, Liszt Flame...”

Chapter 892: Ransom

“Unbelievable!”

The Eagle Kingdom’s King did not wait for the knight to finish reading the content of the official letter but brutally interrupted because the content of the letter was simple. It was a ransom negotiation letter sent by Li Sitte through the Duchy of Sapphire’s official channels, asking the Eagle Kingdom’s King to forward it to the Grey Iron Family to arrange for someone to go negotiate the payment of the ransom.

Since there was no diplomatic channel between the Duchy of Sapphire and Grey Iron Duchy, and because the location of the Grey Iron Duchy was remote, the negotiation letter could not be sent directly.

Thus, Li Sitte had a bold idea and let the Eagle Kingdom’s King forward it.

It was also a slight humiliation.

Daring to initiate the war against dragons, Li Sitte would not easily let go of this hatred. First, he disgusted the Eagle Kingdom’s King, then it would be no late to cut their flesh when he issued the Pioneer Mandate.

“Your Majesty, this official letter...” a noble minister reminded.

The Eagle Kingdom’s King stared with wide eyes, ground his teeth fiercely and finally said coldly, “Seal the official letter and send it immediately to the Grey Iron Duchy... Gentlemen, you are the ministers of the kingdom. The Grey Iron Duchy lost the Grey Iron Dragon because of the kingdom’s initiation of the dragon war, how should we resolve this issue?”

A moment later, a minister replied, “Your Majesty, the loss of the Grey Iron Dragon is a huge loss for the Grey Iron Duchy, but Duke Pierrot cannot not redeem it. The kingdom ought to oversee this redemption transaction and even needs to greatly compensate the Grey Iron Family for their loss.”

He meant that the ransom should be paid by the Eagle Kingdom.

However, the minister changed his tone, “The kingdom should help the Grey Iron Family reclaim the Grey Iron Dragon, but Duke Pierrot encountered an ambush after the dragon war ended, the ransom should still be raised by the Grey Iron Family themselves.”

“Duke Pierrot has been captured, and the ransom must be paid, but have you considered, with the loss of the dragon as their reliance, how will the Grey Iron Family cope?” another minister shook his head and said, “I think the Grey Iron Family might take an extreme stance.”

“What extreme stance?” the Eagle Kingdom’s King asked, seemingly knowing the answer already.

“As far as I know Duke Pierrot’s son is already thirty years old, in the prime of his life, and just right to inherit the foundation of the Grey Iron Family, perhaps he is not willing to redeem his own father... Even if he is willing, the Grey Iron Family cannot afford the massive ransom of a duke.”

Usually, captives as viscounts—require a Little Minor Elf; earls—two or three Little Minor Elves; marquises—need a Greater Elf; but for a duke, three to five Greater Elves are necessary.

But Duke Pierro Grey Iron is different, he is a duke from the Dragon Rearing Family, and also raises Metal Dragons that produce iron ore—the Grey Iron Dragons. His family’s wealth is much higher than a duke without a duchy; his status is equivalent to a grand duke—at least a Dragon Sprite must be paid as ransom.

Li Sitte also hinted in the letter that a Dragon Sprite must be the basis of the negotiation—he believed that the Grey Iron Duchy was richer than the Duchy of Sapphire, and that there certainly won’t be only one or two Dragon Sprites. Taking out one as ransom wouldn’t hurt their core strength, on the contrary, it would “lighten the burden” for the family.

Without a dragon, the family shouldn't occupy so many resources, otherwise, troubles would eventually arise.

"Are you saying that the Grey Iron Family might not pay the ransom, and instead push the redemption of Duke Pierrot onto the kingdom?" the Eagle Kingdom's King frowned.

"Yes, Your Majesty. Duke Pierrot is not a Dragon Knight, and now that the Grey Iron Dragon has been lost, the Grey Iron Family will also hold Duke Pierrot accountable for the lost dragon, which is an irreparable mistake," the minister replied—nobles don't get up early without benefit, compared to interests, such minor kinship means nothing.

Moreover, since Duke Pierrot lost the dragon, he also lost the family's future.

His son might even wish for Duke Pierrot to die sooner.

Another minister spoke up, "Your Majesty, if the Grey Iron Family is unwilling to pay the ransom, should we just give up on Duke Pierrot?"

"Not proper, not proper, Your Majesty," said another, "I believe no matter what, we must redeem Duke Pierrot. The dragon war was initiated by the kingdom; if we give up on Duke Pierrot, wouldn't all the subordinate countries feel disheartened? The Eagle Kingdom has developed over several hundred years and now has countless supporters; we mustn't abandon the knight's spirit!"

"Yes, Duke Piero must be ransomed at all costs."

"If the Grey Iron Family is unwilling to pay the ransom, the kingdom should do it instead, so that Duke Piero will be more inclined towards the kingdom."

The ministers discussed vociferously, some advocating that the kingdom should not be responsible, as it was a private matter of the Grey Iron Duchy; others insisted that the kingdom must intervene, or else the followers would feel disheartened. Of course, most ministers believed that they should first send an official letter to the Grey Iron Duchy to see their reaction before making a decision.

The Eagle Kingdom's King's temples throbbed with frustration.

He was familiar with Duke Piero's son, a typical noble who always prioritized interests—refusing to pay the ransom and blaming the Eagle Kingdom would definitely be something he would do, and he would certainly do so.

In that case,

the ransom would have to be paid by the kingdom, or else the royal family would lose the loyalty of many more followers—some ministers urged him to shift the blame to the Grey Iron Duchy, but if he really did so, these ministers would surely be the first to contemplate betrayal.

After a while,

he coughed lightly, stopping the noisy quarrel in the hall, “First send the official letter to understand the attitude of the Grey Iron Family. If Petterford indeed disregards Piero's safety, then the kingdom will negotiate and redeem Piero... The royal family will not abandon any loyal follower!”

“Your Majesty is kind!”

“Your Majesty never abandons us, we are willing to charge into battle for the royal family!”

“Knightly glory favors us, Duke Piero will become Your Majesty's most loyal shield!”

“Ready to be Your Majesty's spear!”

Seeing this, the ministers flattered him, expressing their loyalty to the Eagle Kingdom's King.

Thus, the official letter personally written by Liszt was immediately carried by a Falcon Knight, swiftly flying towards the Grey Iron Duchy. Meanwhile, the news that Liszt had ridden a Grey Iron Dragon was also passed to the frontier by the Falcon Knights, handed over to the Dragon Knights stationed there.

Internal administrative affairs of the kingdom were generally managed by the king and his ministers, but matters involving diplomacy and dragons required the collective deliberation and implementation by all Dragon Knights.

When the meeting ended, the ministers left in a line, but the Eagle Kingdom's King remained seated on his ornate throne.

He did not stand up for a long time.

He only stared at the stone columns in the palace hall, carved with the Eagle Royal Family's badge, his heart tangled with emotions of sorrow, indignation, loss, and hatred.

"Alonso, you keep disappointing me..."

"Flame Kingdom... If we don't curb Liszt's rise, the ruling configuration in the Legendary Continent Northeast Corner of Eagle, Steel Ridge, and Blast Furnace Fortress will undergo drastic changes... Perhaps, Osborne, Helder will respond to my plan, and the appearance of the Sacred Dragon will stir their desires!"

Osborne Platinum, King of the Steel Ridge Kingdom.

Helder Golden Crown, King of the Blast Furnace Fortress Kingdom.

The Eagle Kingdom's King's gaze flickered coldly as he plotted further schemes. Unaware of this, Liszt was still busy searching for the Man-Eating Tree Dragon Sprite.

Chapter 893: To the Sanctuary

"I'm so pissed, the Man-Eating Tree got away again!"

Emily swung the Crimson Blood Sword fiercely, her face filled with frustration. She had been tracking the Man-Eating Tree Cluster for a long time, delaying even the construction of Charcoal River Great Road, and yet she still hadn't completed the mission.

Just a moment ago, they had found a group of Man-Eating Trees; however, they were startled by the horses' footsteps and burrowed away, leaving not a single one behind.

"Viscount, what should we do?" asked a Knight Captain assisting Emily in her search for the Man-Eating Trees.

Taking a deep breath to soothe her irritation, Emily replied, "Continue the tracking. This is an urgent mission assigned by His Highness, and we must capture these Man-Eating Trees at any cost. Next time, our movements must be lighter—inform everyone to wrap their horse hooves with burlap."

"Yes, Viscount."

The Knight Captain went down to make arrangements while Emily squatted where the Man-Eating Tree had disappeared into the ground. Her eyes were bright and twinkling as if contemplating something.

This fourteen-year-old girl was already as mentally mature as an adult.

Among the serfs, many girls of fourteen or fifteen were already married. However, as a Viscount, Emily had no need to worry about these troubles. Her heart belonged somewhere else; she devoted everything to Lord Landlord. In her eyes, there was no one else but the Prince Dragon Knight who soared through the skies.

"Fleeing underground, His Highness said that there is a Dragon Elf manipulating the Man-Eating Trees from behind. It seems now that the ability of the Dragon Elves is related to burrowing. So, could it also be possible to burrow into the water?"

She recalled the previous tracking and realized that the Man-Eating Trees intentionally avoided rivers in their escape.

It seemed that rivers hindered the movement of the Man-Eating Tree Cluster. Interestingly, the River Tribe used to live in a valley near a river. After being slaughtered by the Man-Eating Trees, they migrated across the river to another valley. Since then, there had been no further sightings of the Man-Eating Trees.

“So we should send the Knight Order to surround and drive the Man-Eating Trees into a closed area. It might be good to dig a river on the periphery... Let the Shovel-Tusked Giant Elephants dig up the earth. It should be quite fast, their two large tusks on their chins are much more effective than shovels.”

Her mind was made up.

Emily immediately enacted this plan.

Meanwhile, Li Si Te (Liszt), who had slipped into the boundary of the material world, was closely observing Emily, his young follower. She brought him many surprises. Her talents were astounding; at fourteen, she had climbed to the ranks of Sky Knight. Though his insane resource investment played a part, without talent, not even soaking in Magic Potion would have elevated her rank.

Now, Emily was not only impressively talented in her practice but also extremely intelligent. She directed the Knight Order methodically, with clear and precise thoughts.

The plan to capture the Man-Eating Tree Cluster, even if organized by him, could not be better.

“Let’s go, Bard. It looks like there is no need for me to worry here... Besides, there is no way to be concerned. A flash of Magic Radiance from the Magic Feedback and after burrowing, even if we stare till our eyes are blind, we cannot find the movement of the Man-Eating Tree Cluster.” The vision from the Crystal White Trajectory was powerful, piercing through magic with acute clarity.

However, once the magic was covered by the soil, the Crystal White Trajectory became as useless as blind eyes.

After all, it wasn’t x-ray vision.

...

“Woo-eeyah!”

The Formless Dragon Bard called out.

Flapping its wings, it found a natural node in the Reed Marsh and directly passed through.

Here Ach had already prepared all the materials needed for the Magic Gates, just waiting for Bard's cooperation to expand the natural node, forming a gate to the world beyond the material.

Kenley Truth and other Magicians from the Magic Guild had long been excitedly standing nearby, waiting to witness this great moment.

"Brother, everything is ready; we can start now," Ach said solemnly.

Although her face remained as tranquil as before, Liszt could clearly see the nervousness in her eyes—the preparation of theoretical work and validation tests had taken a long time. Still, whether the Magic Gate could be established was unknown; how could she keep calm?

Now was no longer the time of the Moon Empire's Magic Web.

Civilization had been lost, and she could not stand on the shoulders of giants. She had no choice but to independently explore on her own.

Luckily, with the Formless Dragon's help and her own mastery over Space Elemental Incarnation, her understanding of space was unrivaled, unequaled by any predecessor or successor.

"Are we ready to start?"

Liszt clenched his fist in excitement, his heart throbbing with anticipation for what was to come, "Then let's begin. Bard and I are also ready!"

"Wuuu yaa!"

Such was the scene.

No grand ceremony took place, just a group of magicians witnessing as Acherloides activated the colossal Magic Array laid out in the Reed Marsh. This Magic Array, which had cost hundreds of thousands of Gold Coins, had nearly drained the finances of the Flame Territory for several months, and now, amidst unremarkable changes, it was finally initiated.

Magic Radiance flickered, and the ambient magic power drifting in the air roared as it converged toward the Magic Array.

Boom, rumble!

The dense magical elements directly created thunder and lightning, along with sudden bursts of flame and wind. These changes were short-lived.

Soon, a visible air vortex coalesced above the surface of the Reed Marsh lake. The vortex swallowed and grew, eventually stretching like a funnel to the lake surface of the Reed Marsh and stirring the water to swell outward, revealing a dark hole.

“Brother, the rift in material space has been torn open, and now you and Bard must cooperate to stabilize the opening in the world beyond matter. According to the plan set by Acherloides, we must inject space magic power between the Magic Web and the rift to achieve a stable dynamic equilibrium!”

“Understood!”

Li Si Te (Liszt) patted the Formless Dragon Bard on the neck.

Instantly, man and dragon charged toward the expanding pitch-black vortex; the vortex was not straight but slanted downward toward the lakebed of the Reed Marsh. However, as soon as he entered, Liszt found they had reached the world beyond matter. Within the vision of the Crystal White Trajectory, they could see the material boundary had a large hole torn through it.

Around them, they could vaguely see the magic power threads of the Magic Web extending, attempting to repair this vortex rift.

“It’s our turn to act, Bard. Operate the magic power, Dragon Breath Shattering Space!”

“Wuuu yaa!”

Exhale.

A white fog sprayed around the vortex rift, this space magic power acting like a lubricant and sealant, quickly coalescing around the rift. After a complex transformation, the space magic power successfully formed a buffer layer between the rift and the Magic Web, halting the Web’s repairs.

Moments later.

Everything was smoothly accomplished; the vortex rift stopped expanding, and the Magic Web was unable to continue its repairs, achieving a state of dynamic equilibrium.

Like the entrance to the Great Whirlpool Magic Teleportation Matrix.

Boom!

Liszt and Bard flew straight out of the hole, effortlessly without any obstruction. The Magic Array around the Reed Marsh had already collapsed during the earlier activation, all the magical materials lost their power and became utter waste. But the Magic Gate formed by the vortex rift was successfully stabilized.

“We did it, Acherloides!” Liszt laughed heartily.

“We’ll need to observe it for a while longer, brother. To prevent the Magic Gate from collapsing, Acherloides will need to personally monitor it.”

“On the dragon!”

Liszt, maneuvering Bard to glide just above the ground, then reached out to grasp the little hand that Acherloides offered, pulling Acherloides up onto the dragon’s back with a single motion.

A quick turn and they were back through the Magic Gate.

Leaving Ken Li (Kenley) and the other magicians standing around the vortex-shaped Magic Gate, which now rotated on its own without the need for a Magic Array to drive it, uttering amazed exclamations.

The environment around the Reed Marsh was forcibly altered, the lake water inundating the shores and rotating with the vortex. There seemed to be creatures like fish and shrimp in the lake, all being flung onto the shore. This previously modest-sized lake, now set against the backdrop of the vortex-shaped Magic Gate, revealed an incomparable mystery.

“A miracle, truly a miracle!” Kenley marveled, wishing she could personally step through and experience the magic of the Magic Gate. But she knew that without having opened the Wormhole Space, ordinary people would be directly disintegrated into fine particles by the special space, dissolving into the world beyond matter.

Another magician exclaimed, “Joining the Magic Guild is the most important, most successful turn in the road I’ve ever taken in my lifetime pursuit of Truth!”

“Indeed, the incarnation of Truth walking in the mortal world, Lord Acherloides has restored the glory of the Ancient Magician!”

“The place where miracles happen!”

“Great, majestic, unfathomable... I don’t even know how to describe it!”

“I’ve witnessed the mystery of Truth; my teacher led me into the world of magic, and here I’ve found the destination of magic!”

“Praise be to Lord Acherloides, praise be to Prince Liszt; we have completed a Magic Gate!”

Even a Grand Magician with white hair trembled, worshipping with the most devout tone, “This door, it leads to the Sanctuary!”

Chapter 894: Red and White Roses

The Magic Gate opened.

The Magic Gate stabilized.

The Magic Gate succeeded.

On April 21 of Sapphire Calendar Year 155, this day was destined to be recorded in history books—at least in the annals of the Flame Kingdom, even though the Flame Kingdom had not yet been established.

“Maintaining the Reed Marsh Magic Gate will be your responsibility, Kenley. Should there be any changes, send a message through the Magic Platform immediately,” Liszt solemnly instructed as he left the Reed Marsh Magic Gate.

Kenley Truth responded seriously, “Rest assured, Your Highness. We will keep a close watch on the Reed Marsh Magic Gate, and any disturbance will be reported to you and Lord Acherlroides at once.”

“That’s very good.”

Next, Liszt and Acherlroides filled their Space Rings with plentiful magic materials and rode straight into the Reed Marsh Magic Gate aboard the Formless Dragon Bard, rapidly entering the world beyond matter. Enveloped by Space Magic Power, they moved through the non-material world as effortlessly as fish in water, with ease and grace.

Arriving at the natural node on Mind Island, they directly crossed through.

A number of knights and magicians were on the island, directing serfs in basic labor. They set down Acherlroides, then took out the materials from the Space Rings and had Acherlroides set up a Magic Array there.

Liszt continued to shuttle through space on Bard.

There was still much to do, such as collecting magic materials from places like Black Horse Island and Bull Tail City—many of the magic materials had been exhausted by the Reed Marsh Magic Gate and needed to be gathered anew.

By the time they had collected all the magic materials and Acherloides had set everything up, it was already May when they opened the Mind Island Magic Gate.

As the weather grew increasingly hot, all life thrived in wild abundance.

The elves of Black Horse Island were producing more than ever, and Flame Island was also welcoming good news.

In the potato plantations of Flame City, thanks to the blessing of the Potato Great Spirit Kuchi, a bountiful harvest was had, and full warehouses of potatoes meant food was no longer in short supply. Banana Greater Elf Poppy was also a native elf of Flame Island, but since the banana plantations had only just started, it would take a year or two before they could be harvested.

The number of Moon Slayer Tribes that had been incorporated was growing, with the population now reaching four hundred thousand. However, the size of the Flame People had not expanded, and was still just over twenty thousand.

To prevent mismanagement, the Knight Order had put a temporary halt to their campaigns against the Moon Slayer Tribes, waiting for the establishment of the Magic Teleportation Arrays to resume. For now, the primary tasks were to train, reorganize, and integrate the Moon Slayer serfs, while also building cities, repairing roads, and opening up plantations.

It could be said that everything in both Flame Island and the Flame Territory was blooming and prospering.

Liszt was naturally in good spirits all the time, even though the search for materials to establish the Magic Teleportation Array had the finances of his territory overburdened, he did not feel any stress.

At this moment,

In the rooftop balcony garden of Thorn Castle.

He was leisurely drinking Banpo Cattle milk, reading a knight's novel titled "The Time Travel of Holy Dragon Knight Maduha of the Rose."

Ever since he had become famous in the Dragon Slaying Battle of April, a deluge of novelists had been struck with inspiration, each using the Sacred Dragon as material to produce the latest knight novels. The plots were hastily crafted, with many of them simply basing characters off Liszt and making slight changes to write their stories.

For example—the Holy Dragon Knights in these stories all tended to have a beautiful Archmage at their side.

In the knight's novel he was currently reading, the protagonist did not ride a Formless Dragon but instead mounted the Twilight Dragon that represented time, enabling the rider to travel freely through any period. However, the author was still limited, only describing how the Twilight Dragon Knight could cross days in time to rescue a princess captured by the enemy.

"Why not travel through the Moon Empire, through ancient times, through the future, through an endless expanse of time to triumph over all, huh? These novelists lack imagination; they don't know how to write an infinite series!"

Liszt closed the knight's novel and casually tossed it aside.

"Waaah..."

Below, it seemed that Jela's voice was audible, either scolding some Minor Elf or arguing with a Greater Elf—after the harvest, the elves from Hot Spring Island had begun to move to Thorn Castle in succession, and Jela needed to establish authority over these elves.

Her temper was not good; she was like a bully.

But Liszt cherished it and also felt that Jela might bring about a catfish effect—the stimulation might just increase the probability of elf evolution.

If every elf were like the Corn Minor Elf Mickey, spending all day counting corn kernels in the Worm Room without ambition, it would be difficult to evolve. It was known that Jela had evolved from an Elf Bug to a Greater Elf in just a few years due to environmental stimulus.

Fluttering...

A black bat flittered its wings, flying to Thorn Castle and landing on the top-floor balcony. A moment later, it transformed into Mary Dawn Break.

“Your Highness,” Mary bowed in greeting, quietly slipping under the parasol—vampires detested sunlight, it suppressed their strength and made them quite uncomfortable.

“Would you like some milk?” Liszt asked simply.

Mary smiled in response, “Thank you, Your Highness, but I would prefer a glass of red wine if available. The sun is rather harsh today.”

She was very fond of her current life.

Within the Black Knight Family, vampires endured a strict hierarchy and oppressive interpersonal relationships, constantly making one long for escape. But here, the atmosphere was exceptionally peaceful, and the master they followed was not only mighty but also not overly oppressive, especially laid-back in private.

This young Dragon Knight landlord did not need his followers and servants to be overly cautious or listen attentively.

“Bring a bottle of the cellar’s Crescent Moon Wine,” Liszt told the male servant behind him.

“Yes, master.”

The servant hurried downstairs to get the red wine, and Liszt then asked, “What’s the reaction from the three major kingdoms?”

“Your Highness, the glory of your dragon-slaying battle has not spread among the commoners of the three great kingdoms but is circulated among a small portion of nobles. From what the Blood Servants have gathered, the Falcon Knights of the Eagle Kingdom have been frequently mobilized. It seems there’s frequent interaction between the royal family, subordinate states, and Dragon Knights.”

“Have you sent anyone to investigate the Grey Iron Duchy?”

“No, we have insufficient Blood Servant personnel. However, we’ve investigated ministers from the Eagle Kingdom and have a new piece of intelligence. The heir of the Grey Iron Family, Petterford, has refused to pay a ransom to redeem Duke Pierrot, accusing that the duke’s capture was Eagle Kingdom’s doing and urging the royal family to pay the ransom.”

“So what’s the idea over at Eagle Kingdom?”

“King Adonis Moonlight Silver of Eagle Kingdom has agreed to send a negotiating team from the royal family. They might arrive in Sapphire soon.”

“What about the situation in the Purple Copper Duchy?”

“There’s been no unusual movement there; it seems that after Prince Alex’s visit, he quickly settled the moods within the Purple Copper Duchy. The heir assumed the title after the Purple Copper Duke’s funeral without any drop in rank.”

Mary answered, noting that the Blood Servants had limited capabilities for gathering intelligence.

“No drop in rank, eh...” Liszt couldn’t confirm or deny this.

Dragon Knights ought to establish kingdoms, and the kingdoms they create are Grand Duchies, corresponding to the rank of Grand Duke inherent to the Dragon Knight himself. When no Dragon Knight progeny emerges, the title must drop to Duke, and the nation from a Grand Duchy to a Duchy. However, the rule wasn’t strictly enforced.

Regardless, whether a Grand Duchy or a Duchy, they were independent states, and the tributes paid were fixed and would not decrease with a drop in title.

Thus, many heirs to Grand Duchies did not wish to change the country's name or reduce their rank.

The Duchy of Sapphire is one such case. The three successors after the First Dragon Knight never managed dragon riding, and the Sapphire Duke only recently succeeded.

After reporting on the Eagle Kingdom, Mary continued, "The Blood Servants don't know much about Blast Furnace Fortress Kingdom and Steel Ridge Kingdom. The official channels of the Sapphire Family should relay information... However, the Blood Servants have still managed to hear some good news beforehand."

Liszt raised an eyebrow, "What news?"

"The Steel Ridge Kingdom has already sent an envoy, led by Mathew of the Red and White Roses, on an official visit to the future Flame Kingdom to meet with you, Your Highness."

It was a recognition of the Flame Kingdom, a prelude to establishing diplomatic relations, indeed good news.

But Liszt's focus was elsewhere, "Mathew of the Red and White Roses? Isn't the surname of the Red and White Roses from the Rose Duchy's Dragon Rearing Family?"

"Yes, Your Highness. Mathew of the Red and White Roses is the direct heir of the Rose Duchy. However, he's also the nephew of King Osborne of Steel Ridge Kingdom and a member of the Steel Ridge Kingdom's Dragon Knight reserve plan. He now serves as the deputy commander of the Golden Fleece Knight Order, with the rank of Earl, and has very good relations with the Platinum Family."

Mary continued, solemnly adding, "Earl Mathew has a sister, Marilyn Rose of Red and White, only fifteen but already hailed as the Steel Pearl, renowned as the Northland's most beautiful woman."

The Rose Duchy is the northernmost vassal state of the Steel Ridge Kingdom, and the Dragon Rearing Family—the Red and White Rose Family—is renowned both far and wide, mainly because of the roses they cultivate.

Like tulips, roses also have a sequence for magic potions.

The Red and White Rose Family has been cultivating roses for hundreds of years, possessing not only the Dragon Elves of roses but also a large number of Greater Elves, Little Minor Elves, and Elf Bugs. The varieties of roses they have cultivated are highly differentiated, among which the most famous are the red roses and white roses, leading the family to adopt the surname of Red and White roses rather than a dragon-related surname.

One variety of white roses has an extraordinarily potent effect when used in magic potions. The magic potions produced are coveted by Nobles both domestically and abroad, selling for more than gold and still in short supply—the great families are willing to spend unimaginable wealth to let their offspring use the best magic potions.

The red roses are even more unique.

Among them, there is a variety called “Red Dragon Great Rose,” and the magic potion made from it is known as “Red Dragon Water,” which does not significantly enhance a Knight’s training.

However, its primary use is to increase the magic power of dragons, and this value is so tremendous that upon the birth of the Red Dragon Great Rose, the Steel Ridge Royal Family planned to directly annex the Rose Duchy—after all, the Rose Duchy had only one Ruby Dragon, which was old and lacked powerful combat abilities.

Nevertheless, at that time, the Duke of Rose made a quick and decisive move, courting the princess of the royal family at great cost.

Thus, he became in-laws with the Platinum Family, and by promising to provide an ample supply of Red Dragon Water to the Steel Ridge Royal Family, the Rose Duchy was able to preserve its autonomy.

The Red and White Rose Family still ascended the ranks of the Dragon Rearing Families.

Since then, every few generations, a princess would marry into the family or the king would take a daughter from the Red and White Rose Family as his wife, essentially merging the two families into one.

By this generation of King Osborne Platinum of the Steel Ridge Nation, his sister had married the current Duke of Rose.

They had a son, Mathew, and a daughter, Marilyn.

Because of the close relationship between the two families, Mathew was raised in the Steel Ridge Royal Family from a young age and, thanks to his talent, was selected for the Dragon Knight reserve plan, awaiting Dragon Riding. Marilyn was likewise educated in female arts at the royal women's academy—Audis Academy—established by the royal family.

“Steel Pearl, the first beauty of the Northland... Why are you telling me this?” Liszt's face wore a naked expression of “What do you take me for,” and his tone turned serious, “Mary, you need to understand what the focal point is for a Blood Servant to gather intelligence, and not to collect some boring tabloid news.”

“I'm sorry, Your Highness.”

Mary apologized first, then argued, “But with Count Mathew leading the Envoy Group from the Steel Ridge Royal Family, it's full of unspeakable political intentions.”

“What political intentions?”

“The rose family and the Platinum Family are nearly one and the same; the Platinum Family wants to cultivate good relations with Your Highness, hence they dispatched Count Mathew here. That's the first layer of political intention; Count Mathew's sister is about to reach marrying age, and as the Steel Pearl, her marriage is destined to be an alliance. Count Mathew may well be scouting out options for his sister in advance.”

Liszt was startled for a moment.

Mary had made her point so bluntly that it caught him off guard.

However, at his status and position, every action indeed carried political significance, even if his intention was merely to live freely, those around him would still painstakingly contemplate the implications. Especially since Liszt was very young and yet was destined to found a nation, for which he would need to designate an heir.

His marriage would become a focal point closely watched by all factions.

Regarding his own marriage, Liszt was still somewhat perplexed to date; he knew he certainly had to marry and have children. As a transmigrator with traditional Chinese values at his core, he deeply ingrained the proverb “Of all the actions of a man, filial piety is the most important, and the failure to produce offspring is the greatest of all,” feeling life would be incomplete without descendants.

And it would probably be difficult for his marriage partner to be Acherlroides—the Sea Serpent and humans are reproductively isolated.

“Let it be; I’ll take it one step at a time. If by chance, I manage to contract with the Immortal Dragon and gain immortality, having descendants might not matter so much.”

After thinking for a while.

He then spoke aloud, “Don’t make wild guesses about political intentions; when the envoy group from the Steel Ridge Kingdom arrives, we’ll naturally understand their purpose.”

The complexities of politics weren’t to Liszt’s liking.

“Yes, Your Highness.” Mary complied amiably, well aware that while her master seemed deeply strategic, he still maintained the personality of a reckless man.

...

In the suburb of the City of Steel, Audis Academy residential villa.

A handsome young man was animatedly explaining something; aside from the servants, there was also a young girl calculating bills in the living room.

The girl was dressed in a light pink pleated long dress, her features bearing a resemblance to the handsome young man.

It was clear that they were siblings.

“Marilyn, Father and Mother are very optimistic about Liszt, Uncle Osborne also hopes to establish friendly relations with the Flame Kingdom. My leading the Envoy Group this time is to see the elegance of the Dragon Knights of the four dragons, as well as the legendary Formless Dragon, who alone defeated five dragons and three knights—simply inconceivable!”

“Brother, you’re overlooking the Archmage.”

“The Archmage only plays a supportive role; even “Truth” incarnate in the mundane world wouldn’t be much use in the battle of Dragon Knights,” The handsome young man grew more excited as he spoke, “Liszt is only two years younger than I am; to think he’s only twenty this year, the glory that has befallen him is just crazy.”

“So, Father, Mother, and Uncle Osborne have chosen my future?” The girl continued with her accounts, her gold curly hair cascading down her shoulders, genteel with a hint of vivacity, “Even though it’s a fate I can’t control, do you really think this could succeed?”

“I think the possibility is high; with a new sovereign ascending, the Flame Kingdom needs the support of Steel Ridge, and the Flame Family also needs a lady to bring knightly glory. None of the three great kingdoms have an eligible princess, and among all the duchies, no one has a more distinguished status than you, Marilyn, you’re the most suitable.”

Marilyn lifted her head, her face spotless and generally expressionless, “Have you all forgotten about that Archmage named Acherlroides?”

“Of course not.”

The handsome young man was obviously Mathew of the Red and White Roses, who proudly dismissed the servants in the living room, then whispered, “Before we can secure the secret, Father and Mother, even if they admire Liszt, would not rashly propose a marriage alliance; that would be harming you.”

Marilyn waited curiously for what would come next.

After some groundwork, Mathew continued, “That Archmage is not human, but a remnant of an ancient race—a Sea Serpent!”

“A Sea Serpent?” Marilyn was astounded, “She’s actually a Sea Serpent?”

“Yes, a Sea Serpent. It’s impossible for humans and Sea Serpents to reproduce. Do you remember how the heir of the last generation of the Star Duchy was deposed? He fell in love with a Sea Serpent, eloped with a knight of lower standing, which ultimately enraged the Duke of Star. Not only was he demoted to commoner, but the Sea Serpent was also exiled to the Exiled Lands.”

Sea Serpents belonged to legend for most humans, but the royal families of the major kingdoms did indeed come into contact with Sea Serpents, although some information was confined to Nobles only.

Acherloides’s Magic Cloak could hide the Sea Serpent features of her body, but it would inadvertently expose her identity, especially the transparent fins behind her ears and the fish-fin-like pinnae, which were features easily identified as non-human at a glance.

For those with intent observations, exposing a Sea Serpent’s identity was not too difficult.

Of course, Liszt had no intention of rigorously protecting Acherloides’s identity either. He was already a considerable force, with enough strength to protect Acherloides.

“A Sea Serpent, eh.”

Marilyn looked down at the bill in her hand, speaking as if recounting a young girl’s fantasy, “Perhaps Liszt and Acherloides are like the heir of the Star Duchy, Dragon Knight and Archmage, human and Sea Serpent... Brother, when you go to visit Liszt, please take a gift from me to them.”

Speaking of which.

Marilyn returned to her bedroom, opened the cupboard, and took out an exquisite small box. Lifting the lid, there lay a pair of delicate earrings.

She silently looked at the light blue earrings, reminiscent of fish scales, then closed the lid and handed the box to Mathew, “Please give them this ‘Mermaid’s Protection’ from me.”

Chapter 896: Traffic Throat

Adorned with the Mermaid’s Protection, Mathew of the Red and White Roses quickly led the Envoy Group to set off, preparing to visit his self-proclaimed “brother-in-law” in the Duchy of Sapphire.

In his view, sea serpents could not bond with humans, and Liszt was indeed of typical noble origin—although only an earl’s heir, he could barely be considered among the major nobility. Such nobles have a common attitude towards love, which is that it must be based on interests.

Apart from a very few nobles, the vast majority of nobles prioritize family and personal interests, which are the core of the knightly system.

“My sister Marilyn is the foremost beauty of the Northland and the Steel Pearl; there is no woman in the entire northeast corner of the Legendary Continent more suited to be the Queen of the Flame Kingdom... To have a Dragon Knight with four dragons as my brother-in-law, and a King’s brother-in-law, how glorious my status would be.”

Ultimately, his eagerness to arrange a marital alliance for his sister was mainly to bolster the Red and White Rose Family.

Since countless generations ago, the Red and White Rose Family had understood the importance of hitching to a powerful connection, and without that marriage of convenience, they would have vanished into the annals of history.

“Even if Liszt is powerful, he cannot ride four dragons at once. Perhaps, once Marilyn becomes the Queen, I too may have a chance to ride a dragon... The Ruby Dragon of our family is really too old, yet the Steel Ridge Royal Family disagrees with me riding any

other dragon... Uncle Osborne, in utilizing the Red and White Rose Family's marriage alliance, isn't this also a form of self-protection for the Red and White Roses?"

Mathew had already begun fantasizing. Once the marriage alliance was successful, how illustrious and honored the Red and White Rose Family would be, caught between two great Kingdoms.

And all this was based on the premise that Liszt was, as he believed, a noble who put interests at the core.

For this reason, in leading this Envoy Group, he not only carried a multitude of gifts from the Steel Ridge Royal Family but also brought an enormous number of gifts from the Red and White Rose Family—Red Dragon Water made from red roses, potent magic potions made from white roses, and rubies produced by the Ruby Dragon.

"Even the most talented young strongman would succumb to the wealth of the Red and White Rose Family!"

...

Liszt, unaware that someone was preparing to dazzle him with wealth, cast the issue of the Steel Ridge Royal Family's Envoy Group to the back of his mind after his Blood Servant Mary reported it. The idea of an arranged marriage happening to himself was, upon reflection, quite amusing.

Before coming to this world, as a person so ordinary to the extreme, he often thought during his failures in love why the government didn't allocate wives to spare honest men the trouble of even catching a plate.

But the thought of actually entering into an arranged marriage with a lady of noble repute whom he had never met was rather frightening—after all, the lifestyles of the nobility here were extremely open.

Liszt was very particular about the honor of his own name.

This was also one of the reasons he maintained a good impression of young girls like Emily, Lucy, Ruth, and Hippolyta. A young girl is always pure and uncorrupted by the

murky world, like a lotus flower that rises out of the mud but remains clean, and with careful nurturing, can always grow into the form he desires.

Of course, he welcomed the arrival of the Envoy Group and happily accepted the overture from the Steel Ridge Kingdom.

It was great news as long as the three major Kingdoms did not band together.

The Flame Kingdom needed time to develop, and he himself needed time to grow. Riding too many dragons in a short period meant training with each dragon was too brief, and up to this point, he hadn't left a single Mind Branding, not to mention how little he had developed the "Dragon Dou Qi Manual".

The next day.

With the last magic ingredient ready, Liszt decisively left the comfortable Thorn Castle and, riding the Formless Dragon Bard, traveled through to Mind Island.

At this moment on Mind Island, a vortex-shaped Magic Gate was slowly rotating, with a pitch-black passage leading straight into the interior of the island.

There was no water; this Magic Gate was completely built on land.

"Brother, you're back," Ach said, standing at the edge of Mind Island, practicing the mastery of the Earth Elemental Incarnation—if it weren't for the delay caused by the Space Elemental Incarnation, after mastering water and ice elements, she would have proceeded with practicing the Earth Elemental Incarnation according to the plan, which was cultivated for the construction of major projects.

Ordinary Grand Magicians could only slightly alter the terrain with magic, but once an Archmage mastered the Earth Elemental Incarnation, changing the terrain would be at their discretion.

The legendary Ancient Magicians were said to have the might to move mountains and fill seas, perhaps an exaggeration, but it gave a glimpse of an Archmage's power.

“Mhm, I’m back,” Liszt walked over and touched Ach’s azure blue hair, while Ach tilted her head submissively, enjoying the caress.

A profound tacit understanding and intimacy had developed between the two.

“So brother, let’s start connecting the two Magic Gates and expand the Wormhole Space!” excitedly said Ach after enjoying a head-patting session.

“Okay!”

Both of them mounted the Formless Dragon Bard and headed straight for the Magic Gate. After entering the world beyond the physical realm, Ach took out the magic materials, created the required Magic Array, and continuously guided Bard to activate the Magic Array. Then, with the help of its innate abilities, she moved back and forth between the two Magic Gates, pulling strings.

It was a complex magical behavior, roughly achieved by the attraction between magic forces to guide the Magic Gates.

Finally, the “beacons” of the two Magic Gates were connected, and then slowly, through Bard’s Space Magic Power, they expanded upon the linked magic lines, carving out the Wormhole Space.

The principle was very complex.

Liszt did not understand much, but he only needed to do as Ach instructed. After intermittent work for three days, when the human, dragon, and Sea Serpent were all exhausted, the Wormhole Space between the two Magic Gates was finally expanded. After carefully reinforcing it one more time, the Magic Teleportation Array was officially complete.

“The two-way Repulsive Force of the passage is normal, the velocity of exiting the Magic Gate has decayed, and it is now equivalent to the velocity of entering the Magic Gate... Brother, the Mind Island-Reed Swamp Magic Teleportation Array is declared complete!” After repeatedly passing through the two Magic Gates, Ach revealed a sweet smile.

A sense of accomplishment filled her heart.

This was her replication of the first radiance of an Ancient Magician.

Standing in front of Mind Island's Magic Gate, Liszt was also excited, this great miracle that only existed in certain legends was just wrought by his hands, a sense of accomplishment no less than what Ach felt in her heart.

He took a deep breath.

He made a swift decision, "Since this Magic Teleportation Array has been completed and the territory temporarily lacks the financial and material resources to establish a Black Horse Island-Jade Mountain Magic Teleportation Array, let's use this Magic Array as a regular transportation nexus to transport resources and start constructing the Flame Islands!"

With the Magic Teleportation Array completed, Liszt soon notified the Marquis of Bull Tail, asking the Tulip Family to prepare materials to participate in the construction of Mind Island.

To protect the Magic Teleportation Array well, it was best to build Mind Island into a castle fortress.

The Mind Island controlling this transport nexus could completely become the trade center of the Sea of Azure Waves—before the Black Horse Island-Jade Mountain Magic Teleportation Array was built.

Chapter 897: Dragon Pit Great Mine

"The Magic Teleportation Array is already complete? So quickly?" Marquis Bull Tail exclaimed.

Liszt sipped his tea with a composed manner, "Father, are you still not aware of my work efficiency? It's just a Magic Teleportation Array which, handily finalized by Ach and me. Now, you can arrange for the family's knights and serfs to head to Tulip Island via the Heart Reed Teleportation Formation."

“That’s great. With the Heart Reed Teleportation Formation, I no longer need to keep cultivating deeply in the Bull Tail Domain. I am planning to relocate all knights and serfs, except a portion of them maintained for trade, to Tulip Island. What do you think?”

“I think it’s feasible. Iron Hoof Island will eventually have to be returned to the Sapphire Family, which is not worth managing. Black Horse Island and Coral Island will be future leaseholds of the Flame Kingdom, so there’s also no need for you to stay. It’s more crucial to develop Tulip Island... Without focusing on domestic development, the trade focus will always be toward the Sapphire direction.”

Placing the trade focus on the Sapphires will only continuously enrich the Sapphire Family, which is not what Liszt desires. He hopes that the bustling Shell Sea will quickly surpass the Sea of Azure Waves, and similarly, that the Flame Family will also rapidly overtake the Sapphire Family, since the latter are merely his followers.

The elder brother definitely has to be richer than the younger!

“Which mainland country is adjacent to the Flame Islands?” Marquis Bull Tail suddenly enquired.

“It borders between the Yellowstone Kingdom and the Eagle Kingdom, though it’s a complex terrain, sparsely populated, still a wilderness. Hundreds of kilometers inward, lies the Snowstorm Mountain Duchy, a very weak small country. I’ve had Yevich investigating it, and once we have enough information, we can make plans.”

Actually, he was harboring a thought — might as well head to the Legendary Continent to occupy a large swathe of land, founding a kingdom that spans both the continent and the ocean.

Fortunately, the borderland area between the two countries is desolate and uninhabited, with plenty of lands available for occupation.

As for war, he was not afraid!

They were precisely lacking an excuse to snatch knight resources — in his eyes, knights are a resource. Once the Flame Kingdom annexes the Moon Slayers, there wouldn’t be a shortage of serf population. But what about knights? Encouraging reproduction wouldn’t

yield skilled individuals till at least one or two generations later, so pillaging is the most logical and quick method.

As for the loyalty of the knight class, well, they say you follow whoever feeds you, so it doesn't matter anymore.

Marquis Bull Tail was unaware of Liszt's thoughts and was a bit worried, "Is the coastline all barren? That wouldn't be good for trade."

"No worries, we'll develop domestically first, and I'll handle the trade issues when the time comes."

"Alright then."

After a discussion between father and son, a servant came to report that Lady Penelope had arrived, so Liszt spent some time with the elderly lady and later that afternoon, enjoyed a new play at the indoor theater built within Tulip Castle.

After the play.

They chatted for a while and then left Tulip Castle.

When he returned to Black Horse Island, a large assembly of knights and serfs had gathered, preparing to board the ship heading to Mind Island. Crossing through the Heart Reed Teleportation Formation, they arrived at Flame Island to support the grand development of Flame Island. Both the workshop industries and agriculture were to be gradually transferred there within the coming year.

Even though it was a leased territory, Liszt did not feel secure leaving his family's foundation here; moving it to Flame Island was safer.

"Captain Marcus, Captain Pālīsī, Captain Charles, the knights and serf teams are under your leadership. Be cautious when crossing the Heart Reed Teleportation Formation, and terminate the transition immediately if anything changes with the formation."

"Rest assured, Your Highness!"

“Hmm, go on.”

After giving his instructions, Liszt didn’t linger any longer but promptly mounted the Formless Dragon Bard, soared into the world beyond the physical, then found the exit of the Great Whirlpool Teleportation Formation and quickly crossed over to Flame Island.

He headed straight to the location of the Mammoth Knight Brigade.

It seemed that Emily had discovered the reward for the Smoke Mission — “Mission Accomplished, Reward: Dragon Pit Great Mine.”

And the new Smoke Mission was already issued when the Heart Reed Teleportation Formation was completed.

“Mission: Negotiation teams from the Eagle Kingdom, Steel Ridge Kingdom Envoy Group, and Blast Furnace Fortress Envoy Group will arrive one after another. The order in the northeastern corner of the Legendary Continent needs to be re-established, and the ruler of the seas also needs to assert authority. Please force the three kingdoms to recognize the Flame Kingdom. Reward: Dragon’s Might in Skeleton.”

The reward for this new mission seemed to be related to the Dragon Pit Great Mine.

...

“We’re here, Captain!” A Knight climbed up from the pit and reported to Emily.

“Prepare to have people encircle the pit. The Mammoth Knight Brigade should immediately dig a canal and fill the ditch with water. We must not let the Man-Eating Tree escape this time!” Emily ordered coldly.

In front of her was a valley.

In the distance ahead, a mountain range split into two branches, forming this rather large valley lush with vegetation. However, hidden amongst the vegetation were one pit after

another. The smallest of the pits had a diameter of over eight hundred meters, and the largest even reached a diameter of ten kilometers.

The Man-Eating Tree Cluster kept fleeing and was trapped by the Mammoth Knight Brigade in this valley full of pits, ultimately getting cornered in a pit one and a half kilometers in diameter.

The Mammoth Knight Brigade dug trenches around the pit, and once filled with water, they would completely trap the Man-Eating Tree Cluster, capturing them as in a barrel.

Boom, splash.

A river in the valley quickly poured into the trench, filling it in no time.

Watching the river water overflow from the trench, Emily clenched the Crimson Blood Sword in her hand and suddenly declared, “Knight brigade, follow me in for a search!”

The circular pit, one and a half kilometers in diameter, covered an area of approximately seven square kilometers, equivalent to over ten thousand acres—a size matching that of several small villages combined. The Knight Brigade fanned out to search and soon found traces of the Man-Eating Tree Cluster. The trees unable to escape stood tall in the forest.

However, though many Man-Eating Trees were found, the Dragon Elf remained elusive, yet Emily was able to deduce that the Dragon Elf was indeed here.

“Will you not come out then? Since that is the case, let’s resort to the blunt method and cut down the forest in the pit.” She made the decision decisively. Liszt had instructed that under no circumstances should the Dragon Elf be harmed, which is why she chose to cut down the trees rather than burning them directly.

Serfs accompanying the Mammoth Knight Brigade were quickly deployed, starting to cut from the edge towards the center of the pit, leaving only sparse Man-Eating Trees.

With the felled trees being transported out, the pit was bustling with activity.

Knights shuttled back and forth, searching for any possible traces of the exposed Man-Eating Tree Dragon Elves, with Emily also overseeing the operations.

When Liszt arrived riding the Formless Dragon Bard, he saw a bustling scene. After he appeared, Emily rushed over immediately, “Your Highness!”

“Is this the valley full of pits?”

“Yes, we have already trapped the Man-Eating Tree Cluster in this pit, but are unable to find traces of the Dragon Elf. I plan to cut the trees first. If the Dragon Elf still does not show itself, then we will start digging.” Emily spoke earnestly.

Hearing her say this.

Liszt’s heart suddenly stirred, “Emily’s loyalty to me is beyond question, should I then teach her the Dou Qi Secret Technique ‘Eye of Magic’?” The Eye of Magic was indeed a rare and precious Dou Qi Manuscript, but it wasn’t as if others in the external world did not possess it.

After all, Liszt also found it initially on the cover of a book; the previous owner seemed to be a Sky Knight named Steve Vulture from the Blast Furnace Fortress Kingdom.

“Let’s talk about it later.”

He still hadn’t made up his mind and planned to later send someone to investigate the Vulture Family before deciding. If the Vulture Family still existed and the Magic Eye Dou Qi Secret Technique hadn’t spread, he would plunder the Vulture Family and make the Eye of Magic exclusively for the Flame Family.

The Eye of Magic, being able to collaborate with dragons, had incredibly practical utility and was not suitable for exposure.

Chapter 898: Battle of the Five Dragons

Emily was still busy cutting down trees, while Li Si Te took a walk around the big pit but didn't spot any glint of magic power feedback; he had no idea just how well that Man-Eating Tree Dragon Sprite could hide.

They had been playing this hide-and-seek for over a month, and it had never shown itself even once.

Taking advantage of a break in the tree cutting,

he had a group of serfs move to another large pit, and then he chose a central location to start digging, feeling that these big pits could be the Dragon Pit Great Mine rewarded by the Smoke Mission.

The serfs exerted themselves digging and had only managed to go two meters deep when they hit a layer of rock, which was brought before Li Si Te after being smashed to pieces.

The stone was very heavy and a dark red in colour.

"What kind of rock is this, does anyone recognize it?" Li Si Te tossed it, feeling that it was some sort of ore—especially with the hint from the Smoke Mission, he even more so believed that the stone in his hand was ore.

Fernal Ink, who was following beside Li Si Te, replied, "Your Highness, if I'm not mistaken, this is iron ore."

"Iron ore?" Li Si Te looked closely, and compared it with the iron ore he had snatched from the Trapped Dragon Mountain Iron Mine, noticing some differences, especially in color, "What kind of iron ore is this, and why does it look different from the iron ore I've seen? I remember that the iron ore from Trapped Dragon Mountain was very black."

"It might be a poor ore with a low iron content, typically found in the upper layers of a vein," Fernal Ink said with excitement, "Your Highness, there could be an iron mine under this pit!"

If this truly was iron ore.

Then without a doubt, this was the Dragon Pit Great Mine, a super-sized iron mine. Looking at the valley's many large pits packed closely together, Li Si Te's eyes also turned red with excitement, "Send people quickly, dig in every pit, dig three feet into the ground to find the ore below; I want to know how extensive this iron mine is!"

"Yes, Your Highness!"

Fernal Ink was full of drive, understanding too well the importance of an iron mine to the nation; the equipment for knights, the everyday tools, none could be made without iron ore.

Not only did the serfs dig fiercely, but many knights also took up spades, hoes, and pickaxes to energetically dig into the earth.

Several pits around the iron mine were quickly excavated, revealing iron ores of different colors and qualities. In one pit, a mere half meter of digging unearthed pitch-black iron ore, a high-quality deposit likely to contain up to ninety percent iron, which could be directly forged into tools with just a few strikes.

"It seems we truly have struck a gigantic iron mine, excellent." Li Si Te couldn't have been more pleased. With such an iron mine, plus the Grey Iron Dragon, the Flame Kingdom would never lack iron again.

However, as the pits were dug farther afield.

Soon, different types of ore were brought over.

"Your Highness, these ores don't seem like iron ore; they resemble copper ore," Fernal Ink introduced to Li Si Te; as a seasoned knight who had long been involved in the routine affairs of the territory and had some dealings with ore refining, he recognized many types of ore, "It's likely Bronze Ore. Those previous iron ores were probably Black Heart Iron Ore."

He then hypothesized, "Perhaps a very long time ago, there was a battle here between a Black Heart Iron Dragon and a Bronze Dragon, creating this vast mineral-rich mountain."

The speculation was logical.

Yet soon another knight brought new stones—stones that looked like many cubic stones bonded together. Upon seeing the stone, Fernal Ink couldn't help exclaiming, "This is galena!"

"Galena?"

"Ores produced by Lead Dragons. The Eagle Kingdom has a Lead Dragon, I have bought a batch of galena before to refine lead metal!"

Then, more pits sent up galena. That is to say, in this valley, there wasn't only Black Heart Iron and Bronze ores, but also galena. According to Fernal's logic, maybe in the ancient times, it might have been a triangular battle between Bronze Dragons, Black Heart Iron Dragons, and Lead Dragons.

However, Liszt and the others were still underestimating the richness of the Dragon Pit Great Mine.

By nightfall, knights brought in a new type of ore, a kind of brittle, red ore that easily crumbled to sand. Fernal didn't recognize it, nor did Liszt, but they were sure it must be a new type of metal ore. They had already notified the Magic Guild to send a magician who researched metal ores to come, and then they would know what kind of metal ore it was.

"Your Highness, it's truly unbelievable. This valley actually contains four types of metal ores!" Fernal couldn't conceal his excitement.

Beneath the light of the campfire, his face was flushed, as if he had been struck in the head by a gold ingot.

Liszt, however, was much calmer. He knew about the existence of the Dragon Pit Great Mine from the beginning—the unexpected part was just how many types there were: "Keep calm, Fernal. We have mapped out the ore distribution in the pits within the valley. There is also a large pit on the outskirts of the valley yet to be excavated, and there may be new ores there."

"More new ores? That would mean there are five different ores!" Fernal was even more excited.

Liszt's excitement about the ores was different from Fernal's.

In his heart, Liszt was pondering another question: "If five dragons battled here, could one have died and been buried deep underground? The new Smoke Mission reward is 'Dragon's Might in Skeleton,' could this mean there is a dragon waiting underground to be reborn?"

Just like Leo, after a dragon dies, it nurtures an ember within its remains, waiting for the right opportunity to be reborn.

A Metal Dragon or Gemstone Dragon was unlikely; they didn't have the potential for Elementalization, and Dragon's Super Magic couldn't exist for long. Only Elemental Dragons' Superior Magic could endure forever.

He didn't bring this up to Fernal.

He was just speculating to himself: "Perhaps, it wasn't just four or five Metal Dragons battling. Elemental Dragons might have been involved as well... It's just uncertain if any Gemstone Dragons were part of it."

Whether or not Elemental Dragons lay sleeping in the Dragon Pit Great Mine would soon be revealed as the mine unavoidably had to be developed.

And tonight, he still had work to do.

As the serfs kept felling trees, within a day and a night, all the trees covering the large pit above the Black Heart Iron were chopped down, leaving only a few scattered hundred Man-Eating Trees in the northwest corner of the pit.

"Your Highness, can we start digging now?" Emily inquired.

"Let's begin."

The serfs, who had rotated shifts and rested well, began to dig again, following the spaces between the Man-Eating Tree Cluster. According to the distribution of the Black Heart Iron Ore, the soil layer was less than two meters deep. By turning over the soil here, transplanting each Man-Eating Tree to another place, they vowed to find the Man-Eating Tree Dragon Sprite.

Soon after.

The moon set and the sun rose.

The darkness before dawn was pierced by sunlight, and one by one, the Man-Eating Trees were dug up. Just as they were about to finish the last few dozen trees, those trees suddenly started to tremble. Then the branches softened, and the whole tree bent to the ground, preparing to burrow and flee.

Having stayed awake all night, with bloodshot eyes, Emily saw this and shouted to the knights behind her, "Wake up His Highness!" Then she rushed towards the last few dozen Man-Eating Trees.

Searching for the shadow of the dragon sprite that was secretly controlling the Man-Eating Trees from the dark.

Chapter 899: Spear of Vengeance

"Your Highness!"

Li Si Te, who was napping in the camp tent, woke up as soon as Emily shouted. He wasn't a heavy sleeper. Thus, when the Knight called out, he lifted the tent curtain and walked out. Without riding a dragon, he soared into the sky, then transformed into a shooting star.

He landed among the last of the Man-Eating Tree Cluster, the Eye of Magic active, revealing that the Man-Eating Trees, which normally showed no magical luminescence, were all flickering with a pale yellow magic radiance.

Originally, these Man-Eating Trees were burrowing underground, but Emily noticed them and directly used Thunder Attribute Dou Qi to bombard the ground, disrupting their

movement, so they failed to burrow deeper. However, Emily and the others dared not harm these Man-Eating Trees carelessly, fearing they might injure the Dragon Elf.

This caused the situation to be at a stalemate.

When Li Si Te arrived, what he saw was the Man-Eating Tree Cluster desperately trying to burrow, yet unable to complete the task.

He moved swiftly, already rushing to a Man-Eating Tree lying on the ground, and grabbed hold of its soft trunk with one hand, then released Dragon Might, swiftly subduing all the Man-Eating Trees. The pale yellow magic faded, and these Man-Eating Trees rapidly resumed their original growth state.

“Got you, little guy, stop struggling and show yourself,” Li Si Te said with a smile. In his hand, this unremarkable Man-Eating Tree, which radiated dense magical light, was evidently the hideout of the Man-Eating Tree Dragon Sprite.

Snap.

Seemingly knowing it couldn’t escape, a large, crystal-clear Elf with a human-like form jumped out from the Man-Eating Tree. It was translucent and at first glance, it was hard to tell whether it looked more like a boy or a girl, lacking any gender characteristics.

It was about one meter tall with a slightly slim figure and a pale yellow body color.

A pair of transparent wings fluttered, keeping its feet hovering above the ground. It had delicate facial features and lively, pitch-black eyes.

Above its head was a leaf, and below the leaf, there were a few root-like tendrils.

“Jilili Gu Lava Di Sia!” the Man-Eating Tree Dragon Elf faced Liszt, who was radiating immense Dragon Might, and despite trembling slightly, it boldly shouted at him.

This was an unheard language, somewhat similar to Moon Language, but not quite, as it lacked any discernible pattern.

It was likely a meaningless shout.

“Stop yelling, I can’t understand you. Come, let’s make a contract and then communicate normally,” Liszt gestured with his hand, urging the Man-Eating Tree Dragon Elf not to waste any more time.

“Ula Shakalaka!” the Dragon Elf shouted.

The Dragon Elf, now possessing a human-like form, wasn’t as cute as the Minor Elves or the Greater Elves, but it was undeniably beautiful. However, this slightly fierce-looking Man-Eating Tree Dragon Elf seemed a bit tough to deal with, still daring to retort even under the cover of Dragon Might.

“So, do you want Jade Powder, I have all sorts of flavors,” seeing this, Liszt pulled out a big bag of Jade Powder, holding it up.

“Um...”

The Man-Eating Tree Dragon Elf’s eyes lit up but then glared at Liszt: “Bilop Durawarishi!”

“After the contract, all of this will be yours, little fellow, rest assured. With me, you won’t suffer any harm again. Moon Slayers can’t hurt you, nor can the Flame People. Because I am the master here, everything on this land belongs to me.”

“Das Vediania!”

“You’re making this difficult for me. You should know, I’ve already picked out some names for you. How about Twisted Tree Sprite-Maokai if you don’t like that, how about Void Sprint-Rek’Sai? Not that either? Maybe you’d prefer Verdant God-Ivern...judging by your expression, you don’t seem to like it?”

Liszt listed three names, then another one: “Or maybe Spear of Vengeance-Kalista, how about simply Carly...no more rejections, I’m calling you Carly. Carly, my patience is nearly gone, it seems I need to take matters into my own hands.”

Seeing that Man-Eating Tree Dragon Elf Carly didn't cooperate, he had no choice but to step forward and grab Carly.

Under the powerful strength of a Dragon Knight, Carly couldn't struggle at all; even its efforts to unleash Innate Magic were scattered by Liszt's surging Dragon Dou Qi, unable to even channel its magic power.

Beside.

Emily quietly watched Liszt, highly coveting the formidable strength of a Dragon Knight. Although Liszt had promised her that she would be able to interact with the Light Green Gem Dragon Ethan when the time was right, she was still just an ordinary Sky Knight, far from reaching the Completion Level.

Of course, she was unaware of Liszt's plans.

Liszt didn't care when Emily would reach completion; he just needed to first imprint his Mind Branding into Ethan's psyche, and then let Emily ride the dragon.

Given his relationship with Emily, the Mind Branding wouldn't be too difficult for her.

This would greatly reduce the difficulty of Emily's dragon riding.

While she was slightly distracted, Liszt had already grabbed Carly and then forcefully placed his finger into Carly's mouth.

He slightly propped Carly's jaw, and Carly's teeth bit into his finger.

Blood made contact with teeth, and instantly a strange sensation lingered between him and Carly—a familiar power of the Elf contract. However, compared to contracts with Elf Bug, Little Minor Elf, and Greater Elf, the contract power of a Dragon Elf seemed much weaker, not so pronounced.

“Ula Ghiyabrusta!” the Dragon Elf continued to shout loudly.

At that moment, Liszt had already realized its emotions—it was berating Liszt for being too rough, and furiously accusing all humans of being evil and worthy of death.

“A very aggressive Dragon Elf; the power of the contract has completely failed to twist its worldview, at most reducing its feelings towards me from hatred to unfamiliar... Greater Elves and Little Minor Elves are better; after contracting, they immediately become closest to me. Taming a Dragon Elf is a bit troublesome.”

For the following period, Liszt was appeasing Carly.

Nothing more than communicating the previous conversations through emotions and enticing Carly with a large amount of Jade Powder, eventually diminishing Carly’s unfamiliar attitude towards him. Coupled with the power of the contract subtly changing, by nearly noon, Carly finally accepted Liszt.

Calling out Liszt’s name: “Liszt...”

“Very good, Carly, so from now on, take your Cordyceps and these Man-Eating Tree Clusters and go live in my newly developed plantation.” He had many questions about Dragon Elves, but now was not the time to study them. Carly still harbored a strong defensive instinct.

It had indeed been harmed by the Moon Slayers.

According to emotional communication, its Cordyceps had nearly been chopped down by the Moon Slayers.

From that time on, it began retaliating against the Moon Slayers, slaughtering over a thousand Moon Slayers, capturing them and burying them at the roots of the Man-Eating Tree Cluster, then absorbing their nutrients—the Man-Eating Tree surprisingly possessed a scavenging ability, emitting a scent to attract dying animals.

When animals fell under the tree, roots or even the trunk and leaves would grow root hairs, which would penetrate the animal carcasses to absorb nutrients.

“Quite an interesting plant. Once Carly’s guard is down, I want to study the Dragon Elf and the Man-Eating Tree in detail,” Liszt thought as he watched Carly quietly sitting in the tent eating Jade Powder.

No matter what kind of elf, their greatest value still lies in the crops they cultivate.

After finishing a simple, ten-dish field lunch, he took a short rest; in the afternoon, he began summoning the Magician who had already come to identify the ores, working on the four types of ores already discovered and the fifth type discovered that morning.

“Your Highness, after my identification, if nothing unexpected happens, these five types of ore are—Black Heart Iron Ore, Bronze Ore, Galena, the outer layer of Mercury Ore, and Titanium Ore.”

“Mercury Ore and Titanium Ore?” Liszt was truly surprised at this point, “So-called non-magic metals, Mercury and Titanium?”

Mercury, the only metal that remains liquid at room temperature.

He had not expected to find a Mercury mine and a Titanium mine on Flame Island.

The reward value of the Dragon Pit Great Mine was indeed worthy of the term “great.”

Chapter 900: Retainer Knights

“A city shall be built here, named Dragon Valley City, then a road from Flame City will be constructed, called Dragon Cinder Road. Another road from Dragon Valley City to Estuary City, it shall be known as Dragon River Road. Flame City must also build a road to Reed Marsh, to be called Reed Cinder Road, and a city needs to be established in Reed Marsh, named Reed City!”

Liszt casually sketched on a map.

The Flame Island is essentially square in shape, albeit slightly tilted. The Holy Mountain, where the Moon Slayer Holy Tribe resides, is about at the island’s center. Slice the island

diagonally and it can be divided into the northwest and southeast halves. The current range of activities for the Flame People is primarily concentrated in the southeast half.

The geographic center of the southeast half is approximately Whirlpool Mountain, making the city at the base of Whirlpool Mountain, Flame City, the transportation hub and central city of the southeast half.

Reed Cinder Road extends east from Flame City, crossing the two upper tributaries of Whirlpool River and stretching nearly to Reed City near Reed Marsh. As the guardian of Heart Reed Teleportation Formation, Reed City will inevitably become a trading city. Eastward from Reed City lies the East Coast, where a suitable port can be found to build a harbor city.

Jade Salary Avenue goes from Flame City towards the northwest, reaching Jade Mountain, a spur of the Flame Mountain Range, and connecting the under-construction Jade City. In the future, a road could extend further northwest from Jade City, reaching the position of the Holy Mountain—Liszt intends to establish a city at this central point of the island.

Dragon Cinder Road is an extension southwest from Flame City, all the way to Dragon Pit Great Mine; Dragon Valley City will be the future mining center city.

Dragon River Road is an extension due south from Dragon Valley City, reaching Estuary City at the estuary of Whirlpool River. This city will be Flame Island's sole port city at the current stage, responsible for communication between Tulip Island and Flame Island.

Essentially,

these four roads are the development veins of Flame Island at present, with all agricultural and industrial production revolving around these four roads.

The Heart Reed Teleportation Formation has already been activated, with knights and serfs pouring into Flame Island continuously; once they arrive in large numbers, it will be time for the frenzied development of Flame Island.

“The construction of Dragon Cinder Road must be completed quickly, Emily. After it's done, you immediately lead the Mammoth Knight Brigade to build Reed Cinder Road, and finally, Dragon River Road.”

“Understood, Your Highness!”

Having delegated the road construction and city building affairs, Liszt habitually took on the role of a detached director; he rode on the Formless Dragon Bard, circling above the Dragon Pit Great Mine a few times.

The mining area located in this valley is unimaginably vast, about 20,000 square kilometers in size.

To give a more vivid comparison, Liszt’s original home, Coral Island, was about 10,000 square kilometers, roughly equivalent to the area of an ordinary prefecture-level city. And Dragon Pit Great Mine is about equivalent to two Coral Islands or two prefecture-level cities, with five types of minerals distributed within.

Of course, averaging the mining area for each type of mineral, it didn’t seem too large.

At present, it has been confirmed that the galena is deep in the valley with a small area; mercury ore is on the right side of the valley, also small in area; Black Heart Iron is on the left side of the valley, the largest in area; copper ore is in the hinterland of the valley, also not small; and the extent of the titanium ore at the entrance to the valley is yet undecided.

The exploration magicians from the Magic Association are working together with the knights to survey and strive to determine the accurate distribution of the miner areas, as well as to formulate a mining plan—as for the reserves of the mining areas, that’s difficult to calculate, but these are shallow layer minerals, making mining quite easy.

Unlike Earth, where many minerals are deep underground, in this world, metals and gemstones originate from dragons and are buried relatively close to the surface.

Perhaps there are deep layer minerals too—after all, no one has been able to explore and mine them.

“Once this mining area is exploited, it will support the resource consumption of the Flame Kingdom for decades. Add to that the Jade Mines of Jade Mountain, and there’s no need to worry about resources... Flame Island truly deserves the praise of being rich in land and

resources,” Liszt rejoiced in his heart. “But I wonder if there are Elemental Dragon bones buried under Dragon Pit Great Mine?”

This is a question worth exploring.

Mining isn’t an easy task, and to completely excavate this valley would take a considerable length of time: “Unfortunately, even though my Eye of Magic has merged with a dragon, it still can’t peer into the underground to detect magic.” The Eye of Magic is already impressively effective, yet he still feels it’s not good enough.

...

Mind Island.

Knights were supervising the serfs in their construction work, with the chief architect being Mbappe Brokenstone, who was also the teacher of Liszt’s head architect Jomaya Bangtu—Jomaya once almost met his death for sleeping with Mbappe’s daughter-in-law and was ultimately bailed out by Liszt.

Mbappe had long served as an architect for the Tulip Family. With Mind Island in urgent need of development, Liszt hired him to oversee the construction of the island’s castle.

Perhaps Mbappe harbored a grudge against Liszt for protecting Jomaya,

but he dared not show any signs of it and still worked diligently, especially with the knights from Black Horse Island supervising. No one dared to skimp on the work.

“The cement mixing is not up to standard, we must use ample amounts of cement here!” he shouted, commanding with a loud voice.

The construction craftsmen immediately brought over another wheelbarrow of cement, pouring it onto the shallow tidal flats of Mind Island. The use of high-quality volcanic or artificial cement had become another major infrastructure tool in Liszt’s hands. Once set, the cement was harder than rock.

Woo-woo-woo!

Suddenly, the sound of a horn resounded, and a fleet with the Red Tulip Flag slowly approached the hastily constructed dock of Mind Island.

A huge, pitch-black bird circled above the fleet.

The bird descended straight to the construction site where Mbappe and the others were working, and from the back of the bird, a knight clad in silver-white armor leaped down. The supervising knights immediately drew near to greet him, "Lord Marquis!"

"Just carry on with your work, I have come to take a look," the visitor was none other than Liszt's father, the Obsidian Albatross Knight, Marquis Li Weiliam of Bull Tail.

"Lord Landlord," Mbappe hurried over to greet him as well.

Li Weiliam smiled and said, "Mbappé, it must be hard working on the island."

"It is Mbappe's honor to serve Prince Dragon Knight; it's not hard at all," Mbappe quickly responded. Despite being a renowned Master Architect, in the eyes of the nobility he was not much different from a commoner, and skill could not bridge the vast gulf of class status.

"Good, keep up the good work," Li Weiliam said contentedly with a slight raise of his hand. Although Mind Island was not his territory but his son's, he shared the same sense of ownership, "Build the Fortress of the Mind well and strictly protect this island and the door behind it, allowing no oversights."

"Please rest assured, Lord Landlord, Mbappe's architectural quality has always been the best."

"I believe that."

He believed that Liszt would definitely grant this favor for his father!