

## The Mighty 921

### Chapter 921: Missing Dragon Bone

“Nickel, have everyone on alert; the dragon bones are not as simple as they seem,” Liszt, though unclear about what a Bone Dragon actually was.

However, this did not prevent him from excavating the Bone Dragon; in time, he would know whether the Bone Dragon was dead or alive.

Of course, a certain level of caution was necessary, since it was still not easy to determine if the Bone Dragon was alive, and how strong it might be in combat. But no matter how strong, it was just a dragon, and behind Liszt stood the Formless Dragon Bard, a Sacred Dragon mastering the power of space.

“Keep digging down from where the dragon bones were found!”

After issuing the orders, Liszt began to carefully examine the dragon bones that had been excavated, with his Eye of Magic activated, he could see the magic feedback light attached to the dragon bones.

It had turned into a chaotic color; it was unclear which dragon’s remnants these bones belonged to.

He mounted the Formless Dragon Bard, circled around the mine pit where the dragon bones had been unearthed, and noticed a very strange phenomenon. It wasn’t just the original pit that had metal ores, but the entire area of the Dragon Pit Great Mine underground contained metal ores. And the dragon bones were continuously found at the borders of several metal ores.

“Black Heart Iron to the east, Bronze Mine to the south, Mercury Mine to the west, and Lead Mine to the north; the dragon bones were found exactly at the junction of these four metal ores, how odd.”

Outside the valley, there was also a large Titanium Mine.

He had some vague guesses in his mind but hadn't formed a solid idea; he had to let it go for now and then summoned the Smoke Mission.

“Mission: Talent is like gold sand in water, requiring constant dredging and washing to find the precious gold from the mud; therefore, those with talent need continual refinement to ultimately determine their future. Please organize a Dragon Knight backup plan.  
Reward: One Greater Elf.”

The reward for the new mission was a Greater Elf, and Liszt couldn't guess how the Greater Elf would appear.

Currently, none of the Little Minor Elves in the castle showed any abnormal conditions, and the possibility of evolution was slim; as for the wild elves, as the territory continued to expand and the Moon Slayers continued to be enlisted, elves were also increasing. However, Little Minor Elves were rare, and Greater Elves even more so.

Fortunately, he was not so concerned about one or two elves now.

Just focus on the mission itself.

“Because I recently lamented the lack of talent, the Smoke Mission began to stir the Threads of Destiny of the little geniuses according to my thoughts,” Liszt realized, a revelation sparked by his constant self-suggestions.

It seemed to be a task that would take a long time to show results. The power of destiny probably could not find a qualified genius among so many children in the Flame Kingdom. Thus, a Dragon Knight backup plan was needed as a foundation to more easily manipulate the Threads of Destiny of the little geniuses.

“So, how should the Dragon Knight backup plan be implemented? If taking a shortcut, just directly adopt the Dragon Knight backup plans of the three great kingdoms.”

The Dragon Knight backup plans of the three great kingdoms were similar—selecting talented youths from the Knight Class—those who advance to Sky Knights at sixteen, or upon becoming adults, can be selected for Dragon Knight backup. And these sixteen-year-old Sky Knights could be the offspring of Nobles or orphans nurtured by Nobles.

Nobles who supply Dragon Knight candidates to the Royal Family receive substantial rewards. Once the Dragon Knight candidates become Dragon Knights, they will also provide feedback to the Nobles.

Therefore, nurturing Dragon Knight candidates is a very profitable business. Many Nobles, whose own descendants lack talent, would choose to nurture orphans, seeking knights with talent. Some smaller Nobles, once they find good prospects, also do not hesitate to nurture them in exchange for Royal rewards.

This selection method is quite good, ensuring the interests of the Nobles while also providing fresh noble blood for the Kingdom.

However, the core Nobles class is fixed.

Nobles are always Nobles; commoners and smaller Nobles have difficulty truly rising to big Nobles through the Dragon Knight backup plan.

“The key issue is, I don’t even have many in the Knight Class,” he felt a bit embarrassed, without knights, how could he rely on the Knight Class to supply Dragon Knight candidates, “so we need to establish a schooling system, popularize knight training courses to increase class mobility through a wide net.”

This approach would not be feasible in an established kingdom, Nobles would definitely resist, but in the Flame Kingdom there would be no obstacles.

Liszt was an autocratic king whose commands were unchallengeable, and the kingdom had a vast vacancy in its Noble class that urgently needed to be filled.

“Let Goltai draft an outline and then I’ll revise it, finalize it, and start organizing the Dragon Knight recruitment plan!”

...

Liszt had not stayed long in Dragon Valley City when the metal mine began exhibiting abnormalities.

The Moon Slayer serfs mining the pits did not know what lay beneath them; as they dug, they suddenly felt intermittent tremors coming from below.

“Continue digging, I will personally oversee this and there is no need to be afraid,” commanded Liszt, riding his Formless Dragon and keeping a close eye on the pit.

He too felt the thudding vibrations, like steam trying to lift the lid of a pot. Under the Knight’s supervision, the serfs, although concerned about the tremors beneath their feet, still wielded their picks and Iron Hammers to strike down high-quality metal ore.

Three days passed, and the excavated metal ore was quickly transported and stacked in a nearby warehouse.

The Dragon Bones were picked out and piled nearby; Liszt distinctly felt that these bones, with their Chaotic Magic Power, were much more intense than those from shallower depths, and were much less decayed.

“These aren’t the bones of a single dragon; both of these seem to be forelimb bones, with a size difference of more than double.”

He was not a biologist, but having dealt extensively with dragons, he had a clear understanding of dragon body proportions and thus an insightful view on the sizes of their bones.

“The size of the Lead Dragon and Mercury Dragon is unknown, but these two forelimb bones could well match the size of the Bronze Dragon and Black Heart Iron Dragon.”

The fourth day.

Ach had also rushed over.

As an Archmage, Ach had more professional knowledge about dragons than Liszt, and could clearly identify many types of Dragon Bones, unfortunately without information on the Titanium Dragon, Lead Dragon, and Mercury Dragon, it was impossible to completely identify all the Dragon Bones.

At that moment, Liszt proposed, “Ach, could you try to assemble these Dragon Bones back into their original form?”

“I can try.”

Two more days of digging followed, unearthing even more Dragon Bones, which Ach sorted and began to assemble based on the proportions of the Dragon Bones.

But soon, she discovered a strange phenomenon.

“Brother, look at these Dragon Bones; each dragon’s set has very apparent missing parts. This one that seems to be a Bronze Dragon is missing a sternum and half its spine, this one that seems to be a Black Heart Iron Dragon is missing wing bones and a tail bone, and these three dragons are each missing forelimb bones, hindlimb bones, skull, neck bone, half a spine, and plate bones.”

“Could it be that these parts have not yet been excavated?”

“It doesn’t seem likely, because other parts of the Dragon Bones are also missing fragments, but these missing parts have no shattered bones at all.”

Liszt nodded, voicing his speculation, “The vibrations in the metal pit are growing stronger, and the missing parts of the Dragon Bones could very well assemble into a new dragon... Ach, there might be a Bone Dragon formed from the remnants of a Metal Dragon in the depths of the Great Mine, What kind of existence do you think this Bone Dragon could be?”

“Brother, could there really be a Bone Dragon?”

“Of course, I’ve already felt the Bone Dragon’s Dragon Might and its vigorous vitality, right below the great pit, waiting to be ridden,” Liszt boasted, in fact if not for the Smoke Mission, he would never have thought of such a thing.

But with the Smoke Mission, he was the erudite Liszt!

Chapter 922: Visible Specter

As the excavation deepened, the underground tremors became more localized, and the serfs continued to dig in response to the vibrations. Despite their terror of the underground tremors, the serfs felt relatively at ease with Liszt and Ach standing guard at the edge of the great pit. After all, these two were renowned “Seki” protectors.

Beside them stood the illustrious “Biggleswade.”

“Magic power is starting to seep up from the ground. This Bone Dragon is struggling non-stop. Its magic power is very strange, like some kind of eerie blue magic, yet wholly different from water attribute and ice attribute magic powers,” Liszt said, mounted upon the back of the Formless Dragon Bard. His crystal white trajectory inspected the characteristics of the magic power beneath the surface.

By this time, the pit’s metallic ore layer became unstable, and the serfs started to evacuate.

A group of ancient magicians was gathered to bombard the pit with spells, constantly in sync with the underground tremors to blast myriad cracks into the ore layer.

The steaming magic power grew denser, and Liszt finally recognized what it was, “Ach, this is a kind of magic power similar to that of a Lich; it relates to the soul. I’ve seen it on the Marquis of the Bull before. However, the blue magic power emitted by this Bone Dragon is of a higher echelon.”

After the Marquis of Bull was transformed into a Lich, the blue magic power enveloping his armor still belonged to a lower tier of magic.

But the blue magic power seeping from the Bone Dragon was indeed high-level magic.

“Perhaps the Bone Dragon is also a special kind of creature related to the soul. Brother, Ach has discovered that all the dragon bones lack dragon teeth. According to the records, the dragon’s soul is hidden within its teeth. Maybe the soul of this Bone Dragon was formed from the intertwining souls within all the dragon’s teeth.”

“That’s possible!”

Liszt immediately ordered the ancient magicians, “Continue the bombardment, don’t stop!”

The ancient magicians were greatly drained with each spell they cast. However, to defy a command from the Seki was unthinkable, so they had to continue exerting themselves to channel magic power and unleash the most powerful magic within their abilities.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Metallic ore from the pit was blasted in all directions.

The underground tremors became increasingly ferocious, and finally, amidst another concentrated magical onslaught, a massive crack abruptly exploded within the subterranean ore layer.

After the magic radiance dissipated, a ferocious dragon might surged out from the pit, knocking the ancient magicians into a state of disarray. Within his crystal white trajectory, Liszt clearly saw a blue magic-powered bone claw stretching out from the crack.

“Begin the retreat, ancient magicians!” He ordered them to withdraw, exchanging a glance with Ach as they both prepared for full alertness.

Creak! Creak!

The bony claw forcefully lifted, grasping the protrusions of the pit and pulling its still-buried body upwards. The screeching friction noise expanded the crack even further. Throughout this process, Liszt didn’t intervene, allowing the Bone Dragon to struggle and claw its way out.

Momentarily, the dragon’s head and wings emerged.

The wings, aside from the long bones, also had cartilage between them, tattered and full of holes, like rotting cloth. No physical substance connected these bones; only dense blue magic power supported their movement, sketching a fierce and mystic appearance.

The dragon's head pulsed with vigorous magic power, sporting four horns—two thick ones, similar to bull's horns, and two smaller ones, akin to ram's horns.

The slender dragon's maw was lined with dragon teeth of various sizes.

The magic radiance emitted from each dragon tooth was like a mini-sun; together, they formed an intensely bright magic light sphere.

“Roar!”

A peculiar dragon roar bellowed from the ancient dragon's mouth. Not only was there a rasp in the ears, like grating friction, but also a rhythm that seemed to rise within everyone's soul.

The ancient dragon had no eyes, only two blue flames burning slowly.

It roared and struggled, dragging more and more of itself out of the fissure. After a full half hour, the bone dragon finally crawled out completely and stood in the crater. It hung its head silently as if restoring the energy expended during its struggle, with blue magic radiance flickering on and off.

“Ach said, holding the Eight Dragons God Sword in his hands, ready to unleash magic at any moment, “With a wingspan close to sixty meters and a body length near sixty-five meters, this must be a special giant dragon formed from the skeleton of a Black Heart Iron Dragon.”

Liszt, meanwhile, fixed his gaze on the bone dragon's neck where it connected to its body, where the Dragon Tooth Platform should be, “The magic power at the Dragon Tooth Platform is very bright, and there are streaks of magic radiance connected to the dragon teeth. This must be the secret between the dragon teeth and the Dragon Tooth Platform—souls connected.”

“Brother, what do we do now?”

“Wait a moment, let's see what it does next. I wonder if we can communicate, I'll try talking to it first,” Liszt eyed the motionless bone dragon, eager to act.



Regardless of the type of dragon, mount it first, and ask questions later!

However, what was strange was that Liszt threw a cow at it, but the bone dragon did not react; he threw a bag of jade at it, but the bone dragon did not react; he threw a large piece of Magical Beast Meat at it, but still, the bone dragon did not react. He even had Bard roar at the bone dragon “woooiyya,” yet the bone dragon remained unresponsive.

“What’s going on?”

For a whole half hour, the bone dragon simply stood silently in the metal ore pit, making no movement at all.

It seemed to disregard Liszt, Ach, and Bard, as well as the knights and serfs who were gesturing and pointing around it. The blue flames in the dragon’s eye sockets burned slowly, but they did not convey that sense of a “Lich’s” gaze—the blue fire of the Marquis of the Bull used to give a strong impression of being watched.

“Ach,” Liszt decided not to wait any longer, “support me, I’m going to try riding it!”

“Don’t worry, brother, Ach is ready at all times.”

The next moment.

Liszt leaped from Bard’s back and hopped directly onto the flat bones where the Dragon Tooth Platform should be on the bone dragon’s neck. The bone dragon gave no response, letting Liszt find a comfortable position and settle down on the flat bone.

In an instant.

Liszt felt a connection form with the bone dragon’s soul, but he did not enter a Mind Battle. Instead, he took over the consciousness of the terrifying, fierce, mysterious, and eerie giant dragon made of bones.

“This bone dragon... It actually has no thoughts or consciousness, nor does it possess a dragon’s unique world of the mind. It’s like an empty vessel, a blank canvas for the soul... and I can easily control everything, manipulate it to perform any action!”

With a thought in his heart.

He then controlled the bone dragon to start moving, first shaking its front leg bones, then its hind leg bones, and finally shaking its wing bones. Then, turning its bone neck, he tried to see the world through the eyes of the bone dragon. The perspective shift resulted in a very special vision—a pitch-black world.

There was no sun, just a dim outline of the sun. The light shone upon him, giving Liszt a slight burning sensation.

The land and trees also appeared only as faint outlines, even their shapes slightly distorted.

Only the humans around the crater radiated the brightest light, albeit in a transparent white outline. He saw Ach’s outline, as bright as a hundred-watt incandescent bulb; he also saw Bard’s outline, nearly as bright as Ach’s, but seeming brighter due to the size.

The other knights emitted a somewhat dimmer light, and the serfs’ light was even dimmer.

He turned his head again, trying to see his own aura. He found that his own light was roughly similar to Ach’s, not significantly different from an ordinary person.

“What does this transparency and variation in color depths signify?”

“They look like specters. Could it be that the bone dragon’s vision can actually see directly into the soul of living beings?”

## Chapter 923: Work Point System

Mounted atop the Bone Dragon, it crawled up slowly from the metallic mine pit. The surrounding knights and serfs quickly retreated outward. Liszt issued new orders, “Count Nicholas, continue to organize the miners to dig. Strive to unearth every buried dragon bone, leaving not a single fragment behind.”

“Yes, Your Highness,” Nickel Bellows responded with admiration.

He found the spectacle of Bone Dragons to be inconceivable, yet even more unbelievable was his Lord Landlord whom he followed.

When the Fengxiang Family, who had crafted equipment for generations for the Sapphire Family, was given to Liszt, Nickel had harbored complaints. The family was discarded without as much as a warning and transferred like a commodity to another. But now, Nickel was immensely grateful to the Sapphire Duke. Had the Duke not sent the Fengxiang Family to Liszt, how could he have witnessed all these wonders and obtained such a bright future?

“His Highness truly is the Son of Glory, no, the worldly embodiment of the knight’s honor!” he mused inwardly.

Dragons were gathering under the command of his own Lord Landlord one after another in a short amount of time, even faster than Nobles acquiring Greater Elves. Today, even in mining, a Bone Dragon was casually unearthed, and the Dragon did not resist at all, allowing the Lord easily to mount it.

It was as if it had been waiting for its Lord all along.

Watching the Bone Dragon move slowly out of the mining pit, Nickel withdrew his gaze from that majestic figure, invigorated, he shouted, “All knights, muster your spirits! Carry out the task assigned by His Highness immediately, organize the miners to continue mining and to excavate the fragments of dragon bones!”

The chaotic excavation site, under the organization of the knights, once again became orderly and well-managed.

Such organizational strength was all thanks to Liszt.

Before crossing over, as an ordinary person, Liszt could not be considered a qualified Noble Landlord, but the most significant change he brought to the management of his territory was the “Grand Battle” strategy.

Starting from Fresh Flower Town, under his whimsical command, all officials and civilians repeatedly took part in various grand battles, whether it was for logging, cleaning, road building, or spring ploughing.

After many such Grand Battles, territory officers quickly grew and developed considerable organizational abilities.

It was the intense development of Black Horse Island that led to frequent Grand Battles, rapidly enhancing the organizational skills of knights, officers, and civilians. This in turn created the combat power now used in the development of the Flame Islands, with many former base-level officers starting to manage significant projects.

The Flame People, relying on their organizational capabilities, were taming the Moon Slayers bit by bit and achieving complete control over Flame Island.

Snap!

A vine whip rose and fell on a lazy Moon Slayer serf.

A clerk holding paper and pen shouted, “Number 699-516-999, Aladuyang, on the afternoon of June 14th, at 3 PM, caught slacking off at the Dragon Pit Great Mine, one work point docked!” After speaking, he found Aladuyang’s name in the notebook and diligently noted down the time, place, and incident.

The work point system was a method devised by Liszt. Each serf had ten guaranteed work points daily; mistakes would lead to points being deducted, hard work would bring rewards.

After the end of the month, supplies were distributed based on the number of work points accumulated by the serfs.

Generally, a Moon Slayer serf working diligently without absence, laziness, or brawling could earn fifteen work points each day, summing up to four hundred fifty points per month. This was enough to feed two children. If both husband and wife worked diligently, raising four children was not an issue.

The Moon Slayers loved to have children, but in the forest, the child mortality rate was too high. Since migrating out of the forest, the mortality rate had been controlled to less than twenty percent.

It has to be said.

Liszt certainly adopted unequal policies in treating the Moon Slayer serfs, but at least he did a decent job in ensuring their livelihood. Compared to the genocidal acts of European and American colonizers toward African slaves and Native Americans on Earth, his approach was more humane.

This Moon Slayer serf named Aladuyang, after being whipped by a vine, felt a burning pain on his back and had one work point deducted. His bonus work points for today were inevitably out of reach.

He cursed under his breath but didn't dare to resist the clerk.

Under the resentful gazes of the entire production group, he had no choice but to lower his head and keep working, not daring to slack off again—the work point system came with matching production groups. If a production group had several “troublemakers” who were repeat offenders, it could affect the entire group, with all the serfs having points deducted.

Thus, the serfs monitored each other. Anyone who affected the group's earning of work points would inevitably face ostracism and even be beaten by the group in private.

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Riding the Bone Dragon to a quiet area, Liszt was ready to take his time studying this unique dragon.

He wanted to try flying, but the flapping of the Bone Dragon's wings barely stirred any wind, and it could only stumble and run along the ground.

“It seems a bit useless, not even having the breath function,” he said, shaking his head as he jumped off the back of the Bone Dragon. “Ach, try and see if you can ride the Bone Dragon. This Bone Dragon is clearly just a shell without consciousness, maybe you can control it.”

“Okay,” Ach nodded, indeed wanting to experience dragon riding.

Magicians, as they did not cultivate magic power themselves and mainly drew free magic power from the air or the Magic Web, could not unify their minds with a dragon and thus were destined to be unable to ride dragons.

But this special Bone Dragon might offer a different experience.

Unfortunately, both Ach and Liszt were disappointed that even when Ach mounted the Dragon Tooth Platform, she couldn’t infuse her consciousness into the body.

She was unable to control the Bone Dragon: “Brother, Ach is so sad.”

“Don’t be sad, it’s just a bone dragon, after all. Dragons belong to the Knight’s cultivation system, and you’re in the Magician’s cultivation system,” Liszt consoled, rubbing Ach’s hair to comfort the Little Sea Monster. “Besides, although you can’t ride it, you can study it.”

“Mm!” Ach perked up. “Ach likes to study dragons, and can help brother master it quickly.”

The nature of the Bone Dragon’s existence required Ach to study it. Liszt didn’t have the energy or brainpower for that; he preferred to consider the Bone Dragon’s value.

First, the Bone Dragon seemed capable of seeing a creature’s soul and could readily determine soul strength, which should be quite useful. Even because it belonged to a race associated with death, involving souls, it might be similar to the Ghost Ship that Curtis Truth had once created.

Curtis hoped to rely on the Ghost Ship to travel to the Exiled Lands, to find the soul of her beloved, Annute Sapphire.

Liszt felt he might also rely on the Bone Dragon to go to the Exiled Lands, find the Immortal Dragon, and contract it for eternal life.

Secondly.

Since the Bone Dragon was so easy to control, it might become a teaching tool for dragon riding—allowing Dragon Knight candidates to mount Bone Dragons, to get used to the feeling of Mind Battles in advance.

Thinking this.

He immediately sent a message via the Magic Platform, instructing Emily, who was commanding the Mammoth Knight Brigade to build roads, to hurry to Dragon Valley City. Currently, the Dragon Knight candidate program was not yet established, and only Emily barely met the standards for Dragon Riding.

#### Chapter 924: The Girl Dragon Riding

Emily arrived swiftly, as she had recently changed mounts; Liszt had given her the mount he rode in his youth, the Wind Attribute Intermediate Dragon Beast – Landwalker bird Loki, for her to ride.

The expanse of the project developing Flame Island kept growing, with simultaneous construction of five cities: Flame City, Jade City, Dragon Valley City, Reed City, and Estuary City. Yet, the distances between these cities were considerable, with the closest, Flame City to Dragon Valley City, being over three hundred kilometers apart—equivalent to the distance from Shanghai to Nanjing.

Relying on horseback for communication was indeed a waste of time, especially for followers like Emily, who were highly valued by Liszt and often needed to multitask by traveling between cities.

Changing to a better mount was essential—of course, only Emily was currently enjoying this privilege.

“Your Highness.”

“Here you are, Emily.” Liszt looked over the girl who now stood at one meter seventy and no longer had a flat figure; her chest and buttocks had begun to turn slightly upwards,

“I’ve recently acquired a special dragon, a Bone Dragon. It’s quite intriguing—lacking its own consciousness, you could try riding it.”

He pointed to the enormous creature standing still, its head lowered as if deep in thought.

A Bone Dragon with a sixty-meter wingspan and sixty-five-meter body length shimmered in ghostly blue light; its dragon teeth glowed like the sun, while its dragon eyes burned with blue flames.

Direct sunlight hit the Bone Dragon, causing Liszt to feel a burning sensation while riding, but it was only a sensation. The sunlight had no special effect on the Bone Dragon. Unlike a vampire significantly weakened when exposed to sunlight, the Bone Dragon’s magic power belonged to both Super Magic and High Magic.

The ghostly blue magic power at its joints was Chaotic Super Magic, while the magic power leaking out was Chaotic High Magic.

“Your Highness, is it appropriate for me to ride this Bone Dragon?” Emily asked puzzled. Liszt had always told her to prepare to ride the Light Green Gem Dragon Ethan.

“Don’t worry, the Bone Dragon is different from normal dragons. It’s more like a piece of equipment, meant for you to increase your dragon riding proficiency and success rate. I hope you can become Ethan’s knight, but the risks of failure in dragon riding are significant, and you need to be better prepared.”

“Emily understands!”

Nodding, Emily didn’t hesitate any longer. She leaped into the air and landed on the backbone of the Bone Dragon, finding the Dragon Tooth Platform under Liszt’s guidance.

Taking a deep breath, the girl suppressed her excitement, glanced at Liszt, and slowly sat on the Dragon Tooth Platform.

Suddenly.



A mysterious and profound sensation surged into her heart, giving her an extraordinary and surreal feeling. At that moment, she felt she was still Emily, yet also possessed a skeleton-built body, as if she became one with the Bone Dragon beneath her, two bodies sharing one mind.

“Pay close attention to this feeling. Although it can’t match the intensity of riding a dragon, it will help you get accustomed to this wonderful yet awkward sensation.”

Hearing Liszt’s voice.

Emily quickly calmed down and began to control the Bone Dragon with her mind. At first, even the smallest motion was clumsy, but as she grew more familiar with the sensation, the Bone Dragon’s movements became more fluid. Half an hour later, she could already control the Bone Dragon to run and even attempted flight, but didn’t manage to take off.

“Woo eee yah!”

In the distance, the Formless Dragon flew in, carrying Liszt, who activated the Crystal White Trajectory, carefully inspecting the Bone Dragon under Emily’s control. Ach, too, cast the Super Magic – Eye of Mana, closely observing the information revealed by the Bone Dragon.

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Emily, who had ridden a Bone Dragon, did not unlock the secret of Dragon Dou Qi.

Since a Bone Dragon is not a dragon in the usual sense, it cannot cultivate together with knights, so Emily still had to gradually consume Magic Potions to train in Advanced Dou Qi.

However, her talent was indeed extraordinary. Having only recently been promoted to a Sky Knight, she had already surpassed the strength of an average Sky Knight and was on the verge of reaching the power level of a Sword Saint. She had a natural sharpness for battle, and her body adapted exceptionally well to Dou Qi, with one Magic Potion going as far as several would for other Sky Knights.

In addition, Liszt had secretly taught her the Dou Qi Secret Technique “Breath Decay,” making her use of Magic Potions even more economical.

So far, aside from “The Eye of Magic,” which had to be kept a secret for his exclusive use, Liszt no longer cared about other Dou Qi Secret Techniques. They were precious at the Sky Knight stage, but of little use to a Dragon Knight. He would teach them freely to those close to him.

He had also planned to give the Dou Qi Domain Manual as a birthday gift to his father, Li Weiliam, this year, helping him advance to a Domain Knight.

Perhaps the father-son relationship was somewhat contrived, but ultimately they shared the same bloodline.

During the founding of the Flame Kingdom, Li Weiliam played a very important role, with nearly all diplomatic affairs handled by the Marquis of Bull Tail.

“This year, for his birthday, I’ll give the Marquis the Dou Qi Domain Manual; after the founding of the kingdom, I’ll make him a Duke and give him the second-largest island of the Flame Islands—Tulip Island—as his fief. This should repay the lifetime of familial relations and settle the karma inherited from my predecessor.”

Different times bring different thoughts. Initially, upon his arrival through transmigration, he wanted to sever ties with the Tulip Family, but it was not easy. After all, he still inherited these family ties.

Now, as one of the Five Dragon Knights and King of the Flame Kingdom, he didn’t mind lifting his entire family to heaven.

Not only would he allow the Tulip Family to enjoy wealth and status, but he would also take great care of the Long Taro Family on the other side. He would do his best to support the Pinecone Family of his aunt Melinda and the Basil Family into which his sister Li Vera had married. Even those veterans who had followed him would enjoy wealth and honor.

The practice of “when the rabbit dies, the hound is cooked; when the birds are all shot, the bows are hidden” would not happen.

With the legacy of five dragons continually passed down, the Flame Family would stand at the pinnacle of the knight system for at least several hundred to a thousand years, reveling in the game's fun.

Much like the Platinum Family of Steel Ridge, the Golden Crown Family of Blast Furnace Fortress, and the families of Moonlight Silver and White Maw Iron of the Eagles,

After hundreds to thousands of years of heritage, generation after generation enjoyed the utmost authority and power.

As long as dragons did not go extinct, the family would not fall from the throne—even if old dragons died, as new ones were timely added, the family would continue the game.

It is said that on the other side of the continent, the Neverfall Empire has continued for more than two thousand years. The Dragon Rearing Family that rules this empire is still passing down its legacy, never in decline. After all, in this world, unlike ancient China on Earth, dragons guarantee status, not the hearts of the people.

“Your Highness, I’ve become accustomed to dragon riding. Reed Cinder Road is still under construction, and the Mammoth Knight Brigade cannot be without my command. Please, allow me to return to my duties there.”

After one day of adapting to dragon riding, Emily resolutely said her farewells; she could see that Liszt and Ach had a lot of research work to do.

“Very well, you may go,” Liszt did not retain Emily; however, he thought for a moment and added, “The Flame Kingdom is about to be established. I have too many dragons to ride by myself; you must grow quickly to lessen my burden by taking on one of the dragons... Here are one hundred Platinum Magic Potions for you to use.”

A Platinum Magic Potion, five hundred Gold Coins apiece, and that was the price within the Steel Ridge Kingdom. Out in the market of Sapphire, they would sell for at least seven to eight hundred Gold Coins each.

Emily took the Platinum Magic Potions without any objections, merely nodding heavily: “Understood!”

All was understood without words.

#### Chapter 925: Counting to Fifty is Difficult

After Emily left, Liszt and Ach hastened to research the Bone Dragon and obtained a lot of precious data, but they did not form a systematic argument and could not determine the nature of the Bone Dragon's existence.

“Unfortunately, there are too few records about Liches and Ghost Ships left by Curtis Truth; our fundamental research on the soul is still lacking... The Mountain Copper Dragon should not be exposed for now, and we can't hand over Andre to the Sapphire Duke yet in exchange for his information about the Dragon Domain LandLord and Liches.”

Ach nodded and said, “Brother, although the data is not abundant, we have basically figured out how to control the Bone Dragon. The Bone Dragon possesses some of the Elemental Dragon's properties. If we must summarize, it should be considered as of the Soul Element, and you can control it in the same way that Leo possesses a body.”

Leo could transform into a magical form and attach to Liszt's body, and recently Liszt had been planning to find an opportunity for Leo to collaborate in practicing new skills.

He tried to let Leo use his Magic Form to condense a set of flame armor that clung to his own surface.

It was like the set of flame-like armor that Ach had seen with the Time Scepter.

Now that they had the Bone Dragon, its Superior Magic had been discovered, and it surprisingly had properties of an Elemental Dragon — it was clearly a special creature with the qualities of death, made from the entangled skeleton and teeth soul of a Metal Dragon, yet it unexpectedly attained a Magic Form similar to that of an Elemental Dragon.

This might have been the best evidence for the matter-magic-spirit triangle theory.

“I will attempt to control it, Ach. If you are in a hurry to return to Reed City to research the Magic Teleportation Array, have Bard send you back first... After we sell Andre to the Sapphire Duke and get the information on the Lich and Dragon Domain LandLord, we'll carry out a systematic study of this Bone Dragon,” Liszt said.

For the time being, he saw the Bone Dragon as a “Dragon Riding model machine” that could be used to train Dragon Knights and to experiment with new skills.

Ach left riding the Formless Dragon, while Liszt continued to explore riding the Bone Dragon.

“My soul is in tune with Leo; I clearly understand how it transforms from a flesh-and-blood body into a Magic Form. Now, what is lacking is proficiency.”

Leo’s shape-shifting was a natural talent, but Liszt had to communicate with the chaotic Super Magic of the Bone Dragon through his thoughts and merge his body with the Super Magic to develop a Magic Form. Controlling such a huge Bone Dragon with one’s mind was still difficult.

It was like a small horse pulling a large cart.

However, once the large cart started moving smoothly, the small horse could just manage to pull it along.

So for the following half of June, Liszt applied himself to mastering control of the Bone Dragon, barely participating in the development of his domain. He only made an appearance when training with the dragons, contracting new elves, and then he would step back and be a hands-off manager.

The Dragon Slaying battle in April ended.

The tripartite negotiations in May were completed.

June was relatively peaceful.

The news of the Mountain Copper Dragon being ridden was always kept secret. It seemed that there was no movement from the Eagle Kingdom, and Andre, likewise, wasn’t affected by any curse, being kept like a pig in the attached prison of Flame Castle, eating, drinking, and sleeping. The landscape of the four great kingdoms was tending towards stability.

For Liszt, the biggest surprise of June, besides the Bone Dragon, was the reward from the Smoke Mission.

After the public announcement of the new Dragon Knight candidate plan exclusive to the Flame Kingdom, which used schools as a method of dissemination, the Smoke Mission was immediately completed.

“Mission completed, reward: one Corn Greater Elf.”

Yes, it was Mickey, the Corn Minor Elf Liszt previously owned, who had evolved. One day, after having lunch and preparing to read a newly arrived Knight’s Novel, Mickey, who had already moved to Flame Castle, suddenly flew over to find him as he was about to open a new book and took out an ear of corn.

Then, right in front of Liszt, Mickey started counting the kernels one by one: “Chirp... chirp... chirp...”

Although its cries were all the same, the meaning it conveyed was very clear: “One, two, three, four, five, six, seven... eleven!” From one to eleven, it counted very distinctly.

“Good job, Mickey!” Liszt didn’t skimp on praise.

In the following days, Mickey was sometimes excited, sometimes downcast, which made Liszt nervous for a while, fearing that its evolution would fail.

Therefore, even the new Smoke Mission was somewhat absent-minded.

“Mission: The special role of the Bone Dragon you have been uncovering, yet independent manipulation always leads to some discrepancies. Perhaps you should find a way to address this issue. A single person’s spiritual power is limited, why not try the spiritual power of two people? Complete full control of the Bone Dragon. Reward: Gemstone Crown.”

Fortunately, Mickey ultimately evolved successfully, becoming a graceful Corn Greater Elf without a personality as distinct as Jela’s, which seemed rather placid.

But it was still very lively, its interest in counting unchanged, only no longer limited to corn kernels.

“One, two, three, four... Liszt, twenty-six Little Minor Elves live in the castle.” Its mastery of language was very rapid because, as a Little Minor Elf, it had received “prenatal education” from the castle servants, so it already knew many Serpent Scripts—Serpent Script was the official language of the Flame Kingdom.

“Great job, congratulations on getting it right. So, Mickey, how many Elf Bugs are there in the castle?” Liszt posed a new question to it.

Currently, elves mainly dwell in Thorn Castle and Flame Castle, and Mickey was counting the residents of Flame Castle, which housed twenty-six Little Minor Elves, but the number of Elf Bugs exceeded two hundred.

Mickey began to count seriously.

“One, two, three, four... forty-nine, fifty, thirty-seven, thirty-eight... forty-nine, fifty, twenty-one, twenty-two... oh, Liszt, my head is so confused, I can’t keep count.” Mickey realized a fact after repeating the count for the fifth time.

Even if its ability to count had made significant strides, it was still unable to count numbers above fifty properly.

“That’s why you need to practice more. Once you can count from one to a hundred, I’ll teach you more profound mathematics, not just the basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.”

Saying this, Liszt pulled out a piece of paper from the desk, which had a chart drawn on it like a staircase: “There’s also the multiplication table!”

“Okay, I will count seriously.” Mickey’s eyes lit up when it saw the chart, and after expressing its confidence, it went straight back to the Worm Room, to the sea of colorful Elf Bugs, and began to busy itself with counting, “One, two, three, four... forty-nine, fifty, forty-four, forty-five...”

He shook his head.

Liszt found it a bit amusing, “I wonder if Mickey could trigger evolution into a Dragon Elf when it learns to count to a hundred. But for now, it and Greater Elves like Jela show no interest in the five dragons I command.”

Currently, only Phoenix Perch Parasol Tree Greater Elf Annie was deeply in love with Little Fire Dragon Leo; Pea Great Elf Ash was deeply in love with Grey Iron Dragon Ornn.

“It still has a long way to go.”

Suddenly, a crisp voice interrupted Liszt’s musings, as Man-Eating Tree Dragon Sprite Kali approached.

It did not fly but walked in shoes like a human and no longer went bare-bodied, choosing to wear a small set of Flack·Abbieye, dressing itself up as a refined, handsome young noble. At one meter tall, with transparent light-yellow skin and a leaf on its head, it looked handsome with a touch of playfulness.

Kali held its head high, showing a proud expression, “Liszt, I have already discovered the important value of the Man-Eating Tree and found mutant varieties of Magic Potions. Now you understand how important I am, right?”

It made a casual gesture.

A beam of green light shot onto the balcony’s flower pot, and then a green seedling forcibly took over the ornamental plant originally in the pot, growing into a half-meter tall Man-Eating Tree.

Liszt used the Eye of Magic and could clearly see that this Man-Eating Tree was emitting a faint magic feedback glow—indeed, it was a Magic Potion plant.

Chapter 926: I’m Willing

Contracted with Man-Eating Tree Dragon Elf Carly for quite some time now, the plantation for man-eating trees had been established in Flame City, but the uses of the man-eating tree remained elusive.



These trees neither produced food nor were they attractive; at most, their wood quality was decent, but their trunks were too thin.

Thus, Carly's identity as a dragon elf had truly seemed rather superfluous before—seemingly magical, something only a dragon-rearing family could cultivate. However, its value seemed to be limited to providing company for chatter with Liszt—despite being of the man-eating tree species, it could only snatch up and consume some commoners.

It was unreliable against knights or ancient mages, and moreover, the man-eating trees could only move under Carly's control.

Although it was unspoken, Carly could feel its awkward status and sense the slight regret in Liszt's heart toward it.

So, it held its breath and, after several outings with a group of man-eating trees, finally discovered a mutated variety—the Carnivorous Ogre Magic Tree.

This was the name Liszt came up with after examining the magic potion variant of the man-eating tree.

Its magic potion of chaotic quality wasn't very potent, but considering the entire plant could be refined into a magic potion, the yield shouldn't be too bad.

“Carly, I've never thought of you as unimportant. You are my first dragon elf, and you hold a very important place in my heart,” Liszt said persuasively.

Upon hearing this, Carly puffed out its chest with pride, “Hmph!”

Seemingly indifferent, it actually cared a lot about Liszt's opinion. After all, the power of the contract subtly engendered a fondness for Liszt.

“So next, please help the serfs in the plantation to grow more Carnivorous Ogre Magic Trees.”

“Leave it to me,” Carly nodded proudly and said, “And I will continue to search for more varieties of Carnivorous Ogre Magic Trees, including those with auxiliary medicine properties. Man-eating trees are very common in forests, there must be countless mutated varieties, and I will find them all for you.”

“That is indeed excellent, but you must also be careful. The outside world is fraught with danger.”

“I am not scared; I can burrow, I’m not afraid of whatever magical beasts I encounter. Those Moon Slayers will only be killed by me!” Carly spoke fiercely, befitting of a dragon elf who had once slaughtered an entire large Moon Slayer Tribe, possessing a mighty air.

“I know you’re very powerful. Hmm, if you do encounter Moon Slayers outside, try not to kill them if possible. After all, they will be my serfs in the future, tilling the land and crafting items for me.”

“Hmph!”

Carly folded its arms and turned away, clearly resistant to Liszt’s words—should any troublesome Moon Slayers appear, it wouldn’t be polite; it would kill if necessary.

Seeing this, Liszt could only express his helplessness, intending to gradually train Carly.

Moreover, a thought occurred to him, “Jela cannot be relocated to Flame Castle for now. Its explosive temper meeting Carly’s ferocity might lead to a fight on the spot. However...”

Suddenly, an inspiration bloomed within Liszt.

As they say, misfortune is where fortune resides, and fortune is where misfortune lies. Jela was no ordinary elf; every evolution it underwent was driven by the pressure of fate, ultimately breaking free of its shackles. So, could letting Carly stimulate Jela perhaps hasten Jela’s development?

“It’s worth a try.”

...

At this moment,

Far away at Thorn Castle, while Jela was inspecting its territory, it shivered unexpectedly, “Wuwa?” It was a little puzzled, feeling as though it had sensed something unpleasant.

However, the feeling was fleeting, and it didn’t dwell on it.

With hands behind its back, it lazily flew a loop around Thorn Castle before returning to the Worm Room, shouting at the chattering little minor elves, “All of you quiet down and sleep properly!”

Instantly,

The Worm Room area of Thorn Castle fell silent.

This gave Jela a great sense of achievement, but soon it fell into a slump, “So many little elves have been sent away, and Liszt hasn’t come back for days now. Wuwa, Jela doesn’t like it here anymore.”

...

Mickey’s evolution facilitated a rapid expansion of the corn plantation’s scale.

Kali found the Magic Potion and ordered an unprecedented increase in the planting of the Man-Eating Trees.

Liszt gradually mastered the Magic Form of the Bone Dragon, and he could ride the Bone Dragon and merge with Superior Magic to change its form.

However, the difficulty of changing form was high, and the completion was not sufficient.

“Bone Dragon! Transform!”

At this moment, he was attempting it again. The Bone Dragon let out a roar, its body enveloped in a ghostly blue light that quickly covered every Dragon Bone. Following that, the entire Bone Dragon visibly shrank at a rapid pace until it became a three-meter-tall skeleton, encasing Liszt within.

The skeleton roughly took the shape of a human, like an oversized set of armor, the bones interlocking jaggedly, yet it was extremely cumbersome to move.

“It’s still unable to shrink to a normal armor’s size. The mental force required for the Bone Dragon’s Magic Form is too strong, and I really can’t manage it alone... It seems I truly need to find someone to share my mental exertion, as the Smoke Mission also suggested I find someone to share the mental burden.”

It wasn’t that he was unwilling to share the Bone Dragon with someone else; he just didn’t know how to go about sharing it.

He could always call on Emily to cooperate, but the Bone Dragon could only accommodate one rider at a time and couldn’t connect the minds of two Knights simultaneously.

So he strove to explore, attempting to control it alone.

After several failed attempts, he decided to follow the hint from the Smoke Mission and seek someone to share the burden. He first sought advice from Ach, after all, sharing mental power wasn’t a straightforward operation.

After listening to Liszt’s query, Ach pondered briefly, then said, “Brother, do you still remember Virginia Truth?”

“Virginia?” Liszt was taken aback and then said, “Of course I remember. She joined the Adventure Fleet to sea and is currently moored on the shores of the Legendary Continent.”

“Virginia has become a Necrofish Ugly, but Ach feels that her Soul hasn’t completely merged with the Necrofish Ugly and can be separated with some manipulation. The Soul Storage Vessel you have is a good material for performing Soul Separation Magic. Why not have her take on some of your mental exertion?”

“Are you certain Virginia can help me share the mental burden?”

“Mm, we can place Virginia’s Soul into the Bone Dragon’s body. This way, the Bone Dragon will have semi-autonomous action capabilities. When you ride the Bone Dragon, together with Virginia, you should be able to fully control it.”

Upon hearing Ach’s explanation, Liszt immediately nodded, “Alright, I will bring Virginia here. I’ll give you the Soul Storage Vessel, and you can prepare everything. When the time comes, we’ll separate her soul and infuse it into the Bone Dragon.”

No sooner said than done.

Riding the Formless Dragon Bard, the lone pair rushed towards the coast of the Legendary Continent.

With Bard’s speed, they quickly arrived at the Adventure Fleet’s anchorage, which had now been developed into a makeshift harbor town. Due to resupply needs, the fleet only recently returned to Flame Island to stock up on ample food and wealth, which was handed to Yevich for the conquest of Snowstorm Mountain Duchy.

Virginia resided in this small harbor town, protecting the safety of the fleet.

The Trident-Styled Rending Staff vibrated, and she was awakened from her sleep by Liszt, “Your Highness, when did you arrive?”

“You’ll leave this place for a while; I have a task that requires your assistance. Perhaps after the task is completed, you can get a more comfortable body.”

“A more comfortable body?” Virginia was puzzled.

“Yes, let’s not talk about that now. First, I’ll put you in the Space Ring, and we can discuss more once we get there.” After putting away the Rending Staff, the Formless Dragon quickly shuttled through space.

Moments later, they burst from the Heart Reed Teleportation Formation's exit and returned to Reed City.

Once there, before the Bone Dragon, Liszt briefly explained the situation, "...That's pretty much it. I still lack some mental power to control the Bone Dragon. Ach has a way to infuse you into the Bone Dragon's body, to take over the control of this body, and then work with me to complete the transformation of the Magic Form."

"The Bone Dragon..." Virginia, in her Necrofish Ugly state, appeared somewhat disoriented, "It looks huge; can I really control it?"

"The basic maneuvers are no problem, but with your mental strength alone, you can at best control the Bone Dragon like a wild beast, unable to release many of the Dragon's abilities. However, when I ride it, joining forces with you, we can undoubtedly bring out all of the Bone Dragon's strength... Of course, the choice is yours; I won't force you."

Liszt truly wasn't forcing her, as he believed that even if she was a female in her previous life, she still couldn't resist the allure of a Dragon—even if it was becoming a Bone Dragon.

Besides, the Bone Dragon was much stronger and more domineering than a Necrofish Ugly.

Sure enough.

After snapping out of her reverie, Virginia immediately nodded in agreement, "Your Highness, I am willing to become the Bone Dragon."

## Chapter 927: First Divine Connection

Relying on the Soul Storage Vessel, a divine artifact that wasn't truly a divine artifact, Ach successfully extracted Virginia Truth's soul from the Tear Staff.

At this moment, Virginia reverted to a young girl's appearance. Her soul's outline was formed by a glowing white light, and she also had an unmistakable 36D figure. The Tear Staff, from which the soul had been extracted, had endured the erosion of magic stripping

due to the annihilation of Necrofish Ugly until it was completely ruined and turned into a broken fish spear.

“Your Highness, Her Excellency Archmage, what should I do next?” Virginia, back to her original form, looked into the mirror, somewhat bewildered.

During the time she had become Necrofish Ugly, she only remembered the unusual stares of the surrounding knights each time she appeared and almost forgot that she had once been a young girl in her prime.

Now there was joy in regaining her true self but also fear of the unknown from becoming a Bone Dragon.

“Relax. Since you were able to merge with Necrofish Ugly, you can now merge with the Bone Dragon. With me and Ach safeguarding you, there’s absolutely no risk to worry about,” Liszt consoled her.

Virginia nodded, “Mhm.”

Indeed, having the great Dragon Knight and Archmage as her guardians was the safest protection measure possible.

Ach carried the Soul Storage Vessel as Liszt lifted her onto the back of the Bone Dragon— Ach couldn’t yet fly, busy mastering the Earth Elemental Avatar. He would have to wait until he perfectly mastered the Earth Elemental Avatar before attempting to master the Wind Elemental Avatar, and finally learn to fly relying on the Wind Elemental Avatar.

“The sealing of Dragon Tooth is too strong; we can’t infuse Virginia’s soul through the Dragon Tooth. But Dragon Tooth Platform is an open soul entrance. This is Virginia’s only opportunity.”

“Her Excellency Archmage, please give your instructions. Virginia will listen to you and Your Highness,” the 36D girl hastily said with respectful tones. Almost all magicians, upon encountering an Archmage, turn into beings even lower than servants, almost as if they wish they could kneel on the ground and lick the Archmage’s shoes.

This was a pathological pursuit of Truth—in their eyes, the Archmage was the incarnation of Truth walking in the mundane world.

“We don’t need complicated operations. Ach will construct a simple Soul Stabilization Magic Array here, and from that, you will receive a magic supplement. Then, it’s time for you to enter the Dragon’s soul through the Dragon Tooth Platform and take over—it’s a task you must accomplish on your own.”

“I understand.”

After the Magic Array for soul stabilization was set up, Virginia was poured out of the Soul Storage Vessel and onto the Magic Array.

After a brief brewing, Virginia’s figure had solidified considerably. Under Liszt’s guidance, she slowly sat on the Dragon Tooth Platform. In an instant, a ghostly blue light rose from the Dragon Tooth Platform, swiftly entangled with the soul-state Virginia, and then as the light faded, Virginia also disappeared.

“She’s gone in,” Ach stated calmly.

Liszt nodded, embraced Ach, jumped off the spine of the Bone Dragon, and then mounted the Formless Dragon Bard, activating Crystal White Trajectory to quietly await changes in the Bone Dragon.

After a full quarter of an hour of calm,

The blue Magic Radiance on the Bone Dragon suddenly began to tremble, followed by its head twisting slightly, and its wings, limbs, and tail also began to move in succession. These movements weren’t grand, but they delighted Liszt, as this signified that Virginia was taking control of the Bone Dragon.

But the Bone Dragon merely moved slightly and then relapsed into a long period of calm.

“Ach, what’s happening? Could there be a problem with Virginia’s soul? Should I mount and feel for myself?”



“Brother, be patient,” Ach’s pupils swirled like vortexes of stars, “Although the Bone Dragon lacks consciousness, its soul exists, pure. For Virginia, to replace the Bone Dragon’s soul with her own is no easy task.”

“So we just wait like this?”

“The struggle for the soul is dangerous. Brother riding the dragon won’t help Virginia at all; it would only disturb her. When the soul is infused, only one soul, whether Virginia’s or the Bone Dragon’s, will remain.” Ach pulled the somewhat restless Liszt, “Brother, you better use Crystal White Trajectory to carefully observe the Bone Dragon. Don’t miss any details.”

“I understand.”

Li Si Te (Liszt) nodded solemnly.

He was well aware that the study of the soul could very well provide the crucial clue for Dragon Knights to break through to the next stage of their training; thus, any materials related to soul research must be diligently collected—now the struggle for the Bone Dragon’s soul presented an excellent opportunity for close observation.

Half an hour later, the Bone Dragon moved again.

However, it wasn’t a physical movement but the eerie blue flame in its dragon eyes that flickered, trembling as if blown by the wind—yet in reality, the magic-made eerie blue flame did not fear the wind; it was not a flame on the physical plane, but rather involved the Chaotic Magic Power of the soul.

Sunset followed by moonrise, moonset followed by stars, the pitch-black sky turned to the white of dawn, and the night slowly passed with the Bone Dragon moving intermittently.

Li Si Te and Ach had stayed awake all night, keeping a record of the Bone Dragon’s state.

Finally.

When the first ray of dawn light from the east showered down on the Reed Marsh Magic Gate, the Bone Dragon, located in a secluded corner of the forest, stirred once more. This time it seemed to have freed itself from a dusty encasement and emanated a “vital” aura, as the eerie blue light breathed in and out.

“Roar!”

The Bone Dragon let out a peculiar roar, manifesting simultaneously near one’s ears and deep within the heart, as it slowly turned its head to look in the direction of Li Si Te and Ach.

The dragon gently nodded its head.

“Brother, it’s Virginia!” Ach exclaimed.

Li Si Te’s weary eyes suddenly sparked, invigorated, “Yes, Virginia has succeeded. So Ach, can I try to ride the Bone Dragon and communicate with Virginia now?”

“You can.”

Thus.

Li Si Te quickly leaped from the back of the Formless Dragon onto the Bone Dragon, finding his place on the Dragon Tooth Platform, where he was about to sit down. However, at that moment, a twisted thought popped into his mind, “Virginia’s soul has replaced the Bone Dragon’s soul, so what does it mean for me to sit down like this?”

The Dragon Tooth Platform symbolized the union of hearts; he had no qualms about such a union with a dragon.

However, if the soul of the dragon were human, and specifically a human girl, wouldn’t such a union of hearts be even more profound than physical unity?

“Spiritual communion?”

“It’s a bit wicked, stop there!” He took a deep breath, dispelled the distractions, and smoothly sat down.

Instantly, he regained the familiar sensation of riding the Bone Dragon, the cold, piercing quality unique to the Bone Dragon’s soul. Only this time, within the cold feel, there was an added trace of warmth—subtle, yet it provided a profoundly different experience.

It was like igniting a small bonfire in the midst of the night, making him sincerely feel warm and comfortable, wanting to draw near to this warmth, to be enveloped by it.

At the same time.

A voice seemed faintly calling him, ethereal, hazy, as if the wind was whispering softly, “Your Highness...”

## Chapter 928: The Skull Mask

The voice was very faint, and it was unclear where it originated from.

When he listened carefully, following the trace of warmth to find its source, he finally identified it, “Virginia?”

“It’s me, Your Highness, I just fused with the Bone Dragon’s soul, and I am not very adept yet. And Your Highness, your soul is too strong, along with a massive repulsive force that makes me feel quite uncomfortable, preventing me from establishing a deeper connection with you,” Virginia’s voice seemed ethereal.

“Hmm, it looks like we need to adapt. Virginia, perhaps I should first teach you how to resonate at the soul level... Resonance is the best way to unite minds.”

“Can you sense me, Your Highness?”

“I’ll try.”

It was like a deep self-inquiry; when Liszt focused, he quickly latched onto Virginia's consciousness. It was like recalling a memory fragment from his own mind or retrieving a previously forgotten thought, and once he found it, he naturally connected with Virginia's consciousness.

The next moment, he "saw" the girl's past, which were fragments of broken scenes.

Compared to Liszt's formidable soul and the protection of the Smoke Mission, Virginia's soul was very fragile, like a leaky house at the mercy of Liszt's prying into any part of it.

The memories of learning magic as a child, her father's scolding, her sister's oppression, exchanges at the Goat Assembly, engraving the Dragonbone Stabilizer Technique, and solitary walks through the fields—all made Virginia's life experiences monotonous and dull, without too many hardships. She even lacked the memory of her own death.

It was unclear whether she had forgotten or buried it deep within her heart, unwilling to release it.

"Virginia, accept me." Liszt had already sensed Virginia's soul entity and attempted to merge with her, just like mind-merging during dragon riding.

Virginia panicked, "What should I do, Your Highness?"

"Relax, try to breathe deeply, and do not resist; otherwise, it will stir up a Mind Battle, you don't have the strong spirit of a dragon, and a Mind Battle would shatter you."

"Alright, I'll try."

Virginia's soul entity initially resembled a hedgehog, but under Liszt's gentle guidance, transformed into a sponge. Liszt's consciousness took advantage of this moment, seeping in, completing the simplest form of mind-merging. It felt as though he became Virginia, experiencing everything about her.

Every detail of her soul couldn't escape Liszt's feeling; he had already managed to fill every bubble of Virginia, the sponge, with his own consciousness.

That complete fusion felt like a fish entering water.

It could only be described as water blending seamlessly with milk.

Very comfortable.

Nevertheless, it was far weaker compared to the sensation of dragon riding, since it was a merging of three souls at this moment—the Bone Dragon’s soul, Virginia’s soul, and Liszt’s soul. The Bone Dragon’s soul was like a cold bed, with Virginia and Liszt huddling for warmth.

They heated the bed by resonating together.

“Virginia, follow my rhythm for the pulsation,” Liszt, well-accustomed to the sensation of mind-merging, promptly reminded Virginia, who was nearly lost in its comfort.

“Ah!”

Virginia snapped out of it; the comfort of mind-merging was something she had never experienced in her whole life before, “I understand, Your Highness.”

Soul Vibration.

Liszt, proficient in the act, led Virginia in vibrating together, and then they managed to stir the pure soul of the Bone Dragon into motion. After several repeats, they finally reached the identical frequency, completing the mind-merging connection thoroughly.

Within this resonance frequency of the Dragon Knight, Virginia’s soul swiftly merged with the Bone Dragon’s soul, integrating into and taking command of the Bone Dragon’s main consciousness.

In the end.

In the triad of souls, the Bone Dragon’s soul had completely fused with Virginia’s, with no distinction between them.

And Liszt continued to maintain the Dragon Knight Resonance with this new soul, unifying their minds and reaching a consensus in their thoughts—you are in me, and I am in you. Of course, protected by the power of destiny represented by the Smoke Mission, not even the Dragon Knight Resonance could pry into the deepest secrets of Liszt's soul.

He could peer into the very core of all Dragon hearts, but Dragons could only see what he chose to reveal. The new soul born from the fusion of Virginia and the Bone Dragon was no different.

"It's done, your Highness, I am the Bone Dragon, and the Bone Dragon is Virginia."

"I can clearly feel that, Virginia, although the new soul you have transformed into still seems weaker than a normal Dragon's soul. But with our fusion, we can perfectly control this Bone Dragon, or rather, perfectly control your new body... You have indeed been reborn."

"Yes, I have indeed been reborn," Virginia smiled—it was a telepathic exchange as if she were in her own train of thought, "Since I have been reborn, the name Virginia Truth belongs to the past. Your Highness, why not give me a new name?"

She sensed Liszt's affection and extended the invitation.

Ever agreeable, Liszt replied, "It should be so, as for a new name... let's take a part of your name and call you Vinnie."

"Vinnie..."

Virginia gladly accepted.

"Roar!"

The Bone Dragon let out a shockingly unprecedented roar, signaling a soul shockwave released by Vinnie that pulsed magic power in all directions.

Even an Archmage like Ach could feel the chilling strike on the soul as it passed, momentarily losing her composure.

This was certainly a very powerful attack method.

But Liszt temporarily paid no attention to the Bone Dragon's roar; he and Vinnie quickly controlled the Bone Dragon's shift to a Magic Form. The ghastly blue light of the Dragon's Superior Magic rapidly enveloped the entire Dragonbone, melting the bone and coalescing it into a special Super Magic that merged into Liszt's body.

Just like how Leo turned into a Fire Dragon Pattern on the chest.

The pattern formed by the Bone Dragon concentrated on his head, covering only the left half of his face, with intricate ghastly blue markings swiftly etched from the scalp to his visage.

Though the scalp's pattern was concealed by hair and invisible, the facial pattern was crystal clear—a mask akin to a skull—not of a human face but crafted in the likeness of a Dragon's skull.

The previously extremely handsome Liszt, due to the half-faced skull mask, instantly became cold, eerie, with a touch of demonic allure. His character leaped from a refined gentleman of a troubled world to a psychologically twisted and evil villain, though his eyes remained clear and bright.

Of course, even as a twisted, villainous character, he was still a handsomely cool antagonist.

“Ach, what do you think of this look?” Liszt said, stepping down and approaching Ach.

“So scary, brother.”

“Haha!”

Liszt was exceedingly pleased with himself.

Ach casually created a mirror made from condensed water, allowing him to see his reflection.

Admiring his own eerie image in the mirror, Liszt couldn't help but touch the skull pattern on the left side, "Indeed, no matter what shape I take, my charm remains."

"Giggle."

Vinnie's laughter echoed in his mind. Due to the Magic Form, he and Vinnie's mind-connection was interrupted, but just like the norm for Dragon Riding, there was still a strong sense of mental resonance—Vinnie's soul had filled the void of the Bone Dragon's soul, making it whole.

"Don't laugh, Vinnie, let's make a change from Magic Form to armor evolution!" Liszt raised an eyebrow.

The skull pattern on the left side of his face lit up with even brighter ghastly blue light, and one by one, bones flickering with blue light began extending from the mask pattern, reaching across Liszt's body.

Chapter 929: Lich King

The chaotic super magic of the Bone Dragon constantly flowed out from the pale blue skeleton mask, rapidly enveloping Liszt in a pale blue framework of bones.

In a moment, Liszt, who had previously worn Flack Abaie's clothes, had transformed into an armored warrior wrapped in layered pale blue bones.

Unlike the massive skeleton of the Bone Dragon form, these bones were very fine, allowing them to closely form a body-fitting bone armor. The gaps radiated pale blue lights, staining the white bones with a blue hue, not only compensating for the pale and feeble appearance of the bones but also adding much mystique.

The armor as a whole mimicked the form of a knight's armor, but still bore fierce-looking bone spikes at various spots.



A powerful force enveloped Liszt. This was a special state of entanglement between the Dragon's Super Magic and the Dragon Dou Qi within him, which meant that although he primarily retained his human form, he could partially maintain the Bone Dragon's formidable power—he would define this state as a “Semi-Dragon Rider.”

Thus, what he wore was not merely armor, but a powered exoskeleton.

“Powerful, abundant, this is the armor I have longed for!” Liszt stretched out a hand, observing his palm wrapped in dense bone fragments, as a pale blue flame freely ignited within his palm.

This involved the soul power of chaotic super magic, constantly operating in the form of flames.

“Your Highness, I can extend further. Do you need a Dragon Lance or a Longsword?” Vinnie's thoughts flashed in his mind.

In this Semi-Dragon Rider state, he and Vinnie could still connect mentally, albeit not as profoundly as during Dragon Riding—roughly at a level between riding and separation, somewhat detached.

“Dragon Lance, Longsword?” Liszt pondered, “No need for now, I still want to make some modifications to the armor transformed from the Bone Dragon, Vinnie, maintain this state.”

“Don't worry, Your Highness. I've never felt this powerful before. Ever since I became a Specter, I've had no sensation of hot and cold or pain. Today is the only day I've felt exceptionally fulfilled. My fusion with the Bone Dragon's soul is perfect, showing no signs of disintegration.”

“Then, I am relieved.”

Liszt communicated briefly with Vinnie in his mind, then turned to Ach who was watching the spectacle and said, “Help me form a larger mirror and then give me some feedback on what parts of this Dragon Bone Armor need improvement.”

“Mmm-hmm.”

With a casual wave of his hand, Ach conjured a huge water mirror out of thin air, three sides in total, surrounding Liszt at the front, back, and right—the left side was where Ach was standing, so no mirror was placed there.

The reflections in the mirror fully displayed Liszt's Dragon Bone Armor, every detail exposed to view.

"The dragon bone at the neck position is too thick, it feels a bit short and stubby, needs to be trimmed down a bit."

"The waist part, too, needs to retain its lines, and the joint section shouldn't be too tight to avoid restricting movement."

"The entire set of armor is too tightly protective. As a powerful Dragon Knight, I do not need such suffocating coverage. Key parts just need dragon bones; make the gaps bigger to let the blue light fill them, making it look more mystical."

"Replace the helmet's cock's comb decoration with bull horns; just use the original pair of bull horns from the Bone Dragon."

"The face mask should cover only one eye, using the Bone Dragon's perspective. Let the other eye remain uncovered for normal vision... It's a pity that the Eye of Magic doesn't coordinate with the Bone Dragon's vision, otherwise, I might be able to see some special vistas, maybe even glimpses of the Exiled Lands."

"Add a few more bone spikes to the shoulders."

The complete set of armor, taking into account the advice from Ach and Vinnie along with Liszt's own aesthetic preferences, was finally shaped. From the earlier full-cover type knight armor, it transformed into the current half-cover type simplified armor, reducing the bulkiness of the armor and increasing its glamour.

"Does it feel like something is still missing?" Liszt looked at himself in the mirror, looking from left to right, always feeling somewhat incomplete.

Ach scrutinized for a moment and seriously said, “Brother, the armor has dragon horns on the head but lacks matching dragon wings, and you’re also not holding a Knight’s Sword.”

“That’s it!”

Stirred by this realization, Liszt quickly connected with Vinnie, controlling the super magic to extend, then at the shoulder blades on the back of the armor, a pair of small-sized Bone Dragon wings extended.

These wings were virtually identical to the original dragon wings of the Bone Dragon, even the ragged cartilage was preserved.

Yet, it was precisely such tattered wings that further enhanced the visual impact of the entire set of armor, making it seem like a demon that had crawled up from hell.

Like a Lich King disrespecting a dead.

Moreover, Liszt really felt that after wearing this suit of armor, his style was akin to the transformation of Marquis of the Bull into a Lich, although the blue light of Marquis of the Bull emanated from his own body while his came from the armor itself.

“Your Highness, would you like me to condense a Dragon Lance or a Longsword using the superior magic at the tail end of the Bone Dragon?” Vinnie inquired.

“For now, since there is no Dragon Riding, just transform it into a Longsword.”

Having said that, he lifted his right hand, and a pale blue flame rose in his palm, quickly transforming into a familiar longsword—the bone sword form of the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword.

The blade consisted of segments of dragon tail bone linked by blue light, with the hilt also connected to the hand armor via the blue light.

Holding the hilt, Liszt felt the sharpness of the sword, “Although it’s not a piece of genuine magic equipment, because the armor incorporates some functions of the dragon

form, when deploying Dou Qi, it can mix Dragon Magic Power with Dragon Dou Qi, making this bone sword even more powerful!”

With the bone sword, the Ice Soul Dragon-Slaying Sword could be temporarily retired.

Thus.

Completing the entire set of armor and weaponry, Liszt spent half an hour trying to practice the Dou Qi Manuscript several times, making the final adjustments through actual combat.

He kept tweaking until the evening before finally completing the refinement of all forms.

“The birth of this set of armor means that the new skills of the Elemental Dragon have been developed, and to differentiate, the forms of the Elemental Dragon and the Bone Dragon need to be redefined—its original form is called the True Form, transformed into magic power is called Totem Form, and transformed into armor is called Armor Form.”

“The armor condensed by the dragon is called Dragon Armor, the longsword condensed by the dragon is called Dragon Sword, the lance condensed by the dragon... well, still called Dragon Lance, but names like Bone Dragon Armor, Fire Dragon Sword, Ice Dragon Lance can be added to distinguish them.”

“Right!”

While summarizing the Totem Form, Liszt suddenly thought of an issue and clandestinely communicated with Vinnie, “When I ride other dragons wearing the Bone Dragon Armor, remember to retract the section at the buttocks, not to hinder my spiritual connection with the dragon.”

“Giggle, understood, my lord.”

“Be serious! Remember to be clever, retract it when I sit down, and the moment I leave the Dragon Tooth Platform, replenish it immediately, understand?” Liszt gave a stern order.

Vinnie dared not defy, “Understood.”

...

During the banquet, the nobles and officials of Reed City had gotten used to Liszt's new figure—a Bone Dragon transformed into a Totem Form, carving a skull dragon head in blue luminescent pattern on the left side of his face.

His followers had long known that their great Lord Landlord had obtained another powerful Bone Dragon. Now it appeared that both the Bone Dragon and Fire Dragon Leo could merge into the body of a Dragon Knight.

Only the Bone Dragon seemed to merge only on the face.

“How incredible!” Many followers admired Liszt's exceptionally bewitching demeanor as they dined, amazed.

But perhaps too overwhelmed by too many stimulations, they quickly grew numb and continued busily drinking and eating.

After all.

The Lord Landlord is universally recognized as the “knightly glory incarnate in the mortal world.”

After the meal, Liszt did not immediately allow Vinnie to return to her true Dragon Form to rest but had her stay in the Armor Form as he sat spacing out.

Spacing out was just a cover; actually, he was summoning the Smoke Mission and wanted to know if one in this “half-Dragon Riding” state with Vinnie could see the smoke representing the Power of Destiny.

As it turned out, Vinnie couldn't see it.

The Serpent Script made up of smoke remained visible only to Liszt.

“Complete the mission, reward: Gemstone Crown.”

Chapter 930: Missing Mathew

Virginia Truth had mastered the Bone Dragon, enabling the Bone Dragon to be reborn as a special Soul Element Dragon—Bone Dragon Vinnie.

The Smoke Mission was naturally completed along with this, rewarding him with a Gemstone Crown.

However, Liszt was somewhat curious—what exactly was this Gemstone Crown, and how would it come into his hands—he felt there was no need for theft, no need to rely on waging war to obtain it like he did with Crystal Helen.

Crystal Helen was placed within the Flame Castle, instantly elevating the grade of Liszt’s study.

This half-human-tall, gorgeous crystal statue was a special piece of Magic Equipment, capable of organizing the castle’s free-floating magic power, making one feel refreshed and at ease. Commoners basked in its aura without illness or disaster, while knights and magicians could enjoy the convenience it offered for their training.

Liszt particularly liked to read books under Crystal Helen’s aura, absorbing knowledge.

Of course, Crystal Helen’s aura was sufficient to envelop the entire Flame Castle, so all the servants in the castle benefited from this statue—Butler Carter had always presided over Thorn Castle, but after falling ill once, he was transferred by Liszt to Flame Castle to serve as the butler and to be conditioned by the statue.

Thorn Castle was subsequently managed by his original personal servant, Servant Thomas.

Chef Abbie, head maid Little Lily, head servant Tom, and other familiar servants were also transferred to Flame Castle.

It could be said that the currently rather humble Flame Castle had become his main residence, while Thorn Castle was somewhere he only occasionally returned to stay for a day.

“I wonder where the Gemstone Crown will come from—could it be that the Sapphire Duke crafted such a crown to congratulate me on becoming the king, after the three great kingdoms recognized the declaration from Flame Kingdom?” Liszt thought, but he hoped that wasn’t the case, because after all, a crown is a hat.

It’s not very nice to receive hats from others.

“If he dares to send me a Gemstone Crown, I’ll definitely send him a Light Green Gem hat!”

He didn’t dwell on the Gemstone Crown for too long, as his attention quickly shifted to the new Smoke Mission.

“Mission: Although Ach can control the Formless Dragon Bard, when the dragon is away, she lacks a suitable mount to ride across the land. It is rumored that the Steel Ridge Kingdom Pegasus Great Forest has traces of unicorns. The pure unicorn may be a match for Ach; why not explore the possibility? Reward: Pegasus Herd.”

“Unicorns, Pegasus Great Forest—it’s suggesting that I go find a unicorn.”

Liszt frowned and pondered: “But recently I don’t seem to have cared much about the unicorn issue, so why would the Smoke Mission release such a task... Or is it that deep down I actually want to capture a unicorn, to witness this creature that only pure maidens can see?”

He had always thought of the unicorn as just one kind of Super Dragon Beast, like how the Flame Dragon Bird is called a Phoenix, a bit of an exaggeration.

However, since the Smoke Mission had been issued, he had no choice but to make time for a trip to the Pegasus Great Forest, to find the Pegasus Herd, to find the unicorn.

At that moment.

From the skull dragon head pattern on his face, Vinnie’s thoughts came through: “Your Highness, it’s late at night, do you... still need my company?”

“Ahem!”

Liszt almost choked on his breath.

He could sense the unusual emotions in Vinnie’s thoughts. Ever since he and Vinnie underwent Dragon Knight Resonance, that comfortable and blending feeling had intoxicated Vinnie.

Just as Dragon Knights enjoyed a pleasant cooperation with their dragons, Vinnie too relished the joy of riding and being ridden.

Unfortunately for Vinnie, even though she had taken the place of the Bone Dragon’s soul, she was still originally a human female, and her excessive indulgence in this resonant pleasure always gave Liszt a strange sense of illusion.

So indulgence was not an option, “No need, transform back into your true form and rest outside. I will prepare a dragon nest for you as soon as possible so you can have a comfortable living environment. We will continue to cooperate when we go out to battle... Of course, if I get busy, you can also practice with Emily.”

“Emily?”

“Yes, she’s one of my followers. She’s only fourteen this year, but she’s extraordinarily talented and is already a Sky Knight of the Sword Saint Level. Moreover, she will soon become the first female Dragon Knight on the Legendary Continent,” Liszt said seriously, “I hope you can help her become more familiar with dragon riding combat.”

“A talented young lady like her? Please rest assured, Your Highness, I will cooperate earnestly with Emily... However, I still prefer fighting alongside Your Highness, and incidentally experiencing this world’s bizarre and varied landscapes.”

“Don’t worry, we will have plenty of opportunities to fight side by side.”



Soon, Vinnie turned into a huge Bone Dragon and lay down in a random spot outside. Back in his own room, Liszt could see the rhythmic, ghostly blue lights pulsing on the Bone Dragon's body through the window.

His thoughts were soaring.

“With Vinnie in this state, having the Bone Dragon continue as a prototype and training Dragon Knight is inappropriate, unless it's for female Dragon Knights.” He directly ignored the fact that he was also male, “Even having Emily practice with her feels strange, but perhaps I am overthinking it.”

Riding a Bone Dragon is no different from riding other dragons; the only difference is that regular dragons don't have genders, whereas the Bone Dragon's soul is female.

“In the future, Bone Dragon Vinnie will exist as armor and weaponry for my battles!”

The selfish possessiveness of being male led him to quickly decide the fate of Bone Dragon Vinnie. Of course, Virginia Truth was someone Liszt had saved, and the Bone Dragon was his private property; Bone Dragon Vinnie, being a combination of the two, belonged to Liszt personally and he had the right to decide how to treat her.

...

Night fell.

Liszt and Ach discussed at length, documenting all the information obtained about the Bone Dragon during the day, in preparation for future soul research.

Busy until midnight, he finally went to sleep, but before sleeping, he confirmed the date for going to the Pegasus Great Forest with Ach—the 10th of July.

The journey to the Steel Ridge Kingdom was long, and with the search for the Pegasus Great Forest, the trip could take ten days to half a month.

Therefore, he must arrange the work of the territory's construction and also coordinate the training with the dragons.

First, he went to the Doomsday Volcano Crater and negotiated with Little Fire Dragon Leo, exchanging twenty vials of Red Dragon Water for several large jars of Fire Dragon Overmagic. These Overmagic potions were intended for building glass workshops and brick factories—he planned to establish glass and brick factories in Flame City, Reed City, Jade City, Dragon Valley City, and Estuary City.

These workshops would provide glass, bricks, and cement for city construction.

They would also supply materials for road building in each city.

Then, he gave ten vials of Red Dragon Water to Mountain Copper Dragon Mata to improve their relationship. He also contracted the most recently gathered elves from the Holy Tribe—surprisingly, there were two Minor Elves, one was a Coffee Minor Elf and the other a Quadwood Minor Elf, an unexpected joy.

Next, he gave ten vials of Red Dragon Water to Light Green Gem Dragon Ethan, practiced with Ethan for a while, and deepened his own branding as the First Dragon Knight in its mind—the branding was already quite clear, in two more months, it should be completely imprinted, and then he could introduce Ethan to Emily.

Then, he gave another ten vials of Red Dragon Water to Grey Iron Dragon Ornn, who had been residing on Black Horse Island, helping Pea Great Elf Ash evolve, providing a deterrent force and ready support for the Fortress of the Mind and the Magic Gate of Mind Island.

Back and forth.

A quarter of the two hundred vials of Red Dragon Water was gone.

“This rate of consumption is a bit fast; Bard and Vinnie will also need Red Dragon Water... It seems I’ll have to find an opportunity to exchange affections with the Red and White Rose Family and get them to gift me some more Red Dragon water,” Liszt thought, fondly recalling Mathew of the Red and White Roses.

This handsome young noble was his good friend.