

## **Black Plain 1571**

### Chapter 1571 Questioning

As Minos, Shannon's envoy, and Oswald were flying through the first few miles of the Flaming Empire, looking for a good place to stop and rest, suddenly, someone appeared before them.

But this person was no stranger, nor had he seen Minos in a long time!

When Queen McBride appeared in front of his group, Minos frowned, while Oswald opened his mouth in shock, seeing someone so powerful for the first time in his life.

"Your Majesty Hannah, what is the meaning of this?" Minos stood at the head of his group while the woman accompanying them made a respectful gesture to that beautiful Spiritual Demigod.

The women at the border were also watching the situation, while the level 85 Spiritual Sage had her eyes narrowed, not understanding why this level 93 woman appeared in their way.

Hannah looked into Minos' eyes and caused the pressure on him to increase considerably, to the point where he couldn't see anything else in the surroundings.

Suddenly, he found himself in a place totally different from the one he was in, a place with no trees or natural effects, totally surrounded by purple clouds, with an endless sunset.

In that place, Hannah McBride was sitting on a gigantic throne made of clouds, looking at him as if she were a giant in front of a mere insect.

She watched him silently for a moment and asked. "Minos, you are under my judgment of truth. If you lie, I will kill you here and now."

Gulp!

Spiritual Demigods could use the domain of their avatars in such a way that reading the feelings and even seeing part of a target's memories would not be impossible.

Of course, this was something that varied from expert to expert, target to target. Each person had their own particularities, so some could see all the secrets of others when using this ability, while others would have difficulty doing the same.

In any case, Minos knew that this woman would notice if he lied, and he found himself threatened by a peak specialist of this world for the first time in his life.

He swallowed his saliva and asked. "What does Your Majesty wish to know? I thought we were settled when I left the capital a few minutes ago."

"Ah, our matters concerning my daughters' challenges to you have been settled. I am not here to take revenge or force you into anything related to that." Hannah said sincerely. "I just want to know how you got that wild feeling from before. You didn't have that, and I can tell you that it would be impossible to connect that to just your black hole."

Minos clenched his fists and decided to tell the truth to avoid getting into bigger trouble, even though the truth itself was a problem. "Does Your Majesty know about the giant bones sealed around the Spiritual World? The skeletons of the primordial beings of the spiritual races?"

Some of those who understood the least about the giant bones of this world but who knew about their existence associated these beings with the emergence of the spiritual races existing today.

For them, at some point in the remote past, there were no members of the race, for example, spiritual humans, but rather beings unable to cultivate.

However, cultivators with bodies similar to these mortals appeared, later giving rise to half-breeds capable of cultivation but with powers far inferior to those of their creators.

These cultivators were supposedly the smaller versions of the owners of these bones, individuals who, amid a catastrophe, had decided to save part of their history by passing on their genetic code to weaker beings.

The evidence that these people used as proof that these giant skeletons belonged to the primordials of the most powerful races of this world was the existence of the Soul Avatars.

Why did the avatar show a similar version of the cultivator's body but in a giant version? No one understood for sure since strength and power were not entirely related to size.

Some of the biggest beings in the spiritual world were totally harmless to most others!

But even so, cultivators' true form came precisely through their soul projection...

For these theorists, this was the connection between primordial beings and humans, which is why these bones are known as the forerunners of many races existing today.

Hannah knew about this story of the primordials, even though she didn't know any of the giant skeletons since they were all properly sealed in hard-to-reach or protected locations.

Even Spiritual Demigods like Hannah didn't know much about them or their locations.

"Yes, I know." She said, frowning her eyebrows.

"Well, I got that by using my innate ability on one of those giant skeletons. I was able to steal some of the powers from one of them and use that to temper my soul." Minos said, telling the truth but without revealing all the important points. "It improved my understanding of several Natural Laws, gave me a higher cultivation speed, and improved my instincts."

"Oh? Is that really true?" She asked this with interest, realizing that he wasn't lying. "So you have one of those skeletons? Do you have it in your spatial ring?"

"No, it's too big to contain in a spatial ring. I have a location in the northern region where one of them is sealed."

"And how did you cultivate with that thing while you were inside that black hole?" She frowned her eyebrows.

Minos said. "I used a teleportation array and went to that skeleton."

That was no lie and connected well with the truth about him having giant bones in the northern region!

Once again, Hannah faced Minos' sincerity and was not suspicious. "So that was it... You were very clever indeed.

But can you do that? The legends say that the skeletons of the primordials were so powerful that even peak cultivators of the Spiritual World would have difficulty even probing them."

Minos replied. "I disagree. Those skeletons are really amazing, but they are not that difficult to probe if you have the proper innate ability.

I've thought something similar to you in the past as if they were from a different reality than ours. But I just didn't have the skills that I have today. And through this, I feel that high-level people with high-quality Physiques and innate abilities compatible with these bones can do things with them, as I did.

Maybe not exactly the same, but use them in some way."

"So that's it... It depends on the skill." She put her fingers on her face.

There were more and fewer functional innate abilities. But, at the same time, these abilities could be much better or much worse, depending on the quality.

If someone could see into the future, this ability could be useful to the extent that they could dream about things that would happen in the distant future or have the ability to predict the movements of an opponent in a fight.

That could change by that person's Physique rating.

As someone who knew of the endless possibilities behind innate abilities, Queen McBride didn't find Minos' response so unreasonable or even arrogant.

"Very well, I believe you. But since we are relating well, could you show me one of these skeletons? I won't ask you for anything more, and I'll still do you a favor when you need it." She said, lessening the pressure on Minos as the surroundings slowly changed.

"That can be solved..."

Chapter 1572 Time To Die

"How about we set a day for me to introduce you to this place? The teleportation array I used was disposable, and I'd like to settle some matters in the Flaming Empire..." He said, not liking that but having no choice.

'If she accepts, I will remove most of the Endless Snow Mountain Range skeletons before taking her there.' Minos considered this alternative to keep possession of these grandiose skeletons.

Queen McBride would hardly try to take one of those skeletons away from where it was. After all, even though she was at level 93, she was far from obtaining the strength to manipulate one of those.

They were cumbersome and only using high-level grade-4 arrays would someone have a chance of achieving something like what Minos had done in taking those two skeletons to the Spatial Kingdom.

But even if the queen had arrays of that level, removing one of those remnants would still be quite complicated.

Yet Minos preferred to keep as many of those bones private as possible for him and his staff. So in this situation where he was being forced to agree to show these bones to Hannah, he would not show her all his wealth!

It was not necessary!

Hannah reminded herself that Minos still had to recover and that a representative of Shannon was accompanying him. He wasn't just giving her an excuse not to take her to one of those sets of bones.

On the other hand, she was being watched by the representative of the Travisani family. In that case, if she insisted on going now, it might create a higher expectation on this observer than she would like, which could cause some problems.

She looked Minos in the eye and agreed. "Very well. I will visit Dry City in one year, and you will take me there. Is that enough time for you to settle your affairs?"

Minos nodded and said. "Yes, one year is enough."

After those words, Minos finally found himself back where he was previously standing next to Oswald and Shannon's representative.

Queen McBride was no longer around when he realized he was no longer in that cloud-filled place where he appeared to be nothing more than a worm.

Oswald was surprised by the sudden appearance and then disappearance of the queen, something that for him and the woman there had happened in just a few short seconds.

What to Minos had seemed like more than 5 minutes of conversation had not been much more than the time of a breath for those two and the Spiritual Sage of the Eastern Empire!

Minos knew that this was one of the capabilities of Spiritual Demigods and promptly explained it to his grandfather.

"Queen McBride had some doubts and came to question me about it... After getting her answers, she left."

"Doubts? What did she ask?" Oswald didn't know what such a woman could have asked, not doubting the ability of an expert of that level to have questioned Minos in the seconds that passed.

"Nothing much... We'll talk about it later," Minos said as he indicated an area ahead to his fellow travelers. "Anyway, let's make a stop to cultivate a bit."

"Oh? All right, then." Oswald did not insist, following his grandson's recommendation to stop and cultivate, something he had wanted to do for some years now.

Minos looked at the level 81 woman accompanying them and said. "After we are done, I want you to take us through a wormhole to where Mortimer Burgess is."

"OK." She said, thinking that was better.

For her, using wormholes was a faster travel alternative, which consumed more energy but shortened the time she would have to keep up with these men.

She had no particular problem with Minos and Oswald, but she would rather be in the Flowers Kingdom and not act as their guide. So she naturally appreciated Emperor Stuart's demand.

With that, they would spend more than an hour cultivating in that place, in the middle of a forest in this border part of the Flaming Empire with the Flowers Kingdom.

After that time, Oswald would finish recovering his soul strength, feeling at the limit of his powers once again after years of a sealed cultivation base.

As for Minos, he managed to recover the energy spent in the confrontation with Bridget, but due to the injuries generated by the explosion of his black hole, he would still need more time to recover.

They would stay in that area until nightfall, and then the level 81 woman would open a wormhole towards the vicinity of where Mortimer was.

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In a part close to the volcanic area of the Flaming Empire, a place where Minos had exploded a Black Hole Bomb many years ago, a crack in space appeared 200 meters above the lava level.

With the opening of that crack, a female hand appeared there, immediately opening the space fabric enough for people to pass through without the danger of being crushed by space.

Minos and Oswald passed through there, arriving at that part of the Flaming Empire.

The two immediately realized where they were as they heard the voice of that guide. "Mortimer Burgess is in that direction, about 100 kilometers from where we are." She said, pointing with one of her hands.

The two looked to where she had indicated, nodded, and immediately flew off to that destination.

The speed of the two was not low, so it would only take a few moments for them to cross most of the way.

As they approached where Mortimer was supposed to be, Minos and Oswald saw this woman stopping and signaling something.

Soon after, two other women, both 9th stage cultivation, appeared in the vicinity and introduced themselves to the two.

"Where is Mortimer?" Minos insisted.

One of them quickly replied. "He is in the interior of that floating island." She pointed to one of the 12 floating islands in that area, a place that was large and diverse in plant life.

Minos' eyes narrowed as he looked in that direction while Oswald clenched his fists, interested to see that fellow who had terrorized the Flaming Empire years ago. But not only that, as old enemies, he wished to witness the end of Mortimer, and seeing his grandson move, he moved as well.

"What shall we do?" He asked Minos.



"We'll see how he's doing," Minos said, in a good mood. "Today, I will end his suffering and free this world from his evil presence."

"Hmm, that will make the empire a better place for people to live," Oswald said, remembering the many diabolical stories involving Mortimer.

Mortimer had in his history several tragedies, genocides, orders to kill, and even the murder of his own son, something motivated by his simple desire to possess his son's wife.

Thinking how Mortimer had committed such vile acts that even the impure would feel contempt, Oswald couldn't help but see a better future ahead for the empire with this individual's death.

While they had similar thoughts in mind, the women of the Flowers Kingdom walked away, leaving the two there to do whatever they wanted against Mortimer.

And it wouldn't be long before they caught up with that man!

"Mortimer Burgess, today is the day of your death!"

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Chapter 1573 The End

When he heard Minos' voice calling him, Mortimer, inside that island, looked back as if he had heard a ghost calling him.

He hadn't been out of there for years, and even though he had the feeling that someone was watching him, he didn't think Minos would casually approach him.

To him, that man was in the northern region minding his own business and would not come to him without him causing trouble. After all, Minos had beaten him and could have come after him at any time in the past six years. However, at no time had that ever happened.

So when he heard that voice, as he felt his body shivering, Mortimer did not consider it to be Minos, but rather a voice from his demons, a hallucination.

He turned his face forward, trying to return his concentration to what he was doing. Still, then he felt a powerful spiritual fluctuation arising near his position.

This fluctuation was not alone, being next to someone Mortimer knew well!

"Oswald!" He turned to look back again, noticing his old enemy, who was still at level 79, standing next to a level 74 cultivator.

He then left where he was, climbing to the top of that island until he reached where Oswald and Minos were.

When he got there, he identified Oswald, but then he was dumbfounded and shocked by Minos' situation.

In just a few years, the man who had defeated him at level 80 while only at level 70 had advanced to level 74.

That was impressive!

Minos saw the expression on Mortimer's face and smiled. But, at the same time, he already had his Soul Avatar activated to prevent a possible escape from that man.

"Mortimer, long time no see, uh?" Oswald smiled.

Minos then said. "Do you have your last words, Mortimer? From today on, your Saints Killing Sect will be hunted down.

To get us off to a good start, I will finish you off first."

"Minos!" Mortimer said in an altered tone, seeing the causer of all his misfortune. "You really are a monster. I admit that... After all the years, I see that I always underestimated you..."

I should have killed you when you were not so strong.

That will be my only regret... Not being able to kill you!

Other than that, I don't regret anything else. I did what I wanted to do and conquered things that thousands die just thinking about them."

"Hmm, your words are not bad, despite what a scumbag you were," Minos said, seeing that this man did not seem to fear death. "Aren't you going to try to defend yourself? Aren't you afraid of dying?"

"What is there to fear? You have taken everything from me. You destroyed my family, ruined my sect, stopped my dreams, and damaged my cultivation... What else is there in this world to live for?"

I had thought that my punishment for failure would be to live in this degrading way, but dying to someone stronger seems more worthy." He said, no longer showing the previous perturbation when Shannon's envoys observed him for the first time.

After years of being watched, he had gotten used to it and, more, stopped fearing death.

He had not thought of ending his life alone since, in his view, that was the way of the weak. But he was ready to die at any moment and would not dare to face Minos on this day.

Minos could already defeat him when he was at his peak power and his opponent only at level 70, so now that Emperor Stuart was at level 74, there was no hope for this partially crippled man.

Oswald saw it in this man's countenance, who had a tired look in his eyes and a restrained aura.

Oswald wanted to see the end of this enemy. Still, after all these years of seeing Mortimer so weak, spiritually and psychologically, it was taking away some of the good feelings he hoped to feel in this revenge.

"Tsk!"

Oswald sounded dissatisfied and turned his back on Mortimer, feeling that killing this man would be no different than kicking a dead dog.

'Damn it! We took too long!' He clenched his fists.

Minos narrowed his eyes, seeing the tragic situation of his opponent, and sighed after a while. "You amaze me, Mortimer..."

In all my years in the Spiritual World, few men have shown such conviction with the things you have done and peace with their impending death.

The most common is fear, the insane desire to stay alive, and the obscene will to hurt the opponent to the point that people utter blasphemies against the Natural Laws, sacrificing themselves.

Courage and peace in the face of death are not common things to see in the eyes of a man about to die."

'No, those feelings are seen only in two kinds of warriors.' Minos' eyes narrowed. 'In those of honorable warriors and those of dragged down people, who already live in hell even in life...'

'Sigh... It's a shame, I should let you live so you can pay for your deeds much longer, but that doesn't suit me.' Minos said this as he moved his hands, wielding his low-level grade-4 sword. "To leave you any longer with those eyes would be a desecration of my old friend Gavin's heritage."

Mortimer smiled for the first time, remembering the young red-headed man who had given him a glimmer of hope, in vain but quite valid.

Even though he had failed, he had no regrets and thanked Gavin's eyes for giving him a chance to reach the 9th stage, a level he had never imagined he would reach before that man was born.

He closed his eyes and showed his Adam's pommel to Minos, ready to leave this world.

'At least my death didn't come at the hands of someone unworthy, like Harold or Oswald...' He thought as he waited for Minos' movement.

Oswald did not see the act, but he soon heard when Minos' sword cut through the air, quickly following until one of its sides reached Mortimer's neck.

In a split second, that spiritual weapon separated the head from the rest of Mortimer's body, destroying the man's soul.

It all happened very quickly, and within a few seconds of Mortimer's final words, he died peacefully on top of that floating island!

Minos saw the blood of his opponent on his weapon and then looked down at Mortimer's dead body, silently observing this situation.

Mortimer had been a great challenge to him, and the Saints Killing Sect was a problem in his path for years. But now it was all over so easily.

It was good, but it was also disappointing.

He hadn't even had a final fight with Mortimer!

Oswald sighed and turned to see the outcome of this situation, seeing Mortimer's neck letting his blood stain the grounds of that island.

Amidst their observation, some of the high-level Spiritual Saints, forced to stand beside Mortimer on that island, saw the development of the situation and turned pale.

Some immediately began to fly away, while others knelt down, hoping to be forgiven by Minos.

Unfortunately for all of them, after collecting the items on Mortimer's body, Minos turned his attention back to them.

Chaotic Gravity!

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Chapter 1574 Arriving At Payton

By activating his 7th technique, Minos immediately made all those trying to escape or standing on the outskirts of that floating island feel a great force forcing them down.

The strongest among them were only high-level Spiritual Sages, so they paled in front of Minos, who could even force down Spiritual Sages at the moment.

But Minos didn't just push those people. He did it against that entire floating island, making its structures shake as he pushed it down.

After an initial effort, that prominent floating locality began to shake, with cracks spreading on the buildings above and within it, slowly collapsing in the face of Emperor Stuart's powers.

In a matter of seconds, that area began to descend from the skies, increasing its fall acceleration as the spiritual energy-repelling rocks broke apart.

Minos turned it into a gigantic projectile, making it impossible for any people there to escape as they flew faster and faster towards the scorching ground of that volcanic area.

After a blink of an eye, a large explosion came into focus on that island, which, when it collided with the lava on the ground, exploded into countless smaller pieces, like a meteor.

At that moment, several smaller pieces of the island flew covered in lava, creating a scorching rain in this area of the Flaming Empire.

The people who were there saw how Minos killed each person inside that island, making them die due to the shock of the lava in that area or crushed or burned to death.

The weaker ones simply died from the shock. Still, some individuals survived to endure the torture of being burned to death by the lava in that area or crushed by the island's rocks.

The effects of the shock from that floating island would last for hours in that area, creating a great curtain of smoke and changing the surrounding environment for anyone to understand the magnitude of what had happened there.

But Minos and Oswald would not remain there for long, with the white-haired old man enjoying the destruction caused by his grandson while they both sighed at the end of this enemy organization.

They would still investigate the whereabouts of members of the Saints Killing Sect, and if they were still around the empire, they would hunt them down and kill them.

But with this event, that organization could be considered dead, with no more possibility of causing any problems for the organizations and families of the two!

Oswald then said. "Didn't you think it would have been interesting to collect the items from the people on that island?"

Minos replied. "No. Any significant wealth should be with Mortimer. What there might be with those people was of small value...

In any case, some of their spatial rings must not have been destroyed. So if you want to bring your people here to collect, be free to do so."

"Hmm, fine." Oswald agreed before clapping one of his hands on one of his grandson's shoulders. "Congratulations on getting that, Minos. I didn't imagine I would see the end of the bastard Mortimer and his people so quickly.

But tell me one thing, how did you get it? I think your cultivation speed is a little beyond normal."

"Hmm, let's talk about that when we get to Dry City." He said, knowing he was being watched but making it clear to his grandfather that this was related to the Spatial Kingdom.

Oswald was no dummy and nodded affirmatively. "What shall we do now?"

"Harold wants to invite us to a dinner party, and with Mortimer dead, I think it's really good that we meet with the leaders of the Flaming Empire... Then we'll go to Payton."

"Oh? That will be good, then." He said, smiling, eager to see his old colleagues, who now owed much respect to his grandson.

As a proud grandfather, Oswald couldn't help but look forward to moments when he would see former rivals having to bow down to his grandson.

On the other hand, Minos took the opportunity to take Gavin's eyes, something he had collected before destroying the floating island where Mortimer's forces were earlier.

He looked at those three eyes, especially the largest one, and sighed, feeling the power of that bloodline.

Unfortunately, all of Gavin's family members had been killed, and now that lineage would probably disappear from the world.



At the same time, with no one able to absorb the powers of those eyes, Minos decided to destroy them from sight, ending the millions of years of history of powerful innate ability.

He created a small black hole and swallowed that thing, erasing its information.

'Sigh... I'll leave that black hole in place of your grave, Gavin.' He thought to himself after storing that little black hole in a mirrored sphere.

Minos had built a tomb for Gavin, even though he did not have that man's remains. As such, he intended to place something related to him there, as he always tried to do with the men of his forces and people important to him.

With that done, Minos and Oswald departed that area shortly after that, as the remnants of what Minos had done drew attention from nearby forces.

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The next day...

After flying for more than a night, Minos and Oswald reached the capital of the Flaming Empire, where Harold had already arrived after leaving the Flowers Kingdom the day before.

Because of this, when Minos and Oswald arrived in this city, they immediately found a place with a festive atmosphere, with all the local leaders present to celebrate the return of their sovereign.

As the two appeared in the local skies, preparing to land near one of the entrances to Payton, a group of guards respectfully approached them.

"Mister Stuart, Mister Coleman, please accompany us." The guard leader said with his head bowed, immensely grateful to these two men for having risked themselves in the Flowers Kingdom to save His Majesty.

At the same time, each of those men felt how much stronger Minos had become since the last time he had passed through this state, over five years ago.

Minos was now at level 74 and had a frightening aura, capable of making those below level 80 feel chills in their bodies when they stood in his presence for the first time.

But this feeling was not only for those in his immediate vicinity. Even people more than a kilometer away from Minos would feel goosebumps on his account!

So as they moved on, many people in the streets watched the swift passage of Minos and Oswald, identifying the return of this former sect master but shocked by the strength of Emperor Stuart.

Even some local leaders had to come out of their properties to see who was passing, noting that they should pay Minos and Oswald a visit.

Amidst this, it didn't take long for the old supreme elder to notice Minos' arrival and note that he was not wrong about this individual.

'At this rate, he will be at my level in less than a decade!' The supreme elder thought, 'I must speak to His Majesty urgently.' He moved to where Harold was standing along with his women and Isabella.

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## Chapter 1575 The End Of Enemies

"Your Majesty, Minos Stuart is in Dry City!" The supreme elder of the Edwardstone family entered the emperor's residence, speaking loudly.

There, some of the emperor's closest people, wives, and other relatives, were standing around celebrating Harold's return.

Isabella was one of these people who had a wide smile on her face, happy as never before because of her father's return, but also because Minos had kept his promises.

At the same time, her father had told her that Minos was already at level 74, just one level below her current level, something impressive. So she was doubly happy, waiting for his return along with the rest of the family celebrating Harold's return.

So when she heard the voice of the old supreme elder, she immediately looked at that man with an extra glow on her face.

Standing next to his empress, who was currently at level 79, Harold smiled upon hearing that. "So he made it..." He muttered, happy that Minos and Oswald had escaped that nightmare realm.

The people in the surrounding area also liked the news.

Most there were in favor of Minos because of the guy's relationship with Isabella and because he had saved the empire and was very talented.

Few feared the future in which Minos would become too strong and oppress them, so knowing of his return was good news for them.

The supreme elder did not like what he heard and saw in that place and said. "That's not good news. The cursed Emperor Stuart has already reached level 74! At this rate, he will be unstoppable in less than a decade!"

Harold smiled upon hearing that and said. "He can already be considered that... I wouldn't be able to beat him myself."

"And you say this with such reassurance, Your Majesty? What will become of the empire?" The supreme elder felt terrible to hear those words coming from Harold.

"You don't have to worry about that so much. Just look at the northern region and see what has happened to the local powers... Even mortal enemies of Minos have kept their bloodlines.

The Brown and Cromwell families have lost much of their former rights, but today they still have members with the family lineage alive.

Also, it has members in its ranks who are stronger than the former regional leaders, being much stronger today than 30 years ago." Isabella said.

"Supreme elder, Minos is our friend and ally. Therefore, there is no reason for such concern." The emperor said, sighing.

It was hard to see someone so strong and who had been an expert when he was just a junior, age so much to the point of being paranoid about his family's downfall.

That made Harold sad!

So he had compassion on this old high-level Spiritual Saint and suggested to him. "Supreme elder, now that I have returned, I would like you to retire from your duties and travel to the Black Plain to become the communication link between our states.

Your position in Dry City will help the family better understand our relationship with Minos and ensure the empire's future."

Everyone in the surrounding area looked at Harold, feeling that this was his way of pleasing this old fellow a little and lessening his attempts to convince people in the family to stand against Minos.

That was not just so that he wouldn't be irritated by this man but to ensure that the family members would not lose their respect towards that man not far from his own death.

The old supreme elder saw this as a final mission for him to fulfill and didn't think it bad that Harald asked him to hand over his duties.

He clenched his fists and said. "It will not be easy to live with the enemy, but I will do my best to ensure the continuity of House Edwardstone!"

After those words, he left to make preparations while Isabella approached her father.

"I'm afraid the old supreme elder won't live another ten years..." She commented.

Cultivators had their life forces associated with their cultivation stage.

That meant that someone at the 8th stage, whether at level 70 or 79, should have a more or less similar life expectancy.

But just because a Spiritual Saint was expected to live almost 6.5 thousand years, it didn't mean everyone who managed to age would live the same amount of time.

Some died of old age at 5.5 thousand years, while others could even exceed what was expected of them by a few decades.

The supreme elder of this family was already expected to pass away in the next few decades. Still, with the emergence of his paranoia regarding the Black Plain, Isabella thought that he would not have as much time as they imagined.

Harold sighed upon hearing that, "Let him strive for the family for a few more years. That will give him the peace of mind he needs to leave.

Anyway, don't pass his title on to anyone else for now. I will appoint someone to replace him, but that person will only become the supreme elder once he is no longer around."

"That is a respectful enough measure..." Madeline said, standing next to her husband.

After that woman's words, 5 minutes passed, and the group escorting Minos and Oswald arrived at the ballroom of the emperor's residence.

Upon seeing those two, Harold approached Minos and Oswald, shaking their hands and thanking them.

He repeated what he had said to Minos last time but said his words of gratitude to Oswald for the first time, feeling that this man had been a great vassal to him, unlike Mortimer, that traitor.

Harold had discovered in his time in the Flowers Kingdom that he had only ended up in the hands of those women because Mortimer had turned his movements over to the royal family of that state.

So he hated Mortimer twice as much as anyone else in his family and wished he could go out and hunt him down as soon as he finished fraternizing with his family.

But after he asked Minos and Oswald if they would stay for a feast at the end of the day, he heard the news about that man's situation.

"... Anyway, after returning from the Flowers Kingdom, we went out to hunt Mortimer before coming here," Minos said, with Isabella at his side.

Upon hearing that, everyone in the surrounding area paid closer attention to Minos' words, eager to find out what he had done.

Given Minos' current power and what he had when he faced Mortimer, he should be able to defeat that man with ease.

As such, the people there, most of them who had seen Minos and Mortimer's fight, could already feel that the greatest fear of the empire had ended.

"And so? What were your results?" Harold asked.

"Mortimer is dead. The core of the Saints Killing Sect has been wiped out." Minos said, putting smiles on the faces of many people there, while Harold sighed that he was not lucky enough to witness the murder of that traitor.

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## Chapter 1576 Celebratory Banquet

"Is that so?" Harold sighed. "It's a shame I didn't get the chance to kill the traitor... Did you guys know I was only forcibly taken to the Flowers Kingdom because of the worm?"

"Is that true?" Oswald frowned, not expecting that Mortimer had been responsible for all that.

All this time, he had imagined that Harold's situation had just been this man's mistake in acting in the Black Plain without being careful. But in finding out about Mortimer's involvement, this man saw the reason for all their problems in recent years.

Minos was not surprised, considering that Mortimer's goal of dominating the Flaming Empire was clear, and he would not have failed to try to remove Harold from his position somehow.

If the imperial family had their leader, then Mortimer would never have been able to advance to the 9th stage, as Harold would likely hunt him down and find him. In that situation, Mortimer would have died at the hands of Emperor Edwardstone!

"Damn you, Mortimer Burgess!" Isabella clenched her fists, but she was happy as her man had been the one to end the bastard's life.

"Anyway, there is nothing more for you to worry about regarding Mortimer," Minos said. "Regardless of what else he may have done, he is dead, and the Saints Killing Sect practically no longer exists."

"Yes, we should move on," Oswald said, looking at Harold. "Your Majesty only has to worry about searching for and pursuing members of that sect who have escaped or survived. But even if they exist, there must be few, and they are certainly weak."

Harold said to Minos. "Yes, I will do that. In any case, thank you for your actions. You have solved yet another problem of my state."

"That's nothing. I wanted to destroy that person and his sect." Minos replied. "Anyway, I've been away from my state for a while now, so I'll spend the night here, and early tomorrow morning, I intend to return to Dry City."

"But already?" Isabella took one of Minos' arms, unhappy about it.

Harold understood Minos and smiled at his daughter. "Bella, give Minos a break. He needs to work and settle his affairs on the Black Plain."

"But..."

"I'll talk some things over with you and let you spend some time on the Black Plain after a few days. How about that?" That red-haired man asked, not objecting to the relationship between his daughter and Minos.

"Okay then!" She was happy.

Harold then said to Minos. "Then let's party for tonight. I don't want to get in your way, but I have to at least do this to thank you for what you have done for me."

"Yes, you have done a lot for our family, Minos," Madeline said, smiling at him.

Minos and Oswald had already agreed to this, so they stuck around to participate in these celebrations that would take place in the evening.

There was already something scheduled to happen that night, so there would be no problem preventing this from happening because these two arrived at such short notice.

With that, while Oswald went to talk to his old acquaintances, Minos spent some time next to Isabella, having fun with her.

...



At dusk, the imperial palace was packed with people, patriarchs, sect masters, supreme elders, and all the cream of the Flaming Empire. Even the leaders of the Spiritual Church in this state were there to celebrate alongside Harold and Minos.

Most had come to this place on Harold's account, but upon finding out that Minos had returned from the Flowers Kingdom with Oswald, the interest of many of them had changed.

They were glad that Emperor Edwardstone had returned, to know he hadn't lost his precious balls and become a eunuch. But Minos, at level 74, was the center of attention, and everyone wanted a chance to talk to him.

Some there had been punished by Minos years ago, but seeing him improve so quickly, these people had forgotten their grudges and were only thinking of using the opportunity to lessen his negative feelings towards them.

Emperor Stuart spent a few hours talking with those people, reviewing Gloria's relatives, and even hearing some relevant news.

But there wasn't much he could do for the moment, so he didn't stress too much as he listened to his father-in-law's warnings, trying to celebrate with the rest of the people there.

Obviously, the end of the Saints Killing Sect and the death of Mortimer were the topics of conversation at this event, with even toasts being made to celebrate that man's death.

With the news brought by Minos, the most pressing fears of many there were resolved, marking the beginning of a new era for these people and organizations.

With the end of the internal problems in the empire, these people could finally live in peace!

...

"Minos, thank you. If one day you need anything from my empire, just ask." Harold said to Minos, looking at this fellow standing beside Oswald in a local teleportation port.

"Hmm, I appreciate that." Minos smiled.

"Oswald, good luck on your journey from now on. I hope you can find what it takes to become a Spiritual Sage." Harold judged that man still had plans to continue traveling through the Spiritual World in search of his advancement.

That white-haired fellow would not say anything to that red-haired man about his changes of plans and would just thank Harold for his words. "Yes, I hope so too."

With those words, the two bid farewell to the members of the local imperial family, heading toward the interior of the teleportation array area.

Then, the surroundings of that array glowed brightly. After a few seconds, the two were teleported away from there to another teleportation port within the Flaming Empire.

From that place, they would continue jumping positions between cities with ports with teleportation arrays until they reached the Black Plain two days later.

...

Meanwhile, in the Evergreen Empire...

In the capital of the empire, in the imperial palace, a blond man was sitting in front of a statue in the imperial palace while a red-haired, tan-skinned woman was beside him.

She stood behind him respectfully, passing on some information to her leader.

That man, level 88, continued watching the statue of the individual with six wings on his back, listening to that woman.

"Your Highness, Gloria Frost's greatest supporter has just escaped the Flowers Kingdom. He is returning to the Black Plain and should be the biggest hindrance to Your Highness' actions to bring Matriarch Frost into your faction." She told him, failing to get him to express any positive or negative reaction.

"Minos Stuart, uh? I've heard he's also making things more difficult for your group... Is that true? Does he have goals of antagonizing the Church?" He asked that woman dressed in sailor's clothes.

"That is a possibility."

## Chapter 1577 Back Home

After two days of travel between Payton and Dry City, Minos, and Oswald finally reached the capital of the Black Plain Empire!

Upon arriving there, the two saw the many floating islands on the capital's outskirts, places that were already tens of meters high above ground level, quite an improvement.

Minos had expected to find this on his return to Dry City. Still, Oswald was a little surprised, not even needing to check the local spiritual fluctuations to notice the improvement in energy density.

But apart from this most obvious indication of the local improvements, upon arriving in the capital's core, Oswald noticed the level of people in the surrounding area, surprising himself.

The amount of Spiritual Saints had increased dramatically since his departure, and each of the experts from his old sect had become stronger.

At the same time, the local army was much stronger, with several members already at the 8th stage.

These were not people from Vogel or the Flaming Empire who had joined the Black Plain Army. On the contrary, these were natives of the northern region, like Peter, Eduard, Lee, and Alison, who had already reached the 8th stage.

The strongest of them was at level 71, while most were at level 70, having only recently advanced to become Spiritual Saints.

But even so, there were now already a few dozen natives of the northern region above level 70, something that impressed even Minos.

He had expected progress in his strength, but seeing the realization of his plans was something that put a smile on his face and sometimes surprised him.

When he found his domain after years away, he was naturally pleased, seeing that his people had worked hard when he was away.

So after quickly setting up some arrays around the Dry City Dome, he moved to his palace, going to where most of the local experts were.

...

"Your Majesty, welcome back!"

The men and women in the imperial hall said simultaneously, all very happy with Minos' victorious return and more, with his current cultivation level.

Many there thought that after this period, he would only be at level 73. But surprisingly, he was at level 74!

The spirits in the surroundings were even higher than what one would normally see there, and as Minos and Oswald reviewed their family members, laughter and positive comments were pouring in.

Patience, Angelica, and Maisie hugged Oswald almost simultaneously, happy that this man had survived the terrible experience of the Flowers Kingdom.

Minos' grandmother was currently at level 78, while her daughters, Angelica and Maisie, were at levels 74 and 77, respectively.

Minos had already received a hug from these women and was soon standing next to Dillian and Eda, one at level 71 and the other at level 69, talking with the high-level Spiritual Saints of the Gray Clouds Sect.

There were more than a dozen cultivators between levels 78 and 79, with four elders at the absolute peak of the 8th stage.

Just like Oswald, these people were only a mastery of understanding the laws to attempt a breakthrough to the 9th stage!

Minos greeted each of them, receiving congratulations on his victory and advancement to level 74, which put him several steps above his previous combat proficiency.

Minos was a monster before, but now he could be considered much worse!

As his subordinates, everyone there was very pleased because this meant that the road ahead of them would be less complicated.

Minos also met Ivory and Ivy again there, the first at level 75 and the other at level 74.

Both had lived in Dry City for years and had improved a few levels since his departure for the Flowers Kingdom.

Amid his meeting with so many people he hadn't seen in ages, Minos found an auspicious moment and spoke of something of great importance to his family.

"Fellows, a moment." He said, smiling, "I have some good news to tell you."

"What is it, Your Majesty?" Dillian asked in curiosity.

Everyone was so happy about Minos' victorious return that they had forgotten something important!

Minos replied, putting smiles on the faces of everyone there, especially Eliot Miller, level 70, and Nicole Miller, level 69. "Abby gave birth to my first son, Kendrick."

"What?" Nicole asked, stepping forward, wishing she could hold her grandchild in her arms.

Maisie also wanted to hold little Kendrick and asked. "When are you going to bring them back? I want to meet my grandson."

Minos answered every one. "I was just about to do that now... Wait a moment."

With those words, Minos disappeared from the area, knowing that the Spiritual Sage of the Eastern Empire watching him would not notice his departure due to the low-level grade-4 arrays he had quickly installed in the local dome.

Those arrays prevented internal energy fluctuations from leaving the protected area but also stabilized the space to prevent Spiritual Sages from entering and leaving via wormholes. Because of this, he could go back and forth from the Spatial Kingdom without problems in this place!

Thus, in the blink of an eye, Minos brought his wives and children from the Spatial Kingdom, alongside several Spiritual Sages from the Gray Clouds Sect who had been hanging around there for the past few years.

With the arrival of more than 30 people in that place, the individuals in the vicinity of the throne hall were surprised by the advances of their colleagues and the princess, and the prince.

The focus of everything was supposed to be little Kendrick sleeping peacefully in his mother's arms. But seeing Sarah at level 43 and as beautiful as her mother, many people watched her intently.

With that, the women there soon were around Abby, Kendrick, Sarah, Ruth, and Gloria. But, on the other hand, the men there were much more interested in the advances of the members of the Gray Clouds Sect who had returned from the Spatial Kingdom, with Minos and Oswald by their side.

With these people, the local forces would become even more powerful, increasing the number of people able to maintain and even improve the empire's defenses over problems.

On this day, Minos would not deal with problems. He would just focus his time on fraternizing with his subordinates and family, listening and talking about what had happened in the last five years.

He and his family would spend the rest of the day on this, followed by a large banquet at the imperial palace, where Minos would soon explain to his leading men about the new possibility within the Spatial Kingdom.

But the feasts and celebrations would last only for that day since the next day, Minos and his family would already have problems to solve.

In particular, from now on, they will have to deal with a new kind of problem for them.

The internal dispute within the Spiritual Church!

## Chapter 1578 Internal Disputes In The Church

The day after Minos and Oswald arrived...

Abby, Kendrick, and Sarah were dealing with a large number of relatives and people close to the imperial family wanting to meet the little prince and see the princess again.

Meanwhile, Ruth, Minos, and Gloria were working to solve local problems, updating themselves on the current situation on the Black Plain.

Currently, they have large reserves of crystals, agricultural production, and many allies on their side to manage and get the best out of every part. So as they returned to the core of their state after years away, they had a lot to worry about at this point.

Ruth was dealing with matters concerning the actions of the imperial government in the domains conquered by Minos after the absorption of Brown and Cromwell. At the same time, Gloria was dealing

with Church affairs alongside her husband, who was leaving the core affairs of her state to one side for the moment.

The Black Plain core was coming along well, with the best possible results and forces. So the emperor was putting that aside to solve a more urgent problem.

...

At the headquarters of the Spiritual Church for the northern region, in the center of Dry City...

In this place built in previous years, concluding Minos and Gloria's plans for the Church's entry into their domain, Emperor Stuart and the leader of this post were in the meeting hall of this place.

There, where the most powerful members of the Church in the region were together with the two of them, they had telecommunication arrays connecting them with some of their faction members around the empire.

Three large screens showed Church members in Blackrock, Rosser, and Flaming Empire, new and old members of Gloria's faction.

"Well, I've called everyone to this meeting today because we'll have trouble soon." Minos said, sitting next to Gloria at the leading end of the table where they and the other seven individuals in that room were facing the screens of the communication arrays.

Of those seven individuals, all were Spiritual Saints, one of them being someone at level 78, the leader of the Church post for Vogel, who was also currently part of that faction.

Minos continued with his words, "Some Church factions are starting to keep an eye on our group due to our recent growth in numbers, but also the situation of the empire."

Where a faction was based was very important in determining the potential of that group. After all, the group would be limited by the possibilities of the state in which they operated.



Since the Black Plain had been developing continuously over the years and reached a relevant level on the continental scene, Gloria's faction was positively gaining from this.

It was becoming more attractive for Church members to join, especially young talents, as this was a developing group, where those who joined now could better enjoy the benefits in the future.

At the same time, due to the development of the Black Plain Empire, more people were attracted to join the Church locally and naturally became part of this faction.

With all this, Gloria's group had been drawing attention from other factions for a few years now and was now reaching the point where they could no longer be ignored as just a group with potential. Now they really had the weight to influence many things on the continent!

That might seem an exaggeration, considering that Gloria was only at level 76. But her faction dominated the territory of the Black Plain Empire, a place that could soon give birth to Spiritual Sages.

The territory of Minos showed no signs that it was getting close to a bottleneck or would not have influential experts on the continent in the future. The opposite of that, with the emergence of floating islands and the presence of Silver-talented people in the region, it was only a matter of time before high-level Spiritual Sages and even Demigods would emerge in the area.

The Church's top experts were already keeping an eye on this and wanted to lure Gloria to their side to have the future experts of this area in their core of influence!

Even other states were already beginning to look at the Black Plain differently, with some of them realizing there was no point in ignoring Minos.

Emperor Stuart's state had come to stay and would develop to a relevant level, not just stop below the 8th stage!

"Soon, we will be visited and pressed by various parties. So prepare yourselves for that." Minos said, looking at those men and women. "Even the group of one of the princes of the Evergreen Empire is already eyeing our faction."

"Of one of the princes?" The leading Patriarch of the Blackrock outpost asked in surprise, feeling this was a bit much.

They were members of a faction that didn't even have Spiritual Sages. But one of the heirs of a family with Spiritual Demigods in its ranks was watching them!

Everyone in that room, including the others on the long-range call, opened their eyes wider, unsure what to say.

"What exactly are we going to do?" One of the Spiritual Saints in that Church post in Dry City asked.

Gloria answered in her husband's place. "We will do the obvious. We will withstand any pressure, fight back against anyone who challenges us, and increase our base of influence.

They are stronger than us but don't reach all points on the continent. This will be our chance. To reach domains that they cannot covet."

Prince Calvert's faction was not the only one in the Spiritual Church. There was the group of the current Supreme Pontiff, who had his candidate for succession, and several other gatherings of like-minded individuals.

These factions were not only disputing the passage of power within the Church, disputing the most critical posts in the organization. They also disputed territories of influence, mines, techniques, artifacts, in short, everything that was to be disputed.

For example, the faction to which Gloria's father belonged 'owned' the area of the Flaming Empire and the enemy kingdoms of this state, Vogel, Blakcrock, Albano, and Rosser.

People from this group also oversaw the area of the northern region. However, Church members in posts in this region were not part of any faction, and the territory itself was not owned before Minos. Because of this, the Black Plain area was currently an uncontested, ownerless territory that could be used and fought over.

In practical terms, Gloria's faction owned the area, as it was the only one actively operating there. But in theory, this was invalid, as the Church itself had not decided this.

So while Calvert's group, for example, could not use the territory of the Flaming Empire casually without causing internal trouble, in most of the Black Plain, he could!

Besides the Black Plain, there were other areas without 'owners' within the Church's territory, which Gloria was referring to.

Minos said. "We will continue evolving the quality of the empire's core to ensure the faction's improvement. But we will also reach out to places without owners to further strengthen our influence network.

Prince Calvert may think we are easy to dominate, but he doesn't know us well enough.

The Black Plain is not for amateurs!"

#### Chapter 1579 Information

After the meeting with leaders of Spiritual Church posts around Minos' territory of influence, his staff dispersed to get on with their business.

Keeping communication arrays like the ones they had used running wasn't cheap, and the most important thing to talk about had already been taken care of.

So, in the blink of an eye, only Minos and some of the staff of that Dry City outpost were left behind in the upper-echelon meeting room of this temple.

Minos and Gloria were still sitting in their seats when he looked at the only two remaining people there along with them. "I want you to help me figure out how to get information about the North Sea with the Church.

I heard from a woman in the Flowers Kingdom that the Spiritual Church has crucial information about this chaotic area. I am very interested in getting my hands on it."

"North Sea?" The Matriarch and the Patriarch there looked at each other, feeling that this was somewhat unexpected.

Unlike Minos' subordinates, who knew about his intentions regarding the North Sea, these factional allies within the Spiritual Church knew nothing. After all, they were not exactly on the same side as Emperor Stuart. They were just people with affinities within the ranks of the Spiritual Church. But there was no great compromise between them outside that organization.

At the same time, their positions could change, and their relationship was by no means guaranteed for the long term.

Consequently, the two were surprised to hear that.

"What does Your Majesty want to know about the North Sea?" The leading Patriarch of Albano's post asked.

Minos said. "I have several questions about that area, but I don't think you have any useful information for me."

Minos had already questioned Joseph about it on his passage through the Flaming Empire before his return to Dry City. So if even that level 79 man, a member of a powerful faction of the Church, didn't know about it, it wouldn't be these two level 77 individuals and members of Gloria's faction who would.

He said. "I want you to assist me in finding out how to reach people with information about this place."

Those two only knew common information about the North Sea, which Gloria should also know.

If even she couldn't help with what Minos wanted, then it meant that they wouldn't have the information. The two understood this readily and did not insist on trying to tell him what little they knew.

"If it is top secret information, I believe that only cultivators of the highest level know anything..." The woman said, looking at her companion, who, unlike Gloria, had been in his position for many centuries, so he had more experience.

He agreed. "Yes, even high-level Spiritual Sages may not know for sure about what Your Majesty wishes, so we may have to have some influence with Spirit Demigods to achieve that."

Having influence with someone like that did not demand Minos and his staff that at least one of them be at that stage. As long as they could get the attention of one of them and something to trade, achieving that information should not be impossible.

Gloria commented. "If only through a Spiritual Demigod can we receive that information, then I think it will take time for us to have it in hand..."

"That will depend on the size of our faction. The bigger and more powerful it is, the easier it will be to reach someone of that level." Minos said.

It was obvious that if they got stronger, easier it would be to get what they wanted. But when a faction grew, it didn't just grow in one direction but in all possible directions. Because of this, a collective was always more powerful than an individual, and this could make things easier for both of them.

They weren't influential enough at the moment, but it wouldn't take either of them to reach the 10th stage for them to influence with Demigods.

Not all Demigods were the same. Some of them would lead their organizations and be known throughout the world. But others would serve those more powerful, which made some more accessible than others.

Through this, Minos could reach the answers he sought!

He had the map of the Seraphim Ancient Sarcophagus in his hands, but he didn't know if it would be worth it to him to exchange such a thing for the information from the North Sea.

He felt that the North Sea was of a high level and the information he wanted would be expensive. But perhaps the map in the Spatial Kingdom was too valuable even for that.

So, for now, Minos wanted to keep it with him without considering it a possible trade item.

Anyway, the four of them finished their conversation with those two level 77 cultivators promising to go after what Minos wanted, to identify people capable of giving him this information and also ways for him to convince such individuals.

Gloria would continue at the Dry City Church temple to continue her local duties. At the same time, Minos would return to the imperial palace, where he had other matters to deal with.

...

Three months later...

After Minos' return to the Black Plain, this state continued its operations as usual, with no major problems during this period.

The only interesting thing in these weeks was the end of Abby's recovery and her return to cultivation. Because of this, as she was already at the limit of level 72 previously, she was able to advance to level 73 in the days that passed.

News of little Kendrick's birth also spread throughout the empire during this period, with various subordinates, vassals, and allies of Minos sending gifts to Dry City.

Unlike Sarah, Kendrick was the heir to the Black Plain Empire and, with the position of Crown Prince, would have great powers in the future. So it was only natural that many would already begin to show their interest in being by the side of Minos' son by sending gifts to a newborn.

Anyway, while little Kendrick enjoyed his days suckling more breasts than some grown men, some people from afar arrived near Dry City.

A woman and a man, mounted on a winged beast that looked like a chicken, appeared in the Dry City sky, watching the area ahead with interest.

From there, they could see several floating islands, giant flying turtles in the sky, and more, an impenetrable barrier even for them, Spiritual Sages.

Even the strongest of the two, level 85, couldn't help but frown as he realized he could not cross the space in front of him.

"It seems that Emperor Stuart's wealth is great... No wonder his estate is growing so fast." This man said as the level 84 woman beside him watched that beautiful city with interest.

"He's not bad. He doesn't even know us, and even though he is a mere Spiritual Saint, he will force us to follow his rules to enter this city." The woman said in a humorous tone, knowing that to fulfill their mission, they would have to enter that area, where only by accepting the local impositions would they have their entry allowed.

'Let's see what their group will decide, Master Calvert...'

#### Chapter 1580 Prince's Offering

"Your Majesty, two Spiritual Sages are at the eastern entrance of the city requesting passage to the inner area protected by the grade-4 arrays." A soldier said this to Minos just after entering the area of the imperial palace where the emperor was at the moment.

A group of soldiers from the Black Plain Army and members of the Gray Clouds Sect had just been intercepted by those two envoys from Calvert. With that, those men outside the area protected by the arrays promptly sent a message by communication arrays to one of the soldiers in the imperial palace.

Currently, the arrays purchased by Minos in the Flowers Kingdom protected the core of Dry City and this entire city, not protecting the belt of cities around this area.

Because of this, the group coming from the Evergreen Empire was at one of the entrances to Dry City and not near the heart of that city, where the command center of the Black Plain Empire was.

Anyway, nowadays, the army has instantaneous means of communication, and soon after those people arrive, soldiers have already sent the message to the communication center of the imperial palace.

Minos had a communication array, but he only used this device when he was away from his palace, where he had people to take care of urgent communications for him.

One of the men from that center had just reached out to him and relayed this information, surprising Minos and Abby, with whom he was now.

Little Kendrick was in his father's arms at this instant, laughing as his father swung him in the arms.

"Two Spiritual Sages?" Abby opened her mouth, surprised at the arrival of experts at this level in Dry City. "Where do they come from?"

"We believe they come from the Evergreen Empire, Your Majesty." That soldier said while Minos narrowed his eyes, trying to decipher what that meant.

'I still have a few years before the deal with those pirates reaches the promised moment... So I don't believe they are people from the Blood Triangle Pirates.' He pondered. "Are they from the Spiritual Church?"

"We are not sure. They are not wearing the Church cloaks, Your Majesty."

"Hmm, very well, take me to them," Minos said after handing Kendrick to Abby.

Technically, he and the empire's core were safe in Dry City since Spiritual Sages could not invade that area of protection he had created over the past few months. But Minos preferred not to ignore these people and cause backlash from the forces they represented.

So he wanted to go to them to talk and understand what this was all about.



In the blink of an eye, Minos was face to face with those two people at one of the entrances to the area protected by the defensive arrays.

He looked at the man and the woman there and left the protected area to talk to them outside Dry City.

Beside him were some high-level elders of the Gray Clouds Sect, people at levels 78 and 79, ready to fight if necessary.

They might not be strong enough, but they could give their cultivation levels to Minos and thus help this sovereign become stronger in case of need.

When they saw those six people and Minos, the Spiritual Sages coming from the Evergreen Empire, smiled at these people as they noticed the local strength.

That was not enough to impress them, but it was pretty impressive for the area's history.

"Your Majesty Minos Stuart, I presume." The woman said as she gestured a greeting to the emperor of these lands, identifying him by his cultivation level.

"Who are you? What do you want in my lands?" He was straight to the point, non-threatening, but not in the least bit subservient.

The man beside that woman ignored the cries of his 8th-stage beast, which had brought them to this place, and replied. "Your Majesty, this is Phoebe Savage, and my name is Bryant Elliott. We are here on behalf of His Highness Calvert Evergreen, who wishes to meet Matriarch Frost and Your Majesty."

The woman added. "The Black Plain Empire is already drawing attention even in our state, and Matriarch Frost's faction has reached the level necessary to have the right to join larger forces."

Minos' eyebrows narrowed, with he clearly understanding what this was about. 'So that's it...'

"So you are here to make an offer?" He asked. "Is there anything else you guys want in my territory besides that?"

"No, that's all." That woman said, smiling and nodding at him.

"Well, we'll hear what you have to say," Minos said, not the least interested in what these people would offer him but knowing that he couldn't just dryly refuse them.

He preferred to deal with them cautiously, pretending to be someone with whom they could negotiate and perhaps reach a consensus.

With this, he allowed those people into his territory, confident they would not act against him and his forces on this day, for they were there to make an offer.

Problems might arise in the future, but the risk was minimal for the moment.

So soon, they were at the Temple of the Black Plain, where those two settled down to wait for Minos and Gloria as they talked about how much better this place seemed to be compared to what they had heard.

'This Dry City seems well developed, don't you think?'

'Yes, the quality of the streets and buildings, as well as the local energy density, is even higher than what we have been told.' The woman said amidst the mental communication of the two.

Before they could talk further, Minos and Gloria appeared in the waiting room where those two had been dropped off moments ago.

"So, you are Prince Calvert's envoys..." Minos commented, sitting on the other side of the table those people were standing around. "I did not expect that one of the heirs of the grandiose Evergreen Empire would be looking at my humble Black Plain so soon."

"Your Majesty doesn't need to be humble. There is nothing small about this state." The level 85 man said, smiling.

"Yes, a rising state like the Black Plain is relevant to any force on the continent." The level 84 woman added. "Then it is only natural that His Highness would be interested in this magnificent state."

"Hmmm." Minos smiled at them, nodding but not liking this conversation at all. "And what exactly does your leader wish for us?"

"Straight to the point, one can see why Your Majesty is so successful..." The woman commented. "In any case, His Highness wishes to improve his family's ties with the Stuart family and the cooperation between our factions."

Gloria then asked. "How would that be?"

"Our factions have common interests. His Highness wishes to better connect to the northern region. Meanwhile, we have access to resources, information, and many more things available in high-level states." The man said. "The Black Plain is doing very well, obviously, but it could develop even more easily with the right incentives..."

"That could all be offered to you for just your loyalty and support in actions in the northern region." The woman said, indicating how much they would have to give for a deal like the one Calvert wanted to work.

Minos and Gloria looked at each other and commented simultaneously. "I see..."