

Civilization 761

Chapter 761: I'm Here!_2

"No! You've just been dismissed, and you cannot lead the legion again."

"Uh... I am willing to comply with His Majesty's arrangement!"

Huitu's eyes flickered at the memory of the old Militia's words, and he prostrated himself on the ground, showing submission to the King.

"Hmm."

Xiulote pondered for a while before he spoke.

"This Divine Mountain is a mine, very similar to the ones in Qinganbate. I intend to appoint a director of mining here, subordinate to the Mining and Metallurgy Bureau, responsible for the mining affairs."

"The Divine Mountain is a mine? Mining on the Divine Mountain?"

On hearing this, Black Wolf's eyes widened in surprise. Until now, he still revered the Mountain God within Divine Mountain, fearful that the Mountain God would strike him down with a Thunderbolt.

"Precisely. The name of this mineral is iron. Iron is a gift from the Earth Mother Goddess, attracting the Chief Divine's lightning. The so-called Mountain God of Tekos does not exist; it is merely that the Tekos people are unaware of the Chief Divine's might, attributing it erroneously to a false god..."

Xiulote's expression was solemn as he earnestly explained the "theological" rationale. Humans needed to be recruited from the nearby villages to mine the iron ore, and it was imperative to dispel their fears first in order to eliminate resistance and develop the iron mine as quickly as possible. With this in mind, he continued to speak in a grave tone.

"Everything in the world is governed by the laws set by the Chief Divine, following certain natural Laws, and not acting upon mere whim. A great accumulation of iron ore will attract lightning. This is because

iron contains the essence of the Earth, and lightning contains the essence of the sky. The union of Earth and sky is a natural predetermined law... Therefore, mining iron ore here will need to avoid the stormy seasons; during the dry season, however, there is no harm! Of course, everyone must pray to the Chief Divine regularly! I will also send a Divine Priest here."

Bertade took out paper and pen, quickly recording the Highness's words. The Highness often spoke of natural laws, which, in his view, were as sacred and self-evident as divine decrees. These teachings were to be compiled into volumes and placed in the Divine Might University for future generations to learn.

"Praise His Highness! His Highness's wise Divine Revelation!"

Having listened for a while, Black Wolf came to an abrupt realization. He had no doubts about His Highness's words and now spoke vehemently.

"Damn those Tekos priests, daring to bluff and intimidate me! Next time I encounter a priest of the Evil God, I will surely slay them!"

"Ha, from today onwards, this mountain will no longer be called Divine Mountain but Black Rock Mountain! Black Rock Mountain Iron Ore!"

Xiulote smiled and returned to the matter at hand.

"Puap, you now have two options."

"Ah? Your Majesty?"

Huitu looked up excitedly and uneasily.

The King paused, his gaze fixed on Huitu's eyes.

"One is to stay at Rivermouth and manage the iron mining in Black Rock Mountain for me. The mining here will gradually expand, and the number of Warriors stationed will also increase. In a few years, there will be another mining district, Blackstone City."

"...Uh, to become a mining supervisor?"

On hearing that, Huitu Puapu was greatly disappointed.

The Mexica Alliance and the Kingdom of the Lake held prowess in warfare in high esteem for a thousand years of turmoil. In the tradition of the Kingdom's Warriors, managing any number of miners did not carry the same status or identity as being a Warrior Camp Chief. The former was merely a common civil manager, while the latter was an esteemed warrior leader.

"Your Majesty, what is the other option?"

"The other option..."

Seeing the expression on Huitu's face, Xiulote knew well what was in his mind. He didn't insist, but instead smiled meaningfully. He had already prepared another option for Huitu when he was banished to the river's mouth.

"You will lead the Naval Forces for me, set out from the Rivermouth, and explore along the boundless Great Lake. You will continuously seek new fertile lands for the Kingdom of the Lake and conquer them!"

"Ah! A Naval Commander of the South, conquering coastal land!"

Upon hearing this, Huitu Puapu's heart "thumped" with excitement. This appealing choice sounded much better than being a mining supervisor. He did not hesitate and prostrated himself again with gratitude.

"Praise Your Majesty! I am willing to lead the Naval Forces and fight to the death for the conquest of the Kingdom!"

"Ha ha!"

Xiulote laughed heartily. He went on to say with a smile.

"Puap, this is a choice that requires courage, don't regret it later!"

"The Chief Divine bears witness, I will never regret it!"

"Good! The Chief Divine bears witness!"

Xiulote nodded and said no more. He turned to the Head Warrior standing calmly beside him, smiling quietly.

"Bertade, we need to arrange for a loyal mining supervisor here. It's best if they are devout and understand the customs and language of the Tekos people... Do you have any recommendations?"

The Head Warrior pondered silently, recalling the relevant personnel. Beside him, Black Wolf's expression changed slightly, and he suddenly spoke up.

"Your Highness, I have a suitable candidate!..."

Moments later, Mavik, the trusted aide, stood anxiously before the King, brought into His presence by the King's summons. Black Wolf patted Mavik on the shoulder with a smile, introducing him to the King.

"Your Highness, this is my trusted aide Mavik, a Tekos man, born not far from here in Trout Fish Village. He worships the Chief Divine fervently, joined the Royal Army many years ago, and even served in the Imperial Guard Legion as a Vanguard, participating in the battles of the conquest of the Canine Descendants. Later, he accompanied me to the Guajili Legion, and he served as an important guide during our sweeps to the southwest..."

"Oh? A Tekos trusted aide..."

Xiulote scrutinized Black Wolf's trusted aide carefully. Mavik was in his early thirties, with a robust physique and a calm demeanor, bearing the typical features of a Tekos. Although he seemed somewhat nervous, he still appeared quite capable.

"Mavik, how many years have you been with the Royal Army?"

"The Chief Divine's blessing!"

Mavik subconsciously clutched the Sun Hummingbird Amulet around his neck, bracing his spirit.

"Your Majesty, I was a captured soldier who joined the Royal Army when the Northern Route Army took the Huayamo Fortress; it has been four years!"

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"Four years..."

Xiulote was slightly surprised. This experience had already surpassed many of the Prepetcha Samurai. Afterwards, he questioned Mavik for a while and examined a few scriptures from the Book of Ama Colley, finally nodding in satisfaction.

"Very well! Mavik, would you be willing to stay here to manage the mine and mine the ore from the mountains?"

"Ah? Stay here to manage the mine?"

Mavik was taken aback and asked subconsciously.

"Your Majesty, will Trout Fish Village be under my control?"

"Of course! All the villages surrounding the mine will be under your jurisdiction. You must recruit at least a thousand Tekos miners to extract iron ore from the mountains during the dry agricultural off-season! I will summon experienced miners from the Qinganbate mine to assist you. The scale of mining will

expand later, nearby furnaces for smelting the ore will be built, and coke will be transported here... Your work will be very demanding!"

"Ah, Your Majesty! I will follow your command and dedicate myself to managing the entire mining area for you!"

Hearing about managing Trout Fish Village, Mavik hesitated no more and knelt down on the ground. Becoming an official in his hometown, returning in glory, and having the chance to trample those who had opposed him was simply too exhilarating. Not to mention, the trout and silverfish soup from his hometown was truly nourishing!

"Very well! Witnessed by the Chief Divine, from today onward, you are my Samurai, the chief administrator of the Black Rock Mountain iron ore mine!"

Xiulote smiled and nodded. He solemnly reached out to touch Mavik's hair, accepting his loyalty.

After the simple loyalty ceremony, the King gave Mavik many instructions. He had many plans for the mining and smelting of iron, but they would have to be implemented slowly.

Huitu, watching Mavik being earnestly instructed by the King, suddenly felt a wave of envy. Then he shook his head forcibly, firmly reminding himself.

"No, a miner boss is definitely not comparable to a Naval Commander!"

The sun gradually set, and Xiulote stood at the mountaintop, looking towards the sunset over the western sea. The spectacle of the sunset was so magnificent, it was as if the sky and sea were wholly suffused with the glow. The King gazed in trance for a long while, his eyes slightly lowered, and noticed the stone monument documenting Black Wolf's merits.

"Eh? What's this..."

Xiulote walked over quickly, carefully reading the uneven text.

"Black Wolf Torc, Hand Snake City, shattered the Tekos, documented in Divine Mountain!... Hmm? There are corresponding paintings below."

Xiulote smiled as he looked for a while, first shaking his head, then nodding.

"Black Wolf, not bad! The painting is good!"

"Haha! Thank you for your compliment, Your Highness!"

Black Wolf held his head high, beaming with pride.

"But the writing, it's incorrect."

Xiulote's smile faded as he seriously criticized.

"Look at these two characters! It should be 'fire burn', not 'fire stove'. It should be 'shatter', not 'burst'... When we return to Trout Fish Village, let the Head Warrior give you some paper and pen, copy each character a hundred times!"

"Ah! Your Highness!"

Black Wolf's eyes widened, and his smirk of satisfaction instantly collapsed.

"A hundred times..."

"Yes. Give me a bronze chisel!"

The King nodded, speaking with deep significance.

"The words that Black Wolf lacks, I shall personally etch!"

As the sun set, its last rays fell on the hard stele, illuminating the freshly carved marks. The King and his generals had already departed, carrying with them fresh hopes, chasing the faint glimmers of a new era.

In the following days, His Highness Xiulote stayed in Trout Fish Village. Surprisingly, his trusted aide Mavik had excellent craftsmanship, and the village chief, Maho, was also good at making fire. The King remarked that the delicious fish soup suited his taste well.

The Imperial Guards mining in Black Rock Mountain brought back samples intermittently. Iron ore was sparsely distributed from halfway up Black Rock Mountain, gradually extending down to the base to form increasingly obvious veins. Based on this trend, the real vein should be right beneath Black Rock Mountain.

Hearing this, Xiulote frowned slightly. The vein of iron ore in Black Rock Mountain was still quite deep, making mining difficult. If it were a later era, the hill could be flattened with explosives. But in this era, they could only use a large amount of manpower to dig slowly.

By late March, scattered pieces of iron ore were mined, accumulating at the base of Black Rock Mountain. The villagers of Tekos were also mobilized to start building simple furnaces. If time allowed, the King even wanted to stay here for a few more months to watch the furnaces being built and the first batches of scattered iron ore begin to be smelted.

However, by the end of March, the envoy from the Alliance finally arrived at the mouth of the Tarsas River. He first came from the Lake Capital City along the Lerma River, then landed from Rivermouth County, headed south to the Qinchongcan Capital, and then followed the trail of the King, heading south to Zicao City, west to Apa City, and finally took a small boat, traveling hundreds of miles downstream to the Tarsas River mouth.

"I traveled one thousand five hundred miles, only to finally catch up with His Highness here!"

The envoy was emaciated, nearly out of shape from exhaustion. He took out three decrees from his bosom and read them in succession.

The first decree was from the elders.

"... Summon His Highness Xiulote to the Lake Capital City to formally marry Princess Alisa... After the wedding ceremony, prepare for the eastern campaign."

The second decree was from King Aweit, simply reiterating the elders' words, and then he added a sentence.

"... Hurry and prepare for the grand ceremony. Alisa's wedding must dazzle the nations!"

The third decree was from the Chief Priest, who added another sentence.

"... Bring the most precious gifts to marry the princess!"

Then, the envoy took out two personal letters and handed them to Xiulote.

The first letter was left by his father Xiuxoke, broadly outlining some plans for the wedding and mentioning the Alliance's plan to campaign east against Tlaxcala after the autumn harvest.

The second letter had elegant handwriting and was faintly fragrant. On the front was a drawing of a boy holding a girl's hand, sitting side by side on top of a pyramid, gazing at the starry sky. Below the drawing were a few lines of yearning text.

After reading the text, Xiulote felt a surge of emotion. Then, he turned to the back of the letter and saw a shallow rouge kiss mark.

Upon seeing this, Xiulote could no longer restrain the longing in his heart. Standing on the edge of the Pacific Ocean, he looked towards the northeast mountains, calling out in his heart.

"I am coming, my beloved!"

Chapter 763: Volume 3 Conclusion

After the kingdom's transformation and military campaigns to the north and south, the lengthy third volume has finally concluded! <(〰〰)>

The theme of the third volume is "Establishing the Kingdom," which, as the name suggests, narrates the establishment and stabilization of the Kingdom of the Lake. From the summer of 1484 to the spring of 1487, the newly born Kingdom of the Lake rapidly developed in the Mikenque Lake region and became a significant power in the world.

The most important content in the third volume is the various reforms of the Kingdom of the Lake. These institutional innovations aimed both to further centralize authority and to integrate the various social strata of the kingdom, turning it into a powerful war machine. The reforms in the Kingdom of the Lake, similar to the reforms of Shang Yang, steered the kingdom towards a path of agricultural and military enterprise!

The specific reforms included politically: systematizing households and equalizing citizens, taking control of villages, establishing military and civilian settlements; encouraging agriculture, rewarding farming and military achievements, granting land and nobility for military merits; implementing county governance, selecting talented individuals from the Prepetcha, and establishing an official system for Preaching Priests; reducing and restructuring the old nobility, bringing the kingdom's population under direct control; and introducing a banner system to manage the Canine Descendants and the Tekos Tribe.

Economically: revitalizing the land, self-sustenance farming by the second-line legions and militia; emphasizing mining, vigorously developing bronze and coal mining, enhancing smelting and casting techniques, and initially excavating iron ore; focusing on agriculture, promoting bronze tools and farming equipment, initial agricultural reforms, constructing new irrigation systems, promoting composting; controlling trade, standardizing measurements, state monopolization of the seas to ban luxury, and engaging in trade with foreign nations, producing highly profitable gemstones.

Militarily: granting land and slaves for military merits, purging old noble officers, and popularizing new equipment and weapons. The kingdom's army was divided into a first-line standing army, a second-line semi-detached, and a third-line militia farming army.

By the end of 1487, the first-line standing army included the Imperial Guards heavy legion (Bertade), the Capital Region defense legion (Olosh), and the Canine Descendants light infantry legion (Toltec); the second-line semi-detached included the First Spear legion (Kuluká), the Second Spear legion (Ezpan), and the under-construction Zicao legion (Etalik); as for the third-line farming militia, they were mainly concentrated in the Patzcuaro Lake region and the Apa Plain.

In terms of diplomacy: maintaining close ties with the Alliance, accepting support from the Alliance; engaging in population trade with the Guamal Canine Descendants and various southern tribes; through the northern campaign, bringing the three states of Otomi into subjection and gradually assimilating them; accepting the subordination of the western Colima tribes.

Technologically: expanding the Divine Revelation Place's research system, improving the career path for Divine Revelation Priests. Promoting bronze farming tools, forging bronze Qin Swords, developing new types of ships, and the most critical invention, manufacturing new small bronze cannons! ㄱ(ㄷ.)ㄱ

Religiously: spreading the faith of the Chief Divine, bringing the glory of the Chief Divine to the various Otomi, Canine Descendants, and Tekos tribes. Simultaneously, integrating new production methods into the teachings of the Chief Divine to enhance the development of productivity.

The final cultural innovation: compiling heritage epics, establishing a shared origins myth to unite all parts of the world. Setting up Divine Might University to train new priests, officials, military officers, and craftsmen.

A blank canvas is perfect for painting! On the ruins of the Tarasco Kingdom, a brand-new kingdom was thus established, carefully cultivated by Xiuxiu, gaining the power to truly change the world!

And the third volume, which occupies the most space, is focused on the northern campaigns against the Guajili tribes and the southern campaigns against the old nobility of the kingdom and various Tekos tribes. To unify the fragmented kingdoms of Central America, incessant warfare is essential, continuously breaking and crushing everything in war to establish a new strong order and system. The overview of the northern campaigns has been mentioned in the acknowledgments, while the southern campaign was relatively smooth. (^▽^)

As a true king, Xiuxiu possessed enough will and determination to push forward the path of unification at all costs! No matter the price, regardless of how blood-soaked and fiery the road ahead, he remained steadfast!

Over several years of reforms and warfare, Xiuxiu matured both mentally and physically. Born in 1469, at 19 years old, he was gradually becoming a true king and was about to welcome his wedding with Alisa. Ah, he had been looking forward to it for a long time! \ (^ ▽ ^) /

Following the widely-anticipated wedding, there would be the Alliance's campaign to the east. The theme of the next volume will be "Unification"!

The Alliance unifying the world was destined to be filled with countless battles, innumerable casualties, and rebounds from old forces. And while Central America gradually unified, severe challenges from the seas of the East would arise. By 1487, Columbus's departure was not far off. Unifying the world of Central America and battling the incoming colonizers would be the focus of the next volume! (๓·_·)๓

Finally, at the end of the volume, the author and the cats roll around, seeking support and votes from all the readers! (Meow, meow!)

Chapter 764: The King's Gift

Deep into April, the orioles sang over thousands of miles, and young green plants grew on the boundless fields, while bright blossoms bloomed over the plains of the lake regions. Returning travelers, upon seeing such picturesque spring landscapes, would forget the troubled times they lived in.

After the first rain fell, the pink cherry blossoms in the gentle river towns cracked a smile, welcoming the return of the victorious King. Plumes of black smoke rose from the military and civilian settlements during the slash-and-burn, and the songs of busyness rang loudly over the newly cultivated fields. The season for spring plowing had arrived, and the entire Kingdom of the Lake bustled with life amid the hardship.

Xiulote led the Imperial Guard Legion from the mouth of the Tarsas River northwards, stopping first in Kulamo City for a day. He instructed the veteran, Etalik, to focus manpower and resources and prioritize the development of the Rivermouth Black Rock Mountain iron mine. Then, he slightly detoured, stopping for a day at the Qinganbate mining area, where he summoned Necali, the Director of Mining and Metallurgy, to deploy skilled miners and craftsmen to assist with the mining and smelting of the Rivermouth iron ore.

Finally, the southern part of the Kingdom calmed down, with both the Prepetcha farmers integrated into the civilian settlements and the Tekos Tribe members integrated into the banner troops bustling for the busy spring plowing. This was the foremost event of the year, determining the subsistence of the coming year.

Ezpan dispatched an envoy to report back that thousands of southwestern tribes from the Coahuilco mountain region poured out, surrendering to the Royal Army on the Apa Plain. Having consumed their seed grain, they had no choice but to submit to the Kingdom if they wished to avoid starvation and be integrated into the banner troop villages.

It took Xiulote a month's time to return to the Qinchongcan Capital from Rivermouth, seven hundred miles away. His first meeting was with Chief Minister Jatili, where amidst the astonishment and admiration of the Sage, he recounted the situation of the southern campaign and entrusted him with the Kingdom's administration, because he was soon to embark on a journey to marry in the Lake Capital City of Tenochtitlan.

By the end of April, the King issued military orders to the various legions of the Kingdom. The First Spear Legion was to garrison in Rivermouth County, the Jingji Legion in the Capital Region, the Second Spear Legion in Apa County, and the Zicao Legion in Zicao County. The Guajili Legion was to return north to Rivermouth County to rest and be ready for another call to arms. The Imperial Guard Legion would accompany the King to the Alliance in early June.

After arranging everything, Xiulote finally settled his heart and began to prepare the gifts to take to the Alliance.

"The most precious gifts, the grandest celebration, the most unforgettable surprise for Alisa!..."

On the way back to the Capital City, he had pondered long, already forming a rough plan in his mind.

"First, the gifts for the Alliance, 20 boxes of jadeite, 20 boxes of obsidian, 20 boxes of bronze ware, 20 boxes of gold, 20 boxes of silver, 20 boxes of gemstones... Hmm, this time I won't use Prepetcha gemstones, but traditional gemstones exchanged for Prepetcha gemstones."

In Central American culture, 20 is a auspicious number, corresponding to the days in a month of the Sun Calendar and symbolizing a sacred assembly. Meanwhile, 18 is the number of months in the Sun Calendar, symbolizing different aspects of divinity.

"Next, the noble gifts for the Royal Family, 18 pieces of purple clay pottery, 18 pieces of agarwood furniture, 18 boxes of fine cotton clothing, 18 boxes of feathered garments, 18 bundles of herbs and spices... every cherished luxury counted!"

Xiulote picked up his pen and ticked off items from the Kingdom's inventory extensively, ensuring they were both precious and plentiful.

"Then, the tributes for the King, 365 sets of bronze-clad cloth armor, 365 bronze Qin swords, 500 longbows..."

Again, the annual number of days, 365, is also considered auspicious. Then, Xiulote paused for a moment, blinked, hesitated thinking of his grandfather's hint, and still, he wrote it down.

"Add 36 Tiger Squat Cannons, 4 Divine Eagle Cannons!"

The Cannon Casting Bureau could cast 1 Divine Eagle Cannon and 10 Tiger Squat Cannons per month. With the stockpile of Tiger Squat Cannons increased by sixty to seventy during the half-year of the King's southern campaign, parting with 36 was not too painful. What truly pained Xiulote was the Divine Eagle Cannons, as the successful casting rate of these 2-pound cannons was notoriously low.

"Finally, the gifts for Alisa! First, a travel album I personally painted recounting the sights from the Kingdom's north to south; over a hundred varieties of exotic flowers and plants, collected from the northern wilderness and southern mountain regions; a fist-sized top-grade fire opal with sunset-like flames inside, a tribute from the Noble Chief of Colima. Ah, the Colima Mountain Region has always been one of the world's most renowned places for precious opal production."

Opal is a vibrant gemstone, formed from solidified molten silica, akin to amber in some respects, but with even more stringent conditions for formation. Before its discovery in Australia, the world's rarest opal sources were in the southwestern mountain regions of the Kingdom.

"...plus a 60-carat pigeon-blood ruby, from the Mistec traders; a pair of crystalline Jade bracelets, contributions from the Mayan merchants... Haha, girls should like these sparkling jewels. Oh yes, and two uniquely unparalleled surprises of the new era!"

Thinking of a girl as airy as a cloud, Xiulote wore a genuine smile. These gifts would be priceless in future ages, but for the King of the Kingdom of the Lake, they weren't considered particularly precious. What the King truly cared about were two new era surprises that required his personal involvement in their

creation. After marking for a while, he set down his pen and paper and, accompanied by a few trusted aides, headed towards the Divinity University.

The Divinity University, located in the palace district of the Capital City, was transformed from a Tarasco Noble's mansion and wasn't far from the Palace of Wind. The Priest University had been established alongside the Kingdom of the Lake three years prior. By now, the first batch of rapidly trained Preaching Priests had graduated and were deployed to various villages and communities. The subsequent two batches of students were required to study for over three years and were distributed among different priestly branches.

Compared to when it was first established, the size of the university had expanded significantly. Each year, the number of students enrolled was around two hundred. These people came from a wide range of sources: forty percent were progeny of various levels of nobility and priests, thirty percent from samurai families, twenty percent were merchants and commoners, and ten percent were descendants of noble chiefs from the Otomi states. Now, at the King's request, descendants of noble chiefs from the Tekos tribes also came to receive education from the kingdom.

In the eyes of the citizens of the capital city, this Divine Might University was truly a heavenly path. By entering the university, it meant one had the status of a reserve priest and thus leaped into the ruling class's reserves.

The King came to the Divine Might University with a simple entourage consisting of several Imperial Guards. The university's Vice Chancellor, Third Level High Priest Bravo, had been waiting for a long time.

"Chief Divine bless! Divine Revelation Supreme High Priest, the highest of all priests, King, Bravo greets you!"

Bravo's demeanor was serious, and he reverently bowed. His personality was not naturally so solemn, but currently, in the critical position of Vice Chancellor of the Divine Might University, he was envied and scrutinized by many high-level priests and had to be cautiously prudent and self-disciplined.

"Chief Divine bless! High Priest Bravo, are the Divine Revelation priests and senior craftsmen all ready?"

"They are ready, Supreme High Priest. The two experimental sites are right over there."

Bravo nodded with a smile and pointed towards the vast grounds behind the university.

"According to your earlier instructions, the priests and craftsmen have been busy for half a month. Both experimental sites, the materials and specimens are all fully prepared."

"Good!"

The King took a brief look and nodded with a smile.

"Gather the students of the Divine Revelation Institute; I want to conduct a public experiment and talk to them about the Principles of Nature of the Chief Divine. Students from other institutes can also listen in."

"By your decree, Supreme High Priest."

Bravo bowed deeply, immediately directing several apprentice priests that followed to pass on the message.

The Divine Might University unitedly trained apprentice priests for the kingdom, following the hierarchical system of the priesthood in the kingdom: the Scriptural Institute, which studied astronomy, doctrine, scriptures, and ceremonies; the Court of History Institute, learning myths, epics, history, and literature; the Preaching Institute, studying administration, preaching, confession, and rites; the War Institute, learning about herbs, medicine, combat, and sacrifice; and the Divine Revelation Institute, studying equipment, construction, mysterious reactions, and the Principles of Nature.

Being simplistically understood as a theology college, a humanities-historical college, an administrative college, a military college, and a science and engineering college. And the subjects that were offered to all institutes were literacy, basic doctrines, and practical mathematics.

As the apprentice priests spread the word, all of Divine Might University began to bustle. Students gathered from all parts of the university, eager to see the revered figure of the Priest King and to hear the teachings of Divine Revelation. If they could leave some impression before the throne, that would be best of all.

The Tekos girl, Yilian, flickered her eyes and ran swiftly, accompanied by two escorts. She wore her hair in a ponytail and was dressed in a white apprentice's robe, holding a Book of Ama Colley in her hands.

Yilian had just joined the university, entering the most mysterious Divine Revelation Institute. As the daughter of a Great Chief of Tekos, the other few institutes held little meaning for her. Only the strange creations of the Divine Revelation Institute were truly intriguing and possessed endless might.

"And, the lessons are personally taught only by the Great Chief God of Death in the Divine Revelation Institute!"

Yilian smiled brilliantly, showing a spirit like that of a mother leopard.

"I must master the most powerful mystical force in the Northern Kingdom!"

With that thought, the Tekos girl quickened her pace towards the mysterious site in the campus. Over the past half month, the site had often witnessed loud sounds, brilliant lights, and flying oddities. Guards patrolled closely around the area, prohibiting any close inspection. For her, the secrets within scratched at her heart like a cat's claws, both curious and awestruck.

Chapter 765: Golden Altar, Fireworks

The sun shone brightly, the sky clear for miles. The noonday sun beamed down upon the Divine Might Priest University, as if under the Chief Divine's gaze. The golden statue of the Sun Hummingbird stood proudly at the center, glittering radiantly; the Divine Curtain with the hand-held lightning soared high, fluttering in the wind.

After all, the Divine Might University was a religious university, and the symbols of the Chief Divine were visible everywhere. Vivid murals were carved into the stone walls, narrating the miracles and legends of the Chief Divine. And in the vast training ground, there were also two sublime altars dedicated to the Chief Divine. One was in gold for the Sun God, and the other in red for the War God.

At this moment, dozens of Priest Craftsmen were busy with care on the altars. Hundreds of Imperial Guard Warriors, clad in copper armor, maintained order in the field. Hundreds of priest apprentices solemnly waited beneath the altars,

Amidst the crowd, Yilian stood on tiptoe, craning her neck to gaze at the two altars. On the gold altar, there were several heavy wooden boxes with earth spilling from them, and inside the boxes were more than a dozen sealed short bamboo tubes. On the red altar, there was a strange, huge spherical paper ball, about six meters in diameter. The bottom of the paper ball was unclear, seemingly with some additional arrangement, and beside it was a turkey tied by the feet, gobbling noisily.

"The items on these altars are all imbued with a mystical significance, like offerings for some ritual."

Yilian pondered in her heart, her gaze finally finding the God of Death Great Chief. The Great Chief, clad in sturdy white gold armor, strode onto the golden altar and then conversed with Divine Revelation Priest Neierke on the altar.

"May the Chief Divine bless us! Is everything ready?"

Xiulote asked solemnly.

"May the Chief Divine bless us! Your Majesty, everything is ready!"

Divine Revelation Priest Neierke was somewhat excited. Originally a senior salt worker from Prepetcha, he had been selected by the Divine Revelation Place, becoming a gunpowder craftsman for the kingdom, and had been promoted to a First Level Divine Revelation Priest. He prayed devoutly to the Chief Divine and saluted the king.

"Praise the Chief Divine! Praise Your Majesty! As you commanded, we used tough old bamboo as the release container. We first added a sufficient quantity of launching gunpowder into the bamboo tubes, leaving one end open. Within the launching gunpowder, we then embedded many flammable small paper balls, filled with the same gunpowder and different mineral powders. As long as we light the fuse at the open end, the gunpowder will shoot out the paper balls and then ignite them, creating the Chief Divine's grace, fireworks of various colors! Sacred fireworks!!..."

Neierke said, pointing to the markings at the bottom of the bamboo tubes.

"Your Majesty, you see, the bottom of the bamboo tubes is marked with the colors of the fireworks and also records the added minerals!"

"Excellent!"

Xiulote praised with a smile. He took out a firework bamboo tube and examined it carefully for a moment, noting it was not much different from the earth-made fireworks he remembered.

Fireworks generally use a Second Level layered gunpowder structure, with the First Level being launching gunpowder, which requires greater explosive force to send the simple Second Level structure into the sky. The Second Level structure is color-emitting gunpowder, mixed with various coloring agents. The Second Level structure of earth-made fireworks is relatively simple, but in future high-altitude fireworks, the Second Level would include specialized fuses, detonators, gunpowder, and light beads.

Of course, for a king, the simplified earth-made fireworks were sufficient.

After the inspection, Xiulote nodded in satisfaction. He himself took a firework bamboo tube and instructed Neierke beside him.

"Light the fire!"

A moment of silence ensued, with hundreds of apprentice priests watching unblinkingly as the king and the craftsman on the golden altar prepared. Neierke lit the fuse, the king raised the bamboo tube high, aiming at the sky. Then there was a sharp explosion that resounded in the ears of all spectators!

"Whizz~ Boom~ Crack!"

On the continent of America, amid the reverent gaze of the crowd, the first brilliant firework rose more than twenty meters into the sky, then burst open with a bang! It was a red firework, blooming like a red cicada flower, suddenly unfolding before everyone's eyes, then in an instant, it was gone, leaving only a faint scent of fireworks in the wind!

"Ah! Praise the Chief Divine!"

A low prayer arose from the mouths of the watching apprentice priests, soon turning into neat, exuberant praise.

"Praise Your Majesty!"

Xiulote's eyes widened, silently gazing at the fireworks in the sky. A flood of ancient memories surged into his heart, evoking a sense of longing that haunted his soul. Scenes from New Years of the past appeared like frozen stills, like distant, unreachable dreams.

The King cast his gaze downwards, calming the tumultuous emotions within him. It had been a very, very long time since he had felt such sentiment, even touched by it.

On the altar, Neierke bowed his head in prayer for a moment before reporting back to the King.

"Your Majesty, the red fireworks contain cinnabar powder."

"Excellent!"

Xiulote nodded slightly, and all his emotions seemed to vanish with the gesture. The composition of cinnabar was strontium sulfate crystals, and the burning of strontium salts produces a red light, a flame color reaction mentioned in high school chemistry. Next, he picked up a bamboo tube marked for purple fireworks and ordered in a deep voice.

"Ignite!"

"Whoosh~ Boom~ Pop!"

After a few breaths, a purple firework bloomed in the sky above, seemingly blending into the dark firmament. The apprenticed Priests watching once again gasped in awe, exclaiming the grace of the Chief Divine! If the fireworks during the day were already so fantastical, what kind of dazzling, colorful spectacle would they be at night?

"Your Majesty, the purple fireworks are made with wood ash."

Wood ash is essentially potassium salt, which burns with a light purple flame reaction. The King paused, then picked up a green-marked bamboo tube.

"Ignite!"

With a thunderous explosion, green fireworks blossomed in the sky, contrasting against the azure backdrop, tinged with a faint blue. In the legends of the Tekos Mountains, green flames were the passage to the land of the dead, capable of communicating with the fearsome God of Death.

Yilian watched the peculiarly colored flames blankly, her heart filled with reverence for the deities, yet also with an uncontrollable anticipation.

"The wondrous flames are the power of the deities! How then did the mysterious Great Chief God of Death grasp this?"

The King watched the pale blue flames and, without waiting for Neierke to speak, said in a low voice.

"Green with a touch of blue in the fireworks, here copper powder is added."

"Indeed! Your Majesty's Divine Revelation."

Xiulote reached out for the next bamboo tube, a smile appearing on his face.

"Yellow marked, sodium salt."

The King's eyes flickered with understanding, and an enigmatic Mnemonic Verse unexpectedly came to mind. He murmured softly, and Neierke listened attentively, yet it sounded like a spell of strange words.

"Lithium purple-red, calcium brick-red, strontium carmine, barium green-yellow, sodium yellow, copper green, potassium rubidium purple..."

After igniting more than ten bamboo tubes of fireworks, Xiulote finally ceased, satisfied. He looked towards the faces below the altar—shocked, fearful, devout, yearning—and smiled faintly. Then, the King spoke out loud, recounting the Principles of Nature he had long prepared.

"The Chief Divine is the highest and greatest, He who sets the Laws for all things, sustaining the operation of heaven and earth, never defying them. The Principles of Nature are the very essence of the Chief Divine! There is order and law in everything under heaven. Only by exploring the Principles of Nature can we grasp the supreme power!"

"The creations of the Divine Revelation Place are all derived from the Principles of Nature. Today, I will use these wondrous creations to reveal to you a glimpse of the Mystery of Deities behind the world!"

Chapter 766: Mystery of Deities

The vast training field was solemn, as hundreds of priest apprentices listened attentively. Xiulote's voice was loud and firm, leading the young initiates to open the door to another world.

Upon hearing the Mystery of Deities, Yilian's spirit was lifted, listening even more seriously, unwilling to miss a single sentence. Two priests proficient in writing got ready with paper and pen, kneeling before the altar. They would record the King's narration verbatim, as the teachings of the Divine Revelator, to be engraved on the stone walls of the academy for the initiates to ponder day and night.

Xiulote pondered for a while, considering where to begin. After a series of prolonged preparations, it was time to systematically integrate his knowledge of natural science into the academy, even if all that knowledge was to be written in the name of the divine.

In fact, the basic scientific knowledge from later ages was the most precious wealth of any transmigrator and the most valuable contribution to the entire world. Even to some extent, the most important mission of a transmigrator was not to vie for supremacy or amass a fortune, but to do everything possible to pass on common knowledge from later times in an era of ignorance, to leave behind a flame for human civilization!

Reflecting on this, the Divine Revelator King stood reverently for a moment before finally speaking out loudly, starting with the composition of matter.

"The Chief Divine created everything following the Principles of Nature. All things in the world, whether flora and fauna, insects and fish, birds and beasts, or wind and clouds, thunder and lightning, earth and rivers, are made of Divine Particles. Divine Particles can be referred to as Spirit Particles. They are like dust in the wind, only a thousand times smaller than dust, invisible to the naked eye and intangible to the touch, yet they truly exist, determining the properties of everything!"

Material is composed of particles. Here, the concept of Spirit Particles encompasses not only fundamental particles but also atoms and molecules. Xiulote still remembered some of his high school physics and chemistry, though he didn't plan to elaborate just yet.

"Therefore, the first mystery is: Spirit Particles are the constituents of all things, invisible and possibly divisible."

Xiulote paused, observing the reactions of the crowd. Hundreds of priest apprentices listened intently, some showing surprise, some deep in thought, some confused, yet no one dared to question. The High Priest Bravo hesitated for a moment before asking softly.

"Supreme High Priest, are you saying that all things in the world are composed of the Chief Divine's dust? The Chief Divine controls everything, is omnipotent, and uses the same material to create different things?"

Xiulote pondered for a while before slowly nodding.

"High Priest Bravo, you are right, but there is one thing to add."

The Divine Revelator King paused again before speaking out loudly once more.

"Spirit Particles vary; some are lively as Fire, some as silent as Gold, some as hard as jade, and some as soft as silver. They have inherent differences, and they gather in different structures. Just like the same clay, which is soft in the fields, hard in mud walls, but once fired into Pottery, it solidifies its shape, becoming both hard and fixed."

After a moment of contemplation, High Priest Bravo bowed his head respectfully.

"Thank you, Supreme High Priest, for the enlightenment."

"Very well! Bravo, as the principal of the Divine Might Academy, you must maintain a heart of reverence and exploration, not to be bound by old doctrines!"

Xiulote smiled and nodded, then looked at everyone.

"The second mystery, Spirit Particles vary and combine in different structures, determining the different properties of all things! As priests of the Chief Divine, you must not only study the nature of Spirit Particles themselves but also explore the compositions of different Spirit Particles, to understand the principles behind the properties of all things, to transform them for human use!"

After hearing this, High Priest Bravo lowered his head, his brow slightly furrowed. The narratives of the Supreme High Priest, being of Divine Revelation, naturally represented divine will. However, if spoken by someone else, even he, as a High Priest, feared it might be a reason to be offered up on the Sacrificial Stone.

At the altar, Xiulote was exhilarated. He looked at the listening priest apprentices as if seeing the hope of the future. He had roughly memorized the periodic table of elements, and marked different elements' properties and common material compositions. Once the initiates were able to initially accept the Principles of Nature and pass the assessment tests, they would have the opportunity to delve deeper into the "Mystery of Deities."

"Different Spirit Particles, different structural combinations?...???"

Under the altar, the Tekos maiden Yilian opened her mouth, wanting to ask and yet afraid to speak. The Great Chief said that Spirit Particles were invisible and untouchable, so how could one know their differences, the specifics? ...Was this truly Divine Revelation, or just a ruse?

Xiulote observed the congregation listening as if hearing sacred teachings, and without awaiting questions, he continued his narrative. After some thought, he began speaking about the relationship between matter and energy.

"The world's countless things are composed of Spirit Particles, and under the Divine Might, they undergo change. Divine Might can also be called Divine Power. It is the brilliant sunlight, the burning Fire, the destructive lightning, and the flowing Water of waterfalls. Divine Power is everywhere, making the world turn, things change, and life teem with vigor."

Hearing this, High Priest Bravo nodded in agreement.

"Divine Might controls everything, making the world turn and all things come to life or death!"

At these words, Xiulote raised an eyebrow but said nothing. He looked at the initiates who were all nodding in agreement and solemnly declared.

"The third mystery is that Divine Power is transferred between Spirit Particles, affecting them. It causes Spirit Particles to move and change, affecting their structural compositions and even the Particles themselves, thus causing the world's myriad things to transform!"

Maiden Yilian blinked her eyes, staring entranced at the solemn Great Chief as if looking at the incarnation of a deity. She listened carefully, as if she understood something, yet as if she had understood nothing at all. The words of Divine Revelation fell into her heart like a breeze on her face, impossible to grasp, leaving only a faint wondrous feeling. But this kind of wondrous sensation was something she had never obtained anywhere else.

Chapter 767: Mystery of Deities_2

Xiulote stood straight-backed, his expression focused, sweeping over the faces of the crowd as if deep in thought. He pondered for a moment, then raised two examples.

"All things change under the influence of Divine Power, as if the Divine Particles are altered by Divine Power. The scorching Divine Power of sunlight grants energy to the waters of Patzcuaro, causing the water to rise, ascend to the sky, and transform into moist and warm clouds. And when moist, warm clouds encounter the cold northern wind, stripped of the sunlight's Divine Power, they coalesce into rain and fall back into the lake!"

"In the woods of the mountains, Divine Power is stored. We cut down firewood and set it aflame to cook a pot of soup. The Divine Power released from the firewood ignites fervent flames, turning the firewood into ashes and blue smoke. This Divine Power transfers to the earthenware pot, making the soup boil and even turn into white steam, rising into the sky. Here, the Divine Power of the flames is similar to the sun's Divine Power, both transforming water into steam!"

Upon hearing the examples, the apprentices began nodding their heads, showing expressions as if they had understood something. Xiulote thought for a while, and decided not to discuss the other three thermodynamics laws, but to talk only about the second law of thermodynamics.

"The fourth Mystery, Divine Power can be stored in different forms within Divine Particles, and Divine Particles contain varying levels of Divine Power. The energy that is released exists in the form of heat and always naturally flows from the blazing Divine Particles to the icy Divine Particles."

"Once a pot of soup is taken off the boil, its heat gradually disperses into the wind, causing the soup to gradually cool. This is the heat from the soup being conducted to the surrounding Divine Particles. Yes, even the air we breathe contains Divine Particles... When we touch the boiling soup with our fingers, the scorching Divine Power is transmitted to us, causing us to get burned. The transmission of Divine Power has many methods; these are deeper mysteries which I will explain to you when the opportunity arises."

Xiulote smiled gently, looking at the apprentices below him with the strange feeling of being a teacher. He adjusted his tone and rhythm, earnestly guiding them to understand complex concepts in simpler terms.

"The gunpowder of Divine Revelation Place contains immense Divine Power. When the gunpowder's Divine Power is released, it can ignite grass and wood, shatter earthenware, propel stone projectiles, and destroy any obstructing enemy! How is gunpowder's Divine Power transferred to the stone projectiles, allowing the heavy stones to be launched? All this relies on the expansive force of gases exploding..."

Xiulote paused for a moment, seeing the puzzled looks on people's faces, he rephrased.

"Hmm, it relies on the Divine Force acting on the Divine Particles, which is Divine Force! Divine Force can be referred to simply as force! Every physical entity in the world follows immutable truths, acting upon each other, all possessing force, differing only in strength."

Hearing the King describe force, Bravo was greatly startled. He bowed his head in respect and earnestly cautioned.

"Respected High Priest, perhaps the Divine Power of the Chief Divine should not be discussed lightly..."

Xiulote pondered for a moment and then said with a smile.

"If that is the case, let's just call it force! The fifth Mystery, force is the action that changes all things, causing objects to change speed or to deform."

Bravo bowed his head, not making any comment. He didn't have the revered status of a King; in such a public setting, to say the wrong thing would spell disaster if the Kingdom's Priests became aware.

The Priest apprentices were somewhat excited, buzzing with uncontrollable chatter. Then, they heard the Vice-Principal's words and quickly fell silent again, looking expectantly towards the King upon the altar. The young girl Yilian also widened her eyes, waiting for more mysteries of "force."

Xiulote reflected for a while and then expounded further on the concept of "force."

"When we draw a bow and shoot an arrow, we transfer the Divine Power from our arms by the action of 'force' to the bent bow and drawn string. Then, when we release the arrow, the bowstring imparts 'force' to the arrow, accelerating it swiftly like lightning! This is an application of force to accelerate, known as propulsive force."

"When the feathered arrows came flying, the Samurai raised their wooden shields, 'bang' to block the arrows, feeling the impact on the shield. And the arrows, obstructed, stuck in the shield buzzing 'hum hum' before finally halting. This is using force to decelerate, known as drag. Then, the angry Samurai pulled out the arrows, grabbed the ends firmly, and snapped the arrows with a force! This is the close-contact action, causing the arrows to deform completely, referred to as stress..."

Speaking thus, a hint of nostalgia crossed Xiulote's face. Countless unforgettable scenes flashed before his eyes, those were the indelible years of learning. Even though he was in Central America hundreds of

years ago, enduring countless wars and killings, he would still occasionally wake from his dreams as if someone was whispering terrifyingly in his ear.

"Gaokao... Study... Gaokao... Study... The Gaokao is tomorrow, it's too late to study now!"

The strong wind blew through Divine Might University, giving everyone a sense of force. The King reflected for a long time, then hesitated for a moment before deciding to speak on classical mechanics, which was the most fundamental way of understanding the world.

"Divine particles converge to form objects, and those objects change their motion when acted upon by force. Within the sixth mystery, there are three laws governing 'force' that all things in motion follow. They are like the earth's soil, and like the roots of trees, the foundation upon which the current world operates, and they are also the Chief Divine's Principles of Nature. Whether you understand them or not, just remembering them firmly will suffice!"

Xiulote again organized his speech, trying to make it as accessible as possible, and prematurely introduced the laws of motion by a full two hundred years.

"The first law, the Chief Divine endowed all things with inertia! The motion of objects retains its inertia, and if it has not been acted upon by an external force, then its velocity will not change."

Hearing this, many apprentices were full of confusion, while many others were lost. Where in the world is there unchanging velocity? Shot arrows will fall, falling fruit will speed up. Even the fleetest of deer will eventually stop from exhaustion...

The audience looked towards the King, who shook his head slightly. He didn't elaborate much, simply continuing with the narrative.

"The second law, external force changes the acceleration of an object's motion! The greater the force, the greater the acceleration; the heavier the object, the smaller the acceleration."

This law was easier to understand and more in line with common sense. Throwing an apple, compared to throwing a stone the size of an apple, was clearly much easier. And drawing a bow half-full with little effort, versus drawing it fully with great effort, obviously results in the latter firing arrows faster.

"The third law, the Chief Divine bestowed fairness upon all things! When two objects interact, the forces they exert on each other are actually the same size, but in exactly opposite directions."

Xiulote looked towards his audience, their gazes once again grew vacant. The apprentices of the Kingdom's priests respectfully and obediently tried to remember the King's Divine Revelation, without a trace of doubt.

In the crowd, Yilian scratched her head in puzzlement. She came from the Colima Mountain Region and didn't hold the King in such reverence, simply pouting unhappily and mumbling quietly.

"The Great Chief is really bluffing! If you grab your hair, does the hair also grab your hand?... Hmph, the Great Chief is really stingy. He talks about revealing the Mystery of Deities but holds back, leaving us with all these incomprehensible principles!"

Watching the crowd's reaction, Xiulote blinked his eyes. His gaze lingered on Yilian's face for a moment, and he smiled. Then, he glanced at the slanting sun. Time was getting late, and later he had to conduct the hot air balloon experiment.

After pondering briefly, the King simply mentioned the last mystery, the basics of biology.

"The Chief Divine created all things with Divine particles. But plants and trees, birds and beasts, insects and fish, as well as divine human beings, all possess Divine Vitality bestowed by the Chief Divine! We are fundamentally different from lifeless mountains and rivers. And the source of Vitality comes from the Divine Particles that make up Divine Vitality, referred to simply as cells!"

Chapter 768: The Red Altar, Eye of the Chief Divine

The sunlight slanted down, shimmering over Lake Patzcuaro. The majestic Qinchongcan City stood at the lakeside, and the brand-new Divine Might University symbolized a vast future.

In the ancient myths of the Prepetcha people, the Patzcuaro Lake region was the driving force of the world's rotation, and Qinchongcan City was the center of the world. At this moment, in the words of the King's Divine Revelation, on the shoulders of countless future giants, Central American civilization's

exploration of the world's laws would be reborn in a new form, nourishing the light of science amid religious beliefs!

"I hope that one day, this place will become the birthplace of modern science in the entire human world!"

Xiulote smiled, watching the young apprentices below the altar, his face full of expectation, silently contemplating. These Divine Revelation Priest apprentices were mostly fifteen to seventeen years old. Their minds, active and unbound by traditional thoughts, and their worldviews not yet formed, made them much more moldable than the adult priests...

The King pondered for a moment, then announced loudly.

"My students! Whether you understand or not, listen patiently to my teachings, learn the Mystery of Deities! Once you qualify and leave from here, you will be my students, my disciples!"

Upon hearing the King's words, hundreds of apprentices were momentarily silent, then burst into excited cheers. The cheers resounded warmly through the university, like the rolling thunder before the arrival of spring rain.

Xiulote's face beamed with joy as he looked at the enthusiastic young faces, feeling a sense of belonging as the head of the university. Just as saplings need nurturing to grow, so too does conferring the identity of a disciple to a Divine Revelator serve as an effective encouragement and protection.

The Divine Revelation Priest in charge of recording stepped up to the altar, respectfully presented the recorded teachings, and asked the "Divine Revelator" to review them. Xiulote glanced over them, nodding slightly. Seven recorded "Mystery of Deities" unfolded, laying the foundation for natural science. These "Mystery of Deities," seemingly mystical and profound, would be concise and straightforward in future language.

First, matter is composed of particles. On subdividing, these particles are molecules, atoms, and even smaller fundamental particles.

Second, different atoms form molecules in different ways, determining the physical and chemical properties of the matter.

Third, energy transfers between matter, causing matter to move and change. When the structure of molecules is altered by energy, the physical and chemical properties of the matter also change.

Fourth, energy is released in the form of heat, following the second law of thermodynamics, spontaneously flowing from a high-temperature heat source to a low-temperature heat source.

Fifth, the definition of force: the effect that changes the speed of an object or deforms it.

Sixth, the three laws of motion. The law of inertia, the law of acceleration, and the law of action and reaction.

Seventh, life is composed of cells.

Of course, to truly lay the foundation of natural science, these few "Mystery of Deities" are far from enough. Xiulote harbored ambitious plans to gradually transform the laws of physics, chemistry, and biology studied at all stages of compulsory education into a language acceptable to the times. Then, like today, teach them to the university apprentices as an enlightenment to science.

The process of scientific enlightenment would be lengthy and continue for many years. The initial students might not truly understand and would treat it as sacred teachings to memorize rigidly. But the significance of this teaching was undeniable, and the sense of achievement it brought was incomparable!

"I am changing the world, for the better!"

The King nodded with a smile and passed the recorded teachings to Bravo.

"Bravo, etch all my words today onto the stone wall so every apprentice can repeatedly contemplate them."

"I obey your decree, Supreme High Priest!"

Bravo bowed respectfully. He took the teachings, saw "All things in the world are composed of Divine Particles," and pondered slightly, feeling a touch of trepidation.

"Supreme High Priest..."

"Hmm?"

"May I add something to the engravings of your teachings?"

Bravo on the altar spoke in a lowered voice, cautiously advising.

"All things in the world are composed of Divine Particles... Are the noble Divine Descendants and the lowly slaves fundamentally the same?"

Hearing this, Xiulote raised an eyebrow, understanding clearly. He lightly looked at the unsettled Bravo and asked.

"How would you like to change it?"

"Could we add a phrase afterward saying, 'The divine particles forming the Divine Descendants were endowed with divinity by the Chief Divine, thus their noble status is elevated above all...'"

The King pondered for a long time. Whatever his teachings were, people of the time would interpret them according to the will of the times. These enlightening scientific doctrines needed to be augmented with annotations fitting for the times to spread within the religious system.

"Alright! Do not alter what I have said. Just attach a scripture annotation separately at the end."

"I obey you, great Divine Revelator!"

Bravo solemnly saluted, silently releasing a sigh of relief.

As long as he could write an annotation, he could find a way to manage before the traditional High Priests in the Council of Elders. Otherwise, etching so many astonishing "teachings" could spell the end of his vice-chancellor position. The Council of Elders of the Alliance was always conservative—they might not lay hands on the King, but couldn't they sacrifice him, a mere Third Level High Priest?

Thinking this, Bravo hesitated, then advised again.

"Honored Supreme High Priest, it's best not to mention these teachings when you go to the Capital City in Lake Patzcuaro..."

Xiulote stared calmly at Bravo for a moment, then nodded and smiled.

"Bravo, I understand your concerns. Don't worry about me, and don't worry about yourself. Just manage the university well, and one day, there will surely be a place for you in the highest Council of Elders!"

Chapter 769: The Red Altar, The Eye of the Chief Divine_2

"Ah! I shall follow your decree! I will follow in your footsteps to the ends of the earth!"

Bravo suppressed the excitement in his heart and solemnly prostrated himself. Then, he rose and stepped back, leaving the center of the altar for the King alone.

"Whizz~Bang~Pop!"

A red firework blossomed in the sky, emitting a strange noise! The cheering from below the altar gradually subsided, and the apprentices looked up at the stage, reassuming their silence.

Xiulote put down the hollow bamboo tube he was holding and collected his thoughts, then spoke out loud again.

"My students, lift your heads and look to the sky! What do you see?"

"Strange red fireworks..."

A few apprentice Priests mustered their courage and spoke softly.

Xiulote had good hearing. He looked at those who had spoken and nodded with a smile.

"Right! These red fireworks are both fire and light, they are Divine Might! The divine power from burning gunpowder changes the state of the Divine Particles. Divine power transfers through the added divine particles, which absorb and then release divine energy. Different divine particles will emit light in different colors—red, yellow, blue, green... according to their own properties!... Just burning certain divine particles will release fixed Divine Light!..."

The King organized his words, explaining how in the atoms, electrons absorb energy from heat to jump to an unstable state, then release photons of fixed frequency as they return to the ground state. This process is the flame color reaction used to identify different elements.

In the crowd, Yilian blinked. She was somewhat confused, yet also intrigued.

"Burning certain divine particles releases fixed Divine Light... Does it mean that the Priests can create various strange flames without communicating with the deities?"

On the altar, Bravo bowed his head, his body trembling slightly. Hearing the King's narration, he was sweating all over. The light blue flame was a standard of the Priests of the Lake Region, used to "communicate with the realm of the dead."

"The spring sun is really scorching!... Let me think, let me think well, how to annotate the teachings..."

Xiulote looked at the many apprentices, patiently explaining.

"Divine particles constitute everything in the world, and since all things are different, the types of divine particles are naturally also different. Metals and stones, flowing water and air, the earth and the sky... They contain different types, different combinations of divine particles... And the most fundamental difference of divine particles lies in their core! Divine particles are too minuscule to touch. By looking at the color of the burning Divine Light, we can see through the complex appearance to the core of the divine particles, thereby identifying their type!..."

As she listened, question marks filled Yilian's eyes. She tried to follow along for a while but eventually decided to give up. The girl's gaze gradually shifted and finally rested on the red altar.

There, the Divine Revelation Priests and Craftsmen were almost done with their work. A strange sphere, several meters in diameter, had gradually been inflated, and then was tied down with ropes, floating above the altar.

The sphere seemed to be made of the Kingdom's special tree bark paper and was painted with a terrifying red eye on its surface, as if the cold gaze of a deity was staring intently at everyone in the field.

The brave Tekos girl shivered. She tilted her head slightly, guessing at the power of the deities, not daring to directly gaze upon the mysterious and fearsome sphere.

Xiulote stopped his lecture on the yellow altar. Seeing the apprentices distracted, he smiled, descended from the yellow altar, and walked toward the red altar.

As he approached, the hot air balloon on the altar became clearly visible. Under the King's guidance, the Craftsmen's trial hot air balloon had been meticulously made of durable tree bark paper, the connections carefully glued with fish glue, then reinforced with expensive rubber juice to prevent leakage.

The hot air balloon, painted with a huge red eyeball on its surface, is named "Eye of the Chief Divine." Its diameter is six meters, with a volume of over 100 cubic meters, qualifying it as a small hot air balloon or, alternatively, a large Kongming Lantern. Similar to a Kongming Lantern, the "Eye of the Chief Divine" at the bottom has a simple wooden frame, to which a thin and light ceramic fire bowl is hooked and secured with ropes.

Inside the fire bowl are several pounds of top-quality charcoal, burning fiercely! The flames rising from the fire bowl heat the air inside, causing the whole hot air balloon to inflate. Beneath the hot air balloon, connected by ropes, is a light bamboo basket.

A not-so-fat turkey "gobbled" as it was tied by its wings and feet and stuffed into the small yet tough bamboo basket. At this moment, the turkey was unaware that it was about to become the first terrestrial creature to ride a hot air balloon high into the sky. It merely struggled uncomfortably, shaking loose feathers and also causing the balloon above to sway.

The inflated hot air balloon hovered in midair, tethered by the ropes the priests had tied, allowing it only to sway helplessly, akin to a giant Divine Beast with a life of its own, emitting awe-inspiring breaths.

Watching this scene, Xiulote nodded in satisfaction. For the Kingdom of the Lake, the preliminary technology for creating small hot air balloons was already mature. The making of the hot air balloon was conducted in the name of creating a Divine Object. Dozens of outstanding craftsmen worked diligently to perfect every detail, with abundant human and material resources. Compared to explorers from the Old World, he also had the unique rubber from America for sealing and reinforcement.

Apprentice priests gazed at the suspended giant "Eye of the Chief Divine," unable to suppress their awe and wonder. Amidst the reverent stares of the crowd, the King approached the bottom of the hot air balloon. He raised his hand, touched the rubber coating on the underside of the balloon, then glanced at the thin fire bowl emitting heat waves, and inspected the fixed frame. Afterward, the King looked up silently, fixating on the colossal skyborne creation.

The construction of the "Eye of the Chief Divine" was the result of Xiulote's meticulous calculations.

With a diameter of six meters and a volume of over one hundred cubic meters, when one cubic meter of air is heated from 20 degrees to 80 degrees, its weight is reduced by 200 grams, roughly providing a lift of 2N. In other words, a hot air balloon with a volume of 5 cubic meters, when sufficiently heated, is estimated to be able to lift an object weighing about 2 jin (1 jin = 0.5 kg). The one hundred or so cubic meters of heated air inside the whole balloon can carry a weight of about 40 jin.

Inside the hot air balloon, the thin ceramic fire bowl weighs about 4 jin, and the charcoal about 4 jin, and can burn for just over an hour. The paper balloon, frame, ropes, and bamboo basket together weigh a little over 10 jin. Added up, the weight of the hot air balloon itself is just over 20 jin, capable of providing half of its lift for the payload.

The turkey inside the bamboo basket weighs around 10 jin, and the remaining 10 or so jin of weight capacity are used to carry the hemp rope. Indeed, Xiulote had no intention of releasing this oversized "Kongming Lantern" and had attached a 200-meter-long hemp rope. After the experiment concluded, he planned to use another rope to pull the hot air balloon down for recovery.

A hemp rope with a thickness of 6 millimeters weighs about 1 jin per 10 meters. Roughly calculated, if everything goes as planned, the "Eye of the Chief Divine" is expected to rise to a height of a hundred or two meters, then will hover suspended with the rope, until the heat from the charcoal weakens and the balloon slowly descends.

Xiulote gazed intently, his longing and desire for the sky surging in the heart of the King. The "Eye of the Divine" before him would be the starting point of all human civilization in exploring the sky!

After waiting for 418 quarters, he finally asked the Divine Revelation Priest in charge of the hot air balloon with a smile.

"Scholar Chimere, is everything ready?"

The Second Level Divine Revelation Priest Chimere pursed his lips, trying to maintain his composure. Yet, his trembling voice revealed his inner excitement.

"Respected Supreme High Priest, everything is ready!"

"Good! May the Chief Divine bless us!"

Xiulote nodded solemnly. He looked toward the reverent apprentices below the altar and announced loudly.

"Priests and apprentices of the Kingdom, my students! Let us together witness this great and immortal moment! The Chief Divine ordained the order of the world, and all things follow the principle of nature. Always remember, as long as we grasp the secrets of the Divine, even the most insignificant mortals can ascend to the lofty skies!"

Below the altar, hundreds of apprentices listened solemnly, watching, anticipating. The King smiled faintly, proudly commanding.

"Chimere, release the ropes, let the Eye of the Chief Divine ascend!"

"At your command, great Supreme High Priest of Divine Revelation!"

With trembling fingers, Chimere untied the tethering ropes. Then, under the watchful eyes of the apprentice priests and the Imperial Guard Warriors, amid countless shocked and awestruck gazes, the "Eye of the Chief Divine" finally broke free from all constraints, lifting with the turkey in the bamboo basket, and flew toward the sky of the Divine Kingdom!

Chapter 770: King's Instructions: Failure is the mother of success

The massive "Eye of the Chief Divine" rose from the red altar at Divine Might University, floating towards the divine sky marked by the Chief Divine pattern. Thousands of eyes, wide open and unblinking, filled with wonder and reverence, looked up at this flight destined to be recorded in the annals of history!

At that moment, the vast school grounds fell silent, everyone waiting for the hot air balloon to ascend, like dark clouds waiting for thunder, or the night waiting for dawn.

Xiulote stood on the altar, likewise lifting his head. He watched the hot air balloon rise higher and higher, his face unable to suppress the anticipation. Beside him, the learned Priest Chimere clenched his fingers, nervously calculating.

"Thirty meters! The Eye of the Chief Divine has risen to thirty meters! Level with Capital City's Small Akatla..."

"Fifty meters! It has risen to fifty meters! Level with the Great Akatla..."

"Ah! It has surpassed the Great Akatla and is still rising!"

Under sufficient buoyancy, the hot air balloon steadily climbed upwards. Soon, the massive balloon surpassed all buildings in the Capital City, overtook the hills surrounding the capital, and continued flying towards the sky! Below, in the bamboo basket, a not-so-fat turkey poked out its head, staring in terror at the ground growing more and more distant. It was motionless, daring not to spread its wings, like a petrified turkey statue.

"Such a large balloon, it actually... actually flew?!"

The girl Yilian stared blankly at the sky, turning into a petrified statue herself. She muttered to herself in disbelief. After a few breaths, she closed her eyes, bit her lips hard, then reopened them. The red "Eye of the Chief Divine" continued to ascend, growing smaller, and seemed only the size of her fist, almost as if she could just grasp it in her hand.

Yilian instinctively stretched out her hand, first tussling her hair, then made a grabbing motion towards the hot air balloon overhead. Then, a strong urge to learn washed over her.

"I must study hard to master the mysteries of the divine! Fly into the sky!..."

"Over a hundred meters! Praise, praise... glorious Chief Divine! Guide us in the mysteries of flight!"

Chimere shouted with excitement. Hearing his shouts, the craftsmen on the altar also chanted and prayed in unison, followed by hundreds of apprentices on the school grounds. In an instant, like thunderbolts and dawn's first light, tumultuous cheers reverberated across the school grounds.

"Praise the Chief Divine! God bless the Kingdom!!"

A smile spread across Xiulote's lips. He raised his arms, reveling in the crowd's cheers and in the achievement of exploration. This bliss of the soul, unmatched by ordinary joy! At this moment, the King was utterly certain that he had personally made history!

"Distinguished Supreme High Priest, the... the released rope has surpassed one hundred fifty meters, the Eye of the Chief Divine has... has finally stopped!"

Chimere's fingers trembled with excitement, his speech even stuttered. As the responsible Divine Revelation Priest personally involved in making the hot air balloon, he felt a deeper sense of confidence and pride compared to the onlookers.

The massive hot air balloon had risen for several minutes, lifting ropes weighing tens of pounds, until buoyancy and weight finally balanced. The Divine Eye steadfastly hovered above the skies of Qinchongcan Capital, transforming into a red eye in the sky, silently watching over the entire Capital City, like a true Eye of the Chief Divine!

"The Chief Divine has descended!..."

"A divine miracle descends upon the world!..."

The continuous exclamations spread across the entire Capital City, stirring tens of thousands of citizens. People streamed out of their homes, gazing at the sky. Today was a propitious day for divine miracles, beginning with the sky's thunderous roar, followed by the gaze of the Chief Divine. The massive "Eye" floated over the Capital City, marked with the emblem of the Chief Divine, swaying in the sky.

Moments later, priests from various communities hurried over. They had received the notice that there would be a prayer ceremony for the Chief Divine in the afternoon. Soon, under the priests' guidance, the devout prayers of tens of thousands resonated through Qinchongcan City, as if the Divine Kingdom had descended.

"Praise the Chief Divine! Faith in our god Huitzilopochtli, His might is boundless, He who holds dominion over the skies! He blesses us, safeguarding our spring planting and autumn harvest!..."

Xiulote listened to tens of thousands praying, feeling the exceptional devotion in their voices. His heart stirred slightly, deep in thought.

"People revere everything in the sky! It seems, though small hot air balloons cannot be used in combat beyond scouting, they are an excellent tool for spreading the faith! Especially in converting the populous major cities..."

"Praise you, Divine Revelation Supreme High Priest, thank you for your guidance!"

Chimere bowed his head toward the King, his emotions sincere.

"We... we have mastered the power of flight! It is the domain of the divine!"

Upon hearing this, Xiulote raised his eyebrows, his smile holding a hint of amusement as he looked at Chimere.

The power of flight mastered?"

"Indeed, Supreme High Priest!"

Chimere's eyes almost gleamed with light. He confidently calculated, more ambitions rising within him.

"Distinguished Supreme High Priest, if we double the diameter of the Eye of the Chief Divine and heat more Divine Particles, it could lift one or two people! Standing within the Eye of the Chief Divine, they would make the best scouts, even seeing hundreds of miles away!"

Upon hearing this, the King sized up Chimere and nodded in satisfaction.

"Well done! Chimere, well said!"

If the diameter of the hot air balloon were doubled from 6 meters to 12 meters, the volume of the hot air balloon would become eight times larger, over 800 cubic meters. If the air inside the balloon were sufficiently heated, the buoyancy could reach 300 to 400 pounds. Even subtracting nearly half of the small hot air balloon's own weight, it would be enough to carry people into the sky!