

Multiverse 254

Chapter 254: A Greeting First Would Be Good

Sardinia, also known as Sardegna, is a large island located to the southwest of the Italian Peninsula.

It is a vacation island floating in the Mediterranean Sea, second in size only to Sicily within the Mediterranean. Its population is about fifteen million people, more than half of whom are concentrated in the island's largest city—Cagliari.

Surrounded on all sides by clear seawater, the surrounding natural environment is very beautiful. The island's main industry is tourism, so in summer, many vacationers aiming to holiday in Europe flood in. Especially the northeastern coastline, as beautiful as an emerald, is famous as a vacation destination reserved for aristocrats and the upper class.

Sardinia and its surrounding islands constitute the autonomous region of Sardinia, with the capital, Cagliari, located in a southern port on the island.

This city was originally built in the 8th century BC by the Phoenicians and has a very long history.

On this day, a starlight streaking a long trail of light rapidly flew in from the other end of the sky, bringing with it howling gusts and the sound of air being torn apart, arriving above Sardinia—over a corner of Cagliari.

"This is the place, right?"

Confirming the location on the map and finding that he had not come to the wrong place, Kaiser, with a pair of light wings spread behind his back, showed a faint smile.

"It truly is a pleasant resort destination."

Looking down from a high vantage point, Kaiser took in the entire scenery of Cagliari below.

This city, situated by the calm Mediterranean, did not first present an image of prosperity, but rather a laid-back village landscape.

The Mediterranean sun shone brightly, its dazzling rays illuminating the port of Cagliari, causing the entire harbor to shimmer with the reflection of water.

The streets were full of narrow alleys, with few wide roads. Clean laundry was hung everywhere on buildings by the roadside. A strikingly large cathedral caught Kaiser's eye, located in a beautiful plaza.

"It really doesn't look like a place where a god has descended."

With that thought, Kaiser retracted his Divine Dividing light wings, letting his body descend with gravity.

"Thud!"

Just as he reached a somewhat dangerous altitude, Kaiser's figure suddenly vanished as if piercing through space.

Before long, in an empty alley, Kaiser stepped out like an ordinary traveler, naturally blending into the street, into the crowd.

Walking through the narrow path among the people, Kaiser pulled out the intelligence report prepared by the History Compilation Committee.

"According to the latest intelligence, not long ago, a mysterious storm suddenly appeared over the sea near Sardinia's coastal port, in the Mediterranean."

"The storm was massive. Not only did it bring torrential rain, but also strong winds and thunderstorms. The waves it stirred up nearly submerged the entire port. Some even claimed they saw mysterious giant creatures within the storm."

"Afterward, the storm abruptly ceased. Then, mysterious and unexplained phenomena began appearing all over Sardinia."

Kaiser turned the page and continued reading.

"In Bosa, someone claimed they saw a giant camel."

"In Oristano, someone claimed they saw a giant sheep."

"And in Barumini, someone claimed they saw a giant bull."

These were all well-known places on Sardinia, so there were no shortages of people, and many claimed to have witnessed these mysterious giant animals. Some even suffered harm because of them. However, these incidents were never reported on television, as they were suppressed by mystical organizations in the surrounding areas of Sardinia.

"Mystical organizations, huh..."

Kaiser put away the document, becoming contemplative.

"The first thing that comes to mind among Italy's mystical organizations would be the 'Seven Sisters.'"

The "Seven Sisters" is not the name of a single organization but a collective term for seven prestigious magical societies recognized throughout Italy.

These seven prestigious magical societies are all descended from the Knights Templar who venerate both the Son of God and the demon god Baphomet. They inherited the Templar rites and are renowned forces even on a global scale.

These seven magical societies are—She-Wolf, Sky Eagle, Old Lady, City of Lilies, Shield, Copper Black Cross, and Bronze Black Cross.

Among them, Copper Black Cross and Bronze Black Cross are based in Milan; Old Lady is based in Turin; City of Lilies in Florence; She-Wolf in Rome; and Sky Eagle and Shield are located elsewhere.

"There don't seem to be any mystical organizations based in Sardinia, but in Sicily, there is one called Panormus."

Panormus is the largest magical society in Sicily, though in the context of Europe as a whole, it is only a mid-sized force. Its base is in Palermo and should be one of the closest magical societies to Sardinia.

"So, is Panormus handling the affairs here? Or did the 'Seven Sisters' also get involved?"

After the rumor of a god's descent in Sardinia spread, all major magical societies in Italy sent people to investigate.

Although the territory of the "Seven Sisters" is not nearby, as the largest mystical forces in Italy and bearing the title of prestigious lineages, their influence—even if not fully extended to this island—is certainly greater than other minor or mid-tier forces.

Especially the Copper Black Cross and Bronze Black Cross of Milan. The former's supreme commander's family is said to be descended from a former Campione, and the latter's is said to have served the current oldest Campione for generations. Compared to other forces under the King of the Italian Peninsula—Salvatore Doni—their advantages are very clear.

Of course, this only means that these forces are more influential in the Italian Peninsula. In reality, Sardinia must have already drawn many eyes; otherwise, even the History Compilation Committee far off in the Far East would not be so well-informed about the situation here.

As for Kaiser... he, based on the original story, had complete knowledge of what others still didn't know.

For instance, he knew which god had descended upon Sardinia, and that this god had specifically summoned a powerful god-king here in search of an opponent.

The grand storm that took place over the Mediterranean not long ago had been summoned by that god-king, and those mysterious giant animals were related to the god who had summoned him.

The two had fought fiercely in this region, ultimately wounding each other severely—one was scattered, splitting into incarnations and falling across various parts of Sardinia, while the other was heavily injured and went into hiding to recuperate.

"If I could scavenge, based on the intelligence I now possess, I could definitely pick up two massive windfalls."

Kaiser muttered to himself while walking.

"Unfortunately, such petty tricks would not be acknowledged by the Circle of Usurpation."

For a Campione to increase their Authorities, it isn't enough to simply kill any random god.

Only when both sides are in full condition and fully prepared for battle, and engage in an equal confrontation, can a Campione obtain a god's Authority by defeating them.

If the Heretic God is extremely weak, or is killed in something akin to an ambush, then one cannot obtain their Authority.

This is the rule of the Black Christmas rite—the ritual used to create a Campione. The condition and process of the ritual is to challenge a god head-on under relatively fair circumstances and kill them.

Therefore, with both gods in Sardinia now half-crippled, even if Kaiser were to find and kill them, he would not be able to trigger the effect of the Circle of Usurpation.

If so, his deliberate journey here to hunt gods would amount to a waste of effort and a wasted trip.

"Looks like I still have to wait a little."

Kaiser sorted out his thoughts and understood the situation.

However, he didn't intend to just turn back and go home or find a place to hide and wait it out.

"A greeting first would be good, right?"

Thinking this, Kaiser's lips curled into a slight smile, and the magical power within him suddenly blazed up like a raging flame, surging forth from his body.

This magical power couldn't be detected by ordinary people.

But it couldn't be hidden from a so-called god.

Or rather, it couldn't be hidden from the sworn enemies of Campiones.

...

Cagliari's grand plaza, in front of the Toma Cathedral.

A youth walked there, as if wandering aimlessly like a drifting soul, with no clear purpose, appearing quite careless.

The youth appeared about fourteen or fifteen years old, with shoulder-length purplish-black hair, ivory skin, and exceedingly handsome features, giving the impression of a finely crafted artwork.

He wore a somewhat sloppy white robe, over which was draped a gray cloak. Its design looked like something worn only in desert oases. Though his outfit was not eye-catching, his well-formed features and mysterious aura still drew many gazes, causing people in the plaza to unconsciously look his way.

The youth was indifferent to this and simply kept walking forward, seemingly searching for something.

"Hmm?"

Suddenly, the youth stopped.

"...The presence of a strong foe."

He felt the surge of magical power.

He sensed immense power.

"Is it an opponent?"

"Is it an enemy?"

"Is it an existence capable of granting me defeat?"

The youth muttered thus.

A moment later, he laughed.

He laughed joyfully, radiantly.

In the next second, he walked unhesitatingly in the direction from which the presence emanated.

That appearance—like an undefeated general—marching forth to war.

...

"He's here."

On the other side, Kaiser naturally also sensed his target approaching him.

Though very faint and lacking the intensity of last time, just like when he had encountered Poseidon, the fighting spirit and will to battle within him surged up all of a sudden.

An intuition arose within Kaiser, and he lifted his gaze to the end of the street.

There, a youth dressed somewhat sloppily strode forward powerfully with an unflinching smile, slowly walking toward him...