

S vs Rebirth 1011

Chapter 1011 Future Development

Now that the problem with the Runegard was solved, Noel turned to Jasmine. "I will secure some funds for you. Make sure that you get enough food to feed everyone. We'll also build some granaries after this, so I'll let you handle the rest."

"Yes, sir. I'll definitely give you a satisfactory result." Jasmine nodded. She had been holding back the whole time. Now that the battle had ended, she could finally create the farmland she dreamed of.

This was the time Noel turned to Howard.

Unlike Jasmine, Howard couldn't help but say with a disappointed tone, "My lord. There is a problem with our army."

"What's wrong?" Noel frowned.

"There are three major problems. First of all, regarding the Flying Squad, I don't really know how to train them. After seeing their effectiveness in battle, a lot of people want to be a part of the Flying Squad."

"In that case, have Felicia train them. However, the Flying Squads will remain our elite squad. In fact, I am planning to have three types of elite squads. They are the Flying Squad, Extermination Squads, and Rune ian Squads."

"The Extermination Squads will be the ones we have this whole time. And the flying squad is the new squad my Lord created not long ago. But Rune ian Squads..." Howard furrowed his eyebrows.

"They will be different from the Flying Squad. The flying squad is a squad that takes advantage of their mobility and drops all kinds of things we have prepared. On the other hand, the Rune ian Squads will focus on their firepower. For example, what do you think of having a squad that launches multiple Meteor Runes at the enemy? While the Flying Squads can do the same, I don't want them to deplete too much of their energy since their mobility is much more advantageous," Noel explained.

Howard looked down. It seemed that Noel was thinking about a mobile weapon. Their catapults, ballistas, or even the launchers were stationary. So, it would be good to have a squad that could flank the enemy from the side with that kind of firepower.

"I see..." Howard nodded in understanding. "As for the trainer..."

"Yes. Felicia will take care of their training. Of course, I want you to observe as well and learn how to teach them. Eventually, you will become the one in charge of all elite squads."

"Your wish is my command." Howard lowered his head.

"You are fine with the arrangement, right, Felicia?" Noel asked.

"Yes, my Lord." Felicia nodded with a serious expression. In fact, she had a hard time containing her emotions.

She had her wish granted by Noel and showed it to everyone. A Spirit Master like her defeating a Superior Demon was basically impossible. Because of this achievement, no one would be able to look down on her anymore. The only thing she wanted to do now was repay Noel's kindness and make sure not to disappoint him.

"I think all the outside problems have been cleared up. In that case, we can take a look at the current state of the city. Douglas." Noel moved on to the next topic.

"There are four matters that I'm going to report today. First of all, we have cleared up the land for the Rune Academy. And I am still working on the design with Princess Livia." Douglas turned to Livia.

Livia raised three fingers. "I believe that the academy will need three things. The classrooms and offices, the library and research area, and the training field. However, I am still unsure how much we need to create a grand academy."

"There are five rune categories. They are offensive rune, defensive rune, support rune, utility rune, and movement rune. I believe that you should create the academy according to these categories."

"So, the training field should be big enough for using the offensive, defensive, and movement runes. The library will be big enough to store all the research about these five categories. And the classrooms will have enough space for a lot of people as well as a demonstration..." Livia contemplated for a moment. "I can imagine it in my head, but I will finalize the concept with Mr. Douglas."

"Alright." Noel nodded. "However, the limitation is only up to Intermediate Level Runes. If I put on an Advanced Level Rune, it's going to blow up the entire academy. Also, I will review the school's rules and the curriculum later."

"I understand."

Douglas then continued to the next topic. "The second matter is about the development of the Moon Temple headquarters. It appears that they are planning to build the headquarters east of the town."

"East?"

"Yes. Because we are building a star-shaped wall, we can separate the city into five districts. The north district is the most dangerous, so we will be building that area for our military, including the Rune Academy.

"The west district is where the water from the river comes from, so we have been building the residential district there. Meanwhile, in the southwest district, I have designed it as the business district. The south gate will be used to welcome a lot of new people, so it's only natural that a lot of merchants will be there.

"And with a high influx of people, it's obvious that we will also be building a red light district in the southeast. This district is supposed to be the safest from outside harm, so we can focus on the inside threat, which will reduce the cost of protection in the area. A red-light district is extremely important even though people look down on it. They reduce the crime rate by allowing people to relieve their stress. And with the business district and the red light district near each other, Harley can easily get a lot of information from these people.

"Last but not least, the east district will also be a residential area, but it is for workers and similar people. Well, I don't really want to use the word slum and always want to avoid them, but in the end, they will form sooner or later.

"Hence, I believe it's better to create them from the start so that we can control them. And by providing cheap houses there, we can reduce the number of homeless people in our city. Of course, we can use them for some labor, like mining or farming.

"And since their place is situated between the military and the red-light district, they can relieve their stress or be taken away by forces."

Noel frowned. "While I don't plan to meddle in the slavery business, I'm forbidding them in my territory."

Noel knew that abolishing slaves was easier said than done. So, he didn't plan to touch on this subject, especially during the development of the Ardagan family. As for the future, he would just leave it to the future him.

"I understand. We have prepared some jails in the military area. But I'm slightly concerned about your request to have the mansion in this area, my lord." Douglas was worried that the thugs would attack his mansion.

However, Noel shook his head, saying, "It's a perfect position for all the secrets the mansion carries. In addition, shouldn't I blame our soldiers for not being able to stop the attacks? I have a high standard."

"..." Howard gave a wry smile, knowing that he had to work extra hard for this.

Douglas didn't care about Howard's work. He simply continued, "In any case, this is also the reason why the Moon Temple builds their headquarters in this area. They want to take care of the pitiful ones."

"Well, it's a win-win situation for now." Noel nodded.

"Yes." Douglas agreed with his opinion. There was no way the people would think that Noel was a bad lord and believe that the Moon Temple was better than him when he provided all this. So, this was indeed a win-win situation. "Alright. The third matter is regarding the development of the city. Because of the previous war, we are lacking men to construct the city."

"Dimitri?"

"I will be working on the second batch migration right away," Dimitri instantly replied.

"Please work with what we have right now. It's fine to be slightly slower since our current position is not that good."

"I understand." Douglas contemplated for a moment. "Fortunately, Rune Technology has been helping us with the construction."

"Good. I will also be inscribing the runes. Tristan and Livia will also begin to learn the technique in a month. I have to take care of the miscellaneous work after the war right now and I probably have to leave for a week or two after this. They definitely are going to summon me to the capital."

"Yes, Teacher. We'll definitely work hard." Tristan and Livia looked excited for a different reason.

"In that case, I will move on to the next problem. It's slightly in the future, but how do you plan to develop Lounstein? This land is vast and has a lot of resources that haven't been touched by humans. I think it's necessary not only to build the villages but also a few cities. I believe that this also involves Charlotte."

Charlotte took a deep breath before continuing Douglas's words. "Yes. If we want one or two cities under our control, it's going to be easy. However, it won't be enough to control this vast land.

"A count can take a baron. An earl can have three barons and one count in their territory. A marquis can have three counts and five barons in their territory. All these nobles will be reporting right into the main family and paying tribute.

"I believe that we will need to raise a few nobles to develop this land. Fortunately, this land is no-man land. In other words, right now, we are still under the royal family's influence and are exempt from taxes.

"From my perspective, we will need to expand the territories right away. For example, we can raise a powerful knight or a good merchant as a baron.

"The sooner we do this, the faster we can develop the territories. After all, they will independently seek their own way to develop those lands."

After listening to Charlotte, Noel couldn't help but fall silent. Now that he thought about it, there were several nobles under his father's command. In fact, Countess Christina, whom he asked to spread the rune knowledge, was under his father.

However, there was a problem. They were still at the beginning of their development. Noel didn't have anyone who had the capability of becoming a noble. And they had to be trustworthy.

"Well, we can set them up in such a way that they can become our natural fortress. In fact, if my Lord can increase his nobility rank to that of a marquis, I believe that the royal family has no choice but to bestow the land on the north. Meaning we can put a noble there as a vanguard for our family. If this plan comes to fruition, this city will be impenetrable, both by demons and humans," Douglas offered his opinion.

"Humans, huh? Territorial War..." Howard's expression darkened.

When people heard that term, they couldn't help but frown. Territorial war was normal for the nobles to solve conflict or devour each other's territory. Fortunately, his west border directly met the Greenwood Kingdom. If he raised his rank and put a noble of his own on the north, it meant two sides of his territory were secured.

Then, he only needed to take care of the west and south sides. On the west side, he had the last line of defense, which was the river. He planned to put a battleship there to defend his territory.

The south side was concerned, but the Supreme Devil Organization had shown that unless they could surround Lounstein from all sides, they wouldn't be able to defeat Noel.

That was why Lounstein wouldn't have any territorial wars until they had enough power to fight the city that managed to withstand the onslaught of a demon army.

"I will think about it. Right now, I can't picture someone having the ability or achievement to be elevated as a noble."

Chapter 1012 Airship

"I think that concludes today's meeting. Please proceed with the current plan for now. Do you have anything to say?" Before he ended the meeting, he turned to Anna. As the lady of the Ardagan family, Anna was determined to surpass Noel's achievement in this area as well. So, it was only right to actually give Anna to say her pieces.

Anna looked down for a moment. It seemed that she had prepared a few things before the meeting and after understanding Noel's plans, she had to adjust the plans a little bit.

"There are several things that I'd like to discuss. I think that my idea is a bit wild, but I believe it's worth consideration." Anna paused for a moment. "First of all, I believe that we haven't given the Greenwood Kingdom enough."

"Eh?" Livia widened her eyebrows. After getting his permission to take in a student that could become the vice principal of the Rune Academy, she thought that the Greenwood Kingdom had gotten enough. And it wouldn't be weird for the Greenwood Kingdom to favor Noel.

However, Noel actually thought something else. "Can you elaborate?"

Anna nodded. "First of all, I am looking at the Zaecuria Kingdom for this one. We have reached an agreement that there will be cooperation between the Ardagan family and the Zaecuria Kingdom regarding the battleships. This will greatly strengthen the Zaecuria Kingdom's military power. On the other hand, the thing we've given to the Greenwood Kingdom is not related to the military. While it's true that the well is important, I think that a kingdom wants something related to the military the most."

Noel's expression turned solemn. "And this cooperation you're thinking about..."

Anna raised a finger. "What do you think about building a ship with the Greenwood Kingdom as well?"

"Eh? Another ship? The Greenwood Kingdom also shares the same ocean with the Zaecuria Kingdom, but the portion is not so big." Livia frowned.

"No. I'm not talking about the ship on the water. I'm talking about..." Anna pointed her finger up.

"The sky?" The people realized what she meant.

Even Noel didn't expect this one. "Interesting. Do you mind explaining your plan in detail? This way, Livia might understand you better."

"Well, Noel, you have been planning to create transportation that can fly in the sky, right? That's apparent from all the inventions, especially the flying squad. That's why I'm thinking about creating a ship that can fly in the sky." Anna had never seen anything in her previous life, but there was one thing from the Greenwood Kingdom that made it possible.

"That's a very big challenge. In the end, the ship is floating on the water, so we only need runes to propel it forward. Meanwhile, the skyship, or maybe we can call it an airship doesn't have that ability. In other words, we need a lot of resources just so that we can let it float in the sky." Noel frowned.

"That's..." Livia looked down as if she were thinking about something.

"I believe it's not that hard to do it, right, Princess Livia?" Anna smiled.

"How did you know..." Livia gasped.

"It doesn't really matter. And do you mind if I reveal it here?"

"..." Livia hesitated for a few seconds before saying, "Well, you already know. So, I don't really have the authority to seal your mouth. And if it can really benefit my Greenwood Kingdom, there's nothing wrong with turning a blind eye to it."

Anna nodded. "The Greenwood Kingdom is actually developing a big balloon to carry a person into the sky. And I'm thinking about using this balloon to actually bring the ship into the air. Or at least act like the water."

"Hoh? Will that be enough? If we create that kind of ship, the weight is no joke."

"Yes. But these balloons will allow us to focus on something else instead. Since there is something that will push them upward, we only need the Floating Rune to lighten the ship. By playing with the right amount of weight, I believe that the ship can easily float in the sky. And it's easier to move forward in the sky than in the water. That's why if the normal ship needs a lot of drive to move forward, we can take half of that drive to let the boat float and use half of the remaining drive to push the airship forward and still get the same result."

Livia dropped her jaws to the ground. If that were actually possible, Livia couldn't imagine what kind of terror those airships would bring.

And they could also drop bombs or other things on the ground. There was even a chance to equip the ship with the weapons Noel had created for the wall.

One or two ships were enough to destroy a single territory. Unless they had a dome-shaped barrier, it would definitely alter how they conducted the war itself.

"Interesting." Noel couldn't help but smile. He never thought this was possible. Even if it were to happen, it would be far in the future.

It seemed that Anna had grown.

"If... If that is possible... then..." Livia stood up, having a hard time breathing. A lot of emotions, like excitement and fear, were mixed in her heart. She couldn't help but lower her head. "I am asking not as

Teacher Noel's student but as the princess of the Greenwood Kingdom. We'd definitely love to cooperate with the Ardagan family. Please allow us to join the development of this airship."

"Well, a battleship is good, but I'm thinking about the normal usage too." Anna raised the second finger. "We can create a smaller ship for various purposes. For example, we can use them to carry letters and goods. Unlike the fast horse, they don't have to cross the harsh terrain. The only thing they have to avoid is the mountain, but it's still much faster than a carriage."

Noel felt like he was losing to her with just this idea alone. He couldn't help but imagine these normal ships bringing goods to other cities. The logistics of the entire kingdom would be transformed by them. And it wasn't limited to the logistics, they could also bring some soldiers, which would change the tide of war.

Noel looked at Dimitri, saying, "Dimitri. Sorry, but I think I have to move the schedule for the second migration ahead. I order you, as the head of the Ardagan family, to set up the next migration within one month."

Dimitri instantly stood up and bowed his head. "Your wish is my command."

"As for the cooperation, what do you have in mind?" Noel asked Anna once again.

"Eh? I'm the one coming up with the cooperation agreement?" Anna blinked her eyes a few times. Normally, Noel would take over after this.

However, Noel also wanted to show them that he wasn't the only one in this family. Even if something happened to him, Anna would be able to take care of the family.

"You are the one suggesting the idea. So, I'm not going to take on the credits."

Anna fell into deep thought. "Well, I can't deny that we have given a lot of things to the Greenwood Kingdom. If the agreement is not making the Greenwood Kingdom bleed a little bit, the Zaecuria

Kingdom will have an excuse to be jealous. So, if the Zaecuria Kingdom needs to build one battleship for us, how about having the Greenwood Kingdom build one battleship and three normal ships first?"

Noel thought this was appropriate. In the end, the airship's worth couldn't be compared to that of a normal ship on the water.

Livia hurriedly replied, "I will do it. Even if the Greenwood Kingdom can't agree, I will definitely change their minds."

"Alright. You can talk about it with your family. Since we are near the border, we can actually use the demon territory for building these ships. How about..." Noel thought for a moment. "Yeah. How about joint training with the Greenwood Kingdom? We can train a batch of our Rune ians as well while clearing those demons from that place."

"Definitely." Livia immediately lowered her head toward Noel and Anna. "Thank you, Master and Mistress."

"We are still engaged, not married." Noel smiled wryly while Dimitri said, "I think it's good to think about marriage after this, my Lord. There will be a lot of people aiming for you since the wife position is still empty. To shut them up, we will need to hold the marriage as soon as possible. In the end, even if you don't plan to have a kid yet, it's still necessary to confirm the status."

"That's..." Noel scratched the back of his head before glancing at Anna. "I originally thought about using this city for the marriage, so I wanted to wait for it to be completed first. But if we need to push the schedule forward, we might need another city to host it to avoid leaking out secrets."

"I don't really mind." Anna nodded in agreement. At the same time, she felt a bit relieved because of this.

"Then Charlotte will be the one taking care of it, right?" Noel asked.

"Rose and I will complete the preparation as soon as possible."

"But considering the status of that city, we can only hold it for two or three months." Noel muttered. Still, compared to the original nine months, this was much better.

"Understood." Charlotte nodded with a serious expression. No, it looked like she was more fired up than ever.

"Well, we also need to speed up building the Moon Temple. Since we have the saintess here, shouldn't it be fine to have her lead the marriage ceremony?" Dimitri smirked.

"Of course. Don't worry, Dimitri. I'm going to make it a better ceremony than the time when the previous master married Madam Leysha." Charlotte clenched her hands into fists.

Noel didn't know why, but these people were more excited than him. But when he caught a glimpse of Anna's relieved smile, he couldn't help but close his eyes for a moment, thinking this might be a good idea.

Chapter 1013 Super Logistics

"With the airship having been taken care of, what other suggestions do you have?" Noel asked.

Anna paused for a moment, making people curious. Anna had given an extremely good suggestion, so they expected the same thing with other suggestions.

"I am not sure about this, but..." Anna raised a finger. "What do you think about having a large carriage?"

"A large carriage?"

"Yes. Since we have an automatic carriage, I think that creating a large carriage is necessary. How do I say this..." Anna contemplated for a moment. "I have an image in my mind about creating a large and long carriage that could carry workers to their destination. For example, the workers of the mine have to go there or camp in the mine's area, right?"

"Certainly." Noel soon understood what she was talking about. "Are you implying that this carriage will carry the workers from here to the mine?"

"Yes. Because we are using a long one, which can bring a lot of people at once, it's going to be very effective. I think we can get a worker's perspective regarding this idea." Anna couldn't really explain it, but this was actually a good idea.

"This is an extremely good idea. Even if it's not a worker, we can actually load the carriage with goods. With this, we will be able to transport more goods and much faster." Noel muttered.

Dimitri added, "From a worker's perspective, I think this is a good idea. If they can commute from this city to the mine, they can actually meet their family or even spend their money in the city, which will elevate our economy. Although creating a camp over there is a more effective solution, if we think about how relieved the workers could be to be able to meet their family, I believe it's going to improve their motivation."

Roel also said, "I agree with the suggestion, especially regarding the carriage that can bring a lot of mined goods in large quantities and at a faster speed. During my time as an independent blacksmith, I have always been careful with materials since it takes a long time to get them."

"In that case, we can actually begin producing this one. The carriage itself is a common concept, and all the runes have been tested. So, we will just adjust the design a little bit to make it work. The problem will be on the road." Noel glanced at Dimitri.

"Understood. I will do my best with the next migration. Can I assume that we will bring more people than intended?"

"Yes. One or two thousand more. Early development is important after all."

"That much? I thought we would only get a few hundred." Dimitri raised his eyebrows, slightly concerned about the number.

"Yes. I'm thinking about building roads to all corners of Lounstein." Noel raised a finger. "What if we actually link all the cities like this and use this road to distribute the goods in Lounstein?"

"Ah!"

Everyone almost forgot that Noel was planning to raise someone's rank to that of a noble. And obviously, there were more cities in his territory. By taking advantage of the road and this carriage, they can bring goods much faster.

"In my perspective, this is a good idea. Not only us, but the merchants would definitely use this service, which will become another source of revenue. And by increasing the speed of distributing the goods, the economy of Lounstein will be much higher. Logistics are the most important after all." Balott rose from his seat in excitement.

"But what about the airship? Can't they bring the goods? They are faster, right?" Jasmine asked.

"Indeed, but the carriage and airship have their own advantages and disadvantages." Balott gave a smug smile. "The airship will be hard to produce and each trip will definitely cost more than a carriage. It's true that they are much faster, but by using this long carriage, we can reduce the cost, even though it will take a bit more time. It's still much faster than the normal carriage.

"In fact, we might be able to separate the carriage into two sections. For example, we can divide it into humans and goods. Traveling requires a lot of time and money. By using the automatic carriage alone, we have cut the time. And normally, you have merchants requesting protection individually... But imagine if they actually joined together with other merchants in the same carriage? They only need to pay protection for one. It's obvious which one the merchant will choose.

"I believe that this is much more important than the airship." Balott gave the conclusion to his explanation.

"Oh!" They never thought that Balott would have such a high opinion.

"There is one thing you miss out on, Balott." Noel smirked.

Balott tilted his head in confusion. "Please enlighten me, my Lord."

"We can actually expand this road to the surrounding area."

Charlotte dropped her jaw as she couldn't help but comment, "That's right. We can actually force the surrounding nobles to act as our allies by extending the road. By looking at the benefits alone, I believe not a lot of them will be stubborn about not taking advantage of this system. And with them as our allies, the security of Lounstein becomes much more absolute."

Anna raised her hand. "Well, this is the last suggestion... but I guess it's already obvious. The security of Lounstein is going to be problematic since expanding like that will be prone to dangers from outside. Bandits and demons have to be exterminated from this land. If we want to find demons, we can simply go to the border."

"That's understandable." Noel nodded. "I'm working on the defense system right now. I will expand our army to the very limit. And it seems that raising a few nobles here will allow me to increase the number of soldiers, which will increase the safety of the territory."

"In that case, I'm done." Anna agreed with Noel and stepped back. She only gave three suggestions, but the impact was very significant.

The people in the room became excited about the development and talked to each other about the benefits of the development.

Noel was actually smiling the whole time. He was competitive, but in this case, he was just happy and proud. He wanted to show them that this was his fiancée, she was cool, right?

Now that they had heard everything, Noel immediately took control of the meeting. "Alright. First of all, Livia, I allow you to talk about the development of the airship, but you shouldn't reveal the expansion and this long carriage yet."

Livia looked a bit disappointed, but it was better not to annoy Noel or she would definitely lose the opportunity to bring this technology back to her kingdom. "I understand, Master."

"Roel. You can work on the carriage design first. It's the easiest one and can be completed with some tweaks. So, I hope you can complete this task before the airship development."

"Understood. I am very excited about this to the point that I can't sleep without completing it." Roel pumped his fist, ensuring Noel.

"Dimitri. Prepare for the second migration. Due to the size of this migration, you can send them to Laivaen City so that they can bring the people in smaller batches. It will lessen the work on this place too."

"I will follow your arrangement." Dimitri nodded with a serious expression.

"Charlotte, Douglas, and Balott will take care of their respective tasks regarding our expansion."

"Understood." The three of them lowered their heads.

"Jasmine will be focusing on the farmland, and if possible, go around Lounstein to see other potential land that is suitable for a new noble. Howard will expand and train our army. I want you to create one more division on top of the three suggestions earlier. This division will be taking care of the safety of all the new expansions."

"Understood." Jasmine and Howard received their orders.

"Harley, take care of the spread of information. If necessary, use the information to threaten other lords in the area so that they don't attack us during the expansion. Khalid, you can research all the medicines you want. I'll bring you the medicinal herbs as quickly as possible."

"We have received your commands."

"Alright. The meeting is adjourned." Noel nodded, satisfied with today's meeting. This would definitely transform Lounstein into a superpower among the nobles. In fact, even if Noel didn't bring up the Runegard, the expansion alone was enough to actually beat his father's achievement as the wealthiest man in the kingdom.

All the pillars left the room to proceed with their respective arrangements. Anna was about to leave as well, but Noel grabbed Anna's hand as if he wanted to talk about something.

Meanwhile, the other pillars had a lot of thoughts after the meeting.

"It seems that the Lord has met the perfect lady." Charlotte smiled.

"Weren't you skeptical about her before, Charlotte?" Dimitri chuckled.

"Unlike you, I didn't follow the master." Charlotte sighed.

"To think that the lady could give all those suggestions. I originally thought that it was Master's ideas, which he asked the lady to convey to elevate her status in the family." Harley shook his head helplessly.

"From their expression, it seemed that everything came from Lady Anna."

"Well, I think I should formally welcome you, Old Jade." Jasmine smirked.

"Hahaha. The Lord is truly unique. He told me that I wouldn't regret my decision, but it seems that he was wrong. I regret my decision..." He paused for a moment as his words were like needles on everyone's ears until he continued, "...I regret the fact that I didn't meet him earlier."

"Pfft." Felicia laughed.

"Don't worry, you're not the only one. Khalid almost rejected him." Roel laughed.

"What are you saying, Mr. Roel? I am just seeking refuge under the lady's family." Khalid shook his head helplessly, feeling a bit embarrassed.

"Still... I feel like the Lord gave the lady a chance in that meeting." Charlotte sighed.

"What do you mean?" Balott asked.

"Before... we only knew that Lady Anna was a powerful expert, and that's all. After this meeting, we all think that she is also a qualified leader that we can respect and serve. The reason for the Lord's action is probably because of the royal family."

"Royal family?" Harley frowned.

"You haven't got the information?" Charlotte raised her eyebrows. "After the war, I believe that the lord will be summoned to the royal palace. However, they must be planning to send an envoy so that they can slow down the pace to reach the capital. This way, the Lord won't be here for a long time."

"Ah!" Dimitri nodded in understanding. "So, he wants to show us that she is able to lead the Ardagan family when he is not here..."

"Yes," Charlotte confirmed.

"In that case, we should show our resolve as well. We'll surprise him with all the transformation once he returns." Harley smirked.

Chapter 1014 Reasons

"What's wrong?" Anna asked. She was a bit confused as to why Noel's expression turned grim at this moment.

"I'm going to be summoned to the capital soon."

"If you use your fastest speed, you should be able to reach the capital within three days, right?" Anna frowned, thinking this wasn't a problem. Even if he had to attend the banquet, he would only be gone for about a week.

However, Noel shook his head helplessly and said, "No. It's going to be a month."

"A month? Why? Are you going to do something?"

"Not at all. If that Duke Raymond is like what has been described, then he will be sending a slow carriage to the capital city. If I go by myself, it will be the same as challenging the royal family. In other words, I will be stuck in that carriage for a few weeks. And they will definitely delay the ceremony for a bit.

"So, my original assumption is that... I will be stuck in that carriage for about three weeks. An additional one week for the delay." Noel shook his head helplessly.

"This..." Anna sucked a cold breath. With Noel gone, Anna had to remain in this place for a while as the future lady of the Ardagan family.

And people would definitely think that Anna was much easier to deal with than Noel.

This was why Noel wanted to show his trusted vassals that they could trust Anna.

Anna fell into deep thought before saying, "So, they are planning to do something while you're gone?"

"Yes. They are most likely going to pressure you. I am not sure who will be coming, but I doubt that the Third Prince and the Void Arbiter will be able to do anything right now. From my speculation... I believe it'll be the Crown Prince."

"Ah." Anna's expression turned grim. The royal family definitely tried to marry her to the crown prince, so they might use this chance to attack her.

Anna didn't bother to ask whether Noel was alright or not. After all, she believed that Noel was capable of going against that duke.

In other words, the problem would be in this territory.

Before Noel revealed everything, he asked, "So, what do you think will happen?"

This was a kind of test as well as a chance for her growth. So, Anna carefully considered the possibilities and asked, "Should I meet the crown prince in Laivaen City? The crown prince is probably aiming for this city, so if I go there, the crown prince has no choice but to stay there."

Noel smiled. "Why do you think that way?"

"It's because..." Anna raised a few fingers, but she wasn't sure how many clues Noel had given her during the meeting. "Well, I noticed that you changed the migration schedule and forced them to gather in Laivaen City first. Of course, it was better this way since we only let the spies check Laivaen City.

"And once you returned, we could begin the real migration. I could stay there by saying I'm in charge of the migration as the acting head of the Ardagan family or something.

"It appears that you're planning to use this as another excuse for the Sword Arbiter. If I can convince the Sword Arbiter, I can get his help. Maybe I can tell him that once you return, we can go to the main city together with him.

"Harley has set up his branch as well, so he can help me deal with the espionage. There is also the fact that you're planning to split the second migration into batches, meaning that there is a chance that Dimitri will be done and help me there."

Noel was happy with Anna's improvement in this area. She gradually understood the bigger picture. However, Noel still added two more reasons. "You have found out my clues, but there are still two more reasons. First of all, you can bring the Moon Temple's saintess there with the excuse of observing the creation of the Moon Temple's branch.

"Unlike the headquarters that we have sponsored to build because we have isolated this city, Laivaen City's branch will definitely be visited by the Moon Temple. There is a chance that some high-ranking officials from the Moon Temple will be there, which reinforces the reason for you to be there."

"Ah!" Anna nodded in agreement. "That's possible."

"Then, the last one is still related to the Moon Temple. Right now, the Moon Temple must be eager to support us, especially in building their headquarters. Even though we sponsor them right now, with

Layla in Laivaen City, she will find a way to at least send the materials to speed up the progress. The headquarters are going to be big, so it will take more than one year to finish.

"That fact alone is enough to make Layla desperate. She is planning to use those materials in exchange for the fact that the headquarters will be finished before our city officially opens."

"!!!" Anna gasped, connecting the dots. "Now that we have gained Layla's help, we can show the automatic carriage."

"Exactly." Noel smirked.

Anna contemplated before muttering, "By showing this new longer carriage, we can show them how we can transport a large number of materials. First of all, it's going to be beneficial for the Moon Temple. I believe that they request that the service be expanded to a lot of their branches. In other words, there will be a lot of nobles that will hear about this new carriage from the Moon Temple and will be forced to join the alliance.

"Then, the second reason is that we're planning to measure the crown prince's ability. If he is at least as good as his father, he will understand the worth of the new carriage. And this will also spread to the nobles in the royal faction. There is a high chance that they will change sides. At the very least, this new carriage will create some unrest among the royal faction."

Noel shook his head. "The second reason is somewhat correct, but not the way I intended... Just think about this. If the crown prince comes there and meets you, what will happen? After that, will he become desperate once he sees the carriage?"

"Ah?!" Anna finally understood what he wanted. Her second reason only covered the bare minimum of the plan, but Noel planned to deal a lot of damage to the royal family. "The crown prince will definitely become desperate after seeing them.

"And because the royal family's original plan was to marry me to him, his desperation would ruin his image. With the Sword Arbiter, the Moon Temple, and even our citizens as witnesses, even a slight rash action will harm the royal family's reputation.

"People will think that the royal family is going to force me, the fiancée of Earl Ardagan, to marry him which is a direct insult to the Ardagan family.

"The rumor will spread and that is enough to make some nobles that support the royal faction leave."

Noel nodded with a smile. "It seems that you can finally understand the bigger picture."

"I'm still not as good as you, but thanks to you, I've learned a lot about politics and tactics. I will do my best so as to not disappoint you."

"Still...I guess I lost to you during the meeting." Noel looked away. "Your suggestions have given us a lot of opportunities. Was that what I did in the previous life?"

"No. The rune technology wasn't that advanced in our previous lives and we probably died before it reached that stage. I thought about the airship from the giant balloon that the Greenwood Kingdom developed. As for the longer carriage, it was due to the Moon Temple. I thought it would be good for the Moon Temple," Anna explained.

The air balloon in the Greenwood Kingdom was definitely something he never expected. And the Moon Temple only came to this place because they had changed history by saving Layla in that city.

"Impressive." Noel nodded in approval.

"Hehe... Are you feeling bad for losing to me right now?" Anna smirked and placed her hands on Noel's cheeks, teasing him. "How cute. Come, let me spoil you."

"I'm merely showing our vassals that the Ardagan family has not only me but also the soon-to-be lady of the family." Noel harrumphed.

"You're not so honest, aren't you?" Anna sat down on his lap while circling her hands around Noel's neck. "You should be more honest, you know."

"What? You truly want me to be more honest?" Noel smirked.

"Of course." Anna thought that Noel had a plan in mind, but she wasn't afraid of him today.

But Noel suddenly launched a sneak attack by whispering directly into her ears. "Why do I send you to Laivaen City? There is actually one more reason... What do you think?"

Anna raised her eyebrows. She tried to come up with another reason, but nothing came to mind. "Maybe... you haven't given me any clues about it..."

Noel only gave her one word. "Marriage."

"!!!" Anna opened her mouth in shock. The words that wanted to come out were stuck in her throat.

That was right. They were going to hold the marriage over there, so it was obvious that they needed a new place to hold the ceremony.

With her there, Anna could check out this new place and do everything necessary for their marriage ceremony.

This might be the most important reason. Although the crown prince and other stuff were important, for both of them, marriage was definitely the priority.

Anna couldn't help but feel moved. Her cheeks reddened. Both of them wanted the same thing, so she felt embarrassed that Noel put more thought into this.

Since her arms were still circling around his neck, she just pulled his head toward her and kissed him.

It was just for a brief moment, but Noel could sense her happiness. As if losing his reason, Noel suddenly stood up while carrying her in his arms.

Anna was surprised for a split second but soon just rested her head on his shoulder. She was simply too happy to care about other things. They didn't know when the buds of their love appeared, but it was clear that both of them could marry the person they loved when political marriage was the norm for nobles. They had overcome the challenges and would come together in three months.

But to her surprise, Noel actually brought her outside the mansion and put her down.

"Eh?" Anna blinked her eyes in disbelief.

"What's wrong? We have a lot of work right now. Or maybe... you are expecting something else?" Noel grinned, whispering the same words Anna used to tease him. "How cute."

Anna's eyes flashed as she instantly looped around him and grabbed the back of his collar, dragging him back inside the mansion.

No one knew how Anna settled the score at that time.

Chapter 1015 Royal Envoy

In the field south of Noel's city, there were two garrisons facing each other. The first one had a white carriage wearing the symbol of two swords and a shield. This was the official symbol of the Muivell Kingdom.

The carriage was guarded by at least a hundred men and their strength wasn't that low either.

On the opposite side was another garrison. They didn't have any carriages, and most of them were cavalries. The one leading them was none other than Howard.

"Is this how the Earl family treated their guests?" A shout coming from the carriage broke the tension between the two parties.

The knights behind Howard looked annoyed, but Howard waved his hand, stopping them.

As expected, an old man came out of the carriage while bringing out a big scroll from his hand. "Is this the stance of Earl Ardagan?"

"I am sorry, but from this point on, this is the forbidden area as imposed by Earl Ardagan. We can't allow you to go any further." Howard shook his head. It was clear what the royal envoy planned to do here. By using this as an excuse, they would observe their city and find out about all kinds of new technology. Hence, Noel sent Howard to stop them.

"I am bearing the royal decree for Earl Ardagan. Are you going to stop me?!"

Anyone who stopped the royal decree would be branded as traitors, so Howard had no choice but to let him in, except for the fact that Noel had prepared for this.

The only reason he sent Howard first was to block them, and the moment they brought out the imperial decree, it was time for Noel to appear.

"I have seen the royal decree and shall serve the kingdom." Noel's voice echoed in everyone's ears.

In that instant, all the knights from the Ardagan family, including Howard, jumped off their horses and kneeled on one knee, revealing a single person behind them.

Noel was walking forward and finally stopped in front of the old man. He recognized this old man. If his memory served him right, the person before him had the title of a Earl. It was the same as him, but he was the follower of the royal family.

"!!!" The Earl didn't expect that Noel was among them. At the same time, he was wearing a formal white military uniform, the same uniform that was given to him the moment he became a noble. This was to show that his title came from his original affiliation, which was the Demon Banner Army. Since the Demon Banner Army's uniform was black, this white color symbolized that he had switched sides.

The Earl didn't know why, but he felt the immeasurable pressure coming from Noel. Even though he wasn't doing anything, it felt like his neck was being choked by an invisible hand.

Once he stood before him, Noel gracefully lowered his body and knelt down like a knight.

The knights before the Earl were looking at Noel carefully. Their instincts were telling him that even when Noel looked this harmless, the moment they made a move, they would die.

The Earl opened the scroll, but before he could say anything, Noel said, "Please wait."

"Are you going to defy the royal decree?"

"I am not, but it seems that some people are challenging the kingdom." Noel's eyes were locked on the knights that the Earl had brought.

"!!!" The Earl widened his eyes in shock and turned around. Before the royal decree, everyone except the royal envoy had to kneel down. Even Howard had followed the law.

"You..." The Earl didn't know what to say. He didn't realize that Noel was simply exerting a bit of pressure to make them think that they would die if they made a move.

"What are you doing?" The Earl roared, making the knights panic. They immediately jumped off their horses and knelt down.

"I have saved your knights from execution, isn't it, Earl Silmer?" Noel smiled.

Howard and the others wanted to laugh because of the display, but they couldn't really do it in this situation. So, they tried their best to hold it in even though their actions looked apparent.

The Earl was fuming in embarrassment. The only way to hide that embarrassment was none other than to open his mouth. "Earl Noel Ardagan. This is the imperial order. For your contribution in dealing with the demons as well as the Supreme Devil Organization, you are to head off to the royal palace immediately to receive your award."

"I humbly accept the royal's order," said Noel calmly before standing up. "As the humble subject of the Muivell Kingdom, I shall use my fastest speed and head to the royal palace in no time."

"Wait!" The Earl gritted his teeth while pointing at his carriage. "You shall board this carriage to go to the royal capital."

"This is troubling me, Earl Silmer. I am merely obeying the imperial order by going there as quickly as possible. Or does your carriage have the speed of a spirit grandmaster?" Noel smirked.

Earl Silmer gritted his teeth. It was clear that this was Noel's way to embarrass him, but he had to endure. If he, as the royal envoy, harmed or insulted him, Noel could take this chance to disobey the order while pinning the blame on him.

"The imperial order only states to go immediately. As long as you have departed, there is nothing for you to worry about."

"..." Noel looked at Earl Silmer with a solemn expression.

"What? Do you wish to disobey the imperial order, Earl Ardagan?"

Noel turned around and said to Howard, "Let Anna take over."

"Understood." Howard received the order, making Earl Silmer smile as if everything had gone according to plan.

But Noel suddenly raised his voice, stating, "And with you, the captain of the Ardagan family's garrison, as the witness. I order you to stop anyone who dares to enter the Ardagan family's forbidden territory. I will give the full right to Anna Stargaze to launch a territorial war against anyone that breaks this rule."

Howard and all the soldiers once again knelt, answering in unison. "Yes, sir."

"!!!" Earl Silmer widened his eyes in shock. Not a single noble would dare to take a step because of this. Although the nobles rarely went to territorial war, they could do it to either devour the opposing nobles or force them to submit.

And after hearing of how Noel protected his territory from all those demons, unless they had created a big coalition, it would be impossible to take down the territory.

More importantly, the moment they made a coalition that big, it could be seen as an attempt to rebel against the royal family.

Earl Silmer realized that he couldn't really take advantage of Noel Ardagan's absence to harm the territory. The young noble before him was truly the tiger of the Ardagan family.

'It seems that I can only inform the royal family about this and send out the princes or princesses. After all, only the royal family can infiltrate the Ardagan family in this situation.'

Earl Silmer didn't realize that this was Noel's plan. He just wanted to eliminate all the possibilities he didn't like and make them believe that the one he liked was actually the best course of action they could take.

Earl Silmer had no choice but to guide him to the carriage. None of the knights could do anything to Howard, so they ended up turning around.

The Earl had to sit in front of Noel for the duration of the trip. When he took another look at Noel, it looked like he was just a normal noble. His expression was cold, but he was still approachable.

Noel couldn't help but look at the carriage as if he had noticed something strange.

"Is there anything wrong, Earl Ardagan?"

"I am thinking that the carriage is a bit too bumpy. You will be hurt if you sit too long in here."

Earl Silmer knew that Noel was implying about the duration of the trip, which had been suggested to take at least a month to complete since he had asked them to drive it as slowly as possible.

Hence, he replied, "I have grown accustomed to sitting in the carriage for so long. As a noble, it's only right to visit a lot of places for negotiation and other things after all."

"I guess I am no match for Earl Silmer. If you don't mind, would you be kind enough to allow me to reduce this bumpiness?" Noel asked.

"Reducing the bumpiness?" Earl Silmer definitely couldn't allow Noel to speed things up. He had heard about his automatic carriage after all.

Noel simply snapped his fingers and formed a rune on the floor of the carriage.

"Earl Ardagan!" Earl Silmer tried to tell him off, but he suddenly noticed that the carriage had stopped shaking as if they were floating.

Noel was simply using the Floating Rune, the carriage still had to be pulled by the horse.

After noticing the change, Earl Silmer couldn't help but open the carriage's door and check their speed, which was actually the same.

"I am merely using my rune to reduce the uncomfortable sensation during our trip, Earl Silmer." Noel smiled while taking out a notebook from his coat. "After all, I want to use my time effectively. You sure don't mind if I write a few things, right?"

"..." Earl Silmer's expression darkened. Noel didn't violate anything that the royal family wanted. And this rune was also quite perfect for the journey since he would have to suffer with Noel in this carriage. So, Earl Silmer could only say, "Yes. Please make yourself comfortable."

Earl Silmer only thought that Noel used the rune just so he could write. He didn't realize that Noel's intention was something else.

With the Floating Rune, the weight that the horses pulled significantly decreased, which allowed them to cross a distance at a faster rate. But because they maintained the speed, the change wouldn't be that significant.

Noel only expected that they could reduce only about a week of their total time with this. But that was enough for the time being.

All the mechanisms Noel created had begun after all.

Chapter 1016 Negotiation With Layla

Now that Noel had gone, it was time for Anna to step up her game.

The first place she visited was none other than the Moon Temple. And the one who accompanied her this time was Roel.

"Is it ready?"

"The adjustment is not really that hard, but we haven't done a lot of tests, only some speculations. But I can say for sure that it's pretty effective."

"Good." Anna nodded with a serious expression as she saw the Moon Temple that was currently built. She saw Aurelia on the outside, so Anna asked, "Do you know where the saintess is? There is something that I want to show, which probably interests her."

"She is..." Aurelia turned around, wanting to point at the saintess's location. However, the saintess herself suddenly came out as if she had heard Anna's voice. "I am here. What do you want to show me?"

"..." Anna was speechless after seeing her eagerness. She said, "There is something that I want to show you."

"Hoho? I'm looking forward to it. Aurelia, let's go!" Since she couldn't see personally, she would have to rely on Aurelia to report on everything.

All four of them were heading to the south of the city.

"What is it that you want to show me?" Layla asked, feeling weird that they had gone out of the city.

"There is... a box carriage?" Aurelia furrowed her eyebrows. The wagon itself was long, but unlike the usual carriages that were covered with big cloth on top, the wooden wagon was fully extended to the top.

"A box?" Layla spread her spiritual energy to sense this new thing. "This is... it's very long and big. You can actually fit more than thirty people inside. Can this thing even move?"

"This is our new project." Anna smirked. "Roel."

"Yes." Roel nodded and stepped forward as he began his explanation. "This might be a normal wagon, but it can function like a carriage depending on how we adjust it.

"In front of you right now is a cargo wagon. The purpose is the same as the normal one, but unlike the usual wagon, it can carry two and a half times more than a normal one. And because we don't need a horse to do it, this will be a lot more efficient to transport the items."

"What? Two and a half times?" Aurelia gasped.

"A normal one can carry about one ton to avoid overstraining the horse. Are you sure you are able to do that?" Aurelia frowned.

"I apologize. I was talking about the volume earlier. Since this wagon has been equipped with the Floating Rune, it could actually withstand about ten tonnes without overstraining the runes."

"Ten tones..." Aurelia dropped to her butt. The Moon Temple had always been troubled with logistics. First of all, the carriage was good, but it couldn't contain a lot of stuff. So, they needed a lot of carriages.

And sometimes, they had to distribute their weight carefully, which made the wagon less full.

But with this invention, they could easily fill it to the brim and still move faster than a normal one.

However, Roel didn't stop here.

"We haven't finished all the adjustment projects. There is also a chance to change them depending on their purposes like transporting a lot of people, medical facilities, and a lot of other things.

"And this is just speculation, but if we carefully adjust it, we can actually attach them to each other. Instead of letting the wagons have both the Enhance Forward Rune and the Floating Rune, we can just make the cargo wagons only have the Floating Rune. Meanwhile, we will add the pulling cargo that has been equipped with more Enhance Forward Rune than the original design. This way, both of them can be optimized.

"We haven't done the exact calculation, but we believe that once this project is completed, we can actually bring more than a hundred tonnes in a single trip at the cost of two or three pulling wagons."

"A hundred tonnes? That's... that's..." Aurelia was completely scared. If they could actually do that, the logistics in the kingdom would change drastically. Even on their expedition, they would have no way to transport all that much.

If they could have that level of logistics, the Moon Temple would become an even more terrifying organization. It was to the point where the rumor connecting the Moon Temple with sadness disappeared.

That was right. They were associated with sadness because they couldn't save more people. That was simply because they didn't have the means to transport that amount of supply.

But this invention would change everything for them.

The saintess, on the other hand, noticed that this invention would benefit the Ardagan family much more than them. The Ardagan family could use this invention to create a logistic empire.

"I once heard a saying in the past. Amateurs talk strategy; professionals talk logistics," said the saintess while walking toward Anna. She held Anna's hands, saying, "The Moon Temple doesn't need the carriage in the agreement anymore. Please tell me how to procure this thing."

Roel was a bit overwhelmed by the reaction of the saintess. He never thought that the saintess would be begging for this invention.

As expected, both the lord and the lady were not ordinary, he thought.

Anna said, "Unfortunately, we don't have any intention of selling this for the time being. However, we are planning to create a highway that connects everything in Lounstein... and probably reaching the outside too."

"!!!" Layla finally understood their ambition. It was clear that they would be using this to gain political advantage over the nearby lords. The Muivell Kingdom would be trouble, but what if Noel took advantage to build a highway to the Demon Territory and turn to the Greenwood Kingdom? There was no way the Greenwood Kingdom would reject this idea.

And they could take advantage of that highway to connect with another headquarters of the Moon Temple.

Only by utilizing this could their Moon Temple become much stronger than this. There would be more donations, and they could save more people. The people from the Moon Temple would be happy and more powerful elites would join them.

"What do you want me to do?" Layla asked, not beating around the bush anymore.

"This is nothing but a prototype. I'm thinking about testing it in Laivaen City. Do you want to watch the effectiveness?" Anna smiled.

Layla pondered for a few minutes. It was impossible for Anna to ask her to simply watch the carriage.

In other words, her plan must be something else. Although she couldn't see the entire plan, it was clear that Anna had to be in Laivaen City. And she had to go there.

While she was at it, she had to show her the Moon Temple's sincerity. In other words, she might want to test this thing to send the materials for the Moon Temple's headquarters here.

Layla couldn't help but ask, "The Lord's idea?"

"The invention was my idea, but he suggested the rest."

Layla let out a long sigh. There was no way Noel's plan was so simple. By accepting this deal, it would put her at a lot of risk.

Seeing Layla's hesitation, Anna knew that she only needed a single more push. "Actually, we are also planning to develop a ship that can travel in the air. And of course, it is going to be huge."

Layla instantly made her stance. "I am honored to work together with the Lord of Lounstein. May I know when we depart?"

"In two weeks."

"I understand." Layla nodded with a serious expression. She turned to Aurelia. "You are to supervise the entire project and remain here. I will be going to Laivaen City."

"Saintess?" Aurelia knew that this type of transport would benefit them a lot, but she actually saw the desperation in Layla's expression.

"I am going to be busy from now on. I have to write a lot of things to those old geezers in the main headquarters. If they disagree, I think it's better for them to retire."

"..." Aurelia smiled wryly. No one could be compared to Saintess Layla in the Moon Temple. Her insight was much better than theirs, so if Layla thought this was something they had to get, they had to use all their forces to get it. "I understand. I'll take care of the project."

"Mhmm..." Layla then turned to Anna. "I apologize, Lady Anna. I have to return to my residence first. If you have anything you'd like me to know, please don't hesitate to send a message."

With Anna's nod, Layla immediately headed back with Aurelia following her.

Anna had finally passed the first stage. There were still a few things to do before going to Laivean City. At least, she had to arrive before the crown prince.

Harley had also made sure to pay attention to the movement of the royal family so that they wouldn't be able to infiltrate the main city.

"2 weeks should be enough time, right?" Anna asked.

"I will definitely complete it within two weeks, please rest assured."

"Alright. Tell everyone to begin the second phase."

"Understood." Roel politely bowed to her before leaving her side.

Alone, Anna clenched her hands into fists while muttering, "This will be the start of the wealth empire. If anyone dares to pick a fight with us, I won't hesitate to eliminate them. Wait a minute... Now that I think about it, shouldn't I ask Layla to make a marriage certificate from the Moon Temple? She is going to be the one leading the marriage ceremony, so this will bring a lot more legitimacy to our plan."

Chapter 1017 Moon Temple's Stance

Moon Temple.

"We received a new letter from the saintess a few days ago, so I have called all of you here to discuss our development." An archbishop stood up, leading this meeting.

"A few days ago? If it's important, shouldn't you call us right away?" Another bishop frowned.

"That's what I would like to do, but her letter is... how do I say this..." The archbishop only waved his hand. "Bring it in."

A servant nodded his head and brought a mountain of paper. Each person would get at least forty pages filled with words and diagrams.

"This is..." The people looked at the number of papers, not expecting the report to be this many.

"The saintess has compiled all these within seven days. And I have copied the content so that all of you can read it." The archbishop's expression turned grim. "I'd like to know your opinion after you read all this. For now, I will give you an hour to read it. No one can talk, even if you are curious or want to discuss. Just read it again if you have finished. I'm sure you will find it more and more interesting."

They didn't know what the archbishop was talking about, but he rarely did it this way, so they still agreed with his words and read the whole thing, no matter how confused they were.

The saintess had compiled all this information as concretely as possible. The contents were divided into four major points.

The first one was about the war. Even though they had known that the war was over, they hadn't gotten the detailed report from Aurelia and Layla.

Hence, Layla told them everything she knew about Noel's strategy and all the weapons that she and Aurelia had witnessed. Obviously, they had heard about Felicia, who was able to defeat a superior demon while being a spirit master.

When they learned the war in detail, they couldn't help but suck a cold breath. The strategy might not be perfect, but it wasn't because Noel made a mistake. The enemy was simply much stronger than they expected.

The second point was about the carriage. This was the main thing. Layla was thinking about giving up the carriage in the agreement before the war.

Obviously, they were furious since they had fought hard for this. But Layla immediately showed them something even better.

Aurelia helped her draw the image of the carriage. It was a long carriage with ten wheels.

She even put the data that Anna and Roel gave while adding the fact that this was just a prototype. Once it was developed further, it wouldn't be strange for it to be much stronger.

Obviously, the one that piqued their interest the most was the fact that the moment they joined the wagons, they could bring more than a hundred tonnes. This meant a lot for the Moon Temple.

Everyone understood why Layla wanted to give up the carriage as long as they could get it.

And after this, Layla moved on to the highway that Noel planned to create. It would spread to the entire town of Lounstein as well as the territory near him.

There was one thing that she emphasized in this section. After creating the headquarters in Lounstein, it wouldn't be wrong to say that this was their current expansion priority.

If Noel indeed created such a highway with the carriage, they could easily expand in Lounstein.

At first, they thought completion would take at least a few decades. But with all this supply, they could actually complete their expansion within a few years.

This was the point that took everyone's breath away. It was simply too scary. She had even mentioned a few things like the airship and battleship, which would be another way to transport goods.

Last but not least, she added the fact that their action from this point on might cause some friction with the Muivell Kingdom.

While they could stick to the rule they had made, the other party might not do the same. This was her biggest concern.

When they finished reading, they started from the first page again or just read the part that confused them the most until one hour was up.

After that, the archbishop stood up and said, "I'm sure that you have read everything in that report. I'd like to know your opinion. To make it on point, let's discuss the war first."

"If we're talking about war, the saintess has done her job and should be rewarded by the lord of the territory. And all the opportunities written in here might be his way of expressing his thanks, but I can see that it's too much. He must want something."

"From the looks of it, the saintess is planning to help them. But she is still reporting to us, which means that she needs us to do something."

"Let's go back to the war topic. Earl Ardagan has shown the prowess that people can only look up to. In my perspective, with such a lord, it will be easy for us to expand in Lounstein."

"Agreed. Should we send another paladin or archbishop to quicken our pace?"

"I don't think so. While we can show our sincerity this way, we shouldn't do anything that outshines the local lord. Even Earl Ardagan has done it this way to avoid the royal family labeling them as rebels."

"I agree. That's probably why he shares the runes in those books, creates the Rune Academy, and shares the technology."

"If we end up outshining the Lord, it won't be weird if a certain rumor appears."

"A rumor about the chance of us instigating a rebellion, huh? If we bring too much force there, it won't be good. Our headquarters here have been granted as a special region, so it's not a problem, but Lounstein is different."

"Yes. For now, let's acknowledge his strength and think about his desire positively."

"Agreed."

When they reached an agreement, the archbishop continued, "In that case, let's talk about the highway and the carriage. They are connected, so we can discuss them together."

"In my opinion, this is something that we should take advantage of. If we can deliver more goods, we can gain more reputation. This reputation means a lot to us. After all, we will get more donations, more donations means more resources, more resources means more reputation, and more reputation means more powerful experts we can hire."

"And this is the main problem. He is planning to extend the highway to the Greenwood Kingdom. Through this, he is planning to connect this headquarters to Lounstein."

"But won't we get taxed by the Muivell Kingdom by doing that?"

"That might not necessarily be true." A Paladin thought for a moment. "If you take a look at the route that the saintess predicts, there is a chance that he will expand it to demon territory."

"Oh?! You're right." Another bishop nodded and took another look at the page.

"But won't it still be a problem if it eventually enters Lounstein?"

"Not really. I mean, what the saintess is implying here is that... we can simply drop it off in the demon territory. Since Earl Ardagan is also fighting the demons in their territory for the sake of the kingdom, if he happens to encounter and gain a lot of things in the 'ancient ruin,' no one is going to say a thing."

"!!!"

"So, we drop the items in the demon territory, and the Earl will take over, making it look like it's a supply he has found from the demon territory."

"Something like that."

"So that's what the saintess means about him expanding his territory."

"What do you mean?"

"Just take a look at this. If he is building the road like this, to prevent us from providing more and more items, the Muivell Kingdom has no choice but to make the demon territory a part of his territory. This way, we don't have any more excuses to drop it. And what will the Muivell Kingdom do to give him that territory?"

"Ah. There's no way they have a justified reason to give him the territory. And the only time they can give him new territory is when he is being promoted. In other words, the Muivell Kingdom has no choice but to promote him into a Marquis!"

"Right? And they won't be able to do anything other than raise his rank. For example, what if they choose a new lord north of his territory? It's simple. That lord has no choice but to become his ally since life on the border is harsh. And if they find a tough lord that can be considered his enemy, they will be overrun by the demons sooner or later. Once it returns as a part of the demon territory, the Ardagan family can get benefits again from us."

"What a clever tactic! From the looks of it, the highway itself is only a paved road. So, they won't serve any purpose if they are taken away, destroyed, or changed. The most important thing will be the new automatic carriages, which are in Earl Ardagan's possession."

"So, with this move, the Muivell Kingdom has no other choice but to let him win."

"And of course, there are two things they can do. They might send a royal army to protect the north, but it will weaken the kingdom as a whole. There might be a rebellion occurring because of this, so I highly doubt they will do this. The second thing will be having the new lord get our help."

"No wonder the saintess said we might offend the Muivell Kingdom because of this. If we sided with the Ardagan family, we would send nothing to that lord."

"That's right. I'm disgusted by how he plans to use us. At the same time, I can't help but admire his tactics. It's really a good maneuver. Even if he uses us, he is still giving us a lot of benefits."

"This is going to be a bit tricky."

The archbishop nodded. "That's why I called all of you here today. I'd like to know about your opinions and decide which course of action we will take."

One of the paladins stood up, saying, "I personally don't mind being used if it can benefit the temple. So, I'll cast my vote to agree with the saintess's opinion."

"The saintess's insight is much better than mine. I believe that she can see much further ahead, so I will support her decision."

"I don't think it will be good to break our neutrality. And we might get harmed along the way. I believe we have to consider it carefully once again."

"I can see the potential of the Ardagan family. I, too, support the saintess."

"I think everyone misses this one point. Everything that is shown here is just a plan and speculation. There is a chance that the royal family will stop them. So, I think it's better to remain here."

"That's exactly the reason why I'll support the saintess. The fact that the new technology is just a prototype means there will be a lot of improvement in the future. Earl Ardagan and his fiancée are the most talented people in the Muivell Kingdom, so I think it's good to place some hope in them."

"I also support the saintess. My main reason is their connection. He has a lot of connections in the Tower Association and the Demon Banner Army. And Marquis Stargaze has been in the royal faction for so long."

"I see. 5 vs 2. I think we have made our decision." The archbishop closed his eyes for a moment. "In that case, we shall agree to the saintess's decision this time. Prepare everything she needs and do it as fast as possible. Tell all the branches we have in the Muivell Kingdom to do it as quickly as possible."

All the people in the room nodded their heads. Even those who disagreed still helped, even if they didn't support the notion, since this was what the majority wanted.

Chapter 1018 Movements

Still, there was one more kingdom that was rarely mentioned after the war. It was the Atracaeca Kingdom.

In the past, Noel once visited this kingdom and the second prince of this country collaborated with the Supreme Devil Organization to kill him. Even if he failed, he still got the way to teach people about runes from Noel Ardagan.

However, because of this very reason, the Atracaeca Kingdom was facing a dilemma.

The grand protector was sitting in his palace, staring at his great protectors.

"I'm sure that every single one of you knows what we're about to discuss here." The grand protector looked down on the second prince, who was kneeling in the middle of the room. His body had been chained so that he couldn't escape. There were a lot of bruises on his body.

Everyone knew about the conflict between the Atracaeca Kingdom and Noel Ardagan, which resulted in the former being banned from the Rune Academy.

"In the past, Noel Ardagan was weak when coming here. However, he managed to overcome all odds and survive. Still, we didn't necessarily need to meddle in his business.

"But..." The grand protector walked toward the second prince while saying, "There was a foolish son, who tried to cheat him of a precious treasure and even conspired with his enemies to kill him."

Their faces were already pale, knowing what the grand protector wanted to do after this.

"And now... Noel Ardagan has become a noble, an earl on top of that. It's a position belonging to a middle rank noble, which starts to be indispensable for the Muivell Kingdom. And he..." The grand protector stopped for a moment so that he could punch the second prince.

"Gah." The second prince coughed up some acid. The great protector who was with him and supported him had been executed, leaving only the second prince.

"And now... he becomes a noble who manages to defeat an army of demons which consists of numerous lower level demons and more than twenty Superior Demons. He has directly reached a level that even a high ranking noble desires."

The grand protector's eyes became colder as he asked out loud, "What is the progress of that project?"

"We have cultivated a few people to be able to wield some basic runes. The progress is much faster and the other kingdoms seem unable to progress that fast." One of the great protectors reported.

It was obvious that they were using the knowledge that Noel poured into the book.

However, the grand protector also continued, "We are probably the closest country to produce a batch of Rune ians. Just like the Rune ian who was able to defeat a Superior Demon. But... at what cost?"

All the protectors fell silent. The price was something that the Atracaeca Kingdom couldn't bear.

"The bans from the Ardagan family."

"That's right. The ban." The grand protector took a deep breath just to calm his anger a little bit or he might accidentally kill his son. "The Ardagan family is producing a lot of new inventions with runes. And because of that ban, we can't even acquire them."

"The Zaecuria Kingdom is mocking us for flaunting their battleship that will soon be equipped with runes. The Greenwood Kingdom is warning us. They, too, should have gotten a lot of benefits."

"And acquiring them might be the least of our worries. More importantly, we can't even learn how to embed the runes into our technologies."

A great protector added, "Our talented people have tried to draw the runes on a few things, but they can't even be activated. We assume that they are implanted by a special technique."

The second prince gritted his teeth while saying, "Just kill me, old thing. Do you think humiliating me like this will work?"

"Shut up!" The grand protector kicked the second prince's stomach.

"Gah!" The second prince fell to the ground while coughing up blood.

"It's obvious that they are planning to teach that method in the Rune Academy. And because of you, we can't even get that method." The grand protector almost killed him out of anger. "The real problem will be our next stance. What are we going to do next?"

The grand protector looked at his great protectors.

"We have three options." One of the great protectors spoke up carefully. "First, we can try to make amends with Earl Ardagan. To have one more ally is much better than having another enemy.

"Second, we can kill Earl Ardagan. By eliminating him before he grows, he won't become a future threat to our kingdom. A dead genius is no genius. Even the Greenwood Kingdom wouldn't risk a war for a dead genius. But it will be different if we fail in our assassination attempt. Whether sending an assassin or using poison, if we fail, the Greenwood Kingdom will launch an all-out war against us. And the Zaecuria Kingdom might also join the battle.

"Third, it's to negotiate with the Muivell Kingdom. At the end of the day, the Earl is staying in the Muivell Kingdom, so he still has to obey the kingdom."

A lot of them seemed to be thinking about the first option. However, it would also mean that they had to kill the second prince and send his head to Noel. Still, it wasn't enough to settle the grievance.

They had to pay a lot of compensation to appease his anger and probably sent a princess to be his servant or something, considering Noel was known to be a loyal man who didn't plan to marry another woman aside from his current fiancée.

The second option was as stated. It was dangerous and they didn't know whether they would succeed or not. After all, the Ardagan family managed to repel all those demons. Even their lord, Noel Ardagan, was a strong fighter.

With the Muivell Kingdom's best assassin as his butler, they couldn't possibly reach him.

That meant there was only one thing that could kill him. It was poison. However, they didn't know how to poison him since Noel was holing up inside his city, which was said to be forbidden for other people to enter.

This was their dilemma. Each option had a high difficulty to achieve, so they had to be careful in making their decision.

The grand protectors gathered all protectors so that they could make this decision.

...

Muivell Kingdom.

Inside a mansion, a blond man was signing off a few documents before a butler came in while saying, "Your highness, we have received a letter from the royal palace. It's asking you to go to Lounstein."

"Mhmm?" The crown prince's expression turned cold the moment the butler mentioned Lounstein. "Bring me the letter."

The butler handed over the letter while adding, "The palace also said that you couldn't be rash when you're there. The opponent this time is the new lord of Lounstein. He is a very formidable person. Even though he is not there right now, there are still a lot of pillars in the Ardagan family."

"Ardagan family..." The crown prince gritted his teeth as he crushed the paper in his hand. "How dare he steal what is mine?"

The butler continued, "All the details are in the letter, including what the palace wants Your Highness to achieve."

"I know." The crown prince stood up while saying, "Make some preparation immediately. We'll go to Lounstein."

"Y-yes." The butler nodded but felt a bit worried because of the crown prince's expression.

Obviously, he had fallen over heels for Anna. While there were a few noble ladies whose looks could be compared to Anna's, her strength was simply second to none.

With such beauty and strength, there was no way the royal family would sit by. Anna had always acted as if she was busy to avoid everyone, but it turned out the treacherous Earl Ardagan had taken her away.

"Since he is going to be destroyed in the royal palace, it's about time for me to take what's mine in Lounstein." The crown prince snorted.

...

A hidden base in the mountain.

Laufey was walking into the giant hall that was made of a renovated limestone cave. There were two people inside, the known Spirit Transcendence Expert Alexander and a new face, Josephine.

"Where is Qiel?" Alexander asked.

Laufey remained silent as he continued walking. Once he was before the curtain that separated him from the Supreme Devil, he kneeled down while saying out loud, "I've disappointed you, Supreme Devil. We lost 60% of our fighting force, with the majority of the survivors coming from the detachment that stopped the Greenwood Kingdom's reinforcement.

"The two Devil Saints have died under Noel Ardagan's blades. And..." Laufey paused for a moment before helplessly saying, "Qiel has passed away."

Suddenly, a burst of powerful spiritual energy shook the entire cave.

"!!!" Josephine widened her eyes, feeling that this energy wasn't losing against Alexander.

"What happened to her? Tell me everything!" A deep voice echoed.

"Yes, sir." Laufey began explaining all the details. The reason for Qiel's death was because she was severely injured by Dimitri.

And he mentioned Raven and Silvester, the remnants of the Ardagan family. However, he only told them that Qiel sacrificed herself to stop Raven and Silvester so that he could stay alive. After all, his injury was the lightest.

"The remnant of the Ardagan family? Are they still alive?" Alexander frowned.

"All we saw was Silvester and Raven. After all, Luke Ardagan and Leysha Ezenholm had been executed. It was probably their previous master's order, telling them to weaken the organization when the time was right. There was a chance that they would join the current Ardagan family."

"This..." Alexander didn't know what to say. Normally, Qiel would be able to explain and even come up with a plan. Now that she was gone, no one could give out a plan anymore.

"What is the situation of our branches?" The Supreme Devil asked.

Alexander bit his lips while saying, "The Demon Banner Army is launching an all-out attack. I have met Oscar on the battlefield a few times."

"Josephine. You are to help with the evacuation of our branches. For now, we will have to retreat and preserve our strength."

"Understood." Josephine lowered her head, but before leaving, she couldn't help but ask, "Shouldn't we kill them right now? With our strength, we should have the ability to exterminate them."

Suddenly, the burst of energy shook the cave again and everything was locked onto her, making her have a hard time breathing.

"O' Supreme Devil. Please calm down. She is still new." Alexander panicked.

"Do I need you to tell me what to do?"

"Ha..." Josephine was gasping for air, but she still said with a hoarse voice, "I'm sorry. I've overstepped my bounds."

She was still confused. With two Spirit Transcendences, they should have no problem eliminating Noel. So, there was no reason why they should hold back and use a roundabout way to kill him.

She could even open the portal for Alexander and the Supreme Devil to ambush Noel.

"It's impossible to ambush him. You don't know a single thing about the heirlooms of the Ardagan family. That sword was the reason why the four kingdoms could take place here. Instead of the Ardagan family, there is one place that we should eliminate first."

Alexander was a bit confused, not expecting the Supreme Devil to talk about the heirlooms of the Ardagan family.

At the same time, she was curious about this place where even the Supreme Devil wanted to focus.

"May we know the place that you wish to destroy, o' Supreme Devil?" Alexander asked.

"The four kingdoms will be irrelevant once we have gathered our army. However, if that kingdom starts hindering us, it's going to be annoying. After all, they are very indebted to the Ardagan family."

"Don't tell me..." Alexander gasped.

"Yes. The beast kingdom that is located north from the four kingdoms, Arcandel."

Chapter 1019 Annoying Earl Silmer Out Of Boredom

A week later.

Noel was looking out the window before turning back to his book.

'Ardagan. This is boring. Is it the right time to get the reward for the spirit information?' Noel asked in his thoughts.

[You will need a good and comfortable place. And more importantly, it's better for you to not be disturbed by others.]

'Is this reward that important?'

[I can guarantee you that you won't be disappointed.]

'Still, this is boring.' Noel had been wondering what he should do. He had been writing a lot in his notebook. It was the current status of Ardagan, his plan of development, and his own analysis. Once he returned to the Ardagan family, he could use this note to speed up their progress.

'Well, there is something I can do to speed this up. His territory is far away from me, so I think it's fine.' Noel thought of an evil idea.

Earl Silmer had been observing him this whole time, but as expected, there weren't a lot of things to do inside the carriage.

"You have been staring at me the whole trip, Earl Silmer. If you are someone of my age, people will think that you are smitten by me." Noel looked at him with a disgusted expression.

Earl Silmer was startled, not expecting Noel to open such a conversation. He coughed to recompose himself before saying, "Please don't smear my reputation, Earl Ardagan."

"Do you really have a reputation to begin with? Your people are so lazy that we have only reached this far after a week of travel." Noel complained. He even opened the window while saying, "Your people are so weak that their walk is so slow. Why don't you change your territory name to snail? Snail City? Sounds like a good name for you, no?"

Earl Silmer's expression darkened. "Earl Ardagan. I haven't said anything bad about you this whole time. Why are you personally attacking me?"

"What do you mean I'm attacking you? I'm just doing my analysis." Noel shrugged. "I wonder if there is an animal slower than those two... Maybe they are more suitable. No, they might be faster than you."

"Earl Ardagan!" Earl Silmer gritted his teeth, glaring at him. Even the soldiers felt uncomfortable when they heard Noel's comments.

"I wonder if your family name is inspired by Silver. Silmer and Silver. They are pretty close, right?" Noel smiled.

Earl Silmer fell silent. A lot of them had been asking about that question, and it could be said that they weren't entirely wrong. They got this Silmer name because their territory was blessed with an abundant amount of silver mines.

"In this world, people will always remember the first one, not the second one. Who is the first person to create the Muivell Kingdom?"

"That's His Majesty, Leon Ve Lenfenth."

"Then, who is the next king?" Noel smirked.

"That's..." Earl Silmer paused for a moment. He eventually answered after ten seconds. "It's His Majesty, Ryan Ve Lenfenth."

"Took you long enough to even remember his name." Noel smirked.

"Are you trying to insult me? Or are you trying to smear the royal family's name?"

"What are you talking about? I am merely asking you about names and not insulting them." Noel shrugged.

"So, you're trying to insult me by saying that I'm always in the second position and will always be forgotten because my name is Silver?"

"Silver?" Noel chuckled. "You are Silmer, not Silver. When I hear your name, I can't help but think that you are a loser. Even when there are competitions for losers, you are still in second place."

"You..." Earl Silmer felt his blood pressure rising.

"What? You don't understand what I'm saying?" Noel smirked. "I think I have said it pretty clearly. You can't even get the name Silver, which makes you a loser."

"You..." Earl Silmer felt a sharp pain in his body.

"And silver itself is second to gold. Basically, the loser. That's why I said, Even in the competition for the loser, you are still in second place." Noel chuckled.

Earl Silmer was fuming in rage. "Are you trying to provoke me, Earl Ardagan?"

"What do you mean? I told you earlier that I'm simply talking about my analysis. You can deny it if my analysis is wrong."

Earl Silmer wanted to cough up blood. Noel's mouth was so poisonous that he almost had a heart attack.

"So, are you saying you are the winner? You are the first in the kingdom?"

"Of course not. I am also a loser like you. Who dares to claim the first place from the royal family?" Noel skillfully avoided that tricky question. If he dared to claim he was the winner, it was the same as challenging the royal family. Earl Silmer would use that to attack Noel.

"I wonder how your father even taught you. You couldn't even respect your elders."

"I expected that you would put a better argument than the classic respect the old, never have I imagined that such an elderly gentleman as yourself could utter such a common saying. My father has taught me virtue, and of course, I should respect my elders."

"Virtue? I don't see that in you." Earl Silmer snorted.

"In the Muivell Kingdom, the elderly wake up early in the morning, preparing the house. The husband wakes up and works on the field, enduring the blazing hot sun so that the family can eat before dark. The wife takes care of the elderly out of filial piety and the children so that they will grow strong and take care of their family in the future. The children, seeing their parents' hard work, want to repay their parents for their hard work and wish to grow up as quickly as possible.

"Please, tell me? You, an Earl, wake up much later than your people and work less than them. Yet, your belly is filled to the brim, never understanding their hunger. Yet, your pocket is shining with gold and silver when your people have to work to the bone just to earn some copper. Please, tell me... are you worthy of my respect?"

Earl Silmer was clutching his chest. "If we wake up earlier than the maid, they will have to wake up even earlier to not worry their lord. If I work harder than them, they won't be able to sleep. Are you saying that I'm in the wrong?"

It was normal for the maid to wake up earlier and sleep later than their lord since this was a way to show their diligence.

That was why Noel said, "Of course, you're not wrong. I love to talk with smart people. I can learn a lot."

Earl Silmer smiled as if he had beaten Noel.

However, Noel added, "But if we can't do that, we have to show them the result. We have to show them a bigger result than our hard work. We have to show them that we appreciate their work. Isn't that what noblesse oblige means? Unfortunately, I don't see that in you. Just take a look at this carriage, it's so slow. You work so slowly, and your result is barely visible."

Earl Silmer started breathing heavily. "You..."

His face started to look pale. Earl Silmer bit his lips and suddenly opened the door of the carriage.

"Get off that horse. I will be riding it from now on. You can join the other guard," Earl Silmer commanded his knight, who had no choice but to accept the new arrangement.

However, the knights were looking at Earl Silmer with a dark expression. First of all, Earl Silmer had just lost in an argument with someone a third his age. It was an embarrassment for them.

Of course, they knew that this was an arrangement they had to follow, but losing to someone was still embarrassing. This was the Lord they served after all.

Secondly, the Earl just escaped as if he were running with his tail between his legs. He couldn't even counter a single argument that Noel presented.

Thirdly, while they were angry about Noel's remark, they could see that Noel was working hard for the people. They had heard rumors about the Ardagan family, which were spread by Harley.

The lord who defended his city against all odds. The genius who made a lot of new inventions to help his citizens. The ruler everyone wanted to serve.

His words were not empty and they could believe in him.

That was why they were ashamed to actually respect the man who had insulted them and the Lord they served.

Earl Silmer kept pressing his chest for a while, but he didn't know that this was within Noel's calculation.

"Now, I have the carriage all for myself." Noel smiled as he lifted his legs so that he could stretch them fully. 'Ardagan. Can I use this chance to accept the reward?'

[There is a chance that they will disturb you.]

'I see. In that case, I think it's better to wait until we reach the capital. And I don't think the inn will be a good idea, so I will ask my soon-to-be father-in-law to take me in.'

[That'll be good.]

'Got it. Well, I might be able to quicken the pace here. Say...' Noel smirked. 'If I annoy Earl Silmer to death, won't we need to arrive at the capital city faster? I'm pretty sure that Earl Silmer doesn't want to die in such a dumb way. So, he will subconsciously ride a bit faster so that he can escape from me.'

Noel didn't know at that time what his mouth could actually do. However, the moment they reached the capital, there was soon to be a rumor that Earl Silmer stepped down from his position and gave his mantle to his successor due to a health issue.

Chapter 1020 New Type Of Transport

"I think this is the best we can do for now." Roel spread his arms, showing off the creation he had painstakingly created in the last two weeks.

There were a total of nine long trailers, divided into three types.

Roel made two trailers for both the passenger type and the pulling type. The remaining five were of the transporter type.

"Mhmm... They are quite good." Anna looked at them with a serious expression. "Still, shouldn't we make them out of steel or something to make them sturdier? For the passenger type, having a comfortable inner part is good, but the rest doesn't really matter, right?"

"That's actually the problem." Roel scratched the back of his head. "We don't have enough iron right now. What we have the most right now is money and wood, but there's not enough iron. Even most of our weapons are made of wood, which is easy to break."

Anna contemplated for a moment. "So, that's how it is. It seems that we have to find a way to procure iron. Is there any place where we can get them? Maybe the Greenwood Kingdom?"

Anna thought about asking the Greenwood Kingdom for iron, but Roel shook his head helplessly.

"I have asked Balott about this before, but it seems that the Muivell Kingdom is planning to isolate us. While we can get a lot of money right now, if we can't spend it to gain a lot of resources, the money will be useless." Roel explained. "The Greenwood Kingdom doesn't have a lot of iron ore deposits."

"Zaecuria Kingdom?"

"It's too far away from here."

"Atracaeca Kingdom, huh?" Anna's expression turned serious. There was a conflict between Noel and the Atracaeca Kingdom, so she couldn't really make an agreement with them. "I will think about this for now. The wooden one is still strong enough, right?"

"Yes. With the help of those runes, it should be fine as a prototype. Once we get enough materials for the rest, we can proceed with upgrading them."

"Alright." Anna nodded. "I will draw the runes on each of them. Once done, we can start releasing them."

"Understood." Roel asked the rest to leave first. There was a difference in drawing the Spirit Enchantment and Runes, so only Roel had the privilege for this one as of now.

This was also an opportunity to teach Roel so that he could gradually get a few disciples for this craft.

The process didn't take too long. After about an hour, both of them opened the workshop's gate and took the first one out.

Of course, the first one to come out was none other than the pulling type.

The pulling type had a steering wheel inside.

"This is quite amusing." Anna pointed at the steering wheel. In the automatic carriage, the steering wheel was made of a single wheel, so a round steering wheel was a first for her.

"Actually, I came up with this idea after hearing Duke Briton steer the ship. The round steering wheel was actually a much better design."

"So, you rotate this to the right..." Anna poured a bit of spiritual energy so that the trailer would move forward. Then, she rotated the steering wheel, which turned the front wheel slightly. "Oh! This is rather interesting."

"Yes. More importantly, a normal person can drive this thing. I believe that far in the future, being a driver will become common. I mean, you can think of a carriage. Right now, we're using it as a wagon, but the carriage is usually used for bringing people, mostly nobles.

"The carriage itself might be expensive, but it won't be as expensive as a house. The most expensive thing about the carriage is actually a horse.

"For an automatic carriage, that can be ignored. So, there is a possibility that in the future, the common people could actually buy this."

Anna's expression turned serious. "What do you mean?"

Roel raised three fingers. "For example, the normal carriage for common families; a carriage where common people could travel a long distance together with their family. And since this is a private carriage, you don't have to meet people other than your family. This is a much better way to commute between cities.

"Then, you can actually use this as public transportation, bringing people from one place to another. It'll be different from this passenger type trailer, where you will meet a lot of people. This smaller one offers comfort and privacy.

"Last but not least, the last type I have in mind is a mix between the passenger type and the cargo type. You can say that it's the same as the normal farmer wagon. They cater to the workers."

"That's interesting." Anna nodded. She could imagine all these types, considering it was just a modification of the existing carriages. "Still, we have to succeed with this one first. Once we get the hang of it, we can gradually proceed with those."

"The passenger type can have 30 seats. If it doesn't go at a high speed, we can actually allow people to stand up, which will increase the number of people."

"Understood. In that case, I think we should try moving these carriages. I guess you're going to attach them..." Anna came out, trying to see the joint that would connect the two of them.

"There are three types of joints. While we don't have enough for the whole thing, we use iron for these."

Anna could see the metal rods with a peculiar shape that would lock onto each other. The second one was multiple chains, but it seemed that this would be secondary. The last one was like a metal plate that could be bolted together, but this one was rather a stiff joint that couldn't allow a lot of maneuvering.

Roel only attached them to the first one and said, "There we go. Would you like to try it?"

"Alright." Anna nodded with a smile. As soon as she got back to the driver's seat, she started pouring spiritual energy into it.

The new vehicle started moving forward before they felt a bit of restriction coming from behind. However, it was only for a brief moment as once both trailers were moving, there wasn't any more impact.

"Let's go out..." Anna drove this to the outside, startling all the people who had been waiting for them outside.

"This is..." The blacksmiths gasped for air. Although they had been working on this, it was the first time for them to see this behemoth moving.

The trailer itself was three meters high, so people could easily stand up inside. With a width close to three meters, a single trailer looked like a beast that could easily destroy a house or two.

"Amazing."

"To think that we've been working on something this amazing."

"Long live the Ardagan family!"

"Long live the Ardagan family!"

They were cheering, only to stop after they saw the second trailer coming out. This time, it was the cargo trailer.

Anna carefully steered it to the right and made a turn, but suddenly, someone shouted, "Stop!"

Anna frowned and stopped pouring the energy into the rune, which slowed them down.

"What's wrong?" Roel raised his voice, thinking that they were rude for stopping Anna.

But when he came out and saw the person responsible actually pointing his finger at the workshop's gate, he couldn't get angry anymore. The distance between the carriage and the gate was only one meter left and it was shrinking. If this continued, they would collide with each other. He didn't care about the workshop gate that much, but he definitely didn't want the new invention to get damaged.

"Hmm..." Anna looked at this matter seriously. "It seems that we have to be careful when driving this thing. It's something that we have never done before and there will be a lot of accidents if we use them carelessly. For now, we will have to take this out manually. Once we're outside, we can test it a bit better."

"Yes. But I can see a few problems here. First of all, it's going to be impossible to make a big turn inside a city. If they want to make a turn, it needs to be done gradually over a long track... maybe a few hundred meters or even kilometers.

"Second, this will also cause some inconvenience since we will need a big U-turn if we just want to turn around. Or maybe we can place another pulling type on the back, which faces the opposite side.

"Still, all of them will require a lot of money. And it would be troublesome if they get attacked on the way."

Anna contemplated for a moment. "The security can be enhanced with proper guards and runes. So, you can focus on the first and second problems... I will also send a letter to Noel about this. Oh, you also need to prepare for airship development."

Roel nodded. "I can delegate my apprentices to work on more carriages while we're solving the two problems. I'm a bit curious about the airship as well, so I think I'll focus on it until the Lord orders something else."

"Yeah." Anna hurriedly made an arrangement for the people to bring all nine trailers outside the city. She also wanted to test how much the carriage could pull before it was too much.

Obviously, the people couldn't help but watch these behemoths coming out of the city, thinking that the Lord must be planning on another good thing.

And the one who was most excited about this was actually Layla.