

Carefree 881

Chapter 881: Waking Up

As the Deep Sea Hades, Orlando was worried about the future.

Hell of Lightning.

The endless lightning formed the most peculiar scenery in this area.

At this time, the lightning was even more frequent than usual. Numerous purple-colored electric snakes were dancing wildly in the sky, which then converged to form an emaciated arm.

This was no illusion, but a real arm. It was covered in wrinkles and devoid of moisture, looking like it belonged to a dying man.

"I... Raging Thunder God!

"Aida Huna Inchester Borgou...

"The thunder ruler of old... will descend upon this world today..."

The arm was followed by a dried-out body that only had skin and bones remaining. However, the face was simple yet majestic. It was the same being who had troubled Specter Ship.

An obscure, low sound echoed within the ocean.

For Evil Gods and the unnameable things of old, their real names were a medium for sacrifice.

It could even be read aloud as a spell that had all kinds of fantastic effects.

Crack! Crack!

After the dry corpse said a few lines, thunder and lightning directly struck his body.

After basking in the shower of thunder and lightning, the originally gaunt body immediately filled up a little, like a doll that had some air blown into it.

"Ah... thunder, you are still under my rule...

"Even if the world isolated me, it could not rob me of all my authority and power...

"Electricity and light, as well as destructive thunder, are all sources of my power..."

The Raging Thunder God mumbled to himself. As he absorbed the power from the thunder and lightning, the Hell of Lightning continued to shrink.

Large volumes of cloud were compressed and devoured... There seemed to be a bottomless pit inside this ancient Evil God. All the thunder and lightning in the Hell of Lightning only managed to restore him a little, but he no longer looked like he was on the verge of death.

"Ah... How infuriating... If I had obtained Specter Ship, I could have restored to my prime..."

"I'm positive that the Evil God who took it away... had the scent of another world on him.

"After I completely recover, Aida will find him and make him pay for his actions!"

The giant being roared and was about to vanish into the sky.

"Aida..."

But at this moment, a low mumbling echoed from all directions. It appeared far and near at the same time, sending fear into anyone who heard it.

"Aida... Aida..."

On the sea surface, large volumes of bubbles surfaced. The white bubbles accumulated and formed a twisted face.

"It's you..." Aida was a little dazed yet still alert. "Even you rulers of the deep sea, chaotic and twisted, wallowing in the darkness, enticers of souls... have come!"

"Both you and I feel it..." The foam face's voice was hoarse, sending out a bone-chilling uneasiness to those who heard it. "This world... has been changed! A certain being has broken its seal... It is his actions and our efforts that have allowed us to break through our bindings and come to the real world..."

"That's right... the real world..." Aida breathed in greedily. "I'm warning you all... don't do anything that will disrupt the stability too much. If it affects me, I won't hesitate to cleanse you with lightning!"

"This freedom did not come easy. We will naturally cherish it... Furthermore, many of my kind are in dire need of recovery currently..." The foam face laughed without a care. The bubbles burst one after another. "We have contacted you for one purpose alone... to join forces when facing the outsiders! Join forces!"

After the foam face disappeared, Aida smiled coldly. "Joining forces with you Children of Darkness? Dream On!"

In fact, benefits were just one aspect.

What Aida feared the most was the chaotic personalities of these Deep-Sea Rulers.

Their chaotic personalities could be said to surpass their rationality. It was an intrinsic part of them, unable to be removed.

They were just like the evil demons of hell, unable to rid themselves of their chaotic nature!

"Join forces against... that foreign Evil God?"

The thunder giant stood silently on the sea.

Originally, all beings beyond the limits of this world would be separated from the real world and imprisoned by different layers.

However, the actions of this harbinger, or foreign Evil God, had opened up a passage in the prison, which allowed the other prisoners to use it.

Actually, that was not exactly what happened.

In truth, it was Fang Yuan's true body that had opened a hole in the originally secure barrier. This caused a domino-like effect that collapsed the entire defense system of the world, allowing a huge number of Evil Gods to escape.

"I can almost guarantee that the first one to escape was the one who acquired Specter Ship that time!"

Aida was extremely certain of this.

Although foreign Evil Gods were under greater surveillance, they did have their conveniences. At the very least, they were not bound by the world's will.

This kind of being, coupled with Specter Ship's help, could definitely escape from the world's isolation.

"However, these Deep-Sea Rulers did have one thing right. I have to find him to settle our scores... Of course, I must return to my prime before that!" Aida mumbled before vanishing from the sea surface.

After being sealed for so many years, he required time to recover after being suddenly unsealed.

"Foreign god! Although your destiny is shrouded in mist, your death star has begun to rise!"

After chanting a curse, Aida's figure exploded into nothingness in a cluster of thunder and lightning...

...

As the target of the Raging Thunder God's curse, Fang Yuan was currently looking at the flashing of a star while holding the prow's railing.

"Your Excellency respected Pirate King!"

Behind him stood three pirate governors and his subordinates, including Butcher.

"Pirate King City has settled in at its new location. But without the income from trade, the savings won't last long..."

"We've changed the route after all. Should we notify the merchants?"

"How is that any different from telling the navy our location? You fool, do you want the navy to hunt us down?"

...

Too many cooks spoil the soup. The same went for subordinates.

Soon, the crew was arguing about all kinds of things.

Fang Yuan looked on coldly. Some of them were fighting for their own interests, while some were fighting for the big picture.

“Quiet!”

After silently observing for a while, Fang Yuan had to admit that absolute loyalty, unless enforced by some sort of spiritual techniques that controlled the soul, was just a dream.

“All right, I want to know how much power we can amass now.” Fang Yuan pointed casually. “Edward!”

“Your Excellency respected Pirate King!” Edward bowed slightly. “Our main forces at this time include four legendary pirate ships, twelve extraordinary ships...”

This alone was a terrifying force.

Before the steam engine emerged, this was enough to pummel any kingdom into submission.

“On top of that, there are Pirate Governor Balmain’s seven ironclads, twelve first-level battleships, and a total of fifty second and third-level battleships. This is the sum of all the pirate governors’ remaining forces, and this doesn’t include small vessels. We also have another problem: the extreme shortage of sailors. However, respected oriental Pirate Governor Wang Zhi is willing to solve that problem for us!”

“That’s right. Your Excellency respected Pirate King, we orientals are short of everything but men! The shortage of sailors can be immediately filled at your notice!”

Wang Zhi walked forward, bowed slightly, and smiled humbly.

“Very good. I will leave the task of recruiting new pirates to you...”

Fang Yuan immediately relinquished this aspect of his authority without any worry.

In fact, as long as he controlled the four legendary pirate ships, he was in charge of at least half of this pirate fleet’s power. Thus, he did not need to worry about anything.

“Your Excellency, there’s still another urgent matter waiting to be resolved—the mermaid princess prisoner. The Mermaid Pirates have already negotiated with us many times. Furthermore, this princess’s attitude is troublesome!” Bill said softly.

“I’ll try to persuade that mermaid lass later!” Fang Yuan waved his hand dismissively. “Give her some time, then reiterate the current situation to her. She’ll submit eventually, unless she doesn’t want to live anymore.”

“All right, you wicked fellows, prepare for big action!”

After assigning the tasks, Fang Yuan clapped his hands and ended the meeting.

Right at this moment, he felt a strange sensation coming from afar.

Suddenly, it seemed like a thin layer of something was removed from Fang Yuan, making the world appear clearer.

Face solemn, he looked at his right hand. “Hell of Lightning... Thunder God... and this sensation...”

Bang!

Suddenly, Witch Cassenia screamed, and the crystal ball in her hands fell to the floor, shattering into pieces.

Most importantly, the reflections of many black-colored eyes could be seen in the shards. They were filled with evil intent and seemed to spy greedily on what was happening.

"I see death... and darkness!

"Those Evil Gods from ancient times... and the world rulers of old... They will return one after another to reclaim what is theirs!

"The entire world will be bathed in blood and fire..."

The witch's eyes were white as she spoke with the tone of a prophet.

"Boss... I..." Shortly after, Cassenia returned to her usual appearance. She had a complicated expression as she asked, "What did I just say?"

"You foresaw a great catastrophe. Ancient dangers will arrive soon!" Fang Yuan crossed his arms as he looked at the waves in the distance. A cold smile broke on his face. "However... that won't be much trouble."

Chapter 882: Strange

World Calendar 668. The new Pirate King, Roche, emerged and would rule the four oceans.

This was also the year where the entire world would be caught in a mysterious shadow.

Ettoman.

The sky had been gloomy recently, emitting an oppressive and fearful atmosphere.

"This... is such heart-palpitating weather..."

Donald got off his carriage and looked at the sky, remaining silent for a long time.

Pitter, patter.

Not long after, a drizzle began to fall gently, looking like it would get heavier by the second.

Donald pursed his lips. There was finally movement as he opened up a black, rubber umbrella and walked into the rain.

After entering an alley and taking a few steps, he arrived in front of a massive wooden house.

The outside of the wooden house was black, and it had a red roof. It was quite distinct compared to the other houses in the region.

"Mr. Donald... I'm really sorry. Besides you, I really can't think of another person who can solve this problem."

In front of the house, a brandy-nosed middle-aged man with red hair stood there, rubbing his hands anxiously.

Donald looked at this middle-aged man. "Since we're all members of the church, your matters are also my matters. That's why I have to be here! What happened, Ruxis?"

About a year ago, he had constructed the Dream and Armament Master's church from scratch.

When someone joined initially, they were naturally only a believer. Shortly after, once money was involved, they would assume duty as a priest.

In every district, there was also a kshatriya, who was usually the person in charge of a city and had a status similar to a cardinal.

Naturally, Donald was the pope.

"The people living in this house are follower Parsi and his family! Parsi is a paleontologist who specializes in ocean organisms... But about a month ago, he hasn't been right..." Ruxis muttered. "Ever since he came back from a research trip, he's been acting weird. In the beginning, he locked himself in his laboratory without coming out... Afterward, it became worse, as he started acting in unimaginable ways more frequently!"

"For example..." Donald clenched his cane tightly.

"For example... he would cut his own wrist and use his blood to form some weird symbols in the laboratory. He started acting like a lunatic and even became slightly violent... His wife and two children have already gone back to their hometown to hide from him."

Ruxis continued, "Of course, we looked for the police, but what we didn't expect was that his rationality was still intact, as he could get through the interrogation successfully... Moreover, the police officer even told me that even if Parsi had some kind of illness, we should have brought him to see a psychiatrist and not trouble him..."

A lunatic was merely going crazy in his own trapped room. It was true that he did not disturb others, so there was no excuse to bring him in.

Furthermore, this person was still able to act clear-headed and normal?

"So what you're trying to say is that... his rationality is still there, but he has been acting weird..." Donald nodded. "I can roughly understand why you guys looked for me..."

"We really had no other choice. We even found him a doctor, but after just one visit, something terrible happened to that doctor. This proved the rumors that Mr. Parsi was infected with some... dirty things."

Ruxis quickly continued, "Therefore, we decided to find a few priests to pray for him... Obviously, as followers of the Dream and Armament Master, we wouldn't seek help from other gods. However, ordinary priests were also helpless in this situation. To make matters worse, all the ones who came to help suffered similar tragedies when they returned..."

"I see!" Donald nodded as he combed his green hair before knocking on the door. "Mr. Parsi? Mr. Parsi?"

"He hasn't responded since last night!" Ruxis exclaimed. "I'm afraid something might have happened to him."

"Move aside!"

Following which, Donald gave the door a good kick.

Bang!

The door fell apart following the loud noise.

The rotten smell inside the house was so strong that Donald had to use his handkerchief to cover his nose.

The house looked gloomy, and there was a lot of dust, scrap paper, and torn newspapers everywhere.

On top of a table, a large rat poked its head out of a box of papers and then scurried away.

"Damn it... What kind of place is this? Parsi? Parsi?"

Donald's expression turned solemn as a stream of water gradually appeared on his wrist like a transparent bracelet.

When he arrived in the living room, his pupils immediately shrunk.

On one of the walls, there was a massive brown-colored symbol. From the level of dryness, it was clear that it had been there for a while now. Furthermore, the color of the symbol looked like dried blood.

A weird feeling suddenly raided Donald's body, making him feel extremely uncomfortable.

"He... is real..."

"He... is coming..."

Donald managed to discern the sentences as he frowned. "This... what is this?"

"I don't know..." Ruxis shrugged. "Ever since Parsi started acting weird, he's been saying this over and over."

"Be careful. Don't look at the symbol on the wall!"

Donald's expression turned grave.

Through this difficult period, he had seen more than just sailors.

"Some Evil God symbols possess tremendous effectiveness and can allow you to communicate with a certain existence... Of course, given the massive disparity between us and those existences, a slight thought from them is enough to make us get caught in a terrifying predicament..."

Donald shook his head as he tried to distract himself forcefully.

Even so, the massive blood symbol in the middle of the wall was just like a stigma in his heart that could not be erased.

"My Lord... the existence that controls dreams and armaments, please forgive my weak self!"

He immediately clenched his emblem tightly, which made him feel much better.

He no longer dared to look at the symbol and simply shifted his gaze to a corner of the room.

On a blackboard, there were many loose pieces of newspaper reports stuck on it. Some of these pieces were turning yellow, and there were even fresh blood marks on them.

“Sailor Rode caught a gigantic sea monster!”

“Prehistory ten thousand years, who were the ones that dominated the ocean...”

The ones in front were evidently research materials that focused on ocean organisms.

After that, the contents of the various reports changed drastically.

“Coal explosion in Warm Level Town, hundreds dead!”

“Shocking! Clashes of the gangsters? Or the collective uproar of the lunatics? The truth concealed by the kingdom!”

“Massive influenza break out in Cecil! Over ten thousand deaths to date! Ettoman announces an indefinite blockade on Cecil and the rejection of any goods and people into the country...”

“Phenomenon across wheat fields in the country!”

...

Seeing all these reports, Donald could not help but sigh. When he found out all the tragedies that were happening across the world recently, even his hair started to turn white.

“Eh?”

Upon closer inspection, he discovered something distinctive.

Among these black and white photos, there were always circles marked out by a red marker.

Donald took a closer look and found a symbol within an inverted triangle—an eye! It was the same as the blood symbol!

It appeared on a ruined wall left behind in the coal explosion and also on the bodies of those lunatics. During the wheat field phenomenon, it was also clearly displayed.

The wheat field phenomenon’s sign was extremely large, and Donald could not help taking another look at it.

It felt almost like an illusion when the eyes in the photos seemed to blink at the same time.

“Ahh!”

Donald shuddered as he took a step back, and goosebumps started appearing on his body.

“This symbol... Evil God?”

He focused on his task as he looked at the very last symbol on the board—’This symbol belongs to the Deep-Sea Stalker <

>’.

“Deep-Sea Stalker?”

Donald rubbed his chin.

Clang!

A sound rang out from an adjacent bedroom.

“Parsi?”

Ruxis rushed into the room and saw a semi-deranged Parsi.

The previously elegant and graceful scholar currently looked like a skeleton with close to no hair and sunken cheeks. There were also many large scars on his arms.

“Ahh... stay away from me!”

Presently, his eyeballs were bulging violently as he desperately shrank into his wardrobe.

“What happened?”

The moment Donald entered the room, he furrowed his brows.

This was because, within the bedroom, the symbols were everywhere. It was smeared in blood all over the four walls, ceiling, floor, and almost everything else.

“No... He’s here and he’s watching me!”

Parsi was going crazy in the wardrobe and constantly pushing Ruxis’ hand away.

“Who?”

No longer concealing himself, Donald stepped forward with a ring of water surrounding his body.

“Stalker of the deep sea! An existence with a twisted soul... He is one of the ancient rulers of the ocean, and now he is back... with his brothers! They are causing massacres, spreading despair, and fermenting suffering... Because this is what makes them happy, and they can even draw strength from it!” Parsi shouted in tears. “All of you will die!!!”

Buzz!

At this moment, Donald felt a burning sensation from the emblem in his hands, and he subconsciously took a few steps back.

Buzz!

All the blood eyes in the room blinked at the same time.

The indescribable darkness descended, and it felt as though the entire room was being dragged into the deep sea.

“Ah... Ah...”

Donald's clothes became drenched, and water dripped from his hair. He took a deep breath and even licked the water by the side of his lips.

The salty taste made him realize that this was undoubtedly seawater.

"Ruxis? Ruxis?"

He looked around and found that there was one less person in the room!

Ruxis had actually disappeared. Only Parsi was still trembling in the wardrobe and using his clothes to shield himself like a massive rat.

Donald grabbed him by the neck and dragged him out as he shouted, "Since these eyes are watching you... Why did you still draw them... Tell me!!!"

Chapter 883: To Serve

"I-I don't know..." Parsi forced out a few words with extreme difficulty. "It-It forced me..."

"Where's Ruxis? Tell me now!"

Donald tossed Parsi onto the ground and pressed his cane against his throat.

"I don't know... I really don't know... I-it's always been the one... stalker from the deep sea... it's been forcing me..." Parsi said between intermittent sobs.

All of a sudden, he coughed a few times before spitting out muddy seawater.

"Ah... Ah... It-It's coming!"

A large amount of seawater flooded into the room as an ocean fish emerged from Parsi's mouth. Soon after, a cuttlefish emerged and then a large quantity of seaweed.

"Ahem! Ahem!"

Parsi held on to his throat tightly, and there were traces of blood in his eyes.

Suddenly, his head exploded like a watermelon. A monster with scales all over its body crawled out from Parsi's half-missing body. This monster looked like merfolk but was ten times more ferocious looking.

Donald quickly retreated.

Anyone who witnessed a scene like this would start to question their knowledge of physics and biology.

However, he had been through a lot and was more than prepared for something like this.

From the moment Parsi spat out seawater, Donald had already started making his way out of the bedroom. By the time the monster appeared, he was already at the door.

Bloop! Bloop!

The malevolent murloc monster started spitting out bubbles as its strong hind legs pressed against the floor before it leaped forward.

Smack!

It instantly destroyed the wooden wall and flew toward Donald like a cannonball.

“Scram!”

Donald brandished his cloak.

Poof!

A layer of water appeared and formed a transparent and durable membrane.

When the sea monster charged into the membrane, the tremendous impact instantly changed the membrane’s shape, and its palm was merely a fine line away from Donald.

Bang!

The very next moment, the sea monster was like an arrow released from a bow. With an astounding amount of force, the sea monster was shot back viciously. It crashed through walls and smashed into massive bricks.

Donald’s expression turned solemn, not feeling happy or satisfied at all. He stared at his palm.

“My Lord...”

The Dream and Armament Master’s emblem was clearly letting him know of the danger ahead.

“Leave this place now!”

After hearing this warning, Donald turned around and escaped without any hesitation.

“Wa! Wa!”

Behind him, the murloc cried out loud while accompanied by torrential waves.

Endless seawater surged in from an unknown place and instantly flooded the entire street.

...

“Deep-Sea Stalker?!”

Within Pirate King City, Fang Yuan held the Omnidirectional Divine Demonic Armament insignia while pondering.

“The inverted triangular eye, the symbol of the Deep-Sea Stalker...”

As the god of his believers, together with the prayers sent by his pope, Donald, and the emblem working as a network hub, Fang Yuan knew everything that was going on in Ettoman. It was almost as though he was also in Ettoman.

That murloc that came out of nowhere was naturally not the original body of the Deep-Sea Stalker. It was a monster manufactured by the other party.

Even so, its strength was terrifying.

At the very least, it was not going to be difficult for it to terrorize the streets and kill hundreds of commoners as well as a few of those fully-equipped soldiers who came forward to rescue the victims.

"It seems like the strength of this Deep-Sea Stalker can't be underestimated... Unfortunately, the ocean is currently my territory..."

Fang Yuan clapped his hands in an indolent manner.

A young mermaid dressed in a white muslin dress walked into the lounge with her chin up.

"Mermaid princess... I still don't know your name?"

Fang Yuan smiled, knowing that this was only because he was too lazy to ask.

"I am the darling of the ocean, the princess of Merfolk Kingdom, the daughter of Pirate Governor Kingsman—Nymphadora!" the young female mermaid replied proudly.

"Oh, Nymphadora, most of your subordinates are already serving me... Right now, I, Pirate King Roche, am willing to give you the chance to become the new pirate governor of the Coral Ocean. Are you willing to accept this chance to serve me?" Fang Yuan asked while looking at his palm.

"My father is the son of the sea, and he will never die..." Nymphadora remained unyielding. "Also, you despicable human... How dare you steal Sea God from me and still wish for me to serve you. Merfolk Kingdom will only serve its rightful king!"

"That's a true pity then!" Fang Yuan waved his hand. "It seems like... I can only use Sea God to kill my way through the Coral Ocean and prop up another merfolk for this position."

"Wait! You can't do that!"

Under this threat, the mermaid princess's pride was like a soap bubble that easily burst with a simple blow.

"What other choice do I have? Do you really believe that... as the Pirate King, I would give up control of the Coral Ocean?" Fang Yuan was completely at leisure. "Even though I had plans to support you from the start, it's a true pity that you didn't cherish this opportunity. Oh... one last question! Do you recognize this?"

Fang Yuan used his right index finger to congeal an image in the air. Rays of light appeared and formed the insignia of the Deep-Sea Stalker.

"That thing!" After looking at the insignia, Nymphadora's expression changed drastically, and her entire body was weak on the ground. "How did you get that? No... that is merely a terrifying legend that should have disappeared in history!"

"It seems like I obtained an unexpected bonus here?" Fang Yuan nodded. "Tell me everything you know about it, and then I'll answer your question."

"This insignia is called the Drowning Eye!" Nymphadora took in a deep breath. "It belongs to an ancient ruler of the deep sea, the Spirit Twister, the Deep-Sea Stalker... At the same time, it's also the eternal nightmare for us merfolk!"

"The merfolk's nightmare?"

Fang Yuan's interest was piqued.

“In the legends, this Deep-Sea Stalker once poisoned a group of merfolk. After these merfolk fell into his trap, they no longer looked like their original selves, turning malevolent and ugly. They call themselves murlocs and started criticizing the merfolk for failing to live up to our love of the ocean. Because of this claim, they started slaughtering us to offer us as sacrifices to the Deep-Sea Stalker... In the rumors, this existence possesses the authority to control merfolk, and just by listening to his voice, merfolk can fall from grace...”

Most merfolk were still human, while murlocs were purely ferocious monsters of the deep sea.

“But... all of this is merely legends, so how did you find out of his existence?”

Nymphadora looked fearfully at Fang Yuan.

Fang Yuan pondered for a moment before revealing everything he had observed. “It wasn’t here but in a human country. Accompanied by a murloc, the first thing he did was flood an entire street, killing over three hundred humans, and this number is still rising...”

“This is his drowning ceremony...” The mermaid princess concluded without even thinking. “The Deep-Sea Stalker is using this method to regain his strength. Once he becomes strong enough, his target will definitely be the merfolk. Our large numbers and ability to transform gives him enough to return to his glory days!”

“Little girl... it seems like you and your race provoked some really big trouble!”

Since this matter was of no concern to him, Fang Yuan simply sat there and rejoiced in her misery.

The mermaid princess, Nymphadora, let out a deep breath before kneeling in front of Fang Yuan.

“Mighty Pirate King! The ruler of the four oceans, Your Excellency Roche! I’m begging you, begging you to return Sea God to us. Without its strength, we won’t be able to fight against the murlocs...”

“I refuse!” Fang Yuan shook his head. “This Sea God is my spoils of war, and I’m saving it for my future loyal pirate governor!”

“In that case...” Nymphadora took out a dagger and cut her wrist before smearing the fresh blood on her forehead. “With the ocean as my witness, I, Mermaid Princess Nymphadora, am willing to serve you and offer my utmost loyalty, my soul, and my everything to you. I wish for you to forgive all my past wrongdoings...”

This was the lesser of the two evils.

This mermaid princess was able to see things clearly. By choosing to serve this Pirate King, the most she would lose was some sovereignty over her race. However, she would gain a strong supporter and could borrow his strength to deal with the Deep-Sea Stalker.

Once negotiations broke down, she would have nothing left. The entire Merfolk Kingdom was bound to be infected by that Deep-Sea Stalker, and the merfolk would turn into malevolent and ugly murlocs.

“Even though you rejected me earlier... it seems that you are pretty sincere this time...”

The mermaid princess did not merely pledge an ordinary oath. Instead, it was an extraordinary one with magical effects.

Looking at this, Fang Yuan waved his hands generously.

The shell necklace landed in front of the mermaid princess.

During this period of time, he had already grasped the ultimate authority over Sea God. Even if Kingsman came back to life, he would be unable to snatch it from him.

And this shell necklace only had partial authority over Sea God, so he was naturally not going to be stingy about it.

“Thank you, Master!”

Nymphadora took the necklace as her big drops of tears fell from her cheeks, turned into pearls, and crashed against the ground with a clear sound.

“In the name of the Pirate King, you shall be my pirate governor in the Coral Ocean from today onward! Sea God shall be assigned to you for dispatch!”

Fang Yuan said softly, “At this moment... the drowning ceremony is not too far along, and the Deep-Sea Stalker has yet to accumulate sufficient strength. You don’t have to hurry back to Merfolk Kingdom for now, so gather the sailors under you and prepare to fight a war alongside me first!”

“Who is the enemy?”

Nymphadora stood up, looking firm and determined. It was as though she had turned all her weaknesses into tears and released them.

“Is that even a question? There is only one—the royal Invincible Steel Fleet of Ettoman!” Fang Yuan sounded resolute and decisive. “There can only be one king of the ocean!”

“Yes, Master. I will point my sword at wherever you will it!”

Nymphadora bowed as she retreated gradually.

Seeing this, Fang Yuan nodded satisfyingly. “Pretty decent child!”

To be honest, he should rest and reorganize his subordinates since they were still a mere mob.

However, time and tide waited for no man, and it was time to act.

If he waited any longer, those escaped Evil Gods would garner more strength to stop his actions, which might prove more troublesome in the future.

Chapter 884: Quest

Royal Port.

Admiral Philip and a few staff officers gathered to stare at an ancient ocean map with doubtful expressions on their faces. “Sun Crown?”

“Yes... According to our source, the Pirate King’s next target is to find where the legendary Sun collapsed and obtain the Sun King’s crown!”

Vice Admiral Norton pointed a black stick at the mark of a crown in the middle of the map.

“This... is simply... absurd!” Admiral Philip’s fingers were trembling. “Vice Admiral Norton, please explain yourself! Otherwise, I will start doubting if you’re even deserving of your current position!”

“Yes, Sir!” Vice Admiral Norton bowed. “First, we have to make something clear. This Sun King who conquered ancient dynasty after dynasty is not merely a legend. I’ve already gathered concrete evidence to prove that this king existed... Additionally, he really did leave his Sun Crown behind...”

“You... Don’t tell me you actually believe that legend—The Sun King was born of the sun, and his crown possesses the ability to beckon an endless army of soldiers. These soldiers are tireless and fearless of death. They helped him conquer country after country and defeat all sorts of enemies... Finally, the Sun King was disheartened because he did not have an heir, so he chose to bury himself on an uninhabited island... He left his crown inside his tomb, and whoever obtains the Sun Crown will have the strength to conquer the world...” said one of the advisors the legend.

“Since sea monsters, elves, dwarves, and so many legendary ships exist... a Sun Crown isn’t totally unbelievable!”

Vice Admiral Norton continued, “Moreover, I’ve already gathered reliable evidence that the glorious Sun Dynasty truly existed... From a practical point of view, this shouldn’t concern us, but those pirates believe that possession of this Sun Crown will give them enough strength to defeat us.”

“You mean...” Admiral Philip’s eyes lit up.

“Regardless of whether this information is true or not, we should make our move. However, our first target shouldn’t be the Sun Crown but those pirates instead... Due to the uncertainty of our source, I believe we should increase the preparations for our pirate enticing plan...”

Evidently, Vice Admiral Norton had thought through this thoroughly.

“Hmm... Indeed... Our current strength surpasses the pirates, so with sufficient preparation, there isn’t much for us to worry about... If we give that Pirate King some time to reorganize, it won’t be beneficial to us!”

Admiral Philip instantly made his decision.

“Also... we have a few active privateer captains under us who are a decent force,” Vice Admiral Norton added, causing everyone to smile faintly.

Privateer captains could be considered a force for Ettoman, but in the eyes of the official navy, they were still too inferior to show in public.

Furthermore, they truly loathed pirates from the bottom of their hearts.

Since this operation might be a trap, the privateer captains would definitely be acting as cannon fodder for the navy by charging and breaking through enemy lines.

...

Pirate King City.

Fang Yuan opened up a nautical chart and smiled when he looked at the mark of the crown.

The accumulated wealth of Pirate King City and the pirate governors was seriously not a small amount. Other than some gold, silver, or treasures, the most exciting ones were the accurate nautical charts showing the locations of treasures.

Items that he might be interested in, which the pirate governors had not yet excavated, were naturally not ordinary.

If it was not too distant, the locations would be close to impossible to decipher, or maybe the sea routes would be too dangerous.

This nautical chart involving the Sun Crown was offered by Wang Zhi, the pirate governor of the East.

Because this secret treasure belonged to the West yet ended up in the hands of the pirate governor of the East, it made things extremely awkward. Due to the location, even if he could not bear to use it as part of a deal with other pirate governors, he could not go look for the secret treasure with great fanfare. Therefore, it had been left idle for a long time until now.

Offering it to Fang Yuan was similar to giving up something that was of dubious worth.

This nautical chart was not something that one could just follow and be certain to find the hidden treasure.

The codewords, hidden dangers, changes in the present sea routes, migration of beasts, and many other considerations had to be taken into account as well.

After analyzing it, Fang Yuan estimated that even if he really wanted the Sun Crown, he would have to mobilize at least half of the troops under him.

Instead of treasure hunting with great fanfare and allowing the navy to scheme against him, Fang Yuan would rather spread the news and tempt the main forces of the navy into a decisive battle. At the very least, he would be able to grasp the initiative.

Of course, Fang Yuan did not care about how legendary or mystical the Sun Crown was.

Even if the Sun Crown was truly able to beckon a formidable army, that was on land and not at sea.

Out at sea, ships would always be the most important! Otherwise, the Sun Dynasty would not have been limited to only one continent.

“By tossing out this bait, I’m confident that the navy will be hooked because it can’t stand seeing Pirate King City expanding at this pace!”

Fang Yuan gathered his four pirate governors, as well as his original subordinates. “We’re going to go all out, and we won’t be leaving behind any third-level ships. We shouldn’t treat the royal navy as idiots and think that it’ll definitely fall for our trap. Instead, we have to be well prepared to fight a hard battle!”

...

Three days later.

At the common boundary between the Coral Ocean and the Golden Ocean, the Cornelian Ocean...

Incredibly captivating, multi-colored radiances reflected from the bottom of the ocean.

Inexperienced newbies out at sea would certainly think that there were treasures on the seabed.

However, these gorgeous radiances were dangerous and not riches.

Nobody knew why, but the ocean water in this region was contaminated with dense toxins. Even an old fur seal would not last five minutes swimming in this water.

There would not even be an opportunity to drift along the ocean if any misfortune happened here.

However, some sea monsters fancied such ocean waters, where humans could not adapt.

One example would be large longnose gudgeons. Fish like these were vicious in nature and had mouths that looked like nails. They were incredibly quick in water and loved attacking any floating objects.

For small and ordinary ships, it would not take long before these fish managed to pierce a hundred holes in the ship's hull. Nobody on the ship would be able to escape from their attacks.

Because of all these dangers, the Cornelian Ocean became a forbidden zone.

However, at this very moment, a detachment of the Invincible Steel Fleet entered these waters brazenly.

The large number of shadows immediately incited the craziness of the dwelling longnose gudgeons, and they swam rapidly to attack these floating objects.

Ding! Ding! Dang! Dang!

After a series of metallic clashing sounds, all the longnose gudgeons fell to the bottom of the ocean, completely defeated by the ironclads' hulls.

Admiral Philip stood on deck and said confidently, "Generally speaking, first-level battleships have nothing to fear regarding the attacks of these longnose gudgeons, and ironclads have even better defense... After eliminating those pirates, we can develop more steam merchant ships to open up this sea route. This will undoubtedly be an excellent source of wealth!"

"Commander, we haven't spotted any traces of the pirates, but according to the messages from the privateer captains in front, they discovered a lot abandoned rubbish. Seeing how fresh the discarded rubbish is, we should be able to catch up to those pirates within a day..."

Vice Admiral Norton remained stern and serious.

This time, the royal navy had brought fifty ironclads, which basically meant that it was placing everything it had on the line. He had every reason to be worried and anxious.

"Relax... With our main forces gathered here, the enemies won't be able to do anything to us. Besides, even if they have any traps planned, we still have that group of privateer captains ahead of us to test the route, right?" Admiral Philip replied in an unconcerned manner.

...

“A huge decisive battle, huh... After this battle, will this be the end of the show for the pirates?”

On Mermaid, Orlando was gulping down a bottle of rum.

Even though he dressed like a gentleman, he was still a pirate deep down.

At the thought of Philip’s plan, he could not help feeling sad.

Furthermore, the navy’s attitude toward the privateer captains who gave their lives to the navy was also heartbreaking.

It was probably because Ettoman was about to eliminate the pirates and take control of the four oceans that they were reluctant to show even the slightest bit of appreciation for them.

This time, the navy was basically sending these people to their deaths.

In Orlando’s eyes, they were no different from bait being thrown into the sea for this task.

Even though the pirates’ strength was reduced, the rise of the Pirate King led to their unity, so how could they ever underestimate that?

It was undoubtedly not a problem for the pirates to get rid of these advance forces.

Ettoman was clearly prepared to let these men be wiped out by the pirates!

“Ruthless... Even if the main forces of the pirates perish in this battle, the seed of pirates will never disappear...”

Orlando clenched his teeth.

Ding!

At this moment, he suddenly heard a weird sound, so he summoned the system without hesitation.

“Main quest chain triggered: Decisiveness!

“Quest explanation: Ettoman’s indistinct alienation begins to stir your emotions as a pirate. Everything will be decided in this decisive battle! Follow your heart and soul to make a decision on which camp you wish to belong to. After making your decision, display your usefulness in the battle!

“Quest reward: After the predestined fate of the battle is concluded, you will receive a variable reward based on your contribution!”

...

“Variable reward? That means the greater the contribution, the greater the reward...” Orlando muttered as he looked at his right palm.

In his heart, did he treasure having freedom or becoming an honorable nobleman?

“This answer... was decided since my very first day on a ship! My heart! My heart!”

Orlando was solemn as he clenched his fist tightly.

Splash!

The water surface burst as a massive tentacle extended from the water.

“Wh-what’s going on?”

An Ettoman crew member ran out immediately.

Looking at this small fry monitoring him, Orlando frowned momentarily before smiling warmly. “It’s just a small matter. Nothing much...”

Chapter 885: Decisive Battle

“Small matter? In the name of the Ettoman Royal Navy, anything regarding Mermaid has to be reported to me!”

The tone of this envoy wearing a wig was stubborn and arrogant, having shadows of an old, prideful Ettoman gentleman. As he spoke, he even used a white handkerchief to cover his mouth and nose, as though he was giving Orlando a lot of respect by talking to him in this manner.

“All right... This is my report!”

Orlando stepped forward, and his fist smashed into the envoy’s face.

Bang!

The envoy fell to the deck, bleeding from his mouth and nose, completely dumbfounded.

“Why do you keep buzzing like a fly around my ear? You’re truly annoying...”

His face filled with disgust and hatred, Orlando grabbed the envoy’s collar.

“I dare you... I swear upon the name of the Queen that the navy won’t let you off!”

This envoy was missing teeth but still struggled to argue.

“Who cares about her? Anyway, I’ve already made my decision to launch an armed rebellion and return to being a pirate... Which one of you is willing to lick the smelly foot of that old woman?”

Orlando’s last sentence was clearly aimed at the crew members around him.

“Of course... not!!!” A few pirates laughed out loud. They raised their blades and shouted, “We are pirates! Free pirates! Hurray!”

“Very good!”

Orlando motioned with his right hand, and a few pirates surged forward to carry the envoy to the edge of the plank.

“No! You can’t do this!”

At this point, the envoy was overflowing with tears and mucus while hugging the plank tightly. There was already an additional stain on his pants.

“The way you look... I’m starting to feel ashamed for you even though you’re my enemy now!”

Orlando shut his eyes.

Smack!

A massive tentacle extended from the ocean and curled around this Ettoman envoy, dragging him into the water without shedding a single drop of blood.

The incident on Mermaid naturally attracted the attention of others.

A few privateer ships approached and signaled with their flags to inquire more information.

“Captain, do we dive underwater now?”

These pirates were unperturbed, confident in their ability to escape even if they were surrounded.

Orlando clenched his teeth and immediately made his decision. “No! We speed up! Lure them forward!”

He had an incredible amount of faith in the system.

Since the system issued this quest and even divided the camps, this meant that the strength difference between the pirates and navy was not significant. In fact, there was an increased likelihood that the pirates would ambush them up ahead.

At the thought of this, he gave another command. “Fire!”

Kaboom!

Following the white smoke, the unsuspecting armed merchant ships that approached them suffered losses. Even though they did not sink immediately, two of the ships were severely damaged and unable to move forward.

In a region like this, this was equivalent to a death sentence if they did not receive any aid.

“After them!” A voice resounded from the navy ship bringing up the rear. “Mermaid has betrayed us!”

This caused uproar and chaos among the ships, but eventually, the majority of them pursued Mermaid.

After all, besides Mermaid, the Octopus Marauder Team still had a few other subsidiary ships.

Once the navy allowed them to leave, the hit to morale would be serious.

“Tell Old Single Eye and Cripple to follow my flagship. Once we reach the destination, we can break free and escape!”

Orlando looked even more firm.

With the octopus beneath the sea surface disturbing the longnose gudgeons, his ship was in a better position than the ships behind him.

The ships following behind were flustered and exasperated as they quickly entered a foggy region.

Seeing this, Orlando smiled. “Haha... Great job, my partner!”

As his contract partner, this octopus shared its life and consciousness with him. Its intelligence was also much higher than ordinary sea monsters.

Thus, they were able to complete many actions such as... showing the way or... informing each other about certain news!

After surmising that the pirates had an ambush ahead, he merely moved one step forward to bring these inferior troops in.

...

Bloop! Bloop!

The sea under the fog suddenly changed.

A massive whirlpool was gradually taking shape in the middle of the sea.

As this whirlpool grew larger, it began swallowing all the inferior ships within range.

Orlando's eyes were red as he commanded loudly, "Quickly! Lower the sails! Full speed ahead!"

Mermaid quickly accelerated and brought the Octopus Marauder Team out of the periphery of the whirlpool.

Behind them, the terrifying massive whirlpool had finally fully formed. Like a massive sea monster with its mouth wide open, it started gobbling down all the lives and ships as offerings.

"Sea God!"

After breaking through the fog, Orlando immediately saw the shadow of a legendary ship.

By the ship's side, there were a lot of strong and reputable warships. Sun was particularly outstanding, looking like a crane among a flock of chickens.

"Extraordinary ships, stay put. The rest are to attack and take care of the enemies..."

After being dragged in by such a massive whirlpool, the fleet was heavily damaged. It would not survive if the pirates attacked them.

Even the ironclad fleet might not be able to maintain their energy after an incident like this, let alone this mob of ships.

"Nymphadora, great job!" Fang Yuan did not forget to take out a seashell and give his compliments.

Nymphadora's soft voice came from the seashell. "Master, I've exhausted too much of my energy. I don't think I can execute another attack like this in the following battle."

The fact that Sea God could control the ocean meant that it was almost invincible during ocean battles.

However, this was not without cost.

She would be fine taking on one or two ships, but to create a massive whirlpool big enough to take down an entire fleet? Nymphadora was not as strong as her father, so she could only do this once every three days.

Any more, and she would exhaust all of her energy and could possibly even die.

The reason why Fang Yuan did not use this against the ironclad fleet? First, there were simply too many people on the other side, so he might not be able to take them down altogether. Second, a navy always had special forces like the fate of a nation or the spirit of a martyr to protect them. Even though there was no effect in physical battles, extraordinary forces like these always helped to weaken the other party mentally.

Although no one could estimate the extent, Fang Yuan was aware of how remarkable Ettoman's present sea forces were. Summoning a tsunami to attack the Invincible Steel Fleet was never going to happen. In fact, a small fry like Nymphadora might die from the backlash of attacking it.

This was unless he went out personally. In which case, he was confident of success.

However, doing something like that might incite interference from the world, especially if he really defeated the Invincible Fleet. The gains simply did not make up for the losses.

He was extremely calm and composed at this moment. In any case, he had already completed his primary objective—his breakthrough. Whatever happened next, he would handle it one issue at a time.

In other words, he had already earned back his capital. The following matters would be his winnings, so it did not matter how much he won.

While Fang Yuan was in deep thought, the battle's outcome was already decided.

One side was well-organized and prepared, while the other side was battered and exhausted. There was naturally only one outcome.

The inferior vanguards collapsed at the first encounter while the rest started escaping.

Because Fang Yuan was concerned about the more important upcoming battle, he did not have the pirates chase after them, and they were aware of when to stop their pursuit.

Anyway, it would be impossible for this vanguard fleet to rejoin the battle.

...

Wrecked ships, wooden planks, and corpses floated toward them from the front.

Seeing this scene, Admiral Philip's face turned extremely gloomy. "Useless fools... I was hoping they could inflict some damage on the pirates, but they were only successful in throwing their lives away."

"Someone sent a message from the front. According to their information, we might have to consider the worst-case scenario."

Vice Admiral Norton's face remained stern.

After the pirates crowned their Pirate King, they actually became united, making it far more difficult than before. This was certainly beyond their expectations.

"Ettoman does not allow for failure!" Admiral Philip drew his officer's sword. "Form up for battle!"

"Form up!"

The order quickly spread.

Not long after, fifty ironclads formed a V-shape, looking similar to a maritime fortress.

“Here we are!”

Fang Yuan stood on Sun and looked at the smoke ahead of him.

Fifty ironclads pressed forward like an iron wall with incomparable oppression.

“Sun, ready Burning Sun...” When Fang Yuan saw this, a slight smile appeared. “The fate of a nation and the spirit of a martyr might be able to protect against the extraordinary, but can they be protected from a physical attack like this?”

Ding! Target locked!

Legend ability Burning Sun, firing!

The sound of machines on Sun responded to that command.

A brilliance converged on Sun’s main cannon that suddenly turned into an intense white radiance.

Kaboom!

In the middle of the ironclad fleet, the largest ship, Fearless, was instantly turned into raging flames and exploded.

Sea waves surged, slamming against the surrounding vessels.

Even though Fang Yuan knew he could only use Burning Sun once, a force like this was truly incomparable.

To Fang Yuan’s surprise, the enemy ships were merely slightly taken aback after losing their flagship. Almost immediately, they launched their counter-attack.

Fierce cannon fire immediately fired back at the pirates.

“Sun can only fire once! Attack! Attack!” Admiral Philip shouted with all his might on another ship.

Vice Admiral Norton, who was by his side, wiped his cold sweat. “Fortunately, we received the news about Sun and formed up in time... Otherwise, there wouldn’t have been a battle to fight once our flagship was lost.”

Even so, his expression was still stunned.

What other hidden trump cards did that Pirate King have?

Bang! Bang!

At this moment, many of the ships surrounding him started to tremble as though something was exploding beneath them.

Admiral Philip was shaken and immediately asked, “What’s happening?”

Someone quickly reported the situation, “The longnose gudgeons and other sea monsters have explosives tied to them! They’re colliding and exploding under the sea surface!”

“King’s Throne... did they force the longnose gudgeons in this region into submission?” Vice Admiral Norton muttered as his heart sank...

Chapter 886: Attack

Solomon Strait.

As a major transportation route, there was constantly a large number of ships from the East and West anchored here.

Towering forts, as well as permanent defensive structures, built on the unbreakable prestige of this place, giving the residents and merchants a great sense of security.

However, their local governor, Viscount Quaid, from Ettoman was clearly feeling ill at ease.

He was undoubtedly aware of the dispatch of the navy’s main forces against the pirates.

In order to accomplish the entire task in one stroke, Admiral Philip not only transferred Rear Admiral Jackson away, but he also brought all the ironclads with him.

This resulted in the depletion of naval power protecting Solomon, and it was at an all-time low.

Of course, in the eyes of Admiral Philip, the presence of the defensive structures and the remaining vessels in the vicinity were enough to ensure that no mishaps would happen. Additionally, he was watching closely over the navy’s main forces.

In most cases, this should have been how things turned out.

However, life was only interesting because of unexpected incidents, and Viscount Quaid was certainly hoping that he would not have to face any unexpected incidents now.

On the hillside beside the port, inside the governor’s mansion.

Elizabeth was wearing a noblewoman’s dress and holding on to an exquisite porcelain teacup. There were also a few honey cream pastries fresh out of the oven in front of her.

“Thank Goddess... I’m finally back!”

She took a small sip of tea, and the warm and sweet taste convinced her that she had finally broken free of that nightmare with pirates and successfully returned to her close ones.

“Miss, Master wants you to change into this attire and attend the banquet. Many young and handsome men wish to meet you there...”

An elderly lady walked over and opened a delicate gift box that had an exquisite gown inside.

“No!”

Feeling slightly infuriated again, Elizabeth opened up her fan and started fanning herself.

Evidently, her marriage with Viscount Charlie had basically come to nothing.

He was the offspring of a famous family, so there was a low chance that he would accept a woman with a damaged reputation. Even though she had not suffered any substantial damage, reputation was often more important than reality.

Viscount Quaid had already warned his daughter about this, which was why he simply expressed his attitude toward this incident directly.

Even though it was unlikely for the other families to be well-matched in terms of social status, men from less prestigious families were still within consideration.

At the thought of the recent matchmaking misfortunes and the disdainful gazes from those young men, Elizabeth felt as though she had a knife stabbed into her.

"But Miss, this is Master's orders. You have to..." The elderly lady was in a slightly difficult position.

"I already said... no!!" Elizabeth emphasized her words, feeling incredibly oppressed. She walked over to the balcony to gaze at the ocean and took a deep breath.

"My daughter!" Viscount Quaid, who was wearing a wig as well as a dignified and carefully selected attire, arrived behind Elizabeth.

"I don't understand... Why are you doing this, Father?" Elizabeth did not hold back.

"I want to let you know that I love you more than anyone else in the world!" Viscount Quaid sighed.

"However, it's essentially impossible for your marriage with that Viscount to take place any longer. He's turned into a joke because of everything that happened during this period... Those damned pirates! I hope Admiral Philip can hang them all! Oh! I'm sorry... I shouldn't have told you all of this."

"No, I want to know if that pirate, Arcane Trickster Roche, became the Pirate King? And Admiral Philip actually brought away all of the main forces in Solomon just to deal with him?" Elizabeth looked at her father intently.

"Those are military secrets... How did you find out?" Viscount Quaid was shocked.

"I have my sources!" Elizabeth smiled sly, just like a crafty fox. "When that Roche is sentenced to death, I have to be there to watch..."

"Your wish will come true. Admiral Philip is one of the renowned admirals of our country, and with fifty ironclads, we have an unstoppable force at sea..." Viscount Quaid said pridefully. "I believe... it won't be long before you hear the good news."

"I hope so!" Unknowingly, Elizabeth felt a little uneasy

How could that savage and astute pirate be defeated so easily? She was not feeling confident about this at all.

"Governor, latest update!" Suddenly, hurried footsteps entered the bedroom. "I'm sorry, Governor, but you ordered me to inform you immediately upon the latest military intelligence."

"Yes, I did... Speak!" Viscount Quaid patted Elizabeth's shoulder. "My precious girl, here comes the good news."

"Cough cough..." The messenger unrolled a scroll. "... April 1st, we faced the main forces of the pirates. The navy's brave lads fought hard, but the enemy shamelessly made use of naval mines, causing us to lose Fearless, Lion, Knights of the Round Table... Admiral Philip died heroically in battle, while Vice Admiral Norton led the remaining ten ironclads to retreat. They will arrive at Solomon Strait on the 7th. They're hoping for the local governor to assist them..."

"What... No!" Viscount Quaid felt distraught. "By the Queen, are you joking? Those are the elites of our country. Fifty new-model ironclads and tens of thousands of marines..."

"I'm sorry... but this is the truth!" The messenger handed the scroll over.

"God..." After taking a quick glance, the governor almost passed out.

"Father, we need to make preparations immediately. We have to gather our supplies and ships! Ships are important because we might need to escape with Vice Admiral Norton..." Elizabeth immediately said.

"Escape? From Solomon Strait? No way! I am the governor..." Viscount Quaid was somewhat absent-minded.

Regardless of how meticulous his plans were, he was completely at a loss facing an incident like this.

"Yes, we must escape! After a huge loss like this, our country's naval power is badly damaged, so Ettoman will definitely choose to pull back for now..." Elizabeth said confidently.

The nurturing of a navy and constructing ships were only two aspects.

Most importantly, there had to be capable sailors. Without four or five years, it would be extremely difficult to train them properly.

This defeat practically hollowed out the navy's foundations, and it would not be easy to breathe after this.

At the thought of this, Viscount Quaid immediately made his decision. "Send my orders. All ports are to enter first-level alert... Also, get ready to evacuate..."

...

Roar! Roar!

A thunderous roar resounded.

A black spot appeared and became larger by the second. Soon after, it turned into a massive floating island.

Pirate King City, Island Turtle King!

Its speed was extremely pathetic, as it could not even reach ten knots, and was unusable in battle. It was currently moving toward Solomon Strait.

Bit by bit, it moved extremely slowly, but it contained an unswerving force!

"It's the pirates! Attack!"

A few defensive forts immediately spotted it and opened fired.

Kaboom!

Cannonballs landed and exploded on the island, but given its impressive size, it was basically no different from getting bit by a mosquito.

This was also Fang Yuan's one of arrangements.

Given the Island Turtle King's pathetic speed, it would not stand a chance against any pirate ship even with its impeccable defense. However, using it to attack a fixed target proved to be a successful strategy.

Even though the defensive capabilities of Solomon Strait's forts were impressive, their biggest shortcoming was that they were immobile.

Additionally, the ironclads stationed here had all been transferred out, so Solomon Strait was at its weakest.

Roar! Roar!

The Island Turtle King disregarded the cannon fire while roaring and using its front limbs to attack the island.

Rumble!

When its head clashed against the island, heavy boulders fell from the sky like meteorites to destroy all of the defensive structures.

"Ahh!"

"Sea Monster!"

"Quickly escape!"

"Why does it look like there's a city on the back of this giant sea monster?"

The ports in Solomon Strait immediately fell into disarray.

They had never imagined a sea monster could be as ridiculously big as this.

Soon later, they could not even bother thinking about any of this.

Because the moment the Island Turtle King reached land, a large number of ropes and slides were released from its back. Pirates flooded the ports like ants within seconds.

Bang! Bang!

Gunfire, swords clashing, and the desperate cries of men and women formed a symphony for Solomon's end.

"Men! Bring Elizabeth away!"

When Governor Quaid saw a pirate heading toward the governor's mansion, his face turned pale immediately.

"Hurry... Go!"

Elizabeth lifted her dress and grabbed her father's palm. Under the protection of the guards, they fled from the governor's mansion and ran toward the back of the mountain.

"Why? Why? Why?"

As they escaped, tears rolled down Elizabeth's cheeks.

She realized that she would never be able to escape from that nightmare.

"We can't head to the port, but I prepared a ship on another side..." Viscount Quaid calmed himself down. "The captain is my good friend. Elizabeth, go find him and immediately leave!"

"Father, what about you?"

Elizabeth pulled on Viscount Quaid's sleeves.

"I am Ettoman's local governor, so I must do what I have to do... Moreover... Vice Admiral Norton doesn't know about this incident yet, and he's still heading here thinking that it's safe!"

Up until now, he was still unconvinced that those pirates had attained a grand victory unprecedented in history.

Furthermore, they even split their forces into two. From the very beginning of the war, they had already sent this Island Turtle King to cut off Ettoman's retreat route!

Without any doubt, the Ettoman Royal Navy was currently in its most perilous situation ever!

Chapter 887: Statutes

World Calendar 668.

In the Cornelian Ocean, the destruction of Ettoman's Invincible Steel Fleet symbolized the rise of the new generation Pirate King.

Pirate Prince Edward bowed in front of Fang Yuan and said humbly, "Your Excellency respected Pirate King! According to the news we received from Pirate King City, they've successfully broken through Solomon Strait and bombarded Norton's fleet that was reorganizing by the shore... From now on, there will no longer be any Ettoman forces in the Golden Ocean! Also... the privateer captains who surrendered have arrived."

Pirates were not known for their loyalty, so many privateer captains easily betrayed Ettoman's navy.

"Greetings, respected Pirate King!"

"You are the ruler of pirates, the owner of the royal city!"

A group of second-rate pirate captains was escorted in, speaking humbly and respectfully. Some of them even went straight up to Fang Yuan to offer him gifts.

According to conventional practice, this was how pirates expressed their allegiance.

Among these people, an infuriated Orlando watched how the pirates surrounded the Arcane Trickster.

Even though he had thought about revenge earlier, he was eventually discouraged after seeing the kind of influence and power that Fang Yuan had today.

At this moment, he looked exactly like all the other captains around him.

He was even more convinced that his revenge plan would never be accomplished.

Fortunately, Fang Yuan could not even bother with him.

“We have removed the biggest nail in the Golden Ocean and Soloman Strait. What we need to do next is to follow up with this victory by pressing home the attack. We have to capture the Nightmare Ocean and even Ettoman’s coastal waters so that we can threaten its native land!” Fang Yuan sat on his throne lazily and squinted. “Of course, the very first thing to do now is to train our fleets!”

Without mentioning those directly under his personal command, he still had four pirate governors who he had messy relationships with.

“First of all, I will compile a list of statutes. Even though we pirates are known to act as we wish, there has to be some conventional rules internally. Right now, what I want to do is to fix these rules and turn them into statutes belonging only to us. It shall be called the ‘Pirate Statutes’!”

In a world, a regulated force would eventually be on top.

After saying this, Fang Yuan suddenly felt an immense fluctuation in the world again.

At that moment, the majority of gazes cast on him came from those Evil Gods who had just escaped.

And those gazes belonged to those on the same level as Demon Masters and Demon Gods. They were attracted by the news that Ettoman’s Invincible Steel Fleet had been exterminated. Before the first wave had subsided, a new wave rose, and they were all concentrated on Fang Yuan.

“Evil God? Haha...”

Fang Yuan waved his hand lightly, and a translucent water membrane opened up, instantly isolating the flagship from the surroundings.

“Fluctuations in the world attracted the attention of those Evil Gods?”

He smiled, not too concerned about this.

How could beings struggling at death’s door be a match for him?

Needless to say, while taking advantage of this golden period of time, he had already sent his strongest opponent, the Ettoman Royal Navy, into hell and would sweep across the four oceans.

Even if Ettoman worked together with the Evil Gods in an attempt to gather sufficient strength at sea to fight against Fang Yuan, it was certainly not going to happen overnight.

Moreover, those Evil Gods were simply a collection of chaos. In fact, they might not even possess the same way of thinking as humans did.

Some were like the Deep-Sea Stalker, who only had plans to inflict fear, chaos, and death in human countries in order to amass strength. It would be impossible for both sides to agree with each other.

“Pirates are always lacking in order, but there has to be a list of rules to restrict us!” Fang Yuan stood up and shouted, “From today onward, the ‘Pirates Statutes’ that I enact shall be the supreme standards for all piracy. Anyone who goes against it will be equivalent to going against Pirate King Roche, and I will chase him to the ends of the oceans!”

“‘Pirate Statutes’?”

Even Orlando, standing among the crowd, could not help but feel astonished about Fang Yuan’s plan.

This fellow had given up on any small-scale plans, or even thinking about incorporating it into anything—he wanted his own standards to become the established standards of the entire world of pirates!

Only a Pirate King like Fang Yuan could say something like this.

Otherwise, even a pirate governor with this idea would end up being jeered at.

Pirates always advocated freedom, and if the current Fang Yuan wanted to turn them into a massive fleet, it would most likely end up failing. Even if he somehow managed to succeed, the mutual wear and tear would end up depleting the strength of the entire force.

However, it would be different with the ‘Pirate Statutes’.

It was basically a list of standards or rather a list of procedures to resolve problems. It would be beneficial for both the captain and the crew of a ship.

“This is my first draft. Take a look, pirate governors.”

Fang Yuan handed over a scroll.

Aeoris took the scroll and unfolded it. All he saw were lines of words written in the mainland language, Ettoman’s language, the elvish language, and the dwarven language:

‘When a ship is forced to make a major decision, it shall be decided by the crew members voting!

Stealing, injuring one another, and traitors shall be banished to an uninhabited island to suffer the pain inflicted by a fully-loaded firearm.

Wealth distribution—the captain receives 30% while the other important positions shall receive double shares.

Restriction on humiliating captives...

There is a need to maintain weapons and to clean the ship’s deck and cannons daily.

Private fights are prohibited, but public duels agreed to by the captain or the majority of the crew can be held. Both parties can negotiate on the method.'

...

Unexpectedly, the rules were very simple and not demanding at all.

"Great, I think this is feasible!" Edward nodded.

Initially, he thought that Roche would come up with a list of demanding statutes and command all the pirates under him to follow it strictly.

However, the first draft felt more like setting established conventions to be commonly used. Moreover, there were not many provisions, and they were all simple and practical. It had the foundations of a statute that could be popularized.

"I have no objections!"

"Agreed!"

After the pirate governors agreed, Fang Yuan's original subordinates, such as Bill and Butcher, were naturally not going to oppose him.

With their support and agreement, it was almost certain that this 'Pirate Statutes' would be implemented across the oceans to become the foundation for resolving any disputes out at sea.

"Pirate Statutes? Maybe after today, it will be called the Roche Statutes..."

Orlando's heart trembled at this scene.

Even though he was the renowned Deep Sea Hades, he was truly insignificant in front of the true Pirate King.

...

Ettoman.

"My Lord..."

Donald locked himself in a small room and prayed constantly.

Ever since that incident, he had been feeling restless and uneasy.

Even though the government classified it as a drainpipe accident, he was naturally not convinced since he saw murloc.

In fact, under Fang Yuan's intentional or unintentional pointers and after gathering more information through his connections, Donald was truly frightened.

Something was happening across the land, and the death count tallied over a hundred!

And there were all kinds of supernatural and ridiculous incidents.

There was no need to mention the rampant Cecil influenza, which was like a god of death entrenched in the continent, wantonly harvesting lives.

“... My Lord, please forgive my feebleness... Please bestow your mercy and give humanity asylum...”

Frankly, the more Donald knew, the more uncertain his heart felt. At this moment, he was simply pinning his only hope on the Dream and Armament Master.

“My Lord... I have sin... I have wavered...”

Donald was praying while kneeling and holding the emblem.

Ever since he went to that house and saw the marks Parsi drew, he felt that something was amiss.

Even being extremely far away from that house and having no intention of heading back, the triangular insignia was increasingly clear and floating in front of his eyes for some unknown reason.

Recently, it became even more severe, and he could see every stroke clearly. It was as though it was seducing Donald, trying to get him to portray everything accurately himself.

If Fang Yuan were here, he would definitely be able to see that Donald had been ‘infected’!

After all, the Deep-Sea Stalker was on the same level as Demon Gods.

Through this imprint, Donald had a connection with that existence. However, he had Fang Yuan’s energy within his body.

Regarding the Deep-Sea Stalker, there was an increasing need to pay more attention.

The result was Donald growing increasingly insane.

He even had urges to bite off his fingers every time he looked at them.

“You have indeed sinned!”

At this moment, the emblem in Donald’s hands suddenly let out a ray of light and warmth.

“My Lord... Your consciousness has finally descended?”

Donald was almost crying tears of joy.

Over time, the Dream and Armament Master gave him fewer and fewer responses, making Donald feel like he had lost ‘God’s Grace’. He was becoming more neurotic and sensitive.

“You don’t have to worry or panic... The test of the world is about to arrive, and only the sincere ones will be able to survive!” Fang Yuan’s voice sounded.

In reality, he had to play the role of a good Pirate King and oversee the pirates recently, so he was not as focused or as motivated as before for this side.

However, Donald was still his pope, so he could not watch him get plotted against by others.

A stream of water suddenly appeared and soaked Donald. After this, it quickly converged on his back to reveal an inverted triangle.

“This is...”

Donald used a mirror to look dazedly at this item that looked neither like a tattoo nor an imprint.

Shortly after, he understood.

Ever since he had entered that house, he could sense the watchful eyes of the Deep-Sea Stalker.

Of course, for that kind of existence, perhaps it was merely a casual imprint.

But to Donald, it was enough to make him feel uneasy and eventually collapse under the pressure.

Fang Yuan had no doubt that if it were anyone else, they would have certainly been led astray to collect the materials needed to summon deep sea underlings.

Chapter 888: Alliance

“In the name of the Dream and Armament Master! Dispel evil!”

Donald immediately prostrated and prayed for this act of grace.

Sizzle!

The strange imprint on his back appeared to come to life. The lines turned blood red, and the eye in the middle blinked.

Bloop! Bloop!

Countless bubbles appeared, and Donald felt like a massive hole opened up on his back, seeming like a faucet connected to the ocean.

A large amount of liquid came out.

Fang Yuan’s faint voice came from the emblem. “Be firm in your conviction! When lost, do not listen to the voices coming from the deep sea. I shall bless, my believer.”

Rumble!

Space trembled violently.

It felt as though two giant creatures met face to face and started fighting fiercely in close quarters.

Donald screamed miserably and almost fainted.

When he finally regained his senses, the first thing he did was to look at the imprint on his back.

At this time, it looked nothing like it used to.

The thin layer of seawater on the ground, as well as a dead black carp, let Donald understand that everything that happened earlier was definitely not an illusion.

“Thank you, my Lord! You have rescued me once again!”

Understanding the cause and effect, Donald immediately started praying even more sincerely than ever before.

“Mr. Donald!”

Anxious knocking echoed from a door.

“What’s going on? Didn’t I instruct that no one is to bother me?”

Donald furrowed his brows but still went to open the door.

“My apologies! Mister, a messenger from Duke Ham insists on meeting you immediately... You... This...”

Evidently, the scene in the room shocked the butler.

“Nothing... I was merely conducting a small experiment. Also, if whatever you see here spreads, you will have to look for a new job tomorrow.”

Donald tidied up his clothes. “Bring me to the guest!”

“No problem!”

The butler quivered a little as he stood much straighter than usual.

“Respectable Mr. Donald!”

The messenger from Duke Ham was a servant who often served the duke. The moment he spotted Donald, he acted as though he saw his liberator. “The duke wants to see you immediately!”

“I understand. Looks like something happened... something incredible!”

Donald took his coat from his butler and then got into a carriage.

Duke Ham’s manor.

This noble old man was currently no longer as carefree as before. Instead, he was staring at the battle report in his hands like a statue.

“Your Excellency Duke?” Donald called out.

“Ah, Donald, you’re here.” Duke Ham rubbed his brows, his voice seeming devastated. “I’m taking the first ship that leaves tomorrow. I will be going to Cecil, and you have to come as well. I want you to be my personal adviser!”

“Diplomatic mission?” Donald frowned. “Did... something go wrong with the battle?”

“How do you know?” Duke Ham subconsciously hid the battle report and stared at Donald with his eagle-like eyes.

“Because there isn’t another incident that can make Ettoman express goodwill to the second most powerful ocean country, Cecil... Moreover, it feels like almost every major incident in the kingdom recently has something to do with the ocean. If my guess is right, you should have just received the battle report, right? Did Admiral Philip suffer a disastrous defeat?” Donald replied calmly.

"No! It's much worse!" Duke Ham closed his eyes painfully. "The Invincible Steel Fleet... no longer exists!"

"..." Donald responded solemnly, "This is truly sorrowful and unfortunate news!"

"Indeed... When the naval minister received the news, he instantly passed out. Over forty ironclads sank... This is truly the greatest loss we have ever suffered. Of course, there's also the thousands of young men serving Ettoman's navy and the families we need to console..." Duke Ham replied, full of heartache.

"What was the exact cause? Was it due to some kind of act of a god?" Donald quickly inquired.

"No! This is a completely upright defeat. Admiral Philip led our navy and lost in a direct confrontation against Pirate King Roche. This is a humiliation for everyone in Ettoman!" Duke Ham clenched his teeth.

"It seems like... we will soon lose all our colonies, as well as other interests..." Donald said. "Therefore, we need an alliance, and Cecil is undoubtedly the most suitable ally since they are the only country with the possibility of catching up to us in terms of naval power. But how many benefits and colonies is our kingdom willing to give up to them?"

"That depends on the results of my mission, which is exactly why I need your help." Duke Ham looked at Donald sincerely.

"That's the way it should be. There are no eternal friends or enemies... only eternal interests!" Donald muttered. "The strength of these pirates is definitely way beyond our wildest imaginations. Just imagine how many horrifying incidents will crop up with the rise of pirates? Ocean trade will be halved, and no ships will dare to travel out to sea unless they are pirate ships flying the Jolly Roger! I think... we can make the dangers the pirates represent known to the world and not just bring in Cecil. We should rope in all the countries in Opher to form an anti-pirate alliance!"

Ettoman was merely an island nation. In the past, its navy might be impressive, but it was nothing when brought up to the next level.

Even though it had had a massive invincible fleet, this was only when compared to individual nations.

If all the other countries banded together, Ettoman would never be able to match the combined number of ships, tonnage, and crew members.

"Anti-pirate alliance? Is this possible?" A slight ray of hope appeared in Duke Ham's eyes.

"As long as we exaggerate the dangers of the pirates, of course it's possible. I believe those merchants don't wish to see the pirates monopolizing all the ocean wealth. Regarding trade profits, all the countries in Opher speak the same language. Moreover, this world is very large... Ettoman won't be able to monopolize all the trade, which is why we have to connect and work together. By integrating all of Opher, it will become a trend in the future. This is something I will elaborate on in my new book..." Donald said frankly and confidently.

"Great! I believe that inviting you to become my adviser is the most appropriate decision." Duke Ham was on the verge of applauding out loud. "Wonderful opinions!"

He also understood the hidden meaning in Donald's words.

Even if they managed to rope in Cecil, the badly battered royal navy would be subordinate to it.

But if they were to form an alliance with many different countries, everyone would be allies. This made everything different.

After all, the previous Ettoman could not compare to the total of all the navies in Opher, let alone Cecil.

...

“Very good! It seems like Ettoman’s defeat has led to the emergence of an alliance!”

Nightmare Ocean.

Following the howls of pirates, an entire island of Ettoman fortifications completely fell.

Looking defeated, a navy captain led all the crew members who could still walk toward the proud pirates to offer their weapons.

This scene took place in succession throughout the Nightmare Ocean.

This showed how easily the pirates had managed to march in and take back all the territories in the Nightmare Ocean that used to belong to Blackbeard.

“Just like that, the wealthiest Golden Sea Route will be under our complete control!”

Fang Yuan smiled while looking at his men standing behind him.

The Nightmare Ocean needed someone to fill the position of pirate governor. Naturally, he was going to choose someone under his personal command.

This was also why these men had been extremely hardworking recently.

“However, we might have to tweak our future actions slightly. Just like those pirate governors, we have to change the way we think. By looting others, we’re only gaining temporary wealth and killing the goose that laid the golden egg...

“Furthermore, the world is too huge. Given our strength, we won’t be able to fully exploit the resources. Thus, we can’t do without the participation of the Opher Continent.

“Therefore, our control over this sea route has to be like how Ettoman controlled the Solomon Strait. We must collect protection fees and sink any ship that dares to go against us... At the same time, we need to take in more capital and not pin our hopes on a group of pirates to do business for us! In the end, I hope that you guys can be the defenders of ocean trade and not destroyers!”

The enactment of the Pirate Statutes was merely the first step toward standardizing piracy.

What followed was directly interfering with the pirates’ ‘free’ nature.

What kind of evil consequences would come from forcefully changing the nature of a profession?

Fang Yuan wanted a reformation, and he could simply follow the details of how the ancient emperors did it.

He could predict the backlash that would come with it.

If he managed to brace past it, he would be able to control the ocean lifeline just as Ettoman had, and then he could establish an incomparable and glorious ocean empire.

If he could not brace past it, there was no need to talk about the consequences.

“During a period of backlash like this, will those Evil Gods finally act? I’m looking forward to it...”

Fang Yuan licked his lips.

On Donald’s body, he had already sensed the essence of the Deep-Sea Stalker.

While the other party was powerful, it was still nothing compared to him, a Mental Demon Demon God who controlled two Great Daos.

When ordinary people wanted a reformation, they naturally had to face backlash, the simplest and crudest being the erasure of the fleshly body.

However, Fang Yuan was different.

He himself was so extraordinary that he could obstruct many ambushes.

In the end, he would become a powerful current capable of influencing this world.

“The outcome of everything will eventually become apparent!”

Fang Yuan looked meaningfully at his subordinates.

Chapter 889: Dream World

Fang Yuan walked forward slowly.

The sky was dusky, and dense tree stumps and roots surrounded him, making it extremely hard to walk through.

It was hazy all around.

He could hear the faint whizzing of the ocean, and in that instant, a massive insignia appeared in the air.

From within, a long, scaly blue hand extended. “Outsider!!!”

“Deep-Sea Stalker?!” Fang Yuan sneered and raised his right hand.

Bang!

An enormous explosion occurred in mid-air, sweeping through the air and breaking countless old tree branches.

The blue hand was instantly ruptured, and a large amount of muddy yellow liquid kept flowing out of the wound. It looked like seawater mixed with silt, and there were even many seashells, octopuses, and oysters along with it.

“Damn it... How dare you...” The eye insignia raged.

Crack! Crack!

All of a sudden, lightning bolts emerged, and a powerful hand extended from within it, reaching out toward Fang Yuan.

“Raging Thunder God Aida?”

Fang Yuan frowned. A massive green hand appeared behind him and welcomed the lightning palm.

Bang!

Two massive hands wrestled in mid-air as electric sparks flew all around the area, setting the forest on fire.

“The remaining few, come on out together! Past rulers of the world!”

Fang Yuan opened up both hands while countless flames revolved around him, seeming to be restrained and incapable of spreading.

It was like a display of fireworks and lanterns, absolutely brilliant and glorious.

In such a backdrop, black shadows walked out from the flames.

“Outsider!”

Their bodies were brimming with energy similar to the Deep-Sea Stalker and the Raging Thunder God. There were actually now five of them staring at Fang Yuan with ill-intentions.

“Welcome, everyone, the pets of the world!” Fang Yuan smiled faintly. Under his Heavenly Eye Seer Spell, they would not be able to hide anything from him. “I can sense the unstable rules in your bodies. You guys are very courageous to try and deal with me at this time!”

These Demon Gods had been sealed for many years, which meant that there was a huge loss in vitality. Naturally, the first thing to do was to make up for these losses.

Fang Yuan could sense that they had yet to recover to their peaks. The fact that they rushed over meant that they were clearly driven anxious by him.

There were more than five Evil Gods in the world, but those who had conflicts with him were only Raging Thunder God Aida and these Deep-Sea Rulers.

“What a pity... I really thought that all the world rulers would become my enemies, but it seems like it’s only the five of you...” Fang Yuan sighed.

“Are the five of us not enough for you?” a hoarse voice resounded, and it felt like the entire forest was undulating with his tone of voice.

“Raging Thunder God Aida!”

“Deep-Sea Stalker!”

“Seabed Wanderer!”

“Monster Ruler!”

“Eternal Nightmare!”

...

Immeasurable amounts of energy and auras surged as the symbols representing each Evil God imprinted in the air.

At this stage, every single move could form Dao Marks in the void that were incredibly difficult to obliterate.

In fact, ordinary people who obtained these symbols could obtain strength from them and even offer sacrifices to acquire connections.

Fang Yuan looked at the one in a black robe, and without knowing why, he suddenly thought of King’s Throne.

“Monster Ruler... What is the relationship between you and King’s Throne?”

“My strongest horn was used as material for King’s Throne... That damned pirate lied to me and snatched it from me! He even took away my authority and power to control sea monsters!” Monster Ruler roared, and there seemed to be a lot of wild beasts hiding beneath his robe, desperate to burst into the scene.

“I see! So this is old and new hatred!” Fang Yuan shrugged. “Regardless, I am the Pirate King now, and King’s Throne is in my hands...”

“Kekeke! You’ll never win...” The Deep-Sea Stalker let out peculiar laughter. “Even if you’re stronger than me or any one of us individually, you’ll never be a match for us in this place!”

Bloop!

Once his voice rang out, the surrounding scenery changed.

A layer of seawater appeared, and the forest seemed like it was shifted to the bottom of the ocean.

An immeasurable amount of pressure acted on Fang Yuan’s body.

As for the five Evil Gods, their figures increased dramatically while emitting frightening and mysterious auras.

“This is why I said that... you guys were very courageous!” Fang Yuan took a deep breath and smiled sinisterly. “Who... gave you the courage to even dare to play with a dream world in front of a Mental Demon Demon God?”

“Who... dares to provoke my dignity... a Demon God’s dignity!”

“Who is arrogant enough to dare to compete with me in dreams?”

...

Buzz buzz!

Following his aggressive voice, the surrounding environment transformed.

The initially dark seabed filled with luminosity, and the heavy seawater instantly lost its weight.

The void started burning like paper, and soon after, only dust remained.

Kaboom!

Chaos emerged and evolved into Earth, Fire, Wind, and Water.

Fang Yuan became an indomitable giant, and the five Evil Gods were like clowns in front of the mighty Fang Yuan.

“Eternal Nightmare!” The giant’s voice was thunderous, and his massive hand reached out to grab the hand of one of the black shadows. “You are one of the Deep-Sea Rulers, and you also control the rules of dream worlds. Therefore, you must have the greatest enmity with me, which means that you must have orchestrated this!

“But you are extremely unfortunate to have met me!

“Regarding the control of dream worlds and hearts, nobody can compete with a Mental Demon Demon God!

“You will soon realize that rashly barging into my dream world was the greatest mistake of your life!

“Chaos Divine Fist!”

The next moment, Fang Yuan lightly swung his fist.

Earth, Fire, Wind, and Water descended, transforming chaos and turning the entire void into a complete mess.

At that moment, the four Evil Gods turned into dust and disappeared without a trace.

“We... will be back!”

“When you are at your weakest!”

“Your actions will suffer the consequences of a frightening backlash!”

“In the name of the Deep-Sea Rulers, we won’t let you off!”

...

The four voices converged and turned into Dao Marks imprinted in the void.

“Those four are really good at running. Of course, they will inevitably suffer some damage. However, that’s still much better when compared to you, right?”

Fang Yuan stared at Eternal Nightmare in his hand.

The four Evil Gods who escaped had no grasp of the rules of dream worlds, which meant that he could do nothing to keep them here.

However, it was different with Eternal Nightmare.

He was the main instigator of this plan. Moreover, he was the one who brought the four other Evil Gods into Fang Yuan's dream world to defeat Fang Yuan.

The other Evil Gods could come as clones, but Eternal Nightmare had to be here physically.

When you were plotting against others in a dream world, others could also be plotting against you.

This Eternal Nightmare was really unfortunate to have picked a fight with Fang Yuan in his most proficient domain.

...

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Fang Yuan opened his eyes, and he could hear the sounds of waves.

He observed his surroundings.

This was his captain's cabin, and the ship at night was extremely quiet. Occasionally, waves slapped against the ship's hull.

"Boss, what happened?" Outside the door, he heard Witch Cassenia's voice. "I sensed the arrival of a formidable adversity..."

Fang Yuan did not even open the door and simply shouted, "Nothing... Nothing happened. You can head back down!"

The footsteps gradually went further away.

Fang Yuan looked at his situation again.

He was sitting on a chair, and in front of him was a rosewood table embedded with golden leaves.

Of course, the key was that he was holding on to what seemed like a black octopus in his right hand.

The octopus looked slightly rotten but still retained its ability to move. It was twisting its tentacles around his hand, looking like it was trying to get away.

"Eternal Nightmare... represents the dream world of all those who drowned, and it's a gathering of nightmares. Your original body is as ugly as your inner heart!"

After hearing this, the rotten octopus started struggling even more vigorously, as if it were protesting.

During its struggles, its faint voice rang out. "You will... regret this! The nightmares of the drowned will bestow me with strength..."

"Sorry! As the captain of Specter Ship, I will be taking care of all the souls of the drowned!" Fang Yuan smiled wickedly. "Maybe I should add an additional rule on my Specter Ship—All drowned the are not to have any dreams. Otherwise, I won't send them to the netherworld..."

The frightened rotten octopus started shouting, "No! You can't do that!!!"

However, Fang Yuan did not pay attention to it, and his hand exerted even more force.

Traces of black mists were extracted from the octopus and entered his body.

"I take on the path of a Dream Master, and your dream world rules will supplement my Dao of Dream Master..."

This was also the reason why he chose to keep Eternal Nightmare here.

The opponent's strength had yet to fully recover, and he was defeated in Fang Yuan's dream world. Presently, he could no longer cause any trouble, and his rules even complemented Fang Yuan's.

If any other Mental Demon God met such a situation, they would undoubtedly swallow the other party without hesitation.

Morning the next day, Fang Yuan's hand no longer had any traces of the octopus.

"Great! Of those five Evil Gods, there are only four left that will look for trouble with me... Even if they're Evil Gods, they will have to abide to the rules of the main world. They won't dare to fight me or my crew in the ocean... so their only opportunity is Ettoman's counterattack!"

Ettoman and Cecil were about to form an anti-pirate alliance. With Donald as his spy, Fang Yuan knew everything.

Moreover, he also knew that even if this alliance was established, it would be impossible for all those countries to unite immediately.

But because of their immense hatred for pirates, they will still form a strong enough fleet.

If Fang Yuan pressed on with his plan, both sides would certainly participate in a grand war to determine the future supremacy of the ocean.

At that time, it would be the best opportunity for those Evil Gods who were against him to take their revenge!

"Because of this, maybe... I shouldn't give them this opportunity."

Fang Yuan did not have the strange hobby of nurturing his opponents to become stronger so that they could come back to have a fair fight with him.

Striking the fatal blow when the opponent was at their weakest was the correct way to settle disputes.

Chapter 890: Plan

Ettoman, coastal waters.

Pirate ships started coming together, and in the center were the four legendary ships.

Fang Yuan's clothes did not fully cover him, and his open collar exposed his sturdy chest. He wore his crown as an armband, which was shining brightly under the sun.

He went forward and shouted, "We... are going to dominate the ocean!"

"Woo! Woo!" The pirates' agreements came from all directions.

“As the Pirate King, I need a territory of my own. Naturally, I’m not interested in the resources of the Nightmare Ocean nor any of my governors’ territories... What I want is this massive island country called Ettoman, an unsinkable warship used to peek in on the Opher Continent!”

Fang Yuan’s voice was loud and clear. “Pirates, help me take down a kingdom, and let’s have a grand plunder! From then on, you will be the nobles of this kingdom!”

“Woo! Woo?!”

The pirates’ cheers became even louder, but there were some slight doubts in their voices.

Even the four pirate governors were astonished.

They did not expect Fang Yuan to have such an idea.

But in Fang Yuan’s eyes, Ettoman’s location was indeed perfect. Just like an unsinkable warship, he would be able to forcefully control the throat of ocean trade across all of Opher.

He wanted to monopolize ocean trade completely. By controlling this final hub, he would undoubtedly save a lot of time and effort. This was the key to establishing an ocean empire!

Moreover... there are definitely going to be conflicts with the upcoming reformation that I’m planning. It’s always better to divert this conflict outwards than to have an internal dispute... Furthermore, I can get rid of those with a vested interest in Ettoman and use the resources to bribe those who rely on me...

Fang Yuan had extremely clear cut plans for this.

This was also why he was extremely firm and decisive about this.

It would not matter even if Ettoman tried to establish an anti-pirate alliance. Even before this could happen, it would have lost the very foundations of this ancient kingdom!

“Ettoman? This is truly a good choice!” Pirate Prince Edward rubbed his chin. “It’s lost at least half of its navy, so it won’t be able to stop our invasion. Even if we don’t occupy it, we can at least steal everything from its ports!”

“That’s right!”

With this tremendous amount of benefits, Elf Pirate Governor Aeoris grew interested as well.

“Ettoman has always been a strong force on the ocean. Since the establishment of the Golden Sea Route, how much wealth has it accumulated?” Wang Zhi’s breathing intensified.

The newly appointed Mermaid Governor Nymphadora commented, “Of course... we can’t neglect its army. However, Ettoman’s army is greatly inferior to its navy. It’s only about one-third of the navy’s size, and it’s spread out across various colonies...”

“I’m going to repeat myself once more. We’re not going there just to loot the riches but to take over the entire kingdom... Not only the docks, its lands, mountains, cities...” Fang Yuan emphasized once again.

“But Boss, even if Ettoman’s army is a joke, pirates like us inland are worse than a joke...” Only Bill and Wilson would say something like that. “Pirates can’t leave the ocean. Otherwise, what difference is there compared to a fish leaving the ocean?”

“I’ve considered all of your worries.” Fang Yuan clapped his hands. “Once we reach inland, I will have my arrangements. For now... Attack!!! The moment we embark on this plan, we have to be like a pack of wolves and attack all of Ettoman’s ports. We have to keep its navy and army busy while I lead our main forces to take down Birming Port. From there, we will attack the heart, its capital—Glass City!”

He quickly gave his commands and assigned the various wealthy ports to the pirate governors. This was to ensure that even if they were only going to be greedy in this operation, they were at least going to go in hard and viciously.

“Boss!” After distributing the tasks, Wilson suggested, “This way, I suspect these pirates will be very energetic while robbing the ports, but it might die down afterward. I’m afraid they’ll simply choose to watch on from the side...”

“If that’s what they choose to do, we’ll let them do that. Anyway, we have more than enough to bring trouble to Ettoman’s navy and to control its army!”

Fang Yuan nodded. “How many people do we have in our own pirate crew?”

“After this period of recruitment, we have nineteen ships and over seven thousand seamen. This is our limit...” Wilson replied. “This also includes everyone on the ships. The number of people we can send on to land will be five thousand at most. If we can’t display the true power of the legendary ships on land, we might suffer a heavy defeat!”

Even if Ettoman’s army was a joke, it was still a professional army. It was naturally going to be extremely easy for them to deal with a bunch of messy pirates.

“That’s more than enough! Let’s go take down Birming Port!” Fang Yuan waved his hands. “Don’t worry! We’ll soon be celebrating in Glass City!”

...

Birming Port.

Because it was very close to the capital, Glass, this place had the most amount of commercial trade activities in Ettoman.

Even with the news about the navy suffering a massive defeat, it merely made this place slightly less lively.

And even without the commodities from the Golden Sea Route, just the transactions from Opher alone was enough to keep the port busy.

Upon entering the port, tall buildings and plenty of large forts could be seen.

Numerous patrol vessels guarded the ocean with a bit of carefreeness.

After all, very few pirates would dare to attack an Ettoman port. Despite knowing that the navy had just suffered a heavy defeat, the citizens of Ettoman were still pretty confident that nobody would dare to challenge their dignity as the overlord of the sea.

As the sun shined brightly, waves of seawater flushed against the beach.

All of a sudden, a sharp bugle horn sounded from the port.

“Pirates!” shouted a hoarse voice full of panic and disbelief.

Where the sky met the sea, the dense and black shadows of sails appeared. Shortly after, they turned into nineteen ferocious-looking pirate ships.

This was especially true for the three ships right in the middle. Specter Ship, Sun, and King’s Throne sailed forward with oppressive prestige, which even Ettoman’s navy could not help but lament.

Bang! Bang!

The pirates fired the first shot, and their formidable cannons blew the small patrol vessels into pieces.

“Legend ability Diamond!”

Soon after, Sun’s machinery started driving rapidly as it transformed into a steel giant over a hundred meters tall. Its feet were spitting out flames while it charged toward the port.

Bang! Bang!

The cannons guarding the port opened fire, but their cannonballs only caused massive waves as they crashed into the sea.

Sun glided through the water in an unbelievably agile manner to dodge the cannon fire. It arrived on land and extended its arm.

Kaboom!

Reinforced concrete flew. One of the forts was thoroughly destroyed, and numerous cannon barrels started tumbling down, killing an unknown number of artillerymen.

Secondary cannons ready! Automatic calibration! Firing!

At the same time, a cannon barrel appeared on each of the giant’s shoulders and started spraying frightening flames.

Just like that, two more forts collapsed.

A clear order sounded from King’s Throne. “Attack!”

The pirates stared blankly at what they had just witnessed. When they realized that the originally secure defense system crumbled in almost an instant, they immediately let out deafening cheers. They roared while charging toward the port.

In fact, doing this was almost like using a sledgehammer to crack a nut.

Given Fang Yuan's current strength, as well as the three legendary ships, no port in the entire world would be able to defend against him.

Birming Port fiercely resisted the pirates' invasion, fighting its final struggle.

Many soldiers fought bravely, making use of every street block to battle the pirates, fighting to protect their lives and wealth.

Once Fang Yuan set foot on the port, he commanded, "Pass down my orders! I need a lot of captives! As for the rest of the spoils of war, let the rest of the pirates split them evenly!"

"Mighty Pirate King!" Seeing this scene, Wilson went forward. "The enemies' resistance is strong, and it seems like Ettoman's army exceeded our expectations. Just by attacking this port, we've lost over a thousand men. This is with the help of our three legendary ships... We can't continue like this!"

"I know..." Fang Yuan nodded. "From Birming Port to Glass City, there are at least three more hurdles. Furthermore, there are thirty thousand soldiers stationed in Glass City. They could even mobilize the people's militia..."

"We'll have obtained a lot of loot if we leave after attacking Birming Port, but if we continue moving forward, I'm afraid..." Wilson did not finish. Pirates were arrogant and obstinate, but their casualties were already very serious.

The next course of action would not only reduce their spoils of war, but the death count would also continue to increase significantly. If that happened, even as the Pirate King, Fang Yuan might find it difficult to suppress their grievances.

"You're right. Which is why in the following battles, I'm not planning to use pirates anymore!" Fang Yuan snickered. "Let's go take a look at the captives!"

He walked over to a plaza that the pirates were guarding.

This place was originally used to unload cargo. Presently, all the cannons on the pirate ships were aimed at the center. As long as there was any kind of movement among the captives, they would instantly fire.

Butcher walked over and laughed wickedly. "Following your orders, we've captured over three thousand strong, young men!"

"Great!" Fang Yuan nodded. He saw that only a few of the captives were wearing military uniforms. The majority were ordinary people.

However, he did not care as he took out a golden crown.

The Sun Crown!

After defeating the navy, Fang Yuan had excavated the tomb of the Sun King to dig out this Sun Crown!!

This was the moment for it to be useful!