

Ocean Lord 121

Chapter 121: Territory Upgrade, a Sinister Plan (3)

If there really was an archipelago here, as the first to occupy it, he would undoubtedly receive generous rewards from Lord Gassani!

At that time, beautiful women and wealth would be within his grasp!

As for the lord on the archipelago, he didn't concern himself with it.

According to Raymond's account, that lord only had a few dozen units at most, and their highest rank was only Tier 2, 5 stars. But this time, he brought two fully equipped warships with elite Guild Escorts, totaling four hundred units, and their rank reached Tier 2, 9 stars!

Based on Lord Gassani's orders, the two warships wouldn't approach the archipelago immediately. They would wait for him to make contact with the lord and determine the location of his territory.

Then, they would inform the elite Guild Escorts about the warships and launch a night-time raid.

With this plan, it was bound to be successful. He couldn't think of anything that would cause their operation to fail.

Returning to his senses, a sailor on the lookout tower shouted loudly, "Target archipelago spotted!"

Willow quickly picked up his binoculars and soon saw the outlines of several islands on the distant sea surface.

Without hesitation, he directed the White Sands Princess towards the largest island among them.

Meanwhile, the two warships and a transport ship carrying the first batch of construction resources leisurely remained a few nautical miles away from the archipelago.

By the time Jichen saw the White Sands Princess, it was already afternoon.

Under the orange sunlight, the White Sand Princess stopped on the east side of the main island. Several small boats carrying people arrived at the beach.

Ji Chen looked at the people who got off the boat and frowned.

"Where's Raymond?"

The leader of the group, Willow, smiled when he heard that. "Lord Raymond has fallen seriously ill and stayed at the Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce. He asked me to come here and negotiate this transaction with you, as well as discuss future dealings."

"Ill? It's only been a little over a week since he returned, and he suddenly falls ill?" Ji Chen sighed, with a hint of regret on his face.

"That's quite a coincidence. He caught a cold on the way back and only started treatment after returning to the port, so it became quite serious."

Ji Chen didn't say much. "Since Raymond asked you to handle the trade, you should be aware of the conditions we discussed before, right?"

Upon hearing this, Willow's heart skipped a beat. Jichen noticed a slight change in his expression and squinted his eyes. "You wouldn't happen to have forgotten, have you?"

"Haha... You're joking, Your Excellency. How could we possibly forget?" Willow forced a stiff smile, suppressing his growing unease, and replied as calmly as possible. "You requested various resources to be transported by our ships, and in exchange, you would provide the specialty products of this archipelago." "You asked for laborers and various resources, and they are all loaded on our ships. However, it's getting late now, and it's not convenient to unload the cargo. How about we conduct the trade tomorrow?"

Ji Chen glanced at the sky. The sun was setting, casting a dim light, and it indeed wasn't a good time for transporting goods.

Jichen gazed deeply at Willow and said, "Guests are welcome. Let me take you to my territory for a night's rest."

Almost imperceptibly, Ji Chen emphasized the word "guest", his grip on it tightening slightly.

However, Willow didn't notice this and was pleasantly surprised by Ji Chen's subsequent words. He hadn't expected Ji Chen to proactively extend the invitation before he even had the chance to suggest it.

"Well, you've played right into our hands. You have only yourself to blame for having such a valuable opportunity." Willow smirked inwardly, while outwardly expressing deep gratitude. "Thank you for your hospitality. Resting on the ship isn't exactly comfortable."

Jichen nodded, not saying much, and turned to walk towards his territory.

The two of them, one in front of the other, harbored their own sinister intentions..

Chapter 122: Root Out (1)

In the forest.

Ji Chen led fifty pirates in front, while Willow and the others followed behind.

The surrounding jungle became more and more lush, and the damp feeling made them feel sticky. The water invaded the boots under their feet, and the sharp branches like knives and guns scratched his clothes.

Not long after entering the forest, Willow lost his sense of direction and could only follow Ji Chen and the others.

This terrible situation made him curse in his heart, but at the same time, he couldn't help but feel lucky.

If there was no one to lead the way, it would be extremely difficult to find a territory in such a maze-like forest.

However, he did not forget to leave some traces along the way. It was a powder unique to the Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce. It was invisible to the naked eye during the day, but at night, the glowing powder could be seen with special glasses.

As they walked deeper and deeper, Ji Chen didn't say anything along the way. He had an indifferent expression on his face. Willow felt a little uneasy.

"Your Excellency, how much longer do we have to walk? We have been walking for..."

"We're here."

At this moment, they had reached the end of the lush forest, and everything before them suddenly became clear.

In the next moment, a look of shock flashed across Willow's face.

A vast territory appeared before his eyes.

There were flat stone squares, neat houses, residents coming and going, tall warehouses, and unknown military recruitment camps.

He had never thought that there would be such a prosperous territory in such a forest.

However, Willow's eyes quickly flashed with greed and ecstasy.

This territory soon belonged to the Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce...All, no, it belonged to Lord Gassani.

Jichen turned around and pointed to the right, "The housing in the territory is limited, so you will stay in those two houses tonight."

Willow followed his gaze and saw two dilapidated thatched cottages.

Instantly, he felt the urge to burst out in anger.

They were guests, after all!

Willow wasn't asking for the best house, but at least Willow and his men should be given one that could shield them from the wind and rain, right?

What was the point of giving them these thatched cottages with leaking roofs and walls full of holes!?

"Your Excellency, aren't there better accommodations available?" His face turned slightly unnatural as he gestured towards the rows of luxurious villas.

Ji Chen looked at him with slight surprise. "Those are for my subjects."

Since the luxurious villas were for lowly subjects, Ji Chen should have driven the subjects out of the villas for Willow and his men.

Willow screamed in his mind. The Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce was a famous trading guild in the Western Continent. Shouldn't all members be treated as honored guests wherever they go?

Even if he was just one of the subordinates, what's the problem with moving out some lowly subjects for their sake?

Though he was angry inside, he managed to force a smile on his face.

“Your Excellency, you truly care for your people. Becoming your subject is an incredibly fortunate thing.”

At this moment, a few citizens who were passing by heard these words and immediately straightened their chests proudly.

“That goes without saying. Lord Ji Chen is our savior. Without him, we would have perished in this jungle long ago.”

“With a lord like him who can resist and kill any invaders, we can build a great territory.”

Willow’s face momentarily froze, but he felt a twinge of anger inside.

Were they insulting us?

“These insolent peasants dared to spout such arrogant words. Once we occupied this territory, I’ll throw them into the sea to feed the fish!” he thought fiercely in his mind.

As he watched them head towards the thatched houses, Ji Chen seemed to recall something and spoke up as a reminder.

“Be careful not to go to the beach at night. There may be sea monsters there. But don’t worry, I have stationed guards there... Dinner will be delivered to you.”

Willow quickly nodded, “We understand.”

As they closed the dilapidated door, one of his subordinates voiced concerns in a low voice.

“Lord Willow, do you think he’s starting to suspect our identities? We are ‘Raymond’s subordinates’, and they wouldn’t have placed guests in such accommodations, right?”

“I’m thinking the same thing. And that lord looks indifferent, not like someone welcoming guests...”

With that being said, Willow also began to have doubts. His face showed a mix of surprise and uncertainty, but in the end, he gritted his teeth and said, “We haven’t shown any flaws along the way. This suspicion might arise simply because they haven’t seen Raymond in person. Think about it, if a prearranged meeting suddenly changes the contact person, wouldn’t you become wary?”

As he spoke, even he started to believe his own words.

“You make a valid point. It seems plausible!”

“Lord Willow, you are mighty. Truly the smartest aide under Lord Gassani!”

His subordinates began to flatter him, making Willow feel elated.

“Lord Willow, I secretly observed the military strength of this territory just now. Besides those pirates, I didn’t see the unique warriors that Raymond mentioned. Should we proceed with the original plan?”

Willow rubbed his chin and a disdainful expression appeared on his face. “Those unique warriors are at most second-tier 5-star troops. And with only around a hundred pirates, we have hundreds of elite guards from the Chamber of Commerce.. Let’s stick to the original plan! There will be people stationed at the beach, so we’ll quietly return through the jungle late at night and inform the two warships to make their move!”

Chapter 123: Root Out (2)

“Now that we know the location of this territory and its lord and considering that we re choosing to launch a surprise attack in the dead of night, with our Strength, we can definitely take it down easily!”

After speaking, a confident expression appeared on Willows face.

“Lord Willow, your strategic brilliance is truly admirable! I have the utmost respect for you!”

“You will undoubtedly be the greatest hero of this operation!”

In the lord’s mansion.

“My Lord, since you already know that those people are imposters, why don’t you capture them now?”

Willus said with a puzzled expression.

Jichen shook his head calmly, “Setting traps now will only alert the other enemies. What I want is to capture all the enemies at once.”

“Are you suggesting that we deceive the enemies on those ships to come here, and then capture them all in one fell swoop?” Willow asked.

Let’s revisit the moment when Ji Chen concluded his investigation of the ideal location for the Large Water Fort. As he observed the seascape from the lighthouse, he noticed a ship approaching the New Moon Islands. Initially, he assumed it was Raymond arriving as anticipated. However, his surprise grew when the alert lighthouse also detected three more ships. Unlike the first ship, these three vessels remained stationary at a significant distance from the archipelago, concealing their presence from casual observation.

Upon seeing someone other than Raymond disembarking from the first ship, Ji Chen instantly knew that these people were not to be trusted. The most likely possibility was that they wanted to occupy the New Moon Islands.

With this in mind, Ji Chen took a deep breath. The thing he had been unwilling to consider had finally happened. The New Moon Islands were located in the Stormy Seas, near busy trade routes, naturally possessing a geographical advantage.

Even if they did nothing but build a port here, they could collect docking fees, sell food and freshwater, and make a fortune. But along with tremendous benefits came the greed of others, and it was only a matter of time before the New Moon Islands attracted the covetous gaze of others.

Ji Chen had mentally prepared for this, but he hadn't expected it to happen so soon. Just after seeing off the first guest, Raymond, he was faced with this situation.

Although he didn't know what was going on with Raymond at the moment, whether he was truly sick or encountering other problems, one thing was certain: these people were not here for trade; they were enemies.

"That's right." Ji Chen paced inside the house. "Since the enemies want to attack the territory, based on the current situation, they should secretly leave to relay information and launch a surprise attack in the dead of night."

"In that case, we will turn the tables on them and prepare a welcoming ceremony."

Willow nodded in agreement.

Though he didn't know the specifics of the Lord's idea of a welcoming ceremony, he knew it couldn't be anything good.

Late at night, the territory fell into silence. Snoring sounds could be heard from the houses, and the buzzing of insects filled the jungle.

Slowly, the worn-out thatched roof of a house was pushed open, and a person cautiously poked their head out. Seeing that there was no one around, they let out a sigh of relief.

They turned back and whispered, "No one outside."

Willow nodded and ordered his men to walk into the forest.

Ji Chen stood in the forest on the other side, watching them disappear. A cold expression appeared on his face.

Willow and the others followed the traces of the powder left behind and returned to the beach. They steered the small boat back to the ship.

He immediately ordered.

"I've already found the location of the lord and his territory. Quickly inform the other ships."

Upon hearing this, three elite guards of the caravan ran into the cabin and took out a few special peregrines bred by the Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce. They stuffed a small note into the letter box at their feet.

With a wave of his hand, the peregrine falcon leaped up and flew into the distance.

An hour later, the three ships that received the news silently sailed over from the open sea and met up with Willow and the others.

He put down more than ten small boats and sent the guards of the Chamber of Commerce on the boats to the beach.

This process took two hours.

Looking at the hundreds of fully-armed guards of the Chamber of Commerce in front of him, Willow's confidence had already swelled to the extreme.

With such a powerful force, it was a piece of cake to push that territory.

At that time, he would become a hero of the entire Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce!

These elite guards of the Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce were not people he could order around normally. They could only be used after the approval of many members of the Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce.

[Elite Merchant Guard]

[Race: Human]

[Level: 15]

[Tier: 2, g-star]

[Skill: Greed (blue skill. When you see a large amount of money, your combat strength will be increased to a certain extent. The increase depends on the amount, and the maximum is 30%.]

Formation Cooperation (Blue skill. When there are many guards of the Chamber of Commerce nearby, they can form a formation. Combat power increases by 20%)

High-paying job (Green skill, when the salary is consistent and stable, the battle will increase the initial morale by 20 points)

Weapon Proficiency (Green skill, skillfully using various weapons)

[Military characteristic: Hire (a regular guard team hired by the Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce with high salaries. They have high loyalty and are not easy to betray or cower in battle.)]

In his eyes, there was no doubt about the strength of these guards.

He suppressed the excitement in his heart.

Willow said in a low voice, "All of you, lower your footsteps and reduce your movements. We are about to attack the target territory and kill the lord and all the enemy troops. Leave no one alive."

None of the guards answered, but the bloodlust and cruelty in their eyes had fully revealed their thoughts.

Seeing this, Willow nodded in satisfaction. He waved his hand and let the guards of the Chamber of Commerce walk into the forest. He followed closely behind, with the remaining guards bringing up the rear..

Chapter 124: Root Out (3)

The guards of the Chamber of Commerce formed a long line of hundreds of meters in the small path. They walked into the endless dark forest as if they had entered the mouth of a giant beast.

Just as they were halfway through the journey, the forest on both sides of the road suddenly began to shake violently. Then, hundreds of water arrows shot into them like cannonballs.

A few hundred meters long, the dragon-like formation suffered attacks at both its head and tail. The deafening explosions put the elite guild guards on high alert as if facing a formidable enemy.

Upon witnessing this scene, Willow's face turned pale in an instant. How could he not have realized it? They had been discovered!

Looking into the surrounding jungle, all he could see was darkness, with no sign of the enemy. Panic surged within him.

But quickly regaining his composure, he gritted his teeth and shouted in a commanding voice, "Return fire with crossbow arrows!"

Some guards raised their iron crossbows and blindly fired into the jungle, hoping to hear the agonizing cries of their enemies.

However, to their disappointment, the arrows seemed to vanish into thin air without a sound, as if they had been shot into the water.

At that moment, the chirping of insects grew louder.

After a brief pause, another round of water arrows shot out, causing violent explosions that left even the fully armored guild guards battered and wounded. Many of them fell to the ground.

Not only that, but tridents with astonishing impact shot out from the forest, instantly piercing through the guards' armor and nailing them to the trees.

In the darkness, they couldn't see how many enemies there were. They could only see that their comrades were either killed by water arrows or nailed to the ground by tridents.

Accompanying the explosion was the rustling of grass and the sound of something squirming.

In the darkness, tall Naga warriors rushed out with terrifying bone blades, like chariots at full power, charging straight at them.

The sharp bone blades waved around, sending the heads flying into the sky.

The headless bodies slowly fell to the ground, and fresh blood spurted out crazily.

Seeing this, Willow's face turned even paler. Looking at the scene that looked like a massacre in front of him, his hands and feet subconsciously trembled.

The fear in his heart reached its peak at this moment.

Suddenly, he felt a warmth in his crotch. He looked down and realized that he had peed.

This warmth made him feel refreshed. He couldn't care less about this and directly ran into the forest with his subordinates.

The enemies were blocking them from the front and back, so it was impossible to return. Now, they could only run into the forest to have a chance of survival.

Stumbling through the dense forest, Willow and the others managed to run out and reach the beach.

He quickly boarded a small boat and swam toward the big ship.

Willow's emotions stabilized after he was temporarily out of danger.

When he thought of his sorry state earlier, a sense of shame welled up in his heart.

Especially when he peed his pants, he felt that his subordinates were looking at him strangely.

Damn it!

He wanted to leave this place immediately and return to the Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce. He wanted to ask the Chamber of Commerce to bring more guards to avenge him.

He slowly approached the ship. Just as he was about to climb onto the deck, he saw ferocious figures on the side of the ship.

At this moment, a strong smell of blood assailed his nostrils.

Willow's mind went blank, and fear welled up in his heart again..

Chapter 125: Lucky Raymond (1)

The battle ended as soon as it began.

With overwhelming power and the advantage of stealth and darkness.

These elite guards from the Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce had a short-lived defense. They succumbed to the onslaught of diverse creatures, including Naga warriors, Shallow Sea Murlocs, and Pure Water Sea Pixies, falling like dominoes, one after another.

When the casualty rate reached 50%, the entire team instantly collapsed. The remaining members dropped their weapons and surrendered, as fear had completely taken over their minds.

Although they were told there were only a hundred or so second-tier enemies, what they saw now were third-tier enemies across the board, and their combat strength was terrifying. They had hardly any ability to resist.

Faced with the bloody deaths and slaughter, these guards wisely surrendered.

Looking at this group of defeated and broken soldiers, Ji Chen did not choose to slaughter them all.

He only ordered the pirates who arrived later to tie them up and deal with them later.

Understanding this situation was the most important thing now.

In addition to ambushing in the jungle, Ji Chen also sent a small group of Murlocs, Murloc Rangers, and pirates to the several ships anchored on the sea surface, taking advantage of the weak defenses to secretly seize the ships and cut off the enemy's escape route.

Willow, who was attempting to flee through the jungle, was swiftly apprehended by the allied forces that had seized control of the ships and subsequently returned him to captivity.

Upon laying eyes on Willow once more, Ji Chen found him tightly bound, resembling a bundled rice dumpling, his face etched with frustration.

When Willow saw Ji Chen, he became somewhat frightened.

But then, as if he remembered something, his face suddenly calmed down, and he said sharply, "I advise you to untie me and safely send me away. Otherwise, if I die here, Lord Gassani and the Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce will not let you off. Death will await you!"

But then, as if he had thought of something, his expression suddenly calmed down

Ji Chen looked at him like he was an idiot, wondering if there was something wrong with him.

He was still so arrogant even when he was about to die.

Seeing that Ji Chen didn't say anything, Willow thought that he had successfully frightened him, so he said in an even more domineering tone, "Do you think you're great just because you've dealt with two ships of guards? Allow me to enlighten you; the might of the Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce surpasses your wildest imagination. Lord Gassani alone can muster a fleet of ten ships such as this, and he commands an even more formidable army and navy, comprising the elite forces of unparalleled prowess."

Ji Chen squinted his eyes, catching a crucial keyword, "Did you say Gassani?"

With the pride of a dog hearing its master mentioned, Willow immediately became boastful, barking madly, "Absolutely! My master is none other than Lord Gassani. I am his most trusted lieutenant, wielding great power. If you're wise, you'll set me free and surrender this archipelago willingly. Perhaps then, Lord Gassani might grant you a chance to escape... Ahh!"

Before he could finish his sentence, Anina, unable to bear it any longer, lunged forward. Her fists came down like a relentless rain, pummeling Willow mercilessly. "I've tolerated you for far too long. Even at death's door, you dare to speak with such audacity. I won't tolerate your arrogance."

After a thorough beating, Anina stepped back with a satisfied expression, leaving Willow in a pitiful state. She hadn't joined the previous battle, itching for a fight, and now she had the perfect opportunity to vent her pent-up frustration on this fool.

"I give up, I give up... I surrender," Willow cowered on the ground, trembling and sporting a battered face with swollen eyes. Bruises covered his body, and several of his teeth were missing. His speech was now slurred.

However, it was thanks to Anina's restraint that he wasn't beaten into a pulp with her immense strength, comparable to that of a whale. Physically speaking, that is.

Observing the guy finally quieting down, Ji Chen squatted in front of him, sighing, "If you had cooperated from the beginning, you wouldn't have endured such pain and suffering. What's the point?"

"From now on, you will answer my questions promptly, understood? Otherwise, I'll have no choice but to let her continue using you as a punching bag."

Upon hearing this, Willow's head bobbed like a woodpecker. He cast a terrified glance at Anina, who was eagerly flexing her fists, leaving him with a mix of fear and resignation.

Who could have foreseen that such a small girl, seemingly delicate, possessed such an alarming strength? She nearly beat him to a pulp.

One could say that he'd prefer a swift death by beheading rather than enduring this kind of merciless pummeling.

"You mentioned Gassani. Who is he? And what role did he play in this operation?"

"Lord Gassani is a member of the Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce and the main architect of this operation."

“Is he on the same level as Raymond within the chamber?”

“In theory, yes. However, Lord Gassani has been a member for a long time, whereas Raymond joined only in the last couple of years. In terms of power, he holds a slightly higher position among the many members.”

Ji Chen nodded, then continued, “You mentioned Gassani being the main planner. Does that mean other members of the Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce were directly or indirectly involved?”

Willow hesitated for a moment, but upon seeing a mischievous smile creeping across Anina’s face, he quickly replied, “Yes, indeed! To mobilize the chamber’s guards, the consent of multiple members is required. Hence, the majority of members agreed to participate. However, Lord Gassani himself proposed the plan, and others provided support. I’m just a lowly subordinate following orders. So, if you seek revenge, you should confront them directly..”

Chapter 126: Lucky Raymond (2)

As Willow spoke, he revealed a flattering and fawning expression, but because of his bruised face, this expression looked hilarious.

Alice and Anina could not help but laugh.

Seeing this, the surrounding pirates cast disdainful looks.

Upon witnessing Willow’s arrogant words and actions, incessantly invoking the name of Lord Gassani, they had assumed he was a devoted subordinate.

They did not expect Willow to turn out to be such a cowardly person who betrayed his master for glory.

They disdained being associated with such a person!

“Is Raymond one of them?”

Willow was stunned.” No, he’s the only one who objected. He’s still locked up on the ship.”

Ji Chen was taken aback, unable to conceal his surprise.

At this moment, some pirates who were searching the ship outside returned and reported, “My Lord, there is a fat man called Raymond who is imprisoned in the cabin. He said that he knows you and wants to see you.”

Good heavens, this fatty was actually so lucky.

Gassani and the others actually didn’t choose to kill him but locked him in the cabin and brought him here.

This fatty might still have some value.

Coming back to his senses, Ji Chen said in a low voice, “Bring him to my territory!”

“Yes, My Lord!” The pirates left in a hurry.

Ji Chen looked at Willow, who was kneeling on the ground. "Provide me with all the information you have about this matter, or face the inevitable consequences."

Seeing Ji Chen's cold gaze, Willow shivered and quickly nodded.

Lord Manor.

When the Naga warrior grabbed Raymond by the collar and brought him in, his chubby face was filled with excitement when he saw Ji Chen.

"Sir Ji Chen, it's great that you're fine. I thought you...Aiya, my butt!"

He was thrown to the ground by the Naga warrior, and his butt landed heavily on the ground. He wanted to struggle to get up, but because his hands and feet were tied, he squirmed on the ground like a meat worm.

Ji Chen sighed and asked someone to untie him." I've already found out the whole story from that Willow guy. You can't be blamed for this."

Raymond stood up after being released. He wanted to complain about the Naga Warriors' actions, but when he heard Ji Chen's words, he felt ashamed.

"I'm partly responsible for this. If I had been more cautious at that time and didn't mention the situation in the Stormy Sea Area, perhaps this wouldn't have happened. Fortunately, your strength is astonishing and you defeated those guards of the Chamber of Commerce. Otherwise, I would have made a huge mistake."

Raymond lowered his stance and took the initiative to admit his mistake and responsibility.

"I didn't expect that my fellow members, and in particular the despicable Gassani, would dare to kidnap me, deliberately barring me from reaching out to you. Their objective? To ensure the seamless progression of their audacious scheme. These self-proclaimed businessmen, blinded by their delusions, fail to comprehend that there are certain realms they should never dare to trespass.!"

Ji Chen nodded and didn't say much. He just silently noted down the Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce in his notebook.

If there was a chance, he would definitely take revenge and let them know whom they could not offend.

"Now that the situation has been resolved, what lies ahead for you? Do you plan to seek vengeance by returning to them?"

Raymond's face was filled with bitterness."

By resorting to kidnapping, they have demonstrated their utter disregard for any sense of decency or honor. Consequently, it is safe to assume that they have already seized control of most, if not all, of my assets. Other than a dozen or so surviving trusted aides, I have nothing left. The Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce has quite a lot of influence in the Western Continent, so I probably won't be able to go back..."

Hearing this, Ji Chen had an idea.” Since you have nowhere else to go, why don’t you work for me?”

Fatty was stunned.” Work for you?”

“Indeed, if you pledge your unwavering loyalty to me, I shall bestow upon you the esteemed position of Chief Trading Officer of the Crown of the Ocean. You will be entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing the management of our territory’s goods and resources. By proving your unwavering loyalty, I can grant you authority. Apart from a dedicated portion of our forces and resources, the remaining wealth of the territory shall be at your disposal. I might even consider personally aiding you in seeking vengeance.”

Raymond was deep in thought. As an excellent businessman, he had to think carefully before making any decision.

However, he soon shook his head bitterly because there seemed to be no way out for him.

With just himself and his ten trusted aides, he did not know when he would be able to recover to his previous state.

Most of his businesses and connections were in the Western Continent. The Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce would definitely try to obstruct and assassinate him. It would be difficult for him to turn the tables on his own.

However, if he had Sir Ji Chen’s support, he might be able to take revenge.

“Is what you said true?”

“Of course,” Ji Chen said decisively, “I’ve always kept my word.”

Hearing this, Raymond threw away his last bit of hesitation and knelt on one knee. “My Lord, I am willing to serve you and be at your command.”

“Ding ~ Raymond is loyal to you.”

The information on his interface appeared in front of him.

[Raymond]

[Race: Human]

[Level: 10]

[Skill: Trade Scent (blue skill, has a very keen business sense, can find any opportunity to make money)]

Persuasion (Blue skill, eloquent, able to use clever language to convince others)

Luck (Blue skill, sometimes able to survive)

[Remark: Consul of the Chamber of Commerce. Possesses good business talent. Has hatred for the Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce.]

Good heavens.

The last time he saw it, the Luck skill was only white, but now it had turned blue.

Could this be the reason why Raymond could escape death every time?

Ji Chen sighed and said, "Go and rest first. I'll give you work later."

Raymond nodded. It was already so late, and he was feeling tired.

At noon the next day.

Last night's battle results and gains were tabulated.

There were a total of 400 guards from the Chamber of Commerce who came to attack. About half of them were killed last night, and the rest were imprisoned. In addition to the guards, there were around 200 sailors and craftsmen left on the few remaining ships. After identifying some stubborn and hostile individuals with Willow's help, more than 150 of them were absorbed into the Crown of the Ocean, replenishing the population of the territory.

As for the approximately 50 individuals who were identified, along with the remaining 200 or so chamber guards, they were sent to various resource points to work as laborers. Ji Chen considered himself merciful for not killing them and allowing them to work in the mines as a means of redemption.

Once they had atoned for their sins, they would be allowed to return, although the extent of their redemption was at Ji Chen's discretion.

Of the four ships dispatched by the Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce, two were three-masted warships loaded with cannons and crossbow machines, but they proved ineffective during the previous night's ambush. The remaining two were two-masted merchant ships, filled with crates of goods.

Believing that their operation was nearly foolproof, the Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce had sent various resources and supplies, intending to commence immediate construction upon seizing the New Moon Islands. However, all these resources now fell into Ji Chen's hands.

Upon counting, the two merchant ships carried over 700 slaves, some of whom possessed skills. There were hundreds of tons of various life supplies, including over 100,000 units of preserved meat and dry rations that could endure for an extended period without spoiling.

There were also a considerable number of iron tools, such as shovels, axes, and picks, which would serve the territory's needs for a long time.

Perhaps considering the need for pioneering, there were no extravagant items included in the supplies.

Nevertheless, this inventory of resources was enough to bring about a significant improvement in the quality of life within the territory.

Furthermore, Ji Chen discovered several valuable building blueprints that the Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce had purchased at great expense. Unbeknownst to the chamber, these blueprints intended to expedite island construction were now handed over to Ji Chen without any cost..

Chapter 127: Blueprint, Kobolds (1)

[Building Blueprint: Commercial Port]

[Level: 4 stars]

[Construction materials required: 5000 units of wood, 10,000 units of stone]

[Area: 100×200]

[Effect: Able to build a commercial port with complete facilities and infrastructure. (1) The attraction to merchant ships will be greatly increased. (2) The speed of loading and unloading goods will be increased by 50%.]

[Building Blueprint: Shipyard]

[Level: 4 stars]

[Construction materials required: 8000 units of wood, 3000 units of stone]

[Area: 150×80]

[Effect: Can build and repair ships]

[Cannon Manufacturing Plant]

I Level: 5 stars]

[Construction Materials: 5000 units of wood, 3000 units of crystal, 3000 units of mithril, 3000 units of fine gold, 3000 units of crude iron |

[Area: 80×100]

[Effect: Able to create all kinds of cannons]

Each of the three blueprints was at least 4-star, and the cannon manufacturing plant was 5-star.

The first was the commercial port blueprint. The commercial port was extremely useful for the development of the Crown of the Ocean's commerce.

The Large Water Fort he had obtained before was mostly used for military purposes. Its relatively closed structure was not conducive to merchant ships.

If he wanted to develop the commercial and shipping industry) he still needed a proper commercial port.

The second blueprint for the shipyard was not bad either, but Ji Chen felt that it was the least useful one among the three.

After all, none of the nine ships he owned were built by himself. They were all snatched from others or delivered directly to his door.

It could be described as a grand-scale acquisition in the foreign realm, at the cost of zero yuan.

Moreover, whether it was due to spending a long time at sea or not, he had completely lost any desire to honestly build ships. Instead, he now entertained the thought that if there was a shortage of ships, he would simply go and seize them.

It was a simple matter of time.

The former would take months or even years to build one, while the latter would only take a few days or even half a day. It was obvious who was better.

Spending several years would be a waste of time.

The last building blueprint surprised him the most.

Cannon manufacturing factory blueprint.

If it could be referred to as a cannon factory, it meant that Crown of the Ocean had the ability to produce cannons on its own.

Not only could it be used to manufacture cannons for ships, but it could also be used to manufacture cannons for land-based forts.

Previously, he was still worried about how to obtain so many cannons to arm the New Moon and the other ships. However, to his surprise, just when he was feeling drowsy, someone came and offered him a pillow. In fact, they went a step further and smashed the very machine that produced the pillows right in front of him.

After experiencing the large-scale naval battle outside the Mystic Realm Gate, he knew the role of cannons in the ocean.

After that, he had to fill the ship with cannons to cure his fear of insufficient firepower!.

Ji Chen was in a great mood after reading the three blueprints.

The Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce had really given him a few big gifts. It seemed that he had to find time to thank them.

He called Wilus over and gave him these architectural blueprints. He instructed him to coordinate the manpower and physics for the construction.

As Wilus carefully examined the blueprint, a realization seemed to dawn on him. He respectfully bowed and inquired, "My Lord, what shall we do with the new slaves? Their numbers are quite substantial, and currently, the territory lacks sufficient housing to accommodate them."

"Even with those shabby thatched huts, it's not enough?"

"Far from enough." Wilus shook his head. "There are more than 700 slaves in this batch, which is much more than our original residents. Even our newly built houses are not enough for them to live in."

Ji Chen nodded in agreement. Indeed, the influx of so many slaves must have significantly impacted the morale of the territory's residents.

Curiosity piqued, he opened the territory panel and confirmed his suspicions. Previously, the public opinion had stood at a robust 80 points. However, it had now plummeted to less than 65 points, even with the bonuses from ample food and infrastructure.

Massive population influxes often led to such issues, and he knew there was no immediate solution. Only time could gradually restore the people's sentiments.

Nevertheless, with the addition of so many slaves, the population of the Crown of the Ocean had exceeded triple digits, reaching a remarkable four digits over 1,100 individuals.

Among these 1,100 people, some were original residents, some were native inhabitants, and some were slaves—a diverse mix of backgrounds.

If one were to include the kobolds and the captured Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce guards, the total workforce would amount to nearly 1,900 individuals, approaching the two-thousand mark.

This population resembled that of a town-level territory, and it was now faced with the issue of housing the slaves. However, Ji Chen had a solution in mind.

The solution was straightforward: the slaves would temporarily stay on the remaining ships while simple thatched huts were swiftly constructed as a stopgap measure within the territory. Once completed, the slaves could be relocated to their permanent homes within the territory.

After dismissing Wilus, Ji Chen summoned Raymond.

This poor fellow had experienced days of anxiety on the ship and finally had the chance to rest properly last night. As a result, he slept soundly until noon, and when awakened, he still had a bewildered expression, clearly not fully awake.

A splash of cold water helped him regain his senses.

Rushing to the Lord's Manor, Raymond first respectfully saluted and then asked, "My Lord, is there something you need me to do?"

Ji Chen smiled and gestured for him to take a seat.

Carefully, Raymond settled into the chair, his face still serious and attentive..

Chapter 128: Blueprint, Kobolds (2)

In terms of assessing the situation, Raymond was fully aware of his own capabilities.

"No need for that. Currently, there's no specific task for you. However, I called you here because I have some questions to ask," Ji Chen said.

"My Lord, please go ahead. I assure you that I will reveal everything I know," Raymond replied with loyalty.

Nodding, Ji Chen continued, "How powerful is the Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce?"

Raymond pondered for a moment before responding, "The Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce is a loose commercial alliance along the western coast of the continent. While individual members may not possess significant strength, their collective force should not be underestimated. They can muster a fleet of at least fifty armed ships and have over three thousand elite guards."

Upon hearing this, Ji Chen squinted his eyes. He had not expected a mere chamber of commerce to wield such power. It was comparable to the Bauhinia Alliance which controlled the Silver Islands.

Forty fully armed warships... He was currently unable to withstand such an assault.

"However, my Lord, there is no need to be overly concerned. The Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce is a loose commercial alliance. Unless they face a genuine external threat that jeopardizes the alliance, it is difficult for them to unite."

“Even in this recent ambush operation, less than one-third of the members agreed to participate. Your swift dismantling of their attack has easily disintegrated their forces. If they were to launch another attack, they would undoubtedly need to deploy more warships and guards, which would require the approval of a larger number of members. But after suffering such heavy losses this time, it is uncertain whether other members would agree to another operation,” Raymond spoke optimistically.

In that case, there was no need to worry. With so many members involved, it was inevitable that there would be delays and disputes here and there, providing him with an extended period of time. However, he also needed to prepare himself properly, utilizing this time to develop his strength so that even in the worst-case scenario, he wouldn’t be caught in a passive position. “For the next few days, take some rest, and I will assign you tasks afterward,” Ji Chen instructed Raymond.

As he watched Raymond leave, Ji Chen fell into deep contemplation. Soon, he solidified his plan for the day.

Explore the Dragon’s Nest on the mountain peak.

That was the last uncharted territory, and he hoped to find something that would enhance his strength within the dragon’s nest.

After assembling his troops, he set out towards the mountain peak. On the way, he stopped by an underground cave to inspect the various resource points inside.

Even in the dark underground, the Kobolds toiled hard, dripping with sweat. Several Overseer Kobolds cracked their whips to motivate the other Kobolds, creating an atmosphere of mutual encouragement that brought tears to onlookers’ eyes.

When the Overseer Kobolds spotted Ji Chen’s arrival, their eyes lit up, and they hurriedly approached. However, they were intercepted by the Naga warriors.

“Supreme King, the esteemed presence of the Kobolds race, we express our utmost respect to you!” they exclaimed, kneeling before Ji Chen.

Upon hearing this, the other Kobolds, filled with zeal and admiration, also knelt down, bowing to him.

In no time, all the Kobolds in the cave were on their knees, heads deeply buried in the ground, motionless.

It seemed as if they had forgotten that not long ago, more than half of their kin had been slaughtered by Ji Chen.

Alice looked slightly perplexed, not quite understanding why the Kobolds had transformed into this state.

Ji Chen was momentarily taken aback but soon burst into laughter.

These Kobolds are quite interesting. Before conquering them, they appeared fierce and cannibalistic. But now, each of them shows immense reverence towards him, as though he had become the dragon with “great presence”.

It seemed that during that time, the various measures implemented on them had produced a strange chemical reaction. Fear, survival, death, and high pressure mixed and fused together, causing these Kobolds to have no hint of hatred towards him. Instead, they exhibited signs of Stockholm syndrome. Since that was the case, it was time to change the strategy in dealing with them.

Ji Chen waved his hand, signaling the Naga warriors to step aside, and approached the Kobolds with a gentle expression. "Please, all of you, rise." Upon hearing his words, the Kobolds hesitated briefly but eventually stood up from the ground.

He scanned the area, his face serious, and spoke slowly.

"The Kobold race carries the bloodline of dragons within them, enabling them to see in darkness as if it were daylight. This is your ability, a race filled with honor. Even as the one who defeated you, I cannot help but admire your talent for excavating caves and mining ores. With just a few hundred Kobolds, you supply the entire territory with crude iron, clay, and mithril resources. Thank you for everything you have done for the territory. Without your hard work, the territory would not have acquired these resources and developed. Here, I, Ji Chen, express my gratitude to all of you."

A murmur of astonishment and trembling spread among the Kobolds.

They did not expect that the new great presence would praise them and acknowledge their labor.

For them, it was a moment worth celebrating!

"Indeed, we have had conflicts in the past, causing casualties on both sides. However, I realize that this could have been avoided. On this small island, mutual slaughter leads to a dead end. Only through cooperation can we move forward. Therefore, I propose that we should put aside our hatred, eliminate our misunderstandings, and work together. Only in this way can we build the beautiful and prosperous New Moon Islands better in the future! And only in this way, the Kobold clan can live a better and more hopeful life, embracing a bright future," Ji Chen said with conviction, his words echoing through the cave. Little did he know that they carried an invisible energy, injecting them with a surge of adrenaline-like effect, making the Kobolds overflow with reverence and fervor.

Under the impact of his words, many Kobolds burst into tears.

"Lord, we should never have resisted, and even had thoughts of harming you! We caused the death of your soldiers..."

"That's right, we deserved to die. We now realize your greatness and admirable intentions. Please punish us and forgive our foolish actions!"

"Great presence, we are willing to work tirelessly to atone for our sins!"

With a crash, the Kobolds knelt down, weeping uncontrollably.

Newcomer Anina was clearly unable to comprehend the situation before her, staring in astonishment.

Her face was filled with confusion and disbelief.

Were these Kobolds out of their minds, worshipping their enemy even after half of their tribe was slaughtered?

And now they willingly toiled in this dark cave.

What kind of fantasy was this?

Witnessing this, Ji Chen couldn't bear it and sighed, "Since you are willing to work here, then I shall fulfill your wishes."

"However, you still have the right to procreate. As long as it doesn't disrupt your work, you can boldly reproduce, and I will provide for all the food needs of your future generations, allowing the Kobold clan to thrive!"

The Kobold clan possessed the bloodline of dragons, which also transmitted their promiscuous nature, giving them a strong desire to procreate.

After these days of repression, hearing about the opportunity to reproduce instantly stirred their emotions.

Their eyes burned with desire as they looked at the opposite-sex Kobolds.

Observing this scene, Ji Chen smiled and quickly led his army away from there.

Soon, a strange barking sound echoed from behind them.

As they left the underground cave, Anina couldn't help but ask, "How could those Kobolds be like that? You killed so many of their kind, and yet they still fanatically worship you. Are they crazy?"

Ji Chen only revealed a mysterious smile.

While Stockholm syndrome played a role, it was mainly thanks to a particular skill.

[Persuasion (red skill, capable of using language to persuade targets, significantly increasing the chances of surrender, allegiance, and subjugation [only effective on intelligent creatures])]

The persuasion skill made it easier for intelligent beings to believe in what he said, even if it didn't align with logic. Under the influence of the skill, the targets' perception would be distorted, allowing them to mentally justify his words.

He called it the Divine Art of Deception!

Chapter 129: The Destruction of Civilization

The reason for allowing the Kobolds to reproduce was simple.

Labor force.

Kobolds had a strong reproductive ability. They could lay 20 to 30 eggs a year, and their growth rate was extremely fast. With sufficient food, newborn Kobolds could grow from infants to qualified laborers in three months.

As the saying goes, one gives birth to two, two gives birth to four, and four gives birth to eight.

This was also the reason why he did not allow them to reproduce. If the Kobolds always hated him, there was naturally no need to let them strengthen their race and increase the difficulty of management.

But now, the Kobolds were extremely fanatical about him and respected him like a god. There was no need to worry about them at all. This way, he could expand the scale of his race and increase the labor force in the territory.

They went around the underground cave and headed for the entrance to the mountain.

The road that had been blocked by the falling rocks had been cleared, revealing a rugged mountain road that meandered up the mountain.

As the mountain path went higher, the field of vision gradually widened.

The sea in the distance, the mountains under their feet, the jungles on the island, and the six sub-islands in the northwest and northeast

From here, one could see any part of the New Moon Islands at a glance.

“Perhaps I can set up a few watchtowers here in the future...”

This mountain peak looked very high from afar, and it was also very high up close.

They walked along the mountain path that was covered with moss and vegetation. Some places were less than half a meter wide, but outside were cliffs that were hundreds of meters high and were hit by waves at the bottom.

Looking up, there was still quite a distance to the top of the mountain. It was estimated that this mountain was at least several hundred meters tall.

After passing through another narrow walkway, a platform that was sunken inwards appeared in front of him. A small waterfall crashed into the platform from above and flowed down the stone crevice, falling down a hundred meters into the cliff.

On the rock wall in the depths, there was a stone building. Judging from the architectural style, it should have been left behind by the old civilization of the New Moon Islands.

The buildings of the old civilization that he had encountered before more or less had some remnants.

Ji Chen’s interest was piqued.

The Crown of Omniscience showed that there were some monsters hidden in the building. He casually asked the pure water sea pixie to shoot a few water arrows into it.

“Ding ~ Entering battle...Morale at 88 points.”

88 points of morale?

Ji Chen was surprised.

He had never fought such a prosperous battle in his entire life.

Sure enough, white seagulls flew out from the gap in the building.

He only took a glance and lost interest.

A Tier 14-st ar trash.

The shallow sea murlocs quickly used their tridents to nail the sharp-peaked seagulls to death.

The bodies were plump and full, suggesting they would yield several pounds of meat.

Having already traveled for half a day and with the troops having expended considerable energy, he ordered a halt to rest and started a fire to cook the seagulls, taking a brief respite.

He lit a torch and entered the pitch-black interior of the structure, which had been excavated directly from the mountain. Due to the lack of light, it was difficult to determine its size and height.

However, it seemed that the seagulls had used this place as their nest. The ground was covered in thatch and dry branches, and among the soft thatch were some white eggs.

He did not pay much attention to it after taking a few glances and continued to search around. He found many animal corpses in the corner, piled up in the corner to form a mountain of bones.

Ji Chen looked at the pile of bones and frowned slightly.

It seemed that apart from small animals, there were also some large animals, even Kobolds and humans.

Recalling the earlier small sharp-beaked seagulls with their relatively small size, it seemed unlikely that they could hunt large animals like Kobolds and humans.

“Chirp!”

Just as he was feeling puzzled, a series of piercing and shrill cries suddenly came from outside.

The sound was ear-piercing and caused discomfort.

With a slight change in his expression, Ji Chen quickly walked out, holding the torch.

As he returned to the platform, he saw that the troops were already on high alert. The murlocs raised their tridents, while the naga warriors’ eyes turned blood-red.

A quick glance revealed the source of the commotion.

Dozens of giant sharp-beaked seagulls flew in the sky outside the platform. Their wingspan reached three to four meters, their claws were sharp, and their beaks resembled spikes. The powerful flapping of their wings pressed down the weeds in the gaps.

“My Lord...” Alice and Anina approached.

“What’s happening? Where did these giant seagulls come from?”

“These are probably their offspring...”

At this moment, Ji Chen finally noticed the group of giant seagulls observing the roasted seagull carcasses hanging over the bonfire, which had already started to emit a tempting aroma.

Their eyes were filled with sorrow and mournful cries echoed in the air.

He suddenly realized.

Oh, so these small seagulls were the offspring of these giant seagulls. No wonder they were capable of hunting large animals.

Well.

He felt a little embarrassed for roasting their children right in front of them.

Ji Chen narrowed his eyes and inspected their attribute panel.

[Giant Sharpbeak Seagull]

[Race]: Seagull

[Level]: 16

[Tier]: Tier 3, 5 stars

[Skills]: Sharp Beak (Blue skill, beak is extremely hard and sharp, piercing ability increased by 50%)

Cerebral Absorption (Blue skill, using the sharp beak to penetrate the prey's skull, absorbing the cerebral marrow and causing its death)

Dive Claw Strike (Blue skill, diving from the sky and inflicting great damage to the target)

[Unit Trait]: Stamina Saving (Reduced stamina consumption during flight)

The giant sharp beak seagulls looked at them with blood-red eyes and suddenly let out a piercing screech. Flapping their wings vigorously, they soared into the sky like fighter jets with full throttle..

Chapter 130: The Destruction of Civilization (2)

After a brief circling, they swiftly plunged downward like rockets.

They aimed to peck through the heads of these enemies who had killed their offspring, to suck their brain marrow and devour their flesh and blood!

Buzz—

As the giant seagulls descended, a series of piercing and mournful sounds resonated. Their sharp beaks seemed capable of tearing through the air, while their wings created trails of white airflow.

Dozens of giant sharp-beaked seagulls plunged together, creating a spectacular and dangerous scene. Their momentum seemed capable of cracking rocks!

If they managed to seize a target, their bodies would likely be torn apart in an instant, with bones and flesh shattered.

“Shall I take action, My Lord?” Alice asked in a low voice.

Ji Chen gently shook his head, his face displaying a slight smile.

He looked up at the approaching giant seagulls, raising his right hand slightly.

The energy of the spell began to surge, thickly permeating the platform.

The flow of water from one side of the waterfall, as if being pulled by an invisible force, gathered above their heads, defying gravity.

Under the sunlight, the water refracted slanting beams of light, creating a somewhat dreamlike ambiance.

With a slight movement of Ji Chen's finger, the water coalesced into a thick water shield, enveloping the entire army.

At this moment, the giant sharp-beaked seagulls finally plummeted from the sky.

Their beaks, harder than metal and sharper than knives, pierced the water shield.

However, contrary to their expectations, they couldn't penetrate the water shield. Instead, they became stuck as if glued, their beaks and claws frozen within it.

No matter how they struggled, they could not move at all.

Ji Chen raised his right hand.

In the next moment, the water shield underwent a shocking change.

From defense to attack.

Hundreds of water spikes shot out from the smooth surface of the water and pierced through the giant seagull's body from all directions.

Under the sunlight, the water spikes mixed with blood pierced through the flesh, emitting a strange light. It actually carried a touch of bewitching and strange beauty.

As for the giant seagulls, they were naturally dead.

"Ding ~ You have killed a flock of Giant Sharp-beaked Seagulls. Obtained 9800 experience points. Your level has increased (12->13)."

The entire battle lasted less than a minute. The giant sharp-mouthed seagulls, which could cause a destructive blow to ordinary soldiers, were turned into corpses in the blink of an eye without any resistance.

Ji Chen's formidable strength was fully revealed at this moment.

Overbearing, silent, and domineering.

The tier 3 5-star troops were killed like chickens, without any resistance.

The Naga warriors roared and celebrated their master's victory.

The Murlocs raised their tridents and shouted excitedly.

The Sea Pixies danced around, venting their joy.

Each hero had their own expression.

Alice's eyes sparkled with a mixture of love, worship, infatuation, and intoxication. Only such a lord could make her wholeheartedly offer her body and soul.

On the other hand, Anina's face was filled with shock and astonishment. She muttered that this method of killing was much faster than her slashing using a sword.

However, Benbo suddenly walked out and stood in front of Ji Chen.

His tone was very sincere, and his expression and actions were extremely exaggerated.

"My Lord, your power is truly awe-inspiring. With the might of the ocean, the wisdom that reaches the heavens, and a heart as deep as the sea, you possess unparalleled greatness. It is our utmost privilege to serve under your command and be counted among your loyal followers! Under your leadership, the Crown of the Ocean will undoubtedly become the most formidable dominion, and all beings shall bow before your authority."

Everyone was stunned.

Good heavens, you thick-browed, big-eyed murloc. You look silly, but you actually know how to flatter me like this!?

"You bootlicker," Anina whispered.

However, Benbo did not seem to care.

All of you youngsters should learn more from the wisdom of the elderly.

Ji Chen was stunned for a moment before he smiled. "Alright, alright, stop flattering me. Deal with these giant seagulls and cook the eggs inside."

"Everyone, move back first."

Hearing this, all the troops immediately retreated a distance according to the order.

Upon seeing this, he casually waved his hand, interrupting the transfer of magical energy. The water shield, no longer supported by magic, instantly disintegrated into scattered puddles, causing the giant seagulls, already transformed into sieves, to fall to the ground with a loud "thud".

The troops approached and began to deal with them.

Half an hour later, beside the fire roasting the small seagulls, more than ten larger bonfires were set up, each with stripped giant seagulls hanging from them, evenly heated by the rotating Naga warriors.

Well, now all the big and small ones are together in one pot.

It's better this way, so they won't feel lonely.

He, Ji Chen, was a kind-hearted person who naturally reunited them, albeit in his own belly.

Roasting takes some time, so Ji Chen turned around and walked back into the building.

Just now, the search was interrupted halfway, so he continued searching.

However, after rummaging through the grass, dead branches, and bones scattered all over the place, he didn't find anything valuable. It was all just garbage that seagulls used to build their nests.

Just as he was feeling somewhat disheartened.

The torch in his hand suddenly burst into flames, sending sparks flying and expanding the illuminated area.

Out of the corner of his eye, he noticed that there seemed to be something on the surrounding walls.

He lifted the torch, squinted, and saw some rock paintings on the walls.

After taking a few glances, Ji Chen felt somewhat surprised.

This seemed to be... Was it left behind by the old civilization of the New Moon Islands?

There seemed to be something recorded on it...

He calmed down and continued to stare.

Civilization... Prosperous... Enemies... Evolution... Destruction...

Ten minutes later.

After Ji Chen finished looking at the last rock painting on the wall, he let out a deep breath and had a general understanding of it.

It was uncertain how long ago, but there was indeed a thriving civilization in the New Moon Islands. They built a prosperous and powerful society here, extending their influence to dozens of islands in the nearby sea.

Just as everything seemed to be progressing favorably, a new threat emerged from the depths of the ocean. Detailed rock paintings depicted various enemies that had appeared, including one that Ji Chen recognized—the Sea Heir, a peculiar creature capable of evolving. This civilization initially resisted, but relentless targeted evolution by the Sea Heirs gradually compressed their living space.

They lost nearby islands first, and then the invasion reached the New Moon Islands, breaching their defense lines one after another. The remaining survivors sought refuge on this mountain peak, hoping to withstand the onslaught. To their horror, the Sea Heirs emerged from the water, ending their desperate resistance.

These rock paintings were the final remnants of this once-thriving civilization. Ji Chen's heart grew heavy as he realized that it was the Sea Heirs, not some catastrophe, that led to their downfall. He understood the need for increased vigilance against this mysterious race.

Almost a month had passed since their last encounter with the Sea Heirs, and Anina's predictions suggested that the Sea Heirs had regrouped, becoming more numerous and powerful. The next wave of Sea Heirs could be Tier 3 or even Tier 4 creatures.

Ji Chen felt a sinking sensation in his heart, realizing the importance of unlocking new technologies and strengthening their forces. After a short break, the group resumed their ascent along the cliff, determined to explore the pinnacle of the mountain—the dragon's nest..