

## **Ocean Lord 161**

### *Chapter 161: Battle Harvest, Heading to the Ancient Ruins*

“Ding- You and your army have successfully killed the players: Zhao Guoyi, Zhang San, Li Si, Wang Wu, and have substantially controlled their territories, gaining dominance over their territory resources.”

Ji Chen glanced at the system prompt and knew that victory had been achieved in the other three battlefields as well.

There was no room for doubt; given the formidable strength of the Crown of the Ocean’s forces, any valiant hero would effortlessly emerge victorious.

He alone had lotted three players, and the last one, he didn’t know who the hero collided with, but it was clear that the player also didn’t escape unscathed.

Ji Chen arrived in front of the Lord Manor of this territory.

A system prompt popped up.

“Ding- Occupy the territory/destroy the territory?”

After killing the hostile lord and gaining control of the enemy’s territory, one could choose to occupy or destroy it, and all the resources within would belong to the conqueror.

After some thought, Ji Chen decided to temporarily set aside this choice.

He extracted all the resources from this territory and piled them up in an empty space. Then, he headed towards the military recruitment camp of this territory, perhaps there were some good units here?

But after examining them one by one, he was greatly disappointed.

These military recruitment camps were all low-tier camps, at most 2nd tier,

5-star units, and the units themselves had no training value whatsoever.

Even if they were recruited, they would be a waste of resources.

After looking through them all, Ji Chen chose to destroy this territory.

The reason was simple, occupying a territory meant having an additional sub-territory.

From the perspective of a strategy game, this operation was akin to opening a subsidiary mine.

However, this was not a game where one could operate with an omniscient perspective, ignoring distances as if they were inconsequential.

His reach was not extensive, nor did he possess sufficient resources to oversee multiple sub-territories situated far from the central domain of the New Moon Islands.

At that moment he clicked on “destroy”.

This territory began to collapse on its own.

The Lord Manor and all the other buildings seemed to have experienced the erosion of time in an instant, rapidly decaying and disintegrating.

As a light breeze blew through the forest, everything turned into dust, dissipating into the air.

In just a few breaths, all traces of this territory were completely erased, leaving behind only an empty space, resources scattered on the ground, and a group of bewildered and uneasy residents.

These resources and populations would become his spoils of war, fueling the advancement of the Crown of the Ocean.

Ji Chen approached the fallen player with a square face, his eyes narrowing as he squatted down to retrieve a fragmented bead.

This bead should be the treasure used by the player with a square face, allowing him to barely survive the first round of water blades. However, it seemed to be a one-time-use treasure.

He casually threw the bead away.

Shifting his gaze, when he saw two silver-white objects scattered on the ground, his brow furrowed.

Suppressing his doubts, he took out the “I\_Love\_Black\_Sockings” key from his backpack and compared it with the two objects.

These two silver-white objects were exactly the same as the key to the ancient ruins given by “I\_Love\_Black\_Sockings”.

Whether it was in appearance, color, or the energy fluctuations they contained, there was no difference at all.

It was like a perfect replica.

Ji Chen’s brow slowly relaxed.

These three keys should all be real, and the one given by “I\_Love\_Black\_Sockings” was just one of the three keys.

Perhaps it would take three or even more keys to open that ancient ruins.

He put all three keys into his backpack.

Next, he had to occupy the other three territories. Time was pressing, so he wouldn’t continue to delay here.

Ji Chen walked towards the trembling residents and said calmly, “Follow me, understood?”

These residents nodded frantically, showing no signs of opposition.

In their eyes, Ji Chen was undoubtedly a more terrifying existence than the original lord. They had witnessed how the army of the original lord was slaughtered like pigs.

Who would dare to oppose him?

They weren’t afraid of death?

Seeing this, Ji Chen didn’t explain much either. He led this group of obedient residents towards another territory.

Soon, the group arrived at another territory.

This territory was under the control of the Murloc hero Benbo. Compared to the scene created by Ji Chen's ruthless actions, Benbo's side appeared much calmer. Most of the enemy's bodies were intact and neatly piled together.

Seeing Ji Chen leading a large number of residents away, Benbo's dead fish eyes lit up, and he quickly ran over.

"My Lord, the enemy forces here have been taken care of."

Ji Chen nodded, walked to the Lord Manor of this territory, and casually extracted all the resources. Then, he destroyed the territory.

He instructed Benbo, "Watch over these residents, send some troops to the other territory over there, and bring all the resources from there."

"Yes!"

Next, Ji Chen continued to the last two territories, extracting resources in the same manner, destroying the territories, and plundering all the resources and population.

When he returned to the territory of "I\_Love\_Black\_Sockings" with a large amount of resources and a vast number of residents, "I\_Love\_Black\_Sockings" was standing at the gate of the territory, her eyes filled with delight.

She hurriedly approached.

"Big Boss Islander, have you taken care of them all?"

"Yeah, you shouldn't worry anymore, their territories have been completely destroyed.."

#### *Chapter 162: Battle Harvest, Heading to the Ancient Ruins (2)*

Upon hearing this, I\_Love\_Black\_Sockings couldn't contain her joy and felt relieved. The pressure that had been building up inside her dissipated in an instant. With the disappearance of those territories, the biggest obstacle to her own territory's development was eliminated. She not only regained her original resource points but also gained control over the resource points of the other players. Given time, she could convert those resources into combat power, and her strength would undoubtedly be several times stronger than before. This was not only a profitable venture but also a significant expansion opportunity. With these resources and population, she could potentially secure dominance over King Kong Island in the future.

However, as excitement surged within her, I\_Love\_Black\_Sockings noticed Ji Chen's scrutinizing gaze and immediately felt a chill run down her spine. In an instant, she pushed away the dangerously tempting thoughts from her mind. What was she thinking? Was she willing to risk everything? In this world, the law of the jungle prevailed, and those with strength could do as they pleased. The man before her had effortlessly destroyed those four players, and if she were to provoke him, he could just as easily take everything from her.

"These resources and population belong to you. I have no objections," I\_Love\_Black\_Sockings quickly replied, her head lowered, unable to meet his gaze. She knew

she had gone too far with her thoughts, and she didn't want to lose everything by making a foolish move.

Ji Chen looked at her deeply, then nodded without saying anything further. He turned around and waved his hand, instructing his troops to start transporting the resources and population onto the ship. The harvest was quite substantial, with a rough estimate of thousands of various basic resources. After all, it was the combined resources of four territories, so the quantity was considerable. What pleased him the most was the population they had acquired, with over two thousand people. This number was nearly equivalent to the current population of the Crown of the Ocean. Such a large population would greatly supplement the labor force in the territories.

However, amidst his excitement, Ji Chen also had concerns about the rate of food consumption in the territories. They had only just achieved self-sufficiency, and bringing in two thousand more people would double the rate of food consumption. It was a mixed feeling.

Transporting such a large quantity of resources and population would take some time, so Ji Chen suggested to I\_Love\_Black\_Sockings that they temporarily stay in her territory and leave with the troops once everything was transported. I\_Love\_Black\_Sockings didn't refuse and readily agreed, promising to provide the best food and accommodation. Faced with such a powerful ally, she naturally wanted to please and hold onto him. Missing this opportunity would be a regret she couldn't bear.

In the evening, I\_Love\_Black\_Sockings held a celebration party. The atmosphere was lively, and everyone enjoyed themselves. The next day, all the resources and population had been transported onto the ship. Ji Chen wasted no time and set off again with his troops. This time, their destination was the ancient ruins deep within the island.

"Big Boss Islander, the areas explored on King Kong Island so far are only the coastal regions and the outskirts of the central forest. The interior and core regions of the forest haven't been explored yet. But one thing we know is that the deeper we go into the island, the more dangerous it becomes. There was a team of over ten players who ventured into the central area of the island, but only less than a tenth of them managed to escape. They said there are numerous high-level monster units in the depths of the forest, ranging from Tier 3 to Tier 4. Some even claimed to have seen Tier 5 advanced monster units... Although your strength is extraordinary, I still hope you'll be careful."

Before setting off, I\_Love\_Black\_Sockings expressed her concerns with great sincerity. Ji Chen nodded, not refusing her goodwill.

"I understand. If I encounter unbeatable enemies, I will retreat," Ji Chen assured her. "You can wait here. If you encounter any danger, you can call my fleet. It can provide long-range fire support."

I\_Love\_Black\_Sockings happily agreed. Seeing her joyful expression, Ji Chen didn't linger any longer. He led his troops into the forest once again. They quickly arrived at the territory near the lake from the previous day. The grass by the lake emitted a foul odor from the decaying chunks of

flesh. A large pack of hyenas was feasting on it, enjoying the unexpected food that had fallen from the sky. Crows perched on branches, their black pupils fixated on the rotting meat, hoping to get a share.

Ji Chen took out one of the ruins keys and activated it with a touch. A map projection appeared—a detailed map of King Kong Island. In the center of the island, a symbol of a towering tower was displayed.

Well, it seemed that the tower represented the ancient ruins. As long as they continued walking towards the center of the island, they would eventually reach it. Ji Chen nodded in approval and wasted no time. With a wave of his hand, he led his troops forward, venturing into the quiet forest.

The morning sun was not too intense, as it was partially blocked by the dense foliage, allowing only a small portion to penetrate the canopy and cast dappled light on the forest floor. The serene atmosphere, coupled with the sound of their footsteps crunching on dried twigs and leaves, created a pleasant ambiance.

However, their peaceful journey didn't last long as they began encountering groups of wild monsters along the way. The deeper they ventured into the forest, the more frequent and stronger these encounters became. The tier of the monsters gradually increased from Tier 1 to Tier 2, and soon Tier 3 monsters started appearing.

The escalating strength of the monsters didn't hinder their progress. The roars of Naga warriors, the piercing sound of tridents slicing through the air, and the explosive bursts of water arrows resounded throughout the forest. Countless birds took flight, disturbed by the commotion. Along the way, they left behind numerous monster corpses.

This became another bloodbath, rivaling the previous day's carnage. The beasts and crows of the forest would feast heartily once again. Killing so many wild monsters resulted in a substantial increase in their experience points. Within half a day, Ji Chen's level rose from 15 to 16, bringing him closer to the milestone of level 20.

The levels of his heroes and units also steadily rose as they absorbed the experience gained from the battles. After a while, they arrived at the entrance of a narrow canyon. Looking up, they saw a towering rock wall that stretched for hundreds of meters. The wall emerged abruptly, encircling the central region of King Kong Island.

Monkeys couldn't scale it, and even birds found it challenging to fly across. Ji Chen examined the projection of the map, which revealed only a few pathways that could pass through the rock wall. The canyon before them was one of those paths.

Their current position was not far from the ancient ruins, and they would reach their destination after passing through the canyon and traveling for another hour or two.

Observing the winding and treacherous canyon before him, Ji Chen had a hunch that the ancient ruins beyond held the answers he sought. Rather than a natural formation, it felt like a man-made construct. What kind of power could reshape such a large island?

Ji Chen gazed at the serpentine path through the canyon, flanked by towering cliffs on both sides. He couldn't shake off the feeling that the ancient ruins behind the canyon might provide him with some answers..

## *Chapter 163: Ancient Land of the Divine Kingdom*

After a brief rest, the group ventured into the canyon.

The canyon was approximately 50 meters wide, with a meandering path that lacked any straight routes. As soon as enemies appeared ahead, it would result in immediate close-quarters combat.

To counter this, Ji Chen divided the Naga warriors into two groups. One group served as meat shields, mingling with a few Dragonblood Murlocs to form the vanguard.

The Naga warriors, although no longer the strongest force in the region, possessed unparalleled defensive capabilities. A wall of dozens of Naga warriors was enough to withstand the fiercest of attacks.

Mixed within them were Dragonblood Murlocs with powerful Dragon's Aura skills. This combination provided significant defense against enemy assaults and great flexibility when transitioning from defense to offense.

The remaining Dragonblood Murlocs formed the second group.

The third group consisted of Pure Water Sea Pixies, Ji Chen himself, and several heroes. They occupied the center of the formation, the safest position.

At the very end of the formation, another group of Naga warriors protected the rear, safeguarding the group's flanks.

This formation ensured that even if enemies launched a sudden attack from the rear, they would be able to withstand it, giving them time to react.

The group advanced steadily along the winding canyon, neither too fast nor too slow. It was both a march and a precaution against potential enemies.

After turning a corner, they encountered a straight road several hundred meters long.

Looking into the distance, at the end of the road, the merging rock walls created a resounding impact.

Carved on the closed rock walls was a gigantic tower symbol, the very same symbol projected from the ruins key's map.

At that moment, the ruins key in Ji Chen's hand emitted a radiant light.

Seeing that their destination was not far ahead, Ji Chen didn't hesitate. With a sweeping gesture, the group continued their march.

When they were two to three hundred meters away from the rock walls, the tower symbol on the rock walls suddenly emitted a glow, and dozens of blue energy streams surged forth, piercing into the scattered rubble on both sides of the canyon.

"Ding- You have entered a state of battle. Assessing morale..."

"Our morale is 55 points, entering an advantageous state."

Boom...

The rubble was lifted by massive bodies.

Fist-sized stones fell from them, cascading like sand to the ground, stirring up dust.

After about ten seconds, the smoke dispersed, revealing the faces of these creatures.

They stood at an imposing three meters tall, with humanoid bodies composed of stone blocks. Their body joints were connected by blue light rings, resembling adhesive, with an empty center.

Embedded in the center of their bodies was a blue crystal, from which radiant lines extended like rays, with each line glowing faintly blue.

At first glance, they exuded a peculiar beauty.

By now, the crystal had fully illuminated, scanning Ji Chen and his group.

“Identified intruders, execute the command: Kill.”

At the next moment, these peculiar creatures emitted hoarse voices.

The crystals on their heads instantly turned blood-red, and even the blue light rings between their bodies turned blood-red as well.

Their massive bodies began to move, transitioning from stillness to motion.

With each step, their colossal bodies moved slowly, emanating an intense oppressive aura.

[Ruins Guardians]

[Race]: Alchemical Constructs

[Tier]: Tier 3, 8 stars

[Skills]: Guardian Command (Purple Skill), Charge (Blue Skill), Magic Resistance (Blue Skill), Fearless (Blue Skill)

[Unit Traits]: Alchemical Constructs (Alchemical Constructs do not experience fear or anxiety)

[Guardians protecting the ancient land of the divine realm, but their power has greatly declined over time]

The ancient land of the divine realm?

Ji Chen’s pupils suddenly contracted.

A divine realm, in a literal sense, is naturally referred to as a realm belonging to gods.

But what did “ancient land of the divine realm” mean?

Suddenly, Ji Chen recalled some important information.

He had once read in the game’s lore that this world was a godless world.

As the term implied, this world no longer had any tangible gods.

However, in an era so ancient that there were no records, numerous gods still traversed the world, gathering their followers in various places and establishing divine realms on the surface.

Their followers resided in these divine realms, worshiping them and basking in their radiance.

All living beings were enveloped in the gods' radiance.

That was the era belonging to the gods.

Later, conflicts erupted among the gods, and their followers waged wars in the name of their faith.

The entire world plunged into a war without end, where blood flowed and mountains of corpses piled up. Countless followers perished, and even some gods fell.

Perhaps because they realized that this world was on the verge of shattering due to the war, the surviving gods chose to cease their battles.

Then, for some unknown reason, they departed, one after another.

Since then, there had been no trace of gods in the world, only remnants of their divine realms scattered throughout. Most of them had been eroded by the relentless flow of time, leaving no trace behind.

But was it possible that this so-called "ancient land of the divine realm" was one of the few remaining divine realm sites?

Or perhaps, the entire King Kong Island was a divine realm site, but the outward signs had long been worn away, leaving only remnants within these rock walls..

*Chapter 164: Ancient Land of the Divine Kingdom (2)*

As memories of the majestic landscape of King Kong Island flooded his mind, Ji Chen's conjecture grew even more resolute.

His excitement grew stronger.

This was an ancient divine realm!

Even if there was hardly anything left inside, anything related to gods would undoubtedly be among the best.

The only thing he had encountered so far that was related to gods was the Love Potion he had caught from the sea shortly after starting the game. Its effect was to forcibly increase the favorability of any intelligent being towards the user to 100 points.

The effect was overwhelmingly powerful.

It was because of this potion that he had recruited Alice, the Siren hero, and his early battles were almost smooth sailing with few opponents.

If he could obtain some divine relics in this ancient divine realm, he would truly strike it rich.

He wasn't greedy, just a few divine artifacts would satisfy him.

With this in mind, Ji Chen's interest and motivation were ignited, and he couldn't wait to rush in and plunder.

Boom-

In front of him.



The Ruins Guardians finally arrived not far away.

Each step of their massive bodies caused the ground to tremble violently, and their blood-red glow exuded an intimidating aura.

They didn't carry any weapons, but any part of their bodies could easily crush intruders.

Waves of pressure swept over, and Ji Chen's expression became solemn, not daring to underestimate them.

At Tier 3, 8 stars, and Level 17, it wouldn't be impossible for him to fail if he didn't handle the situation properly.

The pre-arranged formation played its role at this moment.

With a command, various units began to exert their strength.

While the Pure Water Sea Pixies were still preparing their spells, the Dragon Blood Murlocs forcefully threw their tridents.

The sharp trident tips seemed to be able to penetrate everything.

Tearing through the air, they reached the Ruins Guardians in the blink of an eye.

Snap—

The trident tips directly pierced the rocky skulls of the Ruins Guardians.

The Dragon Blood Murlocs swiftly pulled out the tridents, and the barbs on the tips tore off about half of a head.

Only a small portion of the head remained.

However, even with such injuries, the Ruins Guardians seemed unaffected, continuing to move forward.

Ji Chen's mouth twitched, realizing that he couldn't judge the weaknesses of these alchemical creations with human common sense.

His gaze shifted.

His attention was drawn to a distinct area on their bodies, approximately at chest level, where a blue crystal was embedded.

These Ruins Guardians were alchemical constructs, reliant on energy to operate, and it seemed that the blue crystal served as their energy core, potentially their vulnerable spot.

Realizing this, Ji Chen immediately shouted loudly.

“Attack the crystal in their bodies directly; that's their weak point!”

Upon hearing this, many Dragon Blood Murlocs changed their attack strategy, aiming for the blue crystals of the Ruins Guardians and throwing their tridents.

Snap—

A Dragon Blood Murloc accurately hit a Ruins Guardian's body, with the trident's tip striking the blue crystal directly.

Subjected to a formidable force and impact, the crystal fractured approximately halfway, succumbing to its power.

With the damaged energy core, the patterns and aura covering the Ruins Guardian's body dimmed, and its movements became rigid.

Ji Chen's eyes lit up—it was working!

When the Ruins Guardians were hit by the tridents for the second time, the patterns and aura all over their bodies instantly extinguished, and their bodies crashed to the ground with a loud bang.

Seeing that he had found a way to defeat them, not only the Dragon Blood Murlocs but also the Sea Pixies started shooting water arrows at the blue crystals.

In a series of explosions, the crystals shattered one after another.

The Ruins Guardians fell to the ground, scattered in all directions.

There were only a few who managed to break through the firepower and approach.

The situation was looking great.

When the last Ruins Guardian fell, raising a cloud of dust.

A system notification quietly sounded.

“Ding- You have achieved a glorious victory and obtained 16,000 experience points.”

Ji Chen looked at the scattered bodies of the Ruins Guardians, feeling great.

These guardians looked frightening, but they weren't that terrifying in reality. The exposed cores in their chests were their fatal weakness.

If their blue crystal cores were hidden inside their bodies, the battle would not have been so easy.

With a wave of his hand, Ji Chen led his army through the fallen Ruins Guardians and arrived at the end of the canyon.

There were three recessed areas under the closing rock wall, roughly the same size and shape as the three keys.

There was no need to say more, these should be the keyholes to open.

Without wasting time, he took out the three keys and inserted them into the holes one by one.

Click—The keys fit perfectly.

In the next moment, the high tower pattern on the rock wall shone brightly again. With a loud rumble, the closing rock wall split open, opening to both sides.

Once the rock wall was completely open, a vast basin with an inward depression appeared before his eyes. Terrace-like platforms descended layer by layer around the basin, resembling terraced fields. On top of the platforms stood countless ruined buildings.

Although most of them had become ruins, one could imagine how prosperous it must have been when the gods were still present.

Encircled by towering rock walls, the scene was adorned with a series of silver-white waterfalls, cascading down in various sizes and lengths. These majestic waterfalls flowed along meticulously crafted channels, converging into a vast lake nestled at the basin's base.

In the lake, there stood a white tower several hundred meters tall, reaching into the clouds and connecting with the blue dome.

Inside and outside the dome seemed like two different worlds.

Seeing this, Ji Chen suddenly realized.

It was no surprise that the towering tower remained concealed from the outside, as it was shielded by this dome. While the exterior couldn't glimpse the interior, the reverse held true—the interior could gaze upon the world outside..

### *Chapter 165: Ancient Land of the Divine Kingdom (3)*

This ancient land of the divine realm, perhaps in that era, was inhabited by gods who overlooked all living beings from atop this tower.

Just as they took their first step into the basin, a system prompt sounded.

“Ding- Due to the influence of the rules of the divine realm, all detection methods are ineffective.”

He paused for a moment, opened the omniscience map, and found that it could no longer display the surrounding area. It was just a blank white space.

It seemed that from now on, they would have to rely on their own eyes to observe the enemy.

Ji Chen took a deep breath and closed the map. He looked into the distance, thinking about where to start exploring.

However, a large wave of Ruins guardians suddenly appeared in the ruins not far away and immediately spotted them, heading straight towards them.

Ji Chen immediately ordered the army to prepare for battle, but he couldn't help but feel puzzled.

Why were there so many Ruins guardians appearing just moments after they entered? It seemed too coincidental.

Let's go back a few minutes in time.

“Guild Master, we still can't pass the second trial. How about waiting for some time before we try again? Even though we can't die, it's still painful to be torn apart.” A member said with lingering fear on their face.

“With our strength, we can't even pass the second trial. The trials set by the gods are truly unimaginable,” another member said.

Sima Chuxi smiled with a gloomy expression, his eyes filled with unwillingness.

Under fortuitous circumstances, they obtained three keys and followed the instructions to open the rock wall and enter this place.

According to ancient records, as long as they could pass the trials of this tower, they would receive the rewards left behind by the gods.

Originally, Sima Chuxi hoped to display his prowess, successfully pass the trials, and then dominate the entire King Kong Island with the obtained rewards.

But Sima Chuxi never expected that with his strength, he could only barely pass the first trial and was eliminated by the enemies simulated by the illusion in the second trial.

It was impossible for them to complete all the trials with their current strength.

It seemed that they could only leave and come back to challenge when they were strong enough.

Just as he was about to leave, he heard some commotion outside.

“Go out and see what’s happening!”

“Yes!”

Soon, two members ran in from outside, their faces showing a sense of gravity.

“Guild Master, the rock wall has been opened! Other players have entered! It seems they’re charging straight in!”

Sima Chuxi’s expression changed. He knew very well how powerful those guarding Ruins guardians were.

If it wasn’t for the Ruins guardians on their route, whose energy had drained away due to the passage of time, they wouldn’t even have been able to enter the door.

The fact that this player was able to kill the guarding Ruins Guardians meant that they had a stronger strength than them.

At this moment, a voice echoed in Sima Chuxi’s mind.

“We can’t let this player enter.”

Sima Chuxi couldn’t determine whether this player’s strength was enough to pass the trials of the tower. If this player could really pass, wouldn’t it mean that they would take away the rewards left by the gods?

He couldn’t accept that. In his mind, the rewards of the gods were already his, temporarily left here.

He would never allow anyone else to take them!

With this thought, Sima Chuxi’s eyes flashed with a hint of coldness. “Are they already there?”

“They’re still near the rock wall, seemingly observing the surroundings.”

“Do you remember the ruins filled with Ruins guardians? Send a small team of Phantom Wolves to lure them out.”

The members were momentarily stunned, but then their eyes lit up. “Guild Master, are you thinking...”

Sima Chuxi’s eyes flickered with cruelty and ruthlessness. “Let the Ruins guardians entertain that player properly. The rewards here belong to all of us.”

The two members exchanged a glance and saw the excitement in each other’s eyes.

“Guild Master is wise!”

#### *Chapter 166: Enemies in the Dark, Battle Upgrade*

As the Ruins guardians charged towards them, closing in on their position, Ji Chen had little time for contemplation. He swiftly issued orders for the army to launch a counterattack.

The sudden turn of events turned the battle into a confrontation, leaving little room for buffering or distancing.

The Dragon Blood Murlocs and Pure Water Sea Pixies fired their attacks in unison, decimating more than ten Ruins guardians, while the rest charged forward.

A close-quarters battle erupted.

The dragon aura of the Dragon Blood Murlocs had no effect on these alchemical creations, so they could only clash head-on with these three-meter-tall behemoths.

The Naga warriors, despite being of a lower tier than the enemies, fearlessly charged forward, as they always did.

Their heavy and sharp bone blades swung, leaving deep cracks on the bodies of the Ruins guardians.

If it were an ordinary flesh and blood creature, by now it would have lost half of its life.

But the enemies were Ruins guardians, creatures that had no concept of pain.

When attacked, their eyes flashed red, and the patterns on their bodies turned blood red.

A massive stone fist swung.

Boom!

The Naga warriors were sent flying more than ten meters away, with their scales shattered in a circular pattern and blood spewing from their mouths.

Despite such heavy damage, the Naga warriors showed no fear, only fury.

They had always been unstoppable. When had they ever been weaker than their opponents in terms of strength?

At this moment, there was no trace of fear in their eyes, only anger and ferocity.

They quickly got up from the ground and slithered forward with their strong serpent bodies, slashing with their bone blades. With a crisp sound, they shattered one arm of the relic guardian.

Swish-

Another stone fist came flying, but the Naga warriors didn't recklessly charge forward. Instead, they twisted their bodies and evaded the attack.

Next, the stone fist grazed their scales and swung past.

Seeing this scene, Ji Chen couldn't help but be surprised.

They managed to dodge it?

He didn't expect these Naga warriors, who were short in stature compared to the three-meter-tall relic guardians, to be so agile.

Dodging the attack, the Naga warriors' eyes flashed with coldness. Their two bone blades moved up and down, respectively smashing the other arm and a leg of the Ruins guardian.

The Ruins guardian now had only one leg left and couldn't maintain its balance, staggering and falling to the ground, losing its combat capabilities.

A three-star tier three Naga warrior managed to defeat an eight-star tier three Ruins guardian.

Although it didn't win through sheer strength, it was enough to show the potential of this military unit.

In this world, the tier didn't determine everything. As long as the enemy's weaknesses could be exploited, victory could be achieved even when facing a stronger opponent.

The group of Ruins Guardians, numbering in the hundreds, were barely held off by the smaller number of Naga warriors. The Naga warriors were sent flying, but they rebounded like indestructible pests, tightly entangling their opponents.

The more they were injured, the angrier they became.

Although the bone blades in their hands couldn't completely break the Ruins Guardians, their purpose was achieved.

At this point, the other two important members, the Dragon Blood Murlocs and the Pure Water Sea Pixies, finally unleashed their powerful offensive capabilities.

The dragon aura of the Dragon Blood Murlocs had little effect on the alchemical creatures, but their physical strength alone was enough to defeat them.

Their tridents, like fully charged crossbows, shot up into the air, piercing through the enemies' vital points.

Each shot damaged an energy core, and some even shattered them with a single blow.

The Dragon Blood Murlocs were not limited to long-range attacks; their melee combat abilities were also formidable.

Under the three-meter-tall Ruins Guardians, their small bodies looked quite comical.

But it was precisely because of their size that the Dragon Blood Murlocs could stealthily stab with their tridents, piercing the legs of the Ruins Guardians one by one. They managed to destroy the legs much more often than the energy cores.

The Pure Water Sea Pixies refused to be left behind.

Although their tier was the lowest on the field, lagging behind the Ruins Guardians by five stars, their magical damage output was still impressive.

Water arrows shot out like missiles, exploding one after another on the bodies of the Ruins Guardians.

If one explosion wasn't enough, they would launch ten.

Although they couldn't completely shatter the energy cores with their explosive damage, they could destroy the Ruins Guardians' joints, rendering them paralyzed.

Ruins Guardians with damaged joints floundered on the ground like fish on the shore, completely defenseless. The Naga warriors and Dragon Blood Murlocs shattered their cores one by one.

Naga warriors blocked in the front, Dragon Blood Murlocs precisely targeted, and Pure Water Sea Pixies provided explosive output.

Although the Dragon Blood Murlocs were the only ones with a higher tier than the Ruins Guardians, when combined, their combat effectiveness was astonishing.

This was the advantage of coordinating different military units. With a good lineup, they could fully achieve the effect of  $1+1+1 > 3$ .

Stable and powerful.

Even without Ji Chen and the other heroes intervening, the group of Ruins Guardians was gradually consumed.

One hour later.

With the energy core of the last Ruins Guardian shattered by a trident strike, there were no longer any Ruins Guardians standing in front of them.

Broken rocks were scattered everywhere, a sign of the fierce battle that had taken place.

The battle came to an end.

"Ding- You have achieved a glorious victory... You have gained 35,800 experience points.."

*Chapter 167: Enemies in the Dark, Battle Upgrade (2)*

A large amount of experience points flowed in, causing the experience bar to increase significantly.

Ji Chen was feeling quite satisfied at the moment.

Although the battle came unexpectedly, it was still relatively safe.

Aside from many Naga warriors being injured by the tremendous force, there were no other losses.

It proved that his judgment was correct.

The three unit types he had painstakingly developed had transformed from weaklings to formidable forces, demonstrating outstanding combat prowess and untapped potential.

Not a single unit was a waste.

However, it was a pity that each of these unit types only had one recruitment camp, which prevented him from quickly increasing their production.

Otherwise, with seven or eight camps, he would soon have a powerful army that could dominate the seas.

“After exploring this area, I should go back and see if I\_Love\_Black\_Sockings or other players on King Kong Island have these types of recruitment camp cores...”

Boom!

Just as Ji Chen was thinking, a loud noise erupted from the ruins ahead.

It felt like an earthquake.

The continuous ruins were forcefully torn open, sending debris flying and raising a large cloud of dust.

Amidst the dust, flashes of red light kept appearing.

Numerous Ruins Guardians surged out of the ruins, and their numbers seemed to be in the tens of thousands.

Ji Chen’s expression finally changed.

Because he saw several translucent wolves-like creatures luring the larger group of Ruins Guardians.

At this moment, he finally understood that someone was scheming behind the scenes.

Amidst his shock and anger, Ji Chen did not lose his composure.

If such a large wave of Ruins Guardians were to rush up all at once, it would put immense pressure on their defense line.

So, they couldn’t confront them head-on.

“Everyone, quickly retreat into the gorge and use the terrain to kill the enemy.”

Upon hearing the command, all the units moved without hesitation.

They all retreated into the gorge.

“Naga warriors, stand in the front, and the rest focus on ranged attacks!”

“Alice, use the War Song to boost the units.”

“Benbo, lead the Dragon Blood Murlocs in a focused fire.”

A series of orders were given, and Ji Chen finally breathed a sigh of relief.

However, there was still some worry on his face.

The Naga warriors, who served as the front-line tanks, were not in good condition. After experiencing the previous battle, most of them were injured.

If they couldn’t hold the line, no matter how strong the backline damage dealers were, it would be in vain.



They were once again plunged into a bitter battle.

Outside the gorge, there was a densely packed group of Ruins Guardians numbering in the tens of thousands.

These large beings, each standing three meters tall, had blood-red eyes that seemed eager to devour them.

They continuously attacked the defense line.

Fifteen minutes passed, and Ji Chen's worst fears came true.

Many Naga warriors were heavily injured and had to withdraw from the front line.

With fewer frontline tanks, the pressure on the backline increased.

Anina, looking at the defense line showing signs of collapse, was filled with concern.

She took the initiative and volunteered, saying, "My lord, let me go. I can hold them off."

With things having come to this point, Ji Chen didn't hesitate and agreed to her request.

"Seize the opportunity to attack, but be sure to protect yourself."

Anina nodded and wielded her Dragon Slayer Great Sword as she walked to the front. Facing the Ruins Guardians surging like a tide, a hint of killing intent flashed in her eyes.

Taking a deep breath, her blood began to boil, and power surged from her body.

A majestic power derived from noble bloodline started to emanate, capable of rendering ordinary marine creatures powerless.

Unfortunately, the Ruins Guardians were alchemical constructs and couldn't sense this power.

Anina moved, rushing into the midst of the enemy group like a bolt of lightning.

Facing the rampaging Ruins Guardians wielding stone fists, she didn't choose to dodge but directly collided with them, clenching her left fist.

Her fair little fist was about to collide with the hard stone fist.

To ordinary people, this scene was like an egg smashing against a rock, where the egg would inevitably shatter before the rock.

But who was Anina?

No, she wasn't a person but a whale.

How could the Ruins Guardians contend with a whale?

In the next moment, the Ruins Guardian's fist shattered with a thunderous boom and shattered rocks filled the air.

The difference in power between them was evident.

With a clang, Anina swung her Great Sword fiercely, crushing their bodies.

In the midst of the Ruins Guardian group, Anina moved like a whale swimming in the sea, her body agile.

With each swing of her sword and each punch, a Ruins Guardian fell.

The efficiency of her kills was comparable to that of an army.

She gradually attracted the attention of most Ruins Guardians, reducing the pressure on the defense line.

Seeing Anina being surrounded on all sides, Ji Chen gave the order.

“Alice, empower Anina with the War Song.”

“The rest of the ranged units, seize the opportunity and give it your all!”

The song quietly sounded, reaching Anina’s ears and causing her spirit to tremble.

The already high fighting spirit became even more fervent under this enhancement.

Her body brimmed with boundless strength, and the speed of her sword swings and movements increased significantly.

Her killing efficiency further improved!

Every time a Ruins Guardian’s fist was about to hit her, she skillfully dodged it and counterattacked, severing its arm with a single sword strike.

With the blessing of the unit’s talent, each kill restored a considerable amount of her stamina.

However, upon closer observation, it could be seen that Anina’s combat power was slowly increasing over time.

From two strikes to one kill, gradually becoming one strike for one kill.

[Resurgence of Slaughter (Purple skill, increases combat power with battle time, up to a maximum of 50% boost in combat power)]

Under such terrifying killing efficiency, in just over ten minutes, the Ruins Guardians, which had appeared in a seemingly endless tide, began to thin out slightly.

As long as they could continue like this, resolving this wave of Ruins Guardians was only a matter of time.

Seeing this scene, Ji Chen couldn’t help but breathe a sigh of relief.

Little did he know, the mastermind behind the scenes was also astonished.

“Am I seeing things? Can one person hold back so many Ruins Guardians? They must be a hero, but even for a hero, this is too exaggerated. It’s like a perpetual motion machine...”

“This terrifying power might be a hero of Purple-Rare Tier or above. The one singing in the back should also be a hero, capable of providing powerful buffs to the units. I estimate they are at least Blue Excellent Tier.”

“And that Murloc hero leading the Tidal Sea Spirit’s military recruitment camp...”

Two members looked at Anina, who was dancing and dodging attacks within the Ruins Guardian group while efficiently killing them, as well as Alice behind her. Their faces were filled with envy.

On the other side, Sima Chuxi's expression was incredibly dark, and his eyes were filled with anger and jealousy.

His mind was screaming madly.

"Damn it, damn it, damn it! How can this hero be so strong!?"

"This powerful hero should belong to me, shouldn't it? I am supposed to be the protagonist of this world, of this game!"

After all his efforts, he only had one Blue Excellent-Tier and two Green Elite-Tier heroes.

Meanwhile, this man already had two Purple-Rare-Tier and one Blue Excellent-Tier heroes.

His heart brimmed with raging jealousy, a burning envy that sparked an insatiable thirst to end Ji Chen's life.

Although they hadn't met in person yet, the enmity between them had already been formed.

He must kill Ji Chen here and now.

But even thousands of Ruins Guardians couldn't do anything to Ji Chen. How could he kill him?

"Where are the other Ruins Guardians?"

"There aren't many left nearby, except for several hundred even stronger Ruins Guardians dormant in an underground space to the west."

"But if we lure them out, we'll have to retreat from here, or else we'll be surrounded by these Ruins Guardians and unable to leave."

Upon hearing this, Sima Chuxi hesitated only briefly before gritting his teeth and saying, "Lure them out, and then we'll leave immediately."

"After our strength is sufficient, we can come back here and deal with these troublesome Ruins Guardians."

"But no matter what, we must kill that player today!"

*Chapter 168: Divine Being's Test*

Ji Chen naturally had no knowledge of the conspiracies and intentions of these people. At this moment, he was commanding his troops to deal with a large number of Ruins Guardians.

Thanks to the Naga warriors' innate skill, Bloodline Regeneration, the Naga warriors who were injured in the first wave of Ruins Guardians were visibly recovering at a rapid pace.

Many Naga warriors returned to the battlefield, stabilizing the crumbling defense line once again.

Seeing this scene, Ji Chen decisively ordered Anina, who was trapped in the enemy lines, to retreat. Her task of diverting the enemy's attention had been perfectly accomplished.

Upon hearing the command, Anina did not hesitate to smash the Ruins Guardian in front of her with a punch. She twisted her waist, and her strong legs were filled with explosive power as she swiftly ran back.

On her way back, she also casually slashed two Ruins Guardians who tried to stop her.

An opening appeared in the defense line for Anina to enter and immediately closed thereafter.

Clang- Anina, who had safely retreated, planted her Dragon Slayer Great Sword into the ground, her breathing slightly rapid.

It seemed that the intense battle had also consumed her stamina to some extent.

But it was only a moderate degree of exhaustion. Judging by the rate of consumption, she could continue fighting for several more hours at least.

The bloodline of the Deep Sea Dragon Whale gave her strength and stamina far surpassing ordinary creatures. The endurance provided by various combat stamina skills was enough to make the enemy feel desperate.

However, Anina seemed to have mentioned that she hadn't seen any other Deep Sea Dragon Whales since her mother's death, which disappointed Ji Chen somewhat.

If he could have a hundred Deep Sea Dragon Whales with the same strength as Anina, he would have the confidence to dominate the entire Western Sea.

The three troops relied on the narrow gorge, preventing the Ruins Guardians from fully utilizing their numerical advantage. Only about a dozen of them could attack at a time, while the rest could only jostle and stare helplessly.

The fifty-meter-wide gorge had become a meat grinder.

The wave of over a thousand Ruins Guardians was peeled away like layers of an onion, gradually reducing their numbers.

Two hours later, the last Ruins Guardian fell with a loud crash, its body torn apart.

A pleasant system prompt sounded.

“Ding- You have achieved a glorious victory... Your level has increased (16-17).”

The experience gained from over a thousand Tier 3, 8-star Ruins Guardians once again boosted Ji Chen's level, less than half a day after his last upgrade.

Such a speed of leveling could be described as making great strides in a day.

Ji Chen frequently went to sea, enthusiastic about exploring various ruins and unknown dangerous areas precisely for this reason.

Besides seeking treasure, he also aimed to gain experience and level up by defeating monsters.

Otherwise, relying solely on exterminating the sparse wild troops on the New Moon Islands, he had no idea how long it would take to level up.

Moreover, these dangerous and unknown places often contained abundant loot and astonishing rewards.

“Everyone, take a rest in place!”

Ji Chen didn't rush to advance immediately but loudly commanded.

Engaging in battle without knowing the enemy's intentions was not a wise move.

First, he analyzed the situation.

“The people plotting against me should also be players who obtained the key to enter this place for exploration, but they arrived earlier than me, which allowed them to know where a large number of Ruins Guardians were located and led them here.”

“However, they haven't shown themselves yet, most likely because their troops are weaker than mine. Otherwise, there would be no need to go to such lengths to attract so many Ruins Guardians to me. Clearly, they want to use me as a scapegoat.”

“Lastly, this group is obstructing me from entering so fervently for only one reason: this ancient land of the divine realm indeed holds something, and it's highly likely that they haven't obtained it yet. Otherwise, after attracting the first wave of Ruins Guardians, they could have left immediately.”

After analyzing the situation, Ji Chen's mind became much clearer.

“Continuing with this logic, the most likely place where something might be left in this ancient land of the divine realm...”

Looking at the monotonous expanse of ruins, the possibility of finding anything there was low. With a slight thought, he concluded that the towering high tower in the center was the most likely place to contain something.

And the players lurking in the dark, luring monsters and hiding their intentions, were most likely hiding there.

Thinking this, a cold gleam flashed in Ji Chen's eyes.

When he caught them, he would make them understand the consequences of provoking him, Ji Chen.

After an hour of rest, the injured Naga warriors had recovered considerably. The group set off, heading towards the central high tower.

This time, Ji Chen was much more cautious because the Divine Realm's ancient land couldn't use the Omniscience Map, so they had to rely on more primitive reconnaissance methods.

The Naga warriors spread out in a semicircle, with each one extending their range of scouting to include the surrounding areas, keeping a distance of up to five hundred meters from the main force.

While five hundred meters couldn't compare to the reconnaissance range of the Omniscience Map, it was enough to allow them to react before the enemy attacked.

Soon, the Naga warriors who had entered the ruins discovered the dormant Ruins Guardians and roared loudly to relay the information.

Upon hearing the sound, a team consisting of Dragon Blood Murlocs, Naga warriors, and Pure Water Sea Pixies rushed over.

The sporadic Ruins Guardians posed no threat to them at all.

After a brief battle, the Ruins Guardians were easily defeated.

The group continued advancing while scouting, slowly approaching the high tower as they moved through the ruins..

### *Chapter 169: Divine Being's Test (2)*

Not knowing whether witnessing Ji Chen's power discouraged the players who were lurking in the shadows, or if they had other schemes in mind, they didn't reach out to attack again.

Half an hour later.

Ji Chen and his companions safely arrived at the stone bridge that connected to the tower, recalling the Naga warriors in front.

Three stone bridges spanned the lake from different directions, connecting the tower to the ground.

The lake below the bridge shimmered with gentle waves, exuding a hint of coolness.

Seeing this, Ji Chen felt relieved.

As long as there was water, he could regain most of the power belonging to the Lord of the Tides. Even if another wave of relic guardians with the same number as before were to come, he alone could defeat them.

His combat power would be greatly enhanced in the ocean or any environment with water.

Looking at the nearby tower, Ji Chen didn't waste any more time and led his army to approach along the stone bridge.

The entrance to the tower was a watery door-like portal.

Ji Chen was cautious and sent a Naga warrior to explore the way ahead.

As soon as the Naga warrior touched the door, he disappeared instantly.

A few minutes later, the Naga warrior reappeared at the door, seemingly unharmed.

Seeing this, Ji Chen relaxed slightly and began to inquire about the situation inside from the Naga warrior.

"So, once we enter, there's a platform, and a passage connected to it leads to a stone open-air hall. However, there's another passage at the opposite end of the hall that is obstructed by a white barrier. There are no Ruins Guardians inside, and no enemies have been found."

No enemies inside?

Could it be that the deceitful player who attracted the monsters earlier realized he couldn't do anything to Ji Chen and left on his own?

After thinking for a moment, Ji Chen decided to put that aside for now and enter to investigate.

Revenge was important, but it would be better to understand the situation here first.

Leaving two Dragon Blood Murlocs to guard the stone bridge and keep watch for enemies, Ji Chen waved his hand, and the other troops began to enter and form a formation.

As soon as they touched the watery door, they found themselves on a circular floating platform with a diameter of one hundred meters.

Looking up, Ji Chen's pupils suddenly contracted.

He was overwhelmed with astonishment.

At this moment, words were unable to express his emotions.

Was this the inside of the tower?

Why did it feel like he had entered a different dimension?

Before his eyes, a vast expanse of twinkling stars filled the boundless sky.

Infinite and vast.

It made people feel incredibly small in an instant.

After a long while, he finally snapped out of his shock.

Only divine beings could create such a miraculous space within the tower.

He looked around to observe his surroundings.

The platform they were on floated above the starry sky, with the watery door behind them.

The only way forward was a floating passage that connected to a stone hall with a diameter of several hundred meters.

After thinking for a moment, Ji Chen turned back to the door.

In a flash, he instantly returned to the stone bridge.

The two Dragon Blood Murlocs were diligently standing guard.

It seemed that the door could be freely entered and exited.

Now that he understood this, Ji Chen let go of his worries and passed through the door again to return to the platform.

Without lingering, he led his army along the floating platform towards the stone hall.

As expected, there was a white barrier at the other end of the hall as mentioned by the Naga warrior. The blurred sandy surface concealed what lay beyond.

Just as Ji Chen was pondering about the purpose of this place.

The system prompt sounded in his ears.

“Ding- This is a trial of the divine being's test: a simulation of the illusionary realm. Players can challenge it and obtain rewards upon completion.”

“The challenges in this space do not cause any harm to life. After a failure, you can recover and attempt the challenge again with unlimited tries.”

“Simply focus your mind: Start the trial to begin the challenge.”

Divine being’s test?

Challenge?

Rewards?

Ji Chen suddenly realized that this tower was actually a trial ground.

He previously thought it was a residence of divine beings or something like that.

Once he snapped back to reality, excitement surged within him.

If there were rewards, then he had nothing to worry about.

Besides, the rewards from the divine being’s test wouldn’t be bad, no matter what.

And according to the prompt, failure wouldn’t result in death, and he could challenge it an unlimited number of times. That completely relieved Ji Chen of any concerns.

It meant he could revert to a previous state, which was something every gamer longed for. Even if it was a divine being, he would show them what he was capable of!

“Be on full alert! Stay close to the walls and prepare to counter any attacks!”

With a command, all units moved to the wall and formed a semicircular formation, ready for battle.

The Naga warrior remained outside while the Dragon Blood Murlocs and Pure Water Sea Pixies stood inside, with Ji Chen and his companions at the center.

“Alice, Anina, Benbo, attack upon my command!”

“Yes, my lord!”

Having observed that everything was prepared, Ji Chen silently recited to himself, “Initiate the trial.”

In the next instant, a white barrier blocked the passage leading back to the hall, while a dome materialized in the air, enclosing the entire space.

The entire hall became sealed off.

At that moment, the system prompt resounded once again.

“Ding- Illusory Realm Simulation, Level One, initiated. Defeat all enemies to proceed.”

In the center of the hall, a hundred ethereal forms of Ruins Guardians suddenly appeared.

Simultaneously, stars began to cascade from the sky, infusing each ethereal form with specks of starlight, gradually solidifying their bodies.

Within seconds, all the Ruins Guardians took shape, marching towards them with precise and synchronized steps.



Narrowing his eyes, Ji Chen couldn't help but find the first level quite thrilling.

A hundred may not sound like much, but it was not an insignificant number either.

However, Ji Chen noticed something peculiar about these Ruins Guardians. They seemed different from the ones they encountered outside. They were smaller in size, standing just over two meters tall, almost on par with the Naga warriors, and their bodies appeared less rugged.

Staring intently, he examined their status panel:

[Ruins Guardian (Simulated)]

[Race]: Simulated Creature

[Level]: 11

[Tier]: Second Tier, 8 stars

[Skills]: Guard Command (Blue skill), Charge (Blue skill), Magic Resistance (Green skill), Fearlessness (Green skill)

[Unit Traits]: Alchemical Creation (Alchemical creations are devoid of fear and other emotions)

[Simulated creations within the trial ground]

Second Tier, 8 stars, and Level 11?

Could it be that they were too easy to handle?

They had already slain over a thousand Third Tier, 8 stars Ruins Guardians outside, and now they were confronted with a hundred simulated Ruins Guardians that were a whole tier lower. It almost felt like a gift.

Shaking his head, Ji Chen waved his hand, allowing the Dragonblood Murlocs to unleash their attacks freely. With their Fourth Tier, 4-star strength, the Dragonblood Murlocs overwhelmed the simulated Ruins Guardians of the Second Tier, 8 stars. Their brutal tridents shattered the ethereal beings, exploding them one by one, even before they could approach.

The entire battle concluded in less than three minutes.

If Sima Chuxi and the others were to witness this, tears would surely stream down their faces. They had struggled and paid a hefty price to vanquish a hundred Second Tier, 8 stars Ruins Guardians, while Ji Chen dealt with them effortlessly.

“Ding- Level One of the Illusory Realm Simulation cleared. Proceed to Level Two?”

“Yes,” Ji Chen promptly responded, wasting no time in commencing the next level.

For him, this level of challenge barely constituted a warm-up.

“Ding- Illusory Realm Simulation, Level Two, initiated. Defeat all enemies to proceed.”

Once again, they were tasked with defeating all enemies to advance.

This time, they faced another hundred Ruins Guardians, but their Tier had been raised to Third Tier, 2 stars, and their level had increased to 13.

Taking into account all the enhancements, it should have been manageable for them.

However, this battle took a bit longer, approximately six minutes to resolve.

“Ding- Illusory Realm Simulation, Level Three, initiated...”

The third level.

Starlight poured down from above.

A hundred Third Tier, 5 stars Ruins Guardians, each at level 15, materialized before them.

This level of intensity brought them closer to the strength of the Ruins Guardians outside.

But it still fell short!

Resting against the wall, Ji Chen found himself starting to doze off.

If this was the pinnacle of the challenges they would face, then he had already secured the rewards bestowed by the divine realm!

*Chapter 170: Tower of Secrets: Arrival at the Northern Continent*

Having cleared the third and fourth levels without much effort, Ji Chen approached the fifth level with a bit more enthusiasm.

The fifth level still consisted of a hundred Ruins Guardians, with no change in numbers.

However, their Tier had now reached Third Tier, 9 stars, and their level was 19. Standing at a towering height of 4 meters, they resembled small mountains before him.

These Ruins Guardians advanced with heavy footsteps, rumbling towards him.

The spacious hall suddenly seemed to shrink in size.

But this level of intensity posed no challenge for him. After a fierce battle, all hundred Ruins Guardians were damaged and fell to the ground.

Level five cleared!

However, this time the system prompt had a slight difference.

“Ding- Illusory Realm Trial, Level Five cleared. Level Six is about to commence. You may now choose the new trial terrain: Desert, Swamp, Mountain, Ocean, Grassland.”

Terrain options?

There were five terrains to choose from, but at a glance, Ji Chen immediately ruled out the desert.

The reason was simple. His units were all amphibious marine creatures and the desert had no presence of water whatsoever. It would be a nightmare for them.

As for the mountain, grassland, and swamp terrains...

These three terrains might have lakes, rivers, or shallow water areas, but they were not the optimal choice.

The best option was naturally the ocean.

In the ocean, they could fully unleash their advantages, effectively doubling their combat power!

“Ding- You have chosen the Ocean terrain.”

As soon as the voice fell, the stone hall beneath their feet transformed into a small island, surrounded by an endless sea. The sky bore a radiant sun, with blue skies and serene floating clouds.

Seagulls soared in the sky, schools of fish swam in the water, and in the distance, whales spouted water columns—a scene brimming with vitality.

With a faint sniff, the salty scent of the sea breeze rushed into their nostrils.

Ji Chen’s eyes widened in astonishment, taking a moment to regain his composure.

If he hadn’t seen the previous starry hall, he would have thought they had truly been transported into the ocean, rather than a simulated scene.

There was no discernible difference between this scenery and the real ocean.

Was this the power of the divine realm?

Even though they had left that world and an unknown amount of time had passed, the lingering power remained as dazzling and breathtaking as ever.

Bringing his entire army into the sea, they floated on the surface, ready to commence the next trial.

“Ding- Illusory Realm Simulation, Level Six, initiated. Protect the Nexus from destruction for 30 minutes.”

Protect the Nexus?

Ji Chen was slightly surprised as he saw a crystal float appear not far away on the sea’s surface.

Presumably, that was the so-called Nexus.

A 30-minute countdown timer appeared in his peripheral vision.

Without hesitation, Ji Chen immediately led his troops to the crystal float and protected it steadfastly.

Once they moved away from the small island, it gradually disappeared from view, leaving only the vast expanse of the sea.

Ji Chen controlled the seawater to keep himself afloat, surveying the surroundings, but there were no enemies in sight.

He felt a sense of puzzlement.

Suddenly, he thought of something and quickly submerged himself in the water to inspect for underwater enemies.

Indeed, within the relatively dim underwater visibility, a large number of enemies appeared from all directions.

In the slightly murky seawater, their bodies emitted a dazzling blood-red aura, making them stand out.

However, these enemies were no longer the rock-like Ruins Guardians; instead, they resembled devilish fish with a three-meter-long body. Their elliptical blood-red aura connected their flat bodies to the large fins on both sides, creating a distinct science-fiction-like appearance.

With a two-meter-long spike at their tail, they exuded an extremely dangerous aura.

[Ocean Guardian]

[Race]: Alchemical Creation

[Level]: 17

[Tier]: Third Tier, 9 stars

[Skills]: Guard Command (Purple skill), Agility (Blue skill), Fearlessness (Blue skill), Magic Resistance (Blue skill)

[Unit Traits]: Alchemical Creation (Alchemical creations are devoid of fear, anxiety, and other emotions)

[Marine Alchemical Guardian, agile in action]

Hundreds of Ocean Guardians, numbering over two hundred, swarmed from all directions, intent on destroying the Nexus.

Unlike the Ruins Guardians, these Ocean Guardians had no apparent weaknesses. They moved swiftly, their large fins acting like two engines, propelling them forward in an instant.

With their fierce jaws, they latched onto the bone blades swung by the Naga warriors.

Crack! Even the blades, harder than metal, suddenly appeared with cracks.

The Ocean Guardians crazily tore at the bone blades, attempting to rip them off.

Despite the Naga warriors' efforts, they couldn't retrieve their trapped bone blades no matter how hard they pulled. Determined, they swung another blade, hoping to achieve some results.

However, the tail spike of the Ocean Guardians suddenly shot out, accurately hitting the returning blade.

If they were on land, there would likely have been a resounding clash of metal, but underwater, there was no sound—only the chaotic water flow resulting from the collision.

Although silent, it carried no shortage of danger.

The number of Ocean Guardians exceeded two hundred, more than double the Naga warriors. It was almost as if two of them were ganging up on a single Naga warrior.

Within moments, many Naga warriors were caught in the jaws of the Ocean Guardians, their bodies pierced with several large holes from the tail spikes, blood gushing out.

Back in the depths of the ocean.

The combat capabilities of the other two important units, the Dragonblood Murlocs and the Pure Water Sea Pixies, surged dramatically.

The Pure Water Sea Pixies, still submerged in the ocean, enjoyed an additional 35% increase in spell damage. Even though the enemies outclassed them by a staggering six tiers, this bonus greatly compensated for the disparity..