

## **Ocean Lord 401**

### *Chapter 401: Attack of Benbo, Eight Major Legions, Several Achievements*

After thinking for a long time and still not getting any clue, Ji Chen had to temporarily put aside this nonsensical matter. Regardless, the ghost ship did not follow them, perhaps it was just randomly choosing to follow passing creatures.

Now, he had more important things to do—raising the tier of his heroes.

Even though Ji Chen already had many heroes, some of them even legendary and just a step below the epic tier, with an impressive total of two such heroes, which would amaze any player, he still felt it wasn't sufficient.

Thinking back on the challenging months he had endured, Ji Chen had encountered foes ranging from lowly tier 2 kobolds to the formidable Bass Kingdom.

He had already gained a preliminary understanding of the Bass Kingdom's strength—hundreds of steel warships and tens of thousands of soldiers, a force capable of sweeping the Crown of the Ocean. Even though his own strength was not considered low at this point, he still couldn't resist such power.

Not to mention that behind these sea-like soldiers, there were unknown numbers and strengths of hero units.

Ji Chen found it hard to believe that in a kingdom as ancient and expansive as the Bass Kingdom, there were no heroes to be found. There were rumors that the king of the Bass Kingdom was a formidable legendary figure who had seized the throne through sheer strength.

In a nation that revered strength, how could they not nurture a batch of hero units?

The Crown of the Ocean needed to become even stronger.

And heroes with extraordinary combat abilities were one of the key factors.

Even Alice, who was only at the legacy tier, could rival thousands upon thousands of enemies with her unique telekinetic abilities. Her combat prowess was equivalent to half a legion on her own.

Not to mention Verena and Herald, who were even more formidable.

A sufficiently powerful hero possessed the power to change the course of battle, and this was no empty talk.

Without hesitation, he opened the military talent tree and found the interface for hero enhancement.

Alice, Benbo, Herald, and the names of other heroes appeared one by one. The higher the tier of the hero, the more resources were needed to upgrade, starting with a large amount of rare resources from the purple rare tier.

Ji Chen looked at the strings of numbers on the screen and couldn't help but be shocked.

[Half-Orc Hero: Daro (Blue Excellent Tier -> Purple Rare Tier) requires 60,000 units of rare resources.]

[Merfolk Hero: Benbo Erba (Purple Rare Tier -> Red Legacy Tier) requires 500,000 units of rare resources and 1,000 Dragon Blood Crystals.]

[Siren Hero: Alice (Red Legacy Tier — Orange Legendary Tier) requires 4.5 million units.]

Daro needing 60,000 units of rare resources to upgrade to the purple rare tier made sense to him. Benbo needing 500,000 to reach the red legacy tier was also understandable. But for Alice to ascend to the orange legendary tier, it required a whopping 4.5 million units of rare resources?

Were legendary tiers really this expensive?

The corner of Ji Chen's mouth twitched, and his gaze towards Herald changed as well. Just thinking about the deep sea naga's original bloodline given to him by Yasen, it was getting hard to hold back.

He had been given millions of units of rare resources for free.

I need to thank you.

If upgrading to the orange legendary tier was this terrifyingly expensive, how much would it take to reach the even higher epic tier?

Ji Chen opened Herald's page and stared at the string of zeroes. It left him somewhat numb.

The first digit was a 6, followed by seven zeros.

In other words, for Herald, who was already at the orange legendary tier, to upgrade to the epic tier, he would need a whopping 60 million units of rare resources, more than ten times what Alice required.

Such a staggering amount, he wondered how many years it would take to collect.

Epic tier experts were currently the most top-notch figures in the world, each one a leader in their respective forces. The difference between forces with epic-tier experts and those without was like night and day.

A high-level epic-tier expert could make tens of thousands of troops hesitate to make a move and could deal with multiple legendary-tier experts.

So, with Thotmudo guarding the Crown of the Ocean for the time being, it could be said that his territory's defense is incredibly secure.

Thinking about this, Ji Chen felt somewhat relieved.

At present, Thotmudo, a level 78 epic tier hero, had a request for him—to use his power to gather the dwarves and revive the dwarven race, a mission of the "S" rank.

So, when the Crown of the Ocean was invaded, he wouldn't just stand by.

He had to stabilize the situation first.

After a moment of contemplation, Ji Chen decided to upgrade Benbo first.

With a thought, a faint column of light, as if from the void, enveloped the Murloc hero.

Over ten minutes later, as the golden light gradually dissipated, Benbo's figure also reappeared, exuding an even more formidable aura that startled the surrounding Dragon Blood Murlocs.

“Ding- Consumed 440,000 units of rare resources, 1,000 Dragon Blood Crystals, Benbo’s tier has been upgraded to the red legacy tier.”

[Benbo (Hero)]

[Race]: Dragon Blood Murloc

[Level]: 39

[Current Tier]: Red (Legacy Tier)

[Potential]: Red (Legacy Tier)

[Skills]: Dragon’s Wrath (Red Skill, the increasingly rich Dragon’s Blood in the body grants a powerful Dragon’s Wrath, with strong suppression against any lower-ranked races)

Dragon’s Power (Red Skill, the Dragon’s Blood in the body grants formidable strength, increasing strength by 200%)

Tidal Surge (Red Skill, possesses powerful water control abilities, can manipulate water currents to attack enemies, reduces water-based damage to self by 50%)

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Several Achievements (2)

Combat Power Throw (Red Skill): Concentrating all the strength in the body, throw the Trident of Mana, increasing its penetration capability by 100% and causing splash damage.

Dragon Blood Murloc Physique (Red Skill): Immune to some curses, viruses, and toxins, with a 35% increase in spell resistance and physical resistance.

Oceanic Murloc (Red Skill): Movement speed increases by 250% while active in the ocean, and Murloc armies under your command enjoy a 50% bonus.

[Unit Trait: Murloc Commander (Provides an additional 40 morale when leading Murlocs, immune to fear and retreat, and all attributes of the Murlocs under your command increase by 125%, with a shared understanding).]

[This was becoming an increasingly powerful Murloc hero.]

[Ribbit- Ribbit!!]

The panel underwent a significant transformation, with six red skills signifying an unprecedented upgrade.

Especially the unit trait, similar to the Deep Sea Naga hero Herald, it brought more prominent improvements to the subordinates.

Benbo felt a much stronger power within him and was extremely excited.

As a hero with only blue excellent-tier talent, he would probably have stayed at this level forever without any accidents.

But everything changed since the master summoned him from the void.

First, he went from the blue excellent-tier to the purple rare-tier. At that time, he was already very satisfied. Later, he merged with the Dragon Blood Crystals, replacing his bloodline with that of a dragon, completing the leap of his racial bloodline.

But now, his master had used his great power to elevate him to the Red-Legacy Tier. His strength had increased dozens of times.

What an incredible favor and blessing!

Immediately, Benbo knelt down, saying in the most devout manner, "Thank you for your grace, Master!"

"Rise, I won't mistreat any of my loyal subordinates. I hope you can live up to this blessing."

"I will repay this trust with flesh and soul, with loyalty spoken through slaughter and the Trident in my hand!"

Ji Chen nodded slightly, thinking for a moment.

"From now on, all Dragon Blood Murlocs will directly obey your command. Create a legion of your own, and name it... the Dragon Blood Legion."

"Yes!"

This decision was one he had wanted to propose when he was increasing the unit tier.

As the number of main unit types continued to increase, many had already surpassed the ten-thousand mark, making command much more challenging.

Ji Chen was well aware that his command abilities were not exceptionally outstanding. Instead of tightly holding onto the command authority, it would be better to delegate some of the command authority for specific unit types to heroes who understood how to command them.

He only needed to retain overall command.

In his initial plan, the formation of various units and legions was as follows:

Dragon Blood Murlocs would form the Dragon Blood Legion, directly commanded by Benbo.

Naga Guardians would form the Naga Legion, directly commanded by Herald.

Silver Sea Pixies, Water Nymph Archers, and Crab Guardians would form the Guardian Legion.

Lobster Guardian Knights would form the Knight Legion, temporarily commanded by one of the blue excellent-tier Lobster Guardian Knight heroes.

Tyrant Azure Dragons would form the Azure Dragon Legion, serving as Ji Chen's personal guard and commanded by him directly.

Alice, due to her uniqueness, would form the Servant Legion, consisting of her and the soul servants she controlled, operating as an independent unit.

As for the Lizardmen, Kobolds, Half-Orcs, and other diverse races, they would come together to form the Production Legion. This legion's primary duty would be focused on tasks related to

production and construction. However, during times of war, they would transition into a militia force and actively engage in combat. The overall command of this force would be under the supervision of Grand Steward Wilus.

The remaining tier four and below units would form the Guard Legion, specializing in protecting the territory, conducting patrols, and vigilance duties, temporarily commanded by Daro.

With this organization, the Crown of the Ocean had established eight legions, each with specific roles in combat and production.

As a result, the various unit types were no longer mixed haphazardly but had distinct leadership and clear commands, enhancing their combat effectiveness.

This was the decision Ji Chen had made regarding unit command, hoping to see corresponding results in future battles.

During the time of waiting for Daro to recover, perhaps due to a war that had nearly devastated the entire territory, the residents had burst with great work enthusiasm, resulting in multiple impressive achievements.

First, there was Thotmudo, who had obtained three sets of alchemical technology data from Lienhardt. He had already analyzed one set and manufactured a prototype.

It was an alchemical anti-aircraft cannon with four long barrels, two on the left and two on the right, with an alchemical targeting device in the middle. To operate it fully, it required at least three people to cooperate: one to rotate the base turret, one to load ammunition, and one to aim and fire.

If modern military enthusiasts saw it, they would surely be amazed because this multi-barrel cannon was essentially an otherworldly version of a quad anti-aircraft gun.

In fact, this alchemical anti-aircraft cannon, known as the “Ripper”, was designed for anti-aircraft defense but could also be used horizontally to deal with targets without armor or low armor.

According to Thotmudo’s explanation, this alchemical anti-aircraft cannon could fire a dense barrage of explosive shells, boasting formidable firepower that posed a significant threat to aerial targets. The only drawback was its significant ammunition consumption.

Ji Chen was prepared for this and immediately had Wilus dispatch a group of residents to the cannon manufacturing plant to start producing the required alchemical shells.

The cannon manufacturing plant, besides being capable of manufacturing cannons, could naturally produce ammunition as well. With the vast mineral resources in the underground Lizardmen world, there was no shortage of minerals.

Secondly, Leysha’s winemaking business had also achieved some results. She had come up with two grape wine recipes, one with a richer taste suitable for men and another slightly milder but more suitable for women.

Leysha named them “Blue Sea Wines”, signifying wines coming from the blue ocean.

Due to the climate and rules, it took less than two months from planting to mature grapes. As a result, the initially planted grapes had grown quite lush, with vines climbing up wooden frames, showing remarkable growth.

According to Leysha, the Crown of the Ocean was a land highly conducive to grape cultivation.

As for the issue of liquor sales qualification in the Maple Principality, Ji Chen wasn't too worried. He planned to find Miligas later, perhaps with assistance from Yasen or Gilder if needed. Alternatively, they could sell the Crown of the Ocean's wine elsewhere, not necessarily limited to the Maple Principality.

They could also consider selling it directly to the Lienhardt Grand Duchy through Monika's connections.

Ji Chen might not have much, but he had some influential friends among the natives and held a decent position in their society.

Thirdly, thanks to the residents' overtime efforts, all twelve three-star Black Hawk Arrow Towers had been completed.

These towering thirty-meter structures, crowned with eagle heads on top, capable of firing specially crafted crossbow bolts, stood evenly along the long southern shoreline, creating a formidable network of firepower.

In the past, whenever enemies invaded, the previously unobstructed southern beach was always the first point of enemy breakthrough, causing the Crown of the Ocean significant losses.

However, with the completion of these twelve three-star arrow towers, this embarrassing situation would come to an end.

Fourthly, perhaps boosted by the high popularity of 92 points, the Crown of the Ocean had two new lifestyle heroes within a few days.

Both were white common-tier heroes, originally blacksmiths.

Although they were just the lowest-tier white common heroes, they were hero units nonetheless. This gave Ji Chen an unexpected delight, and he immediately arranged for them to learn the technology from Thotmudo.

Even if hero units were of the lowest tier, their learning abilities were still superior to ordinary people, making it easier for them to grasp Dwarven forging techniques.

If one were to visit the spacious factory in the jungle clearing on the northern side of the Crown of the Ocean, they would see Thotmudo there, wielding a hammer to instruct his apprentices in the techniques and secrets of Dwarven forging.

This time, he was truly focused, wholeheartedly teaching the technology.

Ji Chen was quite satisfied with this development, and he started thinking about when to send people to the Western Continent to explore the Kugi Mountains and find those reclusive Dwarves.

But all of this would have to wait until after he had explored the mystics realm..

*Chapter 403: The Deployment of New Units, Ocean Mystic Realm, and the Canyon*

On the tenth day since returning from the Northern Continent, Ji Chen led six legions of warriors and departed, marching towards the ocean in a formidable procession.

On the right side was the Naga Guardian Legion, numbering over a thousand units, each one more robust than the Half-Orcs, exuding a fierce aura.

On the left side were the Lobster Guardian Knight Legion, clad in heavy armor and wielding lances. They were the ocean's heavy cavalry, unstoppable in their advance.

In the rear were the Royal Guards, with Water Nymph Archers and Silver Sea Pixies, protected by the Crab Guardians as they moved forward.

In the center, there were only eighteen but extremely powerful Azure Dragon Legion. Ji Chen, Alice, and other heroes stood on some of them, in the safest position.

Ahead was Alice's Soul Servant Legion, a diverse group of units that didn't necessarily signify weakness. Their fearlessness in the face of death made their enemies shudder.

Surrounding them, the Dragonblood Legion formed a spider-web-like pattern evenly spread within a circular range of five hundred meters, providing vision and early warning for the main force.

Such a massive and orderly army moved at a high speed on the sea, cutting through waves and leaving white streaks in their wake.

The Mystic Realm Gate guarded by a variety of sea creatures was three to four days' journey away from the New Moon Islands. But with Ji Chen's urging, they managed to arrive in just two days.

In the center of a calm sea, a ten-meter-high and twenty-meter-wide deep blue gate stood in the water, half above the surface and half submerged.

Due to its nearly identical color to the sea, it might go unnoticed if not for the wild monsters circling around it.

[Mystic Realm Gate (Short-term)]

[Scale]: Small

[Type]: Two-way Portal

[Description]: Leads to a marine realm. Please pay attention to whether your units are suitable for entry. Currently, there is a remaining opening time (17 days, 2 hours, 34 minutes). Please leave within the designated time, or you will be trapped in the realm.

Those players were not wrong; this was indeed a short-term Mystic Realm Gate with about 17 days left to its opening, which was quite sufficient.

Next were those wild monsters.

As Ji Chen looked from afar, he quickly assessed them in his mind.

Guarding the Mystic Realm Gate, there were three types of wild monsters.

Shrimp Soldiers – Tier Four, 9 stars, Level 33, Quantity: 800 units.

Crab Warriors – Tier Four, 9 stars, Level 33, Quantity: 800 units.

Giant Turtle Sorcerers – Tier Five, 1 star, Level 34, Quantity: 500 units.

Just the wild monsters guarding the entrance already numbered nearly two thousand units, and their tier and level were quite high. It seemed that the inside of the realm would be even stronger.

But Ji Chen had no fear or hesitation. Instead, he felt excited.

The stronger the enemy, the more precious treasures were likely hidden inside. This was a constant rule.

Moreover, the Crown of the Ocean's army had recently undergone a transformation, and he wanted to test their strength against formidable foes.

"Prepare to attack, everyone!"

With a command, the army's momentum suddenly shifted from being as sturdy as mountains to sharp as blades, closing in on the enemy.

Perhaps sensing their imposing aura, the enemy realized that these newcomers were not to be underestimated, and their eyes turned red.

Especially when they saw the Dragon Blood Murlocs emanating dragon's might, their anger flared.

In their hearts, there was only one true dragon, and these despicable Murlocs must have obtained dragon blood through some lowly means.

These outsiders from who-knows-where dared to provoke them with such mottled bloodlines?

Damn it!

They were the noble children of the great dragon, their bloodlines were pure, how could they tolerate the insult from another race?

The leader of the blue-tier monsters raised the bone spear in his hand, a blood-red aura enveloped the army, and he roared loudly.

"Kill these lowly creatures with impure bloodlines and offer their heads to the great Dragon King!"

It was as if the horns of war were sounding in their ears. The Shrimp Soldiers and Crab Warriors, armed with bone spears and pincers, surged forward like a torrent.

The Giant Turtle Sorcerers, carrying their thick turtle shells, raised their badges and unleashed hundreds and thousands of water arrows that were just as deadly as metal arrows, raining down like a torrential downpour.

"Fire!"

However, the Crab Guardians had already prepared themselves, raising their broad shields to protect their comrades behind them.

The water arrows rained down in the blink of an eye, crashing against the shield's surface with a violent roar, splashing water everywhere but causing no harm to the massive shields.

After blocking the attack, the Crab Guardians tilted their shields slightly, revealing the water nymph archers behind them, each of them already having drawn their bows.

"Shoot!"

As the command echoed, 140 arrows, carrying special magic power and glowing with a deep blue hue, were shot out. Although the number was small, there was no doubt about their killing power.



They followed a graceful arc in the air, heading straight for the Giant Turtle Sorcerers.

Even the most inexperienced players knew that in battle, you target the backline first, especially the squishy mages.

The expression of the Giant Turtle Sorcerers changed, and without hesitation, they turned around, presenting their turtle shells to the enemy.

The shells emitted a faint yellow glow, clearly not ordinary shells. They possessed significant defensive capabilities, which was the advantage of these Giant Turtle Sorcerers – the ability to use their shells to resist ranged attacks.

However, were the arrows shot by the water nymph archers ordinary arrows?

[Unit Trait]: Spell Penetration (Arrows fired carry spell burning and penetration effects).

Swish!

One arrow after another pierced through the turtle shells with only slight resistance, deeply embedding themselves in the vulnerable flesh of the Giant Turtle Sorcerers..

*Chapter 404 - 404: The Deployment of New Units, Ocean Mystic Realm, and the Canyon (2)*

A wave of arrows rained down, killing dozens of Giant Turtle Sorcerers.

They were severely wounded but hadn't had a chance to counterattack before the next wave of arrows, carrying the spells of the Silver Sea Pixies, struck once again.

After two waves of onslaught, nearly all of the hundreds of Giant Turtle Sorcerers were wiped out.

Seeing this scene, the Blue Monster Commander leading the shrimp and crab soldiers into the attack was furious, almost losing his sanity.

F\*cking outsiders!

You've just wiped out a quarter of my troops?

I'll make you suffer the same pain!

Crossing the final distance, they launched a charge, their tails and limbs moving rapidly like electric fans to increase their speed.

However, among the so-called outsiders, there was a fully armed unit prepared to counter them.

At some point, over a thousand Lobster Guardian Knights had already sprung into action, their speed increasing rapidly. If the ground tremor was caused by the cavalry charging on land, the commotion caused by the knights charging in the water was the splashing of water, with torrents surging.

Gradually, the Monster Commander realized that something was amiss. He felt the sea water churning violently, and a terrifying armored lobster cavalry charged at them from the side.

His mind cleared instantly, fear etched across his face.

Ji Chen observed how the shrimp and crab soldiers were easily defeated by the Lobster Guardian Knights, who skillfully skewered them on their spears as if they were toy figurines. He expressed his approval with a nod.

Indeed, they were fifth-tier units, and their terrifying suppression of fourth-tier units made it look like child's play.

The two new units, the Water Nymph Archers and the Crab Guardians, also performed admirably, achieving the desired effects.

The Lobster Guardian Knights skillfully cut through the enemy's formation, dividing them into smaller pieces, rendering them unable to organize their forces to resist, and devoured them like pieces of pie.

Soon, the only one left on the sea surface was the heavily wounded Monster Commander, who looked like a chick and was being carried over by several knights.

Without wasting words, Ji Chen spoke directly.

"Tell us about the monster leader within this realm, the number, types, and strength of your forces, and the information about the so-called Dragon King you mentioned, or face death."

The blue monster commander cursed loudly, "You're dreaming! Our mighty Dragon King will surely avenge us. You, outsider, are walking into a one-way path to death!"

Upon hearing this, Ji Chen's face showed no surprise. He turned to Alice and said, "Use mind control to manipulate him and extract his spirit, memories, and soul."

Mind control wasn't limited to controlling enemies; Alice, who could control souls, naturally had the ability to access memories. However, most wild creatures' memories held little value, but this was a blue-tier monster commander, so there might be something in its mind.

"Yes." Alice nodded in response, then turned her gaze towards the Monster Commander. Her sapphire-like eyes devoid of emotion, she slowly activated her skill.

The Blue Monster Commander, listening to Ji Chen's words and seeing Alice's expression, couldn't help but panic. He struggled, "What are you going to do!?"

However, the hands of several Lobster Guardian Knights held him like iron clamps. He was already heavily wounded and couldn't resist, so he had no choice but to endure the mental assault from Alice.

A few minutes later.

The Blue Excellent-Tier Monster Commander was no longer struggling. His eyes were vacant and lifeless as if he were a walking corpse.

Alice slowly opened her eyes and said, "Master, I have extracted some information from its soul.

The internal environment of this mystic realm is entirely underwater, and there's an underwater city called Dragon King City.

...Its ruler is a dragon, but we don't know the specific type of dragon, and its strength is unknown...

The Dragon King's palace has eight thousand-strong squads of shrimp soldiers, eight thousand-strong squads of crab soldiers, four thousand-strong squads of Giant Turtle Sorcerers, and four thousand-strong squads of 3-star Deep Sea Sawtooth Beasts.

Each thousand-strong squad is led by at least one Blue Excellent-Tier Monster Commander. However, it seems that the dragon also has a secret force numbering in the thousands, but I couldn't obtain information about their tier and level from its fragmented soul..."

Ji Chen nodded. Mind control was a rather brutal intrusion method, often resulting in damage to the soul and memory.

However, this information was sufficient. Currently, they were at a significant disadvantage in terms of the number of troops.

But Ji Chen felt no fear or worry. Quantity was not the sole determining factor in victory.

Tier, coordination, tactics, hero units, environment, and other factors could lead to different outcomes in battle.

He had strong confidence in the current Ocean Crown army.

The defending forces at this location had been wiped out, and the gateway to the mystic realm stood open. Without wasting any time, Ji Chen waved his hand, and the army reformed its ranks at the watery gateway.

"The Crab Guardians, move into the mystic realm and protect our allies with your shields!"

With the command given, 140 Crab Guardians approached the gateway, forming more than ten rows and holding up their shields without hesitation as they entered.

The water rippled as the crab-shaped shadows disappeared one by one behind the door.

Once all the Crab Guardians had entered without incident, the Naga Guardians followed suit. Only then did Ji Chen wave his hand, allowing the Ocean Dragon Legion to enter. The mystic realm's gateway conveniently accommodated one Tyrant Azure Dragon at a time.

One by one, the Tyrant Azure Dragons entered, and Ji Chen, standing on one of them, felt a momentary coolness enveloping him. The surroundings immediately quieted down.

When he came to his senses, he was already submerged in water.

There was no light coming from above, indicating that they were deep underwater.

For ordinary players, entering the mystic realm through this gateway would have turned them into minced meat due to the underwater pressure. However, for Ji Chen, it was no problem. Even without the protection of the Ocean's Favor talent, he could control the water pressure and move as freely as on land.

The first to enter, the Crab Guardians and Naga Guardians had already established a defensive perimeter around them, and there were no signs of battle.

Taking a look around, Ji Chen saw that they were now in a long and narrow underwater canyon, with underwater cliffs on both sides that extended out of sight. Looking upward, all he could see was an undifferentiated darkness.

Behind them was the gateway, which rippled with water waves. Further behind was another rocky cliff, and apart from the path ahead, there were no other exits.

In the crevices between the seabed and the rocky wall, some fluorescent sea grass and corals grew, providing a little illumination.

There was no sign of any enemies in the vicinity.

Seeing this, Ji Chen relaxed slightly and waved his hand to urge the remaining troops to enter quickly.

One hour later, all six legions had fully entered.

Looking at the long and narrow canyon in front of him, Ji Chen pondered for a moment before giving orders.

“Benbo, take a portion of the Dragon Blood Murlocs and explore further along the canyon, investigate the terrain, and search for any enemies ahead.

If you encounter enemies, do not startle them; immediately return to report.”

Benbo nodded and led three hundred Dragon Blood Murlocs to swim deeper into the canyon.

Ji Chen led the main force forward, but due to the narrowness of the canyon, the progress of the thousands-strong army was slower than a tortoise’s.

There were also some creatures living in the canyon, such as deep-sea fish with big copper bell-like eyes, deep-sea crabs with long legs, and octopuses with transparent bodies that revealed their organs...

But as soon as these creatures heard their movement, they immediately fled and hid in the crevices of the rocks or behind large corals. It wasn’t until Ji Chen and his troops had passed by that they ventured out again.

This underwater canyon was exceptionally long, and even after half an hour of advancing, they still hadn’t seen an exit. The cliffs on both sides remained unseen, but luckily, the path was gradually widening.

After a full hour of traveling, Benbo, who had been sent ahead for reconnaissance, finally returned.

“Lord, if we continue along the canyon for another five kilometers, we’ll reach the canyon’s exit. Outside the exit is a large basin with a coral settlement that looks like a village. It seems to be inhabited by some marine residents.

Besides that, we haven’t detected any enemies similar to those outside the mystic realm.”

Marine residents?

Ji Chen’s interest was piqued.

He had been in this world for quite some time, but it was the first time he had heard of an underwater village.

What did these marine residents look like?

*Chapter 405 - 405: A Group of Catfish Beings, Dragon King's City and Coral Palace, The Fallen Prince*

Guided by Benbo, Ji Chen and his group left the canyon and arrived at an underwater basin.

Because the basin sloped towards the center, with high walls around and a lower central area, he easily spotted the underwater village at the center of the basin.

This underwater village was made up of clusters of gigantic hard corals that resembled flowers.

Each cluster of gigantic corals served as a house, and hundreds of these clusters formed the village. The outer sides of these gigantic corals had openings resembling human architecture, but most of them were round or oval and were located on the top rather than around the sides.

Around the village grew many fluorescent sea grasses and plants. The gentle radiance illuminated the colorful gigantic corals, creating a unique beauty, as if the seawater had changed its colors.

Ji Chen's eyes were briefly captivated, but he quickly regained his composure. He gave orders.

"Benbo, lead the Dragonblood Legion to surround that underwater village, gather all the residents in one place, and don't let anyone escape."

If those residents managed to escape and alert the Dragon King's City, they would likely have to face tens of thousands of sea creatures.

In any case, they needed to take control first, gather more intelligence, and then decide on their next steps.

Benbo understood this principle well and immediately led thousands of units of Dragon Blood Murloc Rangers to go.

Ji Chen continued to advance with the main force.

The basin was not small, and it took them fifteen minutes to reach the village.

The Dragon Blood Legion had already gathered all the residents of this underwater village in an open area. Looking at the approaching Crown of the Ocean army, these residents looked fearful and huddled together, not daring to move.

Ji Chen, riding the Tyrant Azure Dragon, leisurely approached them and glanced at them with interest.

These residents were a group of humanoid catfish beings, with catfish heads and human-like bodies, their faces adorned with big eyes that appeared somewhat comical.

As they watched the formidable army spread out, a towering creature akin to a giant whale on its head, these residents were stunned. Their eyes were filled with astonishment and disbelief.

They couldn't be mistaken, could they? Was that... a human?

But how could humans possibly appear at this depth of the sea, and furthermore, seem capable of breathing?

Observing the shocked expressions on the faces of these catfish beings, Ji Chen found it somewhat amusing. He condensed his mana into waves, allowing his voice to transmit underwater.

“Who among you is the village chief?”

When his voice resonated in their ears, the catfish beings were all taken aback, looking at each other in bewilderment.

The last elderly catfish with wrinkled skin stepped forward respectfully and said, “Honorable and powerful stranger, may I inquire about the purpose of your visit to Catfish Village?”

“We, Catfish Village, live in peace, minding our own business, and do not involve ourselves in the disputes between the Dragon King’s City and the Coral Palace.”

Coral Palace?

Ji Chen’s brow twitched upon hearing this. It seemed that besides the influence of the Dragon King’s City in this realm, there was also another faction called the Coral Palace, and the two were in opposition to each other.

Interesting.

“I do not belong to either the Dragon King’s City or the Coral Palace. I am Lord of the Ocean’s Crown, Ji Chen, and I come from above the sea.”

“Above the sea?” The catfish village chief paused. “Do you mean those small islands on the sea’s surface?”

There are humans on the surface of this realm?

Ji Chen nodded inwardly. It appeared that this realm was not entirely composed of the ocean; there were still islands and humans living on the sea’s surface.

However, he was unsure of the exact scale of this presence.

In large-scale realms like the Skeleton and Blood Sea Realms, the areas were vast, while in smaller realms, it wouldn’t be surprising if there were only a few islands, such as the New Moon Islands.

“Not exactly. I come from a place beyond this world,” Ji Chen replied, not providing too much explanation. “I arrived here not long ago and know very little about this place, especially the Dragon King’s City and the Coral Palace.” The catfish village chief was once again puzzled. A place beyond this world? Could there be other worlds apart from this one?

Though baffled, upon seeing these units of creatures that had never appeared in the Great Luminescent Sea, the catfish village chief began to believe it to some extent.

Although it felt a bit perplexing, it quickly understood that this meant there were some matters to discuss, as long as they did not pose a threat to Catfish Village.

Based on its impressions of the humans on the surface islands, most of them favored peace because they lacked formidable enemies, and their military forces were rather limited.

So, as long as it had nothing to hide, there probably wouldn't be any danger to their lives.

"Honorable sir, please go ahead."

"It seems that the Dragon King's City and the Coral Palace are two separate factions?"

"Yes, in the Great Luminescent Sea, the two most powerful factions are the Dragon King's City, ruled by the Water Dragon King, and the Coral Palace, led by the Lord of Coral. Both of them command a large number of formidable soldiers.

The Dragon King's City and the Coral Palace have been in a state of opposition for hundreds of years, especially in recent years, their conflicts and disputes have intensified, almost on the verge of war. When that happens, the Great Luminescent Sea will be stained with blood once again."

The Water Dragon King and the Lord of Coral.

The names did carry a certain air of authority, but Ji Chen was uncertain about their actual power.

However, as rulers of two factions, their strength was undoubtedly formidable. Ji Chen speculated that they were at least heroic units of the Red-Legacy Tier. After some thought, he asked, "Have you ever seen them?"

The catfish village chief shook his head and replied, "No, I haven't. It's said that those two haven't appeared in the outside world for several years now. All the conflicts and struggles are handled by their generals under their command.."

*Chapter 406 - 406: A Group of Catfish Beings, Dragon King's City and Coral Palace, The Fallen Prince (2)*

He cautiously inquired, "Lord, may I ask what brings you to the Great Luminescent Sea?"

"My domain is in urgent need of rare resources, treasures, and valuable items," Ji Chen looked at him and said, "Do you happen to know the whereabouts of these things?"

"The Catfish Village does not possess such items... but if you wish to obtain them, you might consider going to the Coral Palace and assisting the Coral Lord in defeating the Dragon King City. That way, you are certain to receive the gratitude of the Coral Lord, especially since... your army is so formidable.

The Great Luminescent Sea has been a battlefield for hundreds of years, and countless sea clans have perished. If only one power were to remain, perhaps this situation could come to an end."

Ji Chen looked at the Fish Village Chief, who was filled with sighs, feeling somewhat curious.

"Why do you suggest that I help the Coral Palace instead of the Dragon King City?"

The Fish Village Chief's face appeared somewhat awkward, and there was a hint of resentment in his eyes. "The Dragon King City is ruthless, recruiting civilians everywhere, disguising themselves as bandits to plunder caravans, and extorting villages.

Not long ago, a contingent of Dragon King City soldiers passed through our village and extorted half of our food. If they were to become the sole dominant power, our days would be even harder."

"I see... the Dragon King City soldiers you mentioned, were there approximately two thousand of them?"

The Fish Village Chief asked in astonishment, "How did you know?"

It was only now that he recalled the direction in which Ji Chen's army had come from, which seemed to be the same direction from which the Dragon King City soldiers had left the village.

"Do you mean to say that you eliminated them all?"

He nodded without hesitation.

The Fish Village Chief's face lit up with joy as if a heavy burden had been lifted from his shoulders. "Thank you for your assistance, Lord. We've long been at odds with them. If it weren't for the fact that our species of catfish is not adept at combat, we would have joined the Coral Palace to fight against the bandits from the Dragon King City long ago."

The time for the realm to be open was limited, and Ji Chen did not wish to spend too much time here, so he asked directly, "How do we get to the Coral Palace?"

"Head east from this small basin and you will reach a vast sea basin. After entering the sea basin, pass through the Luminescent Forest, and you will arrive at the territory of the Coral Palace."

Upon hearing this, he wasted no time and gestured to his army to prepare to leave.

However, at this moment, a catfish suddenly squeezed through the crowd and exclaimed loudly, "Your Excellency, please wait! I have something I'd like to ask for your help with... sob, sob, sob."

Before this catfish being could finish speaking, it was grabbed by a few other catfish nearby, who covered its mouth.

The surrounding catfish beings began to discuss animatedly.

"Why did this fool suddenly act up again? We mustn't anger this esteemed Lord."

"This guy never does anything all day long, and at a time like this, he's causing trouble for us."

Ji Chen furrowed his brow and looked at the Fish Village Chief.

"What's the matter with him?"

The Fish Village Chief appeared fearful, thinking that he had offended Ji Chen, and answered hesitantly, trembling, "This fellow was picked up from outside a few years ago, and he might have suffered some brain injuries, so he always says strange things.



If he has offended Your Lordship, please forgive him.”

As soon as these words were spoken, the strange catfish being struggled even more violently, and with a sudden burst of strength, it broke free from its restraints and rushed over.

This prompted Alice and Anina, who were waiting nearby, to want to take action and kill it, but Ji Chen raised his hand to stop them.

He could sense that this catfish being had combat abilities inferior to even a chicken.

The catfish being rushed up and said excitedly, “My Lord, my name is Andar. I am a bloodline descendant of the previous Water Dragon King of the Dragon King City. Due to persecution, I had to secretly leave the Water Dragon City and live incognito in the Fish Village, waiting for an opportunity to return to the Dragon King City.

If you can help me regain the position of Water Dragon King and take back the throne, I will appoint you as the Grand General of the Water Dragon City and give you a large amount of rare resources and treasures!”

Ji Chen’s expression was somewhat strange.

This sounded a bit like a scam message, similar to that famous Qin Shihuang scam on Earth...

But it did pique his interest.

“You’re saying you are a bloodline descendant of the previous Water Dragon King? Are you implying that you were originally meant to inherit the throne of the Water Dragon King?”

Andar nodded frantically, excitement filling his intelligent eyes. “Exactly, when my father, the king, was gravely ill, he said he wanted to pass the throne to me. However, my older brother, Diago, took matters into his own hands. He not only killed our father but also publicly declared that our father had chosen him as the heir, all the while planning to assassinate me behind the scenes.

Thankfully, a loyal general who served my father helped me escape from Dragon King City in secret before he passed away. He advised me to quietly build up my power, getting ready for the time when I could take back the throne. Otherwise, that highly aggressive fellow, Diago, would surely lead the Dragon King Palace to ruin!

I’ve been pretending to be a fool and hiding in the Fish Village for years, but I haven’t found any opportunities until I saw you today!”

Andar’s large eyes were filled with excitement. “As long as you’re willing to help me regain the throne, I’m willing to give you anything, including the secret treasury of rare treasures my father, the Water Dragon King, told me about!”

Oh, it sounds like a plot from a period drama where a fallen prince reclaims the throne.

Quite cliché.

But Ji Chen couldn’t help but admit that he was somewhat interested.

“Lord, please don’t listen to this fool’s nonsense. There’s no evidence at all, and the Water Dragon lineage may have some resemblance to catfish, but it’s not like him at all. They have a pair of dragon horns on their heads.

You see, does this guy have them?”

Ji Chen looked and indeed, he did not.

“My horns were concealed by a treasure given to me by that general to prevent Diago from finding me!” Andar countered.

“I believe you, my foot! If you’re a bloodline descendant of the previous Water Dragon King, my name would be spelled backward!”

Ji Chen didn’t say anything, instead giving a strange look at the confident Fish Village Chief.

Through the panel information provided by the system, he saw Andar’s information.

[Andar]

[Race]: Dragon Horn Catfish

[Level]: 3

[Bloodline descendant of the previous Water Dragon King, physical features concealed by a treasure]

[Bloodline power has not been awakened]

[You may receive substantial rewards if you help him regain the throne]

Well, it seemed to be true.

But what kind of race was that?

Dragon Horn Catfish?

So, the so-called Water Dragon King was just a catfish with horns!?

Ji Chen was greatly disappointed; he thought the Water Dragon King was a real dragon or at least a sea dragon.

Just this?

“Stop arguing.”

Andar and the Fish Village Chief, who were constantly arguing, immediately closed their mouths.

Ji Chen looked at the “incredibly wise” Andar and said, “I can help you, but you have to follow my arrangements.”

“Of course!” Andar replied immediately.

He said to the Fish Village Chief, “Don’t talk about what happened just now, or you should know that you’ll regret it.”

“Of course, we’ll keep it a secret!” the Fish Village Chief saw the serious expression on Ji Chen’s face and hurriedly replied.

Ji Chen nodded, knowing that these catfish beings wouldn’t dare to do otherwise.

After thinking for a moment, he took out several thousand units of food and handed them over to the catfish spirits.

“These are rewards for you.”

The catfish beings were overjoyed. “Thank you for your generosity, Lord!”

Under the grateful gaze of the Fish Village residents who happily sent off their troops, Ji Chen, along with the army and Andar, who sought to reclaim the throne, left the village and headed towards the edge of the basin.

Half an hour later.

They reached the topmost part of the basin’s eastern side and saw a wider canyon road. After passing through it, they arrived at a massive sea basin that seemed endless at first glance.

Originally, Ji Chen had planned to visit the Coral Palace first, to see what this Coral Lord was all about. If they got along well and seemed friendly, he would help them take down Water Dragon City and earn rewards and wealth from it.

But now it seemed that this plan needed some adjustments.

The new plan was named the “Fallen Prince’s Return to the Throne Strategy.”

However, he couldn’t just march straight into Water Dragon City with his army like a fool. He needed to visit the Coral Palace first to gather more information and plan the next steps.

With this in mind, Ji Chen didn’t waste any more time. He waved his hand and headed in the direction of the so-called Luminescent Forest mentioned by the Fish Village Chief..

*Chapter 407 - 407: So, You’re Actually... Lost Ruins, Undersea Architectures*

This vast sea basin wasn’t small at all, at least equivalent to half the size of the Maple Principality. It took Ji Chen and his group half a day to reach what was known as the “Luminescent Forest.”

It was an area covered with countless giant seaweeds, each stretching hundreds of meters long. These flat seaweeds emitted a faint blue light, standing on the seabed like towering skyscrapers glowing in the dark, quite spectacular.

According to the words of the Fallen Prince, Andar, this Luminescent Forest had existed for thousands of years, occupying half the size of the entire basin, hiding numerous lost relics deep within the thick seaweed.

Shortly after entering this “forest”, the Dragon Blood Murlocs exploring ahead relayed a message.

In the distance, they found two different seafood armies locked in battle.

One side, quite familiar to Ji Chen, consisted of shrimp soldiers, crab warriors, and giant turtle sorcerers, undoubtedly the army of the Dragon King City, numbering around a thousand.

The other side was a combination of caterpillars and jellyfish, and Andal's exclamation had already revealed their identity.

"That's the Coral Palace's army!"

Ji Chen squinted and took in the information.

Thorned Sea Worms, 9-star creatures of the Fourth Tier, 500 in number.

Azure Jellyfish, 2-star creatures of the Fifth Tier, 300 in number.

The former was a type of caterpillar, about four to five meters long, covered in thorns and tough skin that emitted a faint green glow, clearly indicating its extreme toxicity.

Using their thorns and tough skin, the Thorned Sea Worms had constructed a thorny defense line that caused the shrimp soldiers and crab warriors rushing in to die from poisoning.

Protected by them, the transparent Azure Jellyfish waved their tiny tentacles, forming bundles of ice spikes, constantly injuring the Dragon King City's army.

Surprisingly, the Coral Palace's army, which had slightly fewer numbers than the Dragon King City's army, seemed to have some advantages.

Both sides had leaders who were Blue Excellent-Tier creatures.

It had to be said that the difficulty of this Great Luminescent Sea Mystic Realm was much higher than the Blood Sea Mystic Realm and the Skeleton Mystic Realm they had encountered before.

In the Blood Sea Mystic Realm, not to mention heroic or leader units, most of the units were Second or Third Tier; in the Skeleton Mystic Realm, although there were many troops, their levels were uneven, and there were only a dozen or so of the high-end units like the Skeleton Wyvern, and most of the monster leaders were White or Green Excellent-Tier.

In contrast, here, even a thousand-man team had Blue Excellent-Tier leaders, and the lowest-ranked units were at least Fourth Tier, 9-star creatures.

If a few such seafood teams were unleashed in the player crowd, they could wreak havoc.

However, Ji Chen's army had become even more sea-like since the joining of the Lobster Guardian Knights and the Crab Guardians, which had very distinct aquatic features. The scent of seafood had grown stronger.

The monster leader from the Dragon King City took on the appearance of a shrimp soldier and, despite having more troops, couldn't gain the upper hand. He roared in anger.

"You fools, you can't even defeat enemies fewer in number than you. You're embarrassing Water Dragon Lord!"

We must not let those idiots from the Coral Palace seize the relics before us. The relics belong to the Dragon King City, to the great Water Dragon Lord!" "Attack them!"

As his words fell, his army's assault became even fiercer, instantly killing dozens of Thorned Sea Worms and nearly breaking through their defense line. However, they were quickly stabilized by the leader from the Coral Palace, and the battle once again became a tug of war.

Watching this back-and-forth, Ji Chen, who had been observing from the sidelines, grew a bit impatient.

Just as he was about to order his troops to attack, Andar, who was beside him, spoke up.

“Your Excellency, which side do you want to help?”

“Help?”

“Yes, if you help the Coral Palace, I implore you not to kill the Dragon King City’s army. Just restrain them, that’s enough.”

“Why?”

“Although they’ve chased after me, and they’ve done a lot of bad things in the Great Luminescent Sea over the years, they were deceived and manipulated by that jerk Diago.”

“As long as we explain things to them, they’ll surely understand and stop this meaningless conflict.

After all, even the most heinous criminals have the right to reform, don’t they?”

Ji Chen looked in astonishment at Andar, who seemed devout and had a radiant glow on his face.

Well, it turns out this guy is a bit of a goody-two-shoes?

“Why are you so sure they’ll lay down their weapons after listening to you?”

Andar, on the other hand, looked puzzled.

“Of course, as long as we clarify Diago’s evil deeds, they will definitely understand and join me in raising the banner against Diago.”

“Besides, aren’t there your Excellency’s troops?”

Damn, turns out he’s just a naive idiot.

In movies, these kinds of naive idiots are usually the engines of team wipes. Generally, it’s best to kill the “saintly motherf\*\*\*ers” first when something happens.

In just a few words, Ji Chen had lost the desire to argue with him. If it weren’t for the supposed secret treasure of the Dragon King City, he would have wanted to drive this guy away.

“Remember, what I said earlier was to help you return to the Dragon King City and reclaim the throne of the Water Dragon Lord. I have no obligation to teach these armies.”

Ji Chen said seriously and then ignored Andar’s reaction, waving his hand. “All troops, surround them and await my orders.”

With a command, the hidden Ocean Crown Champion team emerged and encircled the two battling sides..

Architectures (2)

Seeing a strange army suddenly appear and surround them, both the Dragon King City and Coral Palace armies were momentarily stunned, some unsure of what to do. However, under the respective orders of their leaders, they retreated to their own formations, remaining on high alert.

The two monster leaders looked wary, their expressions alert as they observed the sudden appearance of this foreign army.

Their gazes swept over soldiers of various types they had never seen before in the Great Luminescent Sea, but without exception, each of them exuded a powerful aura. In their hearts, they couldn't help but marvel in amazement.

Where could such an elite force come from?

Could it be the secret army of the Dragon King City or the Coral Palace?

But as they glanced at each other, they quickly dismissed this guess.

Just as both sides were speculating about their origin and intentions, the unfamiliar army slowly parted, revealing a figure that no one had expected.

A human!?

"It can't be, how could a human appear in the depths of the sea?!"

The shrimp leader exclaimed, his face filled with disbelief.

The half-fish being leader of the Coral Palace was also somewhat incredulous. Humans were supposed to live only on the surface of the sea, so how could they survive at such depths?

Ji Chen looked at both sides, who were equally shocked.

He calmly said, "Tell me the location of the relic you mentioned."

"It's impossible! It belongs to Water Dragon Lord!" The shrimp leader of the Dragon King City immediately retorted without hesitation.

They had searched for so long and had only recently found some clues. Along the way, they had even clashed with the Coral Palace army that tried to seize it, resulting in the deaths and injuries of many soldiers.

He had hoped to present whatever they obtained from the relic to the Water Dragon Lord to earn his favor.

Furthermore, according to the clues, that relic contained a powerful treasure...

Now, this human wanted to take it away with just a few words?

The half-fish being leader of the Coral Palace hesitated slightly but responded decisively, "As long as you help us eliminate the Dragon King City's thousand-man team, then we of the Coral Palace are willing to tell you the location of this relic."

Although they didn't know what had happened or where this army had come from, they had learned that the Dragon King City's army had found a lost relic, and they simply wanted to obstruct them from obtaining it.

As long as it didn't fall into the hands of the latter, it would be acceptable.

Ji Chen nodded, and it became clear what needed to be done.

With a sweeping gesture, the vigilant Ocean Crown Army moved into action.

Water Nymph Archers and Silver Sea Pixies unleashed a storm of arrows and magic upon the enemy formation. The scales of the shrimp soldiers and crab warriors were no match for the sharp arrows and magical energy bombardment. They fell one by one.

Lobster Guardian Knights transformed into makeshift battering rams, charging through the enemy ranks. Their giant lobster mounts impaled the enemy lines with their sharp spikes, creating chaos. With the acceleration of their mounts, the knights' long spears pierced through multiple enemies like skewered candy apples.

In just over ten minutes, the remaining less than a thousand Dragon King City's thousand-man team members had all fallen, their blood staining the seawater.

"Ding- Your subordinates have eliminated a Dragon King City's thousand-man team, gaining 69,800 experience points."

Nearly 70,000 experience points from one thousand-man team was quite good. If he considered the 24 thousand-man teams officially claimed by the Dragon King City, it would be approximately 1.6 million experience points.

This substantial experience would be enough to level him up from level 40 to 42.

If combined with the Coral Palace's army, wouldn't he reach level 45?

Hmm- Just thinking about it was rather tempting.

The half-fish being leader of the Coral Palace didn't know what this powerful human, capable of walking on the seabed, was thinking, but he felt that the way the human was looking at him had become somewhat unsettling.

It was as if he was looking at... a piece of meat.

Suppressing his anxiety and worries, he quickly swam up to approach Ji Chen and respectfully said, "Mighty one, may I ask where you come from? What brings you to the Great Luminescent Sea?"

A moment ago, he witnessed those powerful unknown forces effortlessly defeat the Dragon King City's army, a force they had been struggling to combat.

He could imagine that if Ji Chen wanted to eliminate them, it would probably be effortless.

"I am Ji Chen, the Lord of the Ocean Crown. I come from another world, and the reason for my arrival here is to search for rare resources, powerful treasures, and military recruitment camp cores.

Now that I've helped you deal with the Dragon King City's thousand-man team, you should fulfill your promise."

The half-fish being leader immediately nodded and said, "Of course, we of the Coral Palace always keep our promises. I will take you to the location of the relic."

However, before that, please allow me to send a team of soldiers back to the Coral Palace to report this victory. After all, directly eliminating an entire Dragon King City's thousand-man team is excellent news."

Ji Chen nodded slightly, agreeing to this arrangement.

After sending his trusted subordinates, the half-half-fish being leader led the way through the dense seaweed forest.

On the way, he curiously asked, "Lord Ji Chen, you mentioned that you come from another world. What is that world like? Is it even larger than the Great Luminescent Sea?"

"At the very least, it's billions and billions of times bigger than the Great Luminescent Seas."

"Billions and billions of times!?" The half-fish being leader was greatly astonished. In his concept, the Great Luminescent Sea was already enormous, so how could there be a place billions and billions of times bigger?"

He couldn't even imagine it.

However, he vaguely remembered that there were rumors that the Great Luminescent Sea used to be connected to another much larger world long ago. The two were connected through a "gateway".

But for some reason, starting from a certain point in time, the "gateway" had closed, and the connection between the two worlds had abruptly ceased.

Did Ji Chen's origin match the world talked about in those rumors?

He kept musing as they quickly reached the depths of the forest.

"According to the intelligence, it seems that the relic is nearby," the half-mermaid leader muttered while looking around.

But Ji Chen had already sensed it. On the omniscience map, there was a blank area nearby, devoid of giant seaweed.

Ignoring the still-puzzled half-fish being leader, Ji Chen took the lead and moved forward.

Passing through several giant seaweed structures resembling towering skyscrapers, the scenery suddenly opened up before them.

On a very spacious open area stood a series of underwater structures.

The walls made of bluestone were meticulously constructed, and stone pillars with exquisite sculptures stood tall everywhere. Temple-like buildings were scattered throughout.

Fish swam through the triangular spaces formed by collapsed stone pillars and the hollows of the structures, creating a serene and pleasant atmosphere.

Ji Chen's expression became more serious.



Judging from their appearance, this was undoubtedly a long-lost architectural complex.

However, how could there be buildings with such a human civilization style here?

From the moment he left Catfish Village, Ji Chen knew that in this Great Luminescent Sea, the houses inhabited by sea creatures were either composed of giant corals, located within rock caves, or even made from the shells of giant snails.

But it was definitely not these stone-built structures with a human civilization style.

The sea creatures had neither the necessity nor the desire for such structures.

When the half-fish being leader who had followed up saw this scene, he immediately froze.

He had never expected that in such deep-sea depths, clearly within the world of sea creatures, there would be human-like structures.

Without thinking too much about it, Ji Chen led his army inside, weaving through the ruins.

Observing the white stone walls and pillars, even though they had collapsed, he could still glimpse the grandeur of the temples and palaces when they were intact.

However, in this world that belonged to sea creatures, in a place that ordinary people could not reach, these structures appeared, making him think of Atlantis, submerged by a great flood.

Although this was definitely not Atlantis, it was undoubtedly related to humans, or rather, the humans of this hidden realm.

According to the Catfish Village Chief's words, there were still many humans living on the surface. Once he finished here, he planned to float to the surface to see what these humans were like.

On the ever-present omniscience map, red dots gradually appeared as they delved deeper.

Ji Chen's expression hardened, and he ordered, "All personnel, be on guard, form up, and prepare for battle!"

*Chapter 409: Clear the Ruin, Enchanted Anchor Points, Wilderness Ambitions*

A large group of underwater lizards had unknowingly built their nests in this ruin, and now, they sensed the approach of intruders and scrambled out of the wreckage.

Ji Chen gazed at them, and the information panel appeared before him.

Underwater Lizards, Tier 4, 9 stars, in groups of three thousand.

"Herald, Benbo, lead your legions to attack and eliminate these reptiles.

Alice, send out the Legion of Soul Servants. Don't worry about casualties; you can replenish the ranks from these reptiles.

The Guardian Legion will provide all of you with firepower support."

Ji Chen remained composed, issuing commands in just a few words.

The three heroes nodded in agreement and led their legions into battle.

The first to arrive on the battlefield was Alice's Legion of Soul Servants. At first glance, this legion, numbering only twelve hundred, had at least thirty different species, including half-fish beings, reptiles, octopuses, jellyfish, and more. The variety was so extensive that it could fill an aquarium. Among the many legions, the Legion of Soul Servants had the highest casualty rate, but each time, Ji Chen deliberately left a portion of incapacitated monsters for Alice to enslave and replenish the lost forces.

In this way, despite the high casualties in each battle, they could quickly replenish their troops through war.

Under Alice's control, the Legion of Soul Servants rushed out ferociously, using their teeth to bite, their tentacles to bind, their claws to tear, and attacking in the most primitive and brutal manner, fearless of life or death.

They immediately disrupted the enemy's formation, entangling them like a tangle of ropes.

The next assault was launched by the Guardian Legion, and they showered the enemy with arrows. These arrows, fired by the water nymph archers and silver sea pixies, had distinct colors that stood out against the deep blue sea. The water nymphs' arrows had an icy blue hue, making them easily noticeable. The torrent of arrows created ripples in the water as they hit their targets, further disrupting the underwater lizards from the Legion of Soul Servants.

Then, the Naga Guardians, making their debut after their advancement, under the leadership of Herald, demonstrated their terrifying combat power.

The Naga Guardians, each resembling a small giant, swung their bone blades, and with a swing, they could cut an underwater lizard in half or decapitate it.

And these reptiles, with claws that could tear through iron armor, only left a light scratch on their thick scales.

Leading the charge at the forefront, Herald, who had somewhat separated from the main force, had a cold expression. He conjured a blue-white lightning ball in his hand, only about ten centimeters in diameter, but anyone could feel the terrifying energy from it.

In an instant, this dazzling lightning ball became the most eye-catching presence in the surroundings.

Herald gently waved his hand, and the lightning ball was thrown towards the densest enemy position.

Boom!

After a brief delay, the throwing point suddenly swelled into a semicircular dust cloud, and then the blue-white branching lightning, like venomous snakes, shot out and instantly spread to any position within forty to fifty meters.

The underwater lizards that were affected first stiffened their bodies and then ceased to move.

Their bodies remained completely intact, but their vitality was completely severed at that moment.

After the explosion, there were still remnants of lightning in the area, flashing silently in the seawater.

A silent massacre.

Seeing this, even these beasts who only knew about killing and eating felt fear. They carefully bypassed and turned to find relatively smaller Dragon Blood Murlocs.

But before they could reach them, the Dragon Blood Murlocs suddenly released a burst of draconic power. The racial gap and bloodline suppression made them slump to the ground, losing their fighting ability. They were effortlessly skewered to death with a light stab.

Just at a glance, this battle had no suspense. Under absolute power suppression, they had little room for resistance. These underwater lizards, who had claimed dominance here, faced a devastating blow.

In a little over ten minutes, the entire group of underwater lizards, capable of wreaking havoc on a town, was wiped out. Only a portion of them remained subdued by the Dragon Blood Murlocs' draconic power, ready to be enslaved and used to replace the losses, all under Alice's mental command.

Within the vast ruins, it once again fell into silence.

But there were now thousands of corpses on the ground, with limbs and body parts floating with the currents.

Ji Chen's earlier decision to eliminate the Dragon King City's legion of a thousand soldiers had left Andar, who was already quite upset, in utter disbelief. This brutal display of power was overwhelmingly one-sided. In fact, it completely reshaped Andar's perception of the Ocean Crown team's strength.

It made him wonder if such a powerful army could defeat even the Dragon King City's most formidable secret units.

This made him even more conflicted.

Just now, Andar saw Ji Chen ignore his thoughts and directly slaughter the entire legion of a thousand people from Dragon King City. It made him almost want to part ways with him.

His principles did not align with the actions of this human lord from another world, but he had to rely on him to reclaim the throne. So, he had to endure it.

This kind of situation, where he had to rely on someone he clearly disliked, drove him almost to madness.

But Andar had planted a seed in his heart. After reclaiming the throne, he would definitely work with the Coral Lord to expel this human lord from this world. Otherwise, such a powerful army, led by a lord who was so indiscriminate in killing, would undoubtedly pose a significant threat to the safety and peace of the Great Luminescent Sea in the long run..

*Chapter 410 - 410: Clear the Ruin, Enchanted Anchor Points,*

*Wilderness Ambitions (2)*

Ji Chen certainly had no idea what the simple-minded Andar was thinking at this moment. If he had known, he would probably have just sneered.

After dealing with the wild creatures occupying this area, the Ocean Crown Army continued to move forward, following the faintly visible path.

After crossing a fallen stone pillar, a spacious square surrounded by hundreds of tall stone pillars suddenly appeared in front of them. From a distance, there was nothing noteworthy except for a towering arch in the center.

Ji Chen felt somewhat disappointed. It didn't seem like there was any treasure buried here, despite this place being called a ruin.

However, he couldn't shake off the feeling of regret.

He gave the command, "Apart from the Guardian Legion and the Dragonblood Legion, all other legions should spread out and explore whether there are any other notable areas in this ruin."

"The Naga Legion is responsible for the west of the ruin,

the Dragon Blood Legion is responsible for the east,

the Soul Servants Legion is responsible for the north,

the Lobster Guardian Knights are responsible for the south,

and the Guardian Legion are responsible for this square.

Pay special attention to relatively well-preserved buildings, and don't leave any corner unchecked!"

Faced with the order, the five legions executed it without hesitation, rushing to their respective areas. Even Alice urged the Soul Servants Legion to start searching the northern ruins.

Ji Chen, on the other hand, stood still with the Dragonblood Legion, patiently waiting.

This ruin was quite large, and even with several thousand units from the Ocean Crown Legion, it took a considerable amount of time to search it thoroughly.

The result was – they found nothing.

Perhaps it was due to the passage of time, which had worn everything down to a state of continuous ruins, or perhaps the humans or civilization that built this place had taken away everything valuable when they left.

In any case, besides worthless stones, the ruin was filled with the corpses of lizards.

The Naga Guardian Legion did discover the lair of the underwater lizards in the west, where there were also many newly hatched lizard hatchlings.

To eradicate the threat completely, they decided to eliminate them all.

This made Andar glare angrily again. Clearly, these lizard hatchlings posed no threat, so why did they have to be cruelly killed?

But this time, he had grown wiser and kept it to himself, letting his conviction about his previous thoughts strengthen even further.

Fortunately, Andar didn't voice it out; otherwise, Ji Chen would have given him a big scolding.

"There's nothing in the east."

“In the west, apart from the lair of the underwater lizards, we found nothing.”

“No gains in the north.”

“The same for the south...”

As the various legions returned, the news they brought back was not particularly cheerful.

Ji Chen felt somewhat frustrated. Had they fought in vain just now?

At this moment, the Guardian Legion, who had set out last, returned with news that lifted his spirits.

“The outer layer of the arch in the center of the square has fallen off, revealing metal inside.”

Metal?

Just the word made Ji Chen feel something was amiss. Without wasting any time, he waved his hand and rode the Tyrant Azure Dragon towards the center of the square.

The square located at the center of the entire ruin was quite large, entirely constructed from neatly arranged white stone, and could easily accommodate at least a hundred thousand people.

The arch positioned in the center of the square was a staggering thirty meters tall and eighteen meters wide, resembling a majestic little mountain peak.

On the right side of the arch, a section of white stone detached, revealing a peculiarly patterned metal beneath.

The stone was merely an outer shell, concealing what lay beneath, the metal.

Ji Chen’s interest surged, “Anina, break open this layer of stone!”

Upon hearing this, Anina excitedly nodded and clenched her fist to strike it.

Under the relentless barrage of punches, the arch shivered, and the enclosing stone crumbled like dust, gradually revealing the underlying metal.

A few minutes later, the final piece of stone fell, and the arch assumed its true form.

Compared to before, the arch, now devoid of its outer shell, appeared somewhat slender but still towering. The metal surface was adorned with intricate runic patterns, and embedded within it were metallic protrusions resembling nodes, indicating that it wasn’t just a decorative design.

It was peculiar, magnificent, and visually stunning.

Ji Chen spotted a metal pillar about half a person’s height on the left side of the arch. It had a slot at the top that looked like a keyhole.

[Mystic Realm Anchor Point]

[Effect]: Insert a dimensional key and provide a substantial and stable energy source to permanently anchor the entrance of the Mystic Realm. The anchor point for the main world’s Mystic Realm gate needs to be secured with a dimensional key.

[A device that can be used to initiate a permanently anchored Mystic Realm gate, seemingly left behind by a departed civilization, with the dimensional key lost somewhere in this Mystic Realm.]

Mystic Realm Anchor Point?

Could it generate a permanently existing Mystic Realm gate?

This had some potential.

Ji Chen's mind raced as he considered the pros and cons of this discovery.

Originally, this was just a temporarily opened Mystic Realm, so he initially planned to reap some benefits and leave.

However, the appearance of this Mystic Realm Anchor Point changed his plans.

If he could directly bind the Mystic Realm gate of the Great Luminescent Sea Mystic Realm near the New Moon Islands, wouldn't the Ocean Crown gain a rear base similar to the Skeleton Mystic Realm?

Moreover, compared to the lifelessness and desolation of the Skeleton Realm, the Great Luminescent Sea Mystic Realm was teeming with life. It was abundantly rich in resources, with most areas being underwater environments, perfectly suited to the Ocean Crown's characteristics.

The more Ji Chen thought about it, the more he felt that this had potential.

Once he was certain of this, his mindset quickly shifted from merely reaping some benefits and leaving to how to make the Ocean Crown the sole authority in the Great Luminescent Sea.

He began pondering the next steps of his plan.

Since he intended to carry out the Ocean Crown's will, he knew that eventually, he would have to contend with the Dragon King City and the Coral Palace, the two local powers in the region.

He had two options. Either back one side while eliminating the other, thereby making the remaining faction the representative of the Ocean Crown in the Great Luminescent Sea and enabling continuous resource extraction.

Or maintain a balance between the two and profit from their conflicts.

Or simply and forcefully wipe out both factions, clearing the field, and have the Ocean Crown take charge personally.

All three options were viable, but the main considerations were the costs and the time involved...

However, what was more critical was finding a dimensional key to anchor the densely anchored Mystic Realm gate.

Otherwise, once these remaining ten-plus days passed, the Great Luminescent Sea Mystic Realm would disconnect from the main world, drifting aimlessly in the boundless void, with almost zero chances of encountering it again.

Considering this, the upcoming ten or so days started to feel somewhat pressing. How could he locate that dimensional key?

Judging by the explanation of the arch in this ruin, the dimensional key might have been taken away by the civilization that built this city when they departed. Their descendants were likely a human civilization on the surface of the sea.

Secondly, it could be stored in the Dragon King City or the Coral Palace. They were the two largest powers beneath the sea, and logically, they were the most likely candidates to possess the dimensional key.

In that case, he had to make contact with both sides.

The thought of reaping a vibrant, resource-rich Mystic Realm as spoils of war made Ji Chen's heart race with excitement.

However, at this moment, Andar asked in a low voice, sounding weak, "What is this arch? Has something happened?"

"Nothing..."

Ji Chen looked at the fallen prince with a vengeful past. After changing his plan, the promises made by Andar seemed less important.

After all, if, in the end, the Great Luminescent Sea became his possession, then wouldn't everything here belong to him?

Why bother making an effort to send this naive prince back to his throne?

However, Andar still had some utility, and perhaps the dimensional key was in that so-called secret treasury.

Andar seemed to sense a change in Ji Chen's gaze and suddenly felt a chill in his heart.

A thought suddenly flashed through his mind.

Could this human be planning to eliminate me?

But he quickly dismissed that thought.

It was impossible. This human still wanted me to tell him the secret treasury of the Dragon King City. There was no way he would act against me now.

But Andar had no idea.

Ji Chen's mindset had shifted from the initial plan of just reaping some benefits to a grand ambition of swallowing the entire Great Luminescent Sea..