

## **Ocean Lord 451**

*Chapter 451 - 451: The Killing Begins, Gradually Changes in*  
Mentality, Dreadful and Monstrous Hiding Inside

A group of deep blue fifth-tier giant jellyfish charged towards the defensive line, their tentacles poised to strike with deadly venom.

Before they could make their deadly move, a towering figure appeared before them, sporting broad wings and a serpentine lower body covered in blue scales.

In an instant, a silver streak slashed through the air, cutting apart over a dozen of the giant jellyfish like sheets of paper. The shattered tentacles and bodies were flung high into the air.

Herald, with cold determination in his eyes, watched the foolish creatures before him. A cruel smile curved on his long, slender mouth.

The remnants of blood on his claws fueled his boiling blood, and the unmistakable scent of blood hung in the air, further exciting him. His body trembled uncontrollably.

The slaughter... had begun.

Herald's massive serpentine tail suddenly swung, and his formidable body shot forward like a cannonball. He left a trail of afterimages in the air and crashed into the enemy ranks within the blink of an eye.

His clawed hands were like the sharpest forged weapons of the dwarves, gleaming with silver light. Wherever he struck, it resulted in dismembered limbs, flying gore, and a rain of blood. Not a single sea beast could withstand the sharpness of his claws, not even the fifth-tier sea beasts!

A gigantic whale-like sea beast, its maw wide open like a devouring abyss, charged in, attempting to swallow him whole and crush him to pieces.

Herald's claws clasped together, energy surged, and in an instant, he conjured a blue lightning sphere, which he casually threw into the beast's gaping mouth.

Sensing an unexpected intruder in its mouth, the whale-like sea beast tried to spit it out, but the next moment, it felt an intense and scorching heat engulfing its entire body.

Boom!

Its massive body exploded violently, turning into a rain of scattered flesh and gore.

This was a one-sided massacre!

In other parts of the battlefield, similar scenes were unfolding.

What's more, with the participation of hero units, the main army units, benefiting from their formidable racial characteristics, experienced a tremendous boost in their attributes. The Naga Legion and Dragonblood Legion's combat prowess surged several times over.

The Ocean Crown forces, which were already holding their ground effectively, now became even more formidable with the hero units' leadership, cutting through their enemies with ease.

If they hadn't been ordered to construct defensive lines here, they might have burst out to engage the enemy directly.

Soldiers from the Starshine Islands, who had witnessed countless incredible things throughout the day, couldn't help but be astonished once more.

Were they for real?

After a whole day of fighting, they were still so full of vitality, and they seemed even more powerful now.

Just as they were becoming somewhat numb and their bodies were gradually tiring out, a hauntingly beautiful song suddenly echoed in their ears. Strangely, this song instantly washed away their physical and mental fatigue, igniting their blood, and filling their bodies with newfound strength.

The momentum of the Crown of the Ocean's army soared once more, and their combat strength increased once again.

Meanwhile, a change occurred among the sea beasts. Unbeknownst to them, many of their kind had experienced a peculiar transformation under the influence of this song.

Their gazes grew vacant, and without hesitation, they turned their claws and fangs on their own kind.

Alice, compared to when she first gained control over mind manipulation skills, had come a long way. At level forty, she was now several times more powerful. In just a matter of seconds, she seized control of thousands of sea beasts, catching them completely off guard and causing them to turn on their own kind.

Seeing this scene, the soldiers from the Starshine Islands were once again bewildered.

What's happening?

Why are the sea beasts turning on each other?

They followed the source of the song, and their eyes fell on a slender figure standing on a high cliff, a beam of moonlight piercing through the clouds and casting a delicate veil-like glow upon her.

This was... the masked woman!?

The soldiers were astonished once again, exchanging bewildered glances.

Suddenly, someone seemed to recall something and spoke with trembling words.

"It's a Siren! Only Sirens possess the ability to enchant sea beasts with their songs!"

As these words were uttered, the other soldiers also began to react, their faces filled with shock.

Clearly, having grown up on these islands, they had heard rumors about Sirens.

According to the sea legends, Sirens were often associated with malevolence, as their ability to control minds made them seem inclined to commit evil acts. No one wanted to be controlled and turned against their comrades.

Stories and tales abounded of Sirens luring kings to their doom, seducing sailors with their songs to steer ships into treacherous rocks, and other enduring legends and tales from the world's seas.

Initially, they assumed that the masked woman was perhaps a servant or attendant of this so-called “Master,” similar to a messenger or a vase.

But they never imagined that her true identity would be that of a legendary Siren. No wonder she was so calm and fearless when facing the council members.

For a moment, these soldiers felt somewhat lost and unsure of how to react.

However, someone quickly realized, “What’s there to fear? Even if she’s a Siren, she’s still fighting alongside us against the sea beasts!”

Hearing this, the other soldiers soon came to the same realization. Though it sounded frightening, this Siren lady had not done anything to harm them. Instead, she came to aid the Starshine Islands in resisting the sea beast tide. In reality, she seemed quite different from the ominous tales, and there didn’t appear to be anything to fear.

In fact, Sirens mostly reside and thrive in the deep sea, rarely venturing to the surface.

So, a lot of the stories about their wickedness were mostly made up by sailors or adventurers. They did this to make their journeys seem more thrilling and challenging. They took existing rumors and exaggerated them to convince others that they had gone through a dangerous and extraordinary adventure..

*Chapter 452 - 452: The Killing Begins, Gradually Changes in*

*Mentality, Dreadful and Monstrous Hiding Inside (2)*

In all honesty, why would the Sirens, who live in the deep sea, be bothered by you folks on land who can’t even breathe underwater on a regular basis?

As various hero units joined the battle, the sea beasts were horrified to find that they seemed to have a hard time suppressing these thousands of enemy units in this area.

How was this possible!?

They had overwhelming numerical superiority, even if they lost some before, they still had hundreds of thousands of them. Even if it was hundreds of thousands of sea creatures, they should be able to overwhelm the enemy, right?

But those few hero units were just too terrifying, like sharp arrows deeply embedded in their flesh, impossible to remove.

Even when the Tier 5 sea creatures rushed in, the result was the same: instant death.

At this moment, they felt weaker than pigs.

What’s even more distressing is that some of their kind seemed to have gone mad, suddenly attacking each other. This made these originally barbaric and frenzied sea beasts lose all their reason and start killing each other.

The front couldn’t break through, and the rear turned into chaos.

The attacking force of the sea creatures, still numbering in the hundreds of thousands, became weaker and weaker.

As time passed, the Crown of the Ocean army fought as if they had boundless energy, and many sea beasts were beheaded.

At first, the leaders of the sea beast units with some intelligence were indifferent and apathetic when they attacked, even if they vaguely knew they had fallen into a trap, they didn't care because they knew there was nothing that could stop their advance.

But soon, their mentality changed slightly. These obstructing enemies seemed to be stronger.

But it didn't matter; they would make a move.

As long as the fifth-tier sea beasts joined the battle, everything would start to improve.

Shortly after that, as they entered the fight but were met with a terrifying enemy ambush, resulting in countless casualties, they finally became panicked.

Damn, these enemies were a bit abnormal, why couldn't we beat them no matter how we fight?

After sacrificing the lives of hundreds of their own, they managed to inflict only minor injuries on the enemy. When facing such a vast power gap, it's inevitable that anyone would feel utterly defeated.

They originally had the advantage, but now they were being beaten senseless.

That narrow defense line, like an ever-running meat grinder, ground the surging sea creatures into pulp, scattering and becoming nutrients for the ocean.

At this moment, they finally admitted that they felt a hint of fear. Even though there were still many of their kind, it couldn't give them a shred of security.

And what happened next completely crushed them.

Ji Chen looked at the still intense battle below and then at the sky.

Unknowingly, they were fighting all night. The dim sky gradually showed a glimmer of light, and although the sun had not yet risen in the distance, its selfless light had already spread out eagerly.

"The time has dragged on for too long, it's time to end this..." Ji Chen muttered to himself, gradually making up his mind.

At this point, the sea beasts had completely lost any chance of victory, and finishing them was only a matter of time.

He decided to expedite that time.

"Herald, all of you, fall back."

Upon hearing the order, several hero units that had already been slaughtering enemies in the enemy ranks did not hesitate to abandon their current opponents and fought their way back.

Ji Chen slowly raised his right hand, forming a clenched fist.

The next moment, the center of the sea beast tide began to rotate rapidly, turning into a swirling vortex.

This vortex expanded rapidly like a propeller, encompassing all the sea creatures within a kilometer in an instant. As the water continuously spun, the tremendous suction prevented them from escaping the vortex's capture.

Whether they were low-tier sea creatures or Tier 5 sea beasts, they had no resistance in the face of this terrifying vortex that appeared without warning.

At this moment, their lives no longer belonged to them.

If one were to dive into the water, they could see that this vortex extended several hundred meters deep, narrowing from top to bottom, connecting the surface of the sea to the deep ocean.

In this horrifying vortex, a large number of sea beasts were swept into the sea, continuing to rotate madly until they reached the bottom and were thrown out like garbage, lifeless.

This vortex continued until Ji Chen exhausted all his mana and finally slowed down. The sea surface returned to calm, but there was a significant reduction in the number of sea creatures on the battlefield.

The remaining sea creatures finally lost their sanity completely as the last strand of their rationality snapped. Eerie howls filled the air, and large groups of sea beasts began to panic and flee toward the rear. The massive sea beast tide instantly disintegrated, turning into a disorganized retreat.

The speed of this retreat was even faster than their advance yesterday.

Ji Chen endured the discomfort of running out of mana and shouted loudly, "Pursue the fleeing enemy and try to inflict as many casualties as possible!"

The solid defensive line that had held for a day and night collapsed instantly. Legions broke down into smaller groups, chasing and killing the fleeing sea creatures.

Along the way, thousands more bodies were added to the battlefield, adding significantly to the achievements of the Crown of the Ocean.

It wasn't until the remaining sea creatures had completely fled from the Starshine Islands that the forces of the Crown of the Ocean gradually returned.

Looking at the drifting sea creature corpses on the sea surface, the soldiers of the Starshine Islands were momentarily stunned, their eyes filled with confusion and doubt.

Is it over?

The sea creature tide has been repelled?

"Such a large group of sea creatures, and now they've been defeated?"

They all felt that this was somewhat unreal.

But soon, their bewilderment and doubt turned into excitement and jubilation.

The soldiers of the Starshine Islands raised their weapons, as if they were venting the pent-up emotions, and cheered loudly.

"We won!!!"

"The sea creatures have been repelled! Victory for the Starshine Islands!"

“Hail to Miss Siren!!”

The news of the victory quickly spread back to Starshine City.

The shadow looming overhead dissipated, and all the residents came out of their houses, celebrating and rejoicing in the streets, letting out their joy of surviving the disaster.

Inside the council hall of Starshine City.

When the news of successfully repelling the sea creature tide reached here, it made the previously quiet hall even quieter.

When the dusty soldiers brought the good news, what they saw were not the joyful expressions of the council members but rather more solemn faces.

After a moment of silence.

Hadman spoke with a dark expression, “Did that army really repel the sea beast tide?”

The soldiers suddenly felt something was amiss, but they quickly replied, “Yes, Council President, that army did indeed defeat the sea beast tide. Most of the remaining sea creatures have already fled from the Star shine Islands, and only a few scattered ones remain, which we can handle shortly.”

“So, how are their losses? Were they heavily damaged by the sea creatures?”

“They did suffer very severe losses, about one-third of the army perished, and over half of them have varying degrees of injuries.”

“Their physical strength, energy, and mana are almost depleted...”

Hadman’s eyes lit up slightly upon hearing this, and he proceeded to ask many more questions, most of which were about the army rather than the aftermath of the sea beast tide.

This puzzled the soldier even more.

Shouldn’t this be the time to inquire about the losses suffered by the Starshine Islands or the post-sea creature tide issues?

Over ten minutes later.

“Alright, you may leave now,” Hadman said emotionlessly.

Although he felt that something was very wrong, the soldier still gave a salute and left the room.

The doors of the hall closed again, isolating the sounds from inside and outside.

The soldier shook his head and walked outside.

But as he remembered the many questions asked by Council President Hadman, a terrifying thought suddenly flashed in his mind.

Could it be that the council...

As he thought about it, cold sweat dripped from his forehead, and with a mixture of fear, resentment, and confusion in his eyes, he turned back to look at the closed doors of the council hall, as if something dreadful and monstrous was hiding inside..

*Chapter 453 - 453: The Resilience of the Indigenous People: Haughtiness of Hademan, Only War Can Make You Sober*

The soldier recalled that the masked woman who fought with them earlier was actually a Siren, and the mysterious “master” did not intervene, despite having immense power.

However, as he considered whether to report this to the council, he couldn’t help but think about the council members’ actions.

There was some confusion and resentment in his heart.

That Lord and his army had fought side by side for a whole day and night, finally driving the sea beast tide away.

And those in the council had been hiding here comfortably, even prepared to flee at any moment.

But that wasn’t the main issue.

They plotted to strike against that esteemed lord when he was weakened.

Was this still the Starshine City Council he knew and understood?

It seemed that over the centuries, the Starshine City Council had gradually lost its former ambition and glory, becoming a reptilian entity that fed on the rotting flesh!

At this moment, an unexpected thought crossed their minds.

What if they let the Lord kill those high and mighty council members? Perhaps the future of the Starshine Islands would be brighter.

On the other side.

The Crown of the Ocean’s forces, after completely defeating the sea beast tide and driving the remaining sea beasts out of the Star shine Islands’ waters, were tallying the casualties from this battle.

Due to the participation of many Tier 5 sea beasts in the later stages of the battle, even with the involvement of several strong heroes of the Legacy Tier, the Crown of the Ocean’s forces suffered significant damage.

Among them, the Nagas, Dragon Blood Legion, and Knight Legion, who formed the front line, suffered the most significant losses, with a quarter of their forces dead, and the survivors mostly sustaining various injuries.

In contrast, the Guardian Legion, which had always been in the rear, suffered fewer losses, but still lost two to three hundred members due to the attacks of some Tier 5 sea beasts from a distance.

Overall, there were some discrepancies between these casualties and the soldier’s report.

After all, they didn’t expect that the Ocean Crown’s forces, which were supposed to die according to human standards, with numerous fist-sized bloody holes all over their bodies, more than pores, would be able to survive and rapidly recover from their injuries at an astonishing speed.

However, if one were to count the thousand-plus Tier 4 Soulbound Servant Legion, which was sacrificed to delay the enemy and considered them a loss, the casualty rate was close to a third.

But Ji Chen had no feeling of pity.

These losses were only temporary. When they returned to the New Moon Islands, he could use the Resurrection Altar to revive all the fallen soldiers, and they would once again form complete legions.

In simple terms, they were good comrades who could be resurrected all at once with a few thousand precious resources.

As the sun began to rise from the distance, the players who had gone back to rest and resupply last night arrived belatedly.

Many people had a restless night, thinking about what would happen if this indigenous army couldn't hold back the sea beasts. In that case, they would all be in serious trouble together.

Therefore, most players gathered and prepared to set out again as the sunlight began to spread.

However, as soon as they returned, they only saw the sea filled with the corpses of sea beasts.

Not a single one was alive.

Confusion washed over them.

“What the heck? What happened to the sea beasts?”

“Did they finish the fight? I remember there were still tens of thousands left. Could they have broken through and entered Starshine City?”

Looking at the indigenous army cleaning up the battlefield, many players suddenly remembered the extreme red light that could be seen even from the northernmost part of Starshine Islands last night, coming from this direction.

A crazy idea crossed their minds.

Could it be that this indigenous army had already defeated the sea beast tide?

But how was that possible? How could they kill so many sea beasts in just one night?

Even if there were hundreds of thousands of pigs, it would take three days and nights to catch them, let alone kill tens of thousands of them.

To confirm their speculation, the masked woman appeared again on the cliff and spoke loudly.

“The remaining attacking sea beast tide has been defeated by us, and the sea beast crisis in the Starshine Islands is officially over.

Thanks to the contributions of you, the Lords of Glory, in resisting the sea beasts, as a reward, our master has instructed me to give all these sea beast corpses to you. You can pick them up as you like, no need to be polite.”

Hearing this, the players' faces suddenly became a bit strange. It felt like they were the real masters of the Starshine Islands from the tone of her speech.

But this statement also instantly excited them. Just the sea beast corpses floating here numbered at least four to five hundred thousand.



Sea beasts weren't tiny creatures you'd find on land; they were massive, almost like they'd been pumped full of growth hormones. Even the smaller ones could provide hundreds of servings of food, and the larger ones could yield thousands. There were plenty of them to go around.

Roughly estimating, there were at least a million units of food here.

It seemed like they wouldn't run out of food to eat until next year!

However, players were well aware of their own contributions. Rather than saying they helped resist the sea beasts, it was more accurate to say they just tagged along for some damage and experience.

The main credit for defeating the sea beast tide belonged to this indigenous army.

The generosity of this indigenous army made these players feel a bit embarrassed, but their goodwill towards them grew significantly.

If players had a goodwill data display, there would probably be a "+1 goodwill" appearing over their heads right now.

These indigenous folks were something else!

They were genuinely willing to give away good things!

This was much better than those sly old bureaucrats in Starshine City..

*Chapter 454: The Resilience of the Indigenous People: Haughtiness of Hademan, Only War Can Make You Sober (2)*

Seeing these lords of glory express their thanks one after another, Alice, who was wearing a mask, showed little reaction.

This was just the Lord's mission.

This wave of sea beasts had been defeated, and the crisis in the Starshine Islands was completely resolved.

After resting for half a day, the Ocean Crown team set off again, heading to Starshine City, the heart of the islands, to receive their rewards.

With the thought of this, Ji Chen's mood improved, and he urged the troops to march faster.

Two hours later, they arrived at the core of the Starshine Islands—Starshine City.

Previously, it was Alice who delivered the message, and he was here for the first time, showing a hint of curiosity in his eyes.

As the core of an archipelago that had been developed for hundreds of years, the island where Starshine City was located had been built very well.

On the edge of the island, there was a large harbor area built along the shore. Although the buildings and harbors here were not as tall and spectacular as those in Maple Harbor, the rows of four to five-story houses and spacious, well-organized roads still revealed the aura of human civilization.

He believed that after the Sea Beast Tide is over, this place would return to its former prosperity.

As the army approached the dock, Ji Chen's gaze wandered, and his expression became slightly serious.

There were no welcoming crowds waiting for them here, but rather human armies, fully armed and exuding a cold and murderous aura.

From their appearance and demeanor, it was clear that they were more powerful than the ordinary Starshine City soldiers and numbered quite a few.

This left him puzzled. If Starshine City had such a decent army, why didn't they send them to the battlefield?

Moreover, judging from their looks, they weren't here to welcome their triumphant return.

The newcomers were unfriendly.

He became wary in his heart.

In fact, the armed forces of the Starshine Islands were divided into two types. One was the regular army belonging to the entire Starshine City, similar to the public forces of the Council.

The other type belonged to the independent private armies of each council family. These were like elite bodyguards, more elite than the regular army, but they only obeyed their respective council families.

And what stood before him was the thirteen private armies belonging to the thirteen council families. Each of them had about two thousand troops, totaling about thirty-five thousand soldiers.

Most of them were at Tier 4, between 3 to 5 stars, and levels 30 to 35. Among them, there were about two thousand units at Tier 5, 1 star.

In addition to that, there were dozens of wooden warships roaming around, with the barrels of their cannons adjusting their trajectories, pointing towards the Ocean Crown team, giving off an aura of encirclement.

The coastal defense artillery in the distance was also slowly turning, and the stout cannons were aimed at them.

Seeing this scene, Ji Chen's gaze turned completely cold, and he casually put on a silver mask to conceal his appearance.

They quickly arrived not far from the dock, and he raised his right hand, signaling the army to stop.

Then, riding a Tyrant Azure Dragon, he came to the shore with Alice and stepped onto the dock.

At this moment, the well-dressed legislators also appeared from behind the private armies.

They cast their gazes on Ji Chen, who appeared for the first time, with a hint of curiosity, as if they wanted to see through the face behind the mask.

Neither side spoke, and a tense atmosphere quickly enveloped the scene.

After a moment, Hadman, the President of the Council, took the initiative to break the silence and walked forward with a smile.

“Your Excellency, are you the commander of this army? May I know how to address you?”

This is our first meeting, so let’s introduce ourselves first. We are...”

“No need,” Ji Chen’s voice from behind the mask sounded hoarse and completely different from his true voice, clearly due to the Illusory Mask’s effect. “I already know about you from my subordinates.

Let’s not waste time. What about the rewards we agreed upon earlier? Are they ready?”

Hadman hesitated for a moment, not paying much attention to Ji Chen’s distant and unapproachable tone. He smiled and said, “Of course, after hearing that Your Excellency successfully repelled the Sea Beast Tide, we immediately made preparations.”

As he spoke, he clapped his hands, and several squads of soldiers drove more than a dozen carriages from behind. They lifted the waterproof covers from the cargo compartments, revealing a pile of rare resources and gold coins inside.

More than a dozen carriages filled with rare resources and gold coins indeed looked quite impressive and awe-inspiring. This was evident from the wide-eyed expressions of the onlookers among the players and private soldiers.

However, Ji Chen only gave them a casual glance and furrowed his brows deeply.

The rare resources and gold coins in these more than a dozen carriages appeared substantial, but at most, they amounted to 300,000 units of rare resources and 500,000 gold coins.

This might not necessarily be considered inconsistent with the one-tenth of their family’s income they had agreed upon earlier, but it was worlds apart.

He suppressed his impatience and said slowly, “This seems a bit different from what we discussed before. If I recall correctly, the agreed-upon reward was not just this amount. Please double-check, Council President Hadman.”

Hadman, as if he had anticipated this, wore a smile on his face. “Regarding this, Your Excellency, I believe the previously agreed-upon reward seems somewhat unreasonable.

You see, when we resisted the Sea Beast Tide, we mobilized a large number of troops and provided a substantial amount of underwater mines and alchemical cannonballs, which were not mentioned previously.

Furthermore, the meat used to attract the sea beasts was all urgently sourced from the materials depot in Starshine City. It’s top-quality meat imported from the Western Continent, and it’s quite valuable..”

*Chapter 455: The Resilience of the Indigenous People: Haughtiness of Hademan, Only War Can Make You Sober (3)*

“These, all represent significant expenses.

We never expected that repelling the Sea Beast Tide would require such exorbitant costs, nearly depleting our wealth,” Hadman said with a pained expression as if they had truly paid a heavy price.

Then, a glint of coldness flashed in his eyes, and he continued, “Moreover, if it weren’t for our substantial expenditures and the valiant efforts of the Starshine City soldiers, Your Excellency might not have been able to successfully lure the Sea Beast Tide into the trap and inflict damage upon those sea beasts, right?”

Therefore, we jointly believe that the value of what Your Excellency has done does not equate to the previously agreed-upon reward. After our discussions and calculations, these rare resources and gold coins are your compensation for this occasion.”

Ji Chen’s gaze turned ice-cold.

Hadman’s hypocritical and shameless explanation was enough to challenge his moral compass.

The expenses for underwater mines and alchemical cannonballs were not insignificant, but based on the Ocean Crown’s experience, they would be worth at most a few hundred thousand gold coins. The imported top-quality meat was even more ludicrous, as it was clear that it was just ordinary frozen sea creature meat.

Furthermore, the later part of Hadman’s statement was pure nonsense. The crucial factor in repelling the Sea Beast Tide was the Ocean Crown’s forces, while the others played a secondary role. Otherwise, could their private army have withstood the sea beasts?

It seemed that this group of legislators was determined to default on their agreement. It was no wonder they had cooperated so actively before, delivering underwater mines and ammunition and generously providing large quantities of meat. They had clearly planned to use these excuses to default on their payment.

Well, it looked like they had chosen him as their target to swindle, hadn’t they?

Hadman observed Ji Chen, who stayed quiet, and slyly grinned, with a subtle trace of arrogance showing on his lips.

Outsider, do you think you can challenge me that easily? Do you really believe you can seize Hadman’s wealth so effortlessly?

Other legislators also wore smug expressions, their eyes revealing a sense of mockery.

Before agreeing to the terms, they had prepared two contingency plans in secret. The first was the current excuse, which was apparent to anyone with a discerning eye, but what did it matter?

This was a game of cunning!

Their confidence and assurance in making this statement came from the fact that the Ocean Crown’s army was severely damaged after facing the Sea Beast onslaught. They no longer possessed the formidable deterrent force they once had.

A quick glance revealed that the current strength of this battered army was only around three to four thousand units, with more than half of them carrying injuries. Only a small portion could still operate at full combat capacity.

The Thirteen Council Families’ private army numbered as many as 35,000, fully organized, well-armed, and highly trained.

They were not the mindless sea beasts that had been lured into traps!

Furthermore, with the private army now surrounding this battered force, leaving them with no room to maneuver, a barrage of artillery fire would undoubtedly turn them into souls beneath the cannons.

And with 35,000 against 3,000 to 4,000, both sides having nearly equal numbers of fifth-tier units, they had no idea how they could possibly lose.

The advantage was clearly on their side!

If this man had any sense, he would take these resources and leave quietly, or they wouldn't take it lightly!

Their long-standing dominance and authority over the Starshine Islands, spanning hundreds of years, had seemingly distorted these legislators' perception of external military strength.

They were unaware of the significant differences in power between fifth-tier units and the variations among them.

Moreover, the indigenous inhabitants had no ability to analyze unit stats; they relied on their eyes and experience for observation, which these legislators clearly lacked.

Therefore, when they made these statements, the players who were observing from the sidelines were shocked.

Wow, are these Starshine City legislators really that audacious?

They wanted to take on a fully fifth-tier unit army, which was undoubtedly superior in combat power, with a group of mixed fourth and fifth-tier private soldiers?

Their expressions became strange, mixed with a hint of excitement.

Fight, fight! They loved watching others fight, especially when it involved two "indigenous" armies.

Just as the players were cheering in their hearts, Ji Chen, who saw Hadman and the other legislators looking so confident, guessed that this group of fools had probably been in high positions for too long and had lost their sense of reality.

At the same time, he abandoned the last hope of negotiating for compensation to avoid bloodshed and death.

Then, he shook his head gently and said coldly, "It seems that only war can make you sober."

When this statement came out, Hadman and the other legislators showed expressions of disbelief.

You really dare to fight us!?

Chapter 456: Condensing Water into Soldiers, Occupy or Return

Just a momentary daze, a gleam of wild delight flickered in Hadman's eyes.

This is what you asked for. We've already given you a chance. If you insist on pursuing that unrealistic reward, then you'll be stuck here forever.

Once we've dealt with all of you, we'll eliminate anyone in the vicinity who has witnessed this, thus concealing everything.

Then, they would publicly declare that Starshine City repelled the Sea Beast Tide. The merchants would return, and the Starshine Islands would regain their former prosperity.

In an instant, Ildman had the future all planned out.

His thoughts returned.

A fierce expression appeared on his face, and he raised his right hand, gesturing firmly, "Seal this place off and eliminate them."

His family's private army suddenly sprang into action, and upon seeing this, the other council members also issued attack orders.

The warships on the sea raised their cannons slightly, and the well-trained sailors immediately loaded ammunition and then pulled the ropes vigorously.

After a brief pause, the cannon muzzles emitted sparks of orange light, and the shells traced a smooth arc, ready to rain death upon the enemy.

Ji Chen watched the council's private army approaching steadily, sighing softly.

"Deal with them."

This sentence was like a command, and the Crown of the Ocean's forces suddenly sprang into action.

All their units quickly submerged, disappearing from the water's surface in the blink of an eye, leaving only ripples of turmoil behind.

In the next moment, gunfire spread across the water's surface, but under the surging spray, not a single body could be seen.

Just as the sailors on the nearest warship were preparing to drop depth charges to prevent the enemy from approaching underwater.

They were suddenly shaken violently by the ship's intense tremors, falling in all directions. Before they could regain their balance, they heard cries of terror coming from inside the ship.

"Water's leaking into the hold! Those damn things are boring holes in the ship!"

"Quick, perform damage control and repair the hull! The torpedo team, use depth charges to kill those damn things!"

The sailors turned pale, the enemy came too fast, it had only been a short ten seconds before they reached the bottom of the ship?

They didn't even have the time to launch the depth charges!

The ones responsible for boring holes in the ship were the Dragonblood Legion, the fastest unit in the Crown of the Ocean. The moment they submerged, they split into dozens of teams and charged toward the enemy ships. With precision, they used tridents to bore holes in the ship's bottom.

In just over ten seconds, they turned the entire ship's bottom into a sieve, and seawater desperately poured in.

When the sailors rose from the shaking and tossed depth charges into the water, the Dragon Blood Murlocs who had completed their hole-boring mission had already withdrawn to a safe distance, watching as the depth charges exploded pointlessly.

And soon, they found that they could not stop the seawater from flooding the ship's hold. If they did not leave now, they would also sink into the sea.

They could only reluctantly escape, jumping into the sea from the deck, swimming to a distance, and then helplessly watching the warship sink.

But at this moment, they suddenly found something terrifying in the water...

As the warships quickly went under the water, numerous sailors found themselves in a desperate situation, struggling on the surface like dumplings in hot water. They were pulled down by unidentified foes, and soon, there was a shocking scene of blood in the water, with cries and screams filling the air without end.

Iladman and the council members were dumbfounded, followed by a sense of heartache.

The heartache was not for the sailors; sailors could be hired for a pittance from the Nightingale Tavern in the harbor, and their lives were expendable.

But a warship—even if it was made of wood—was worth tens of thousands of gold coins, and it took a considerable amount of time and resources to build them.

In addition, no matter how many sailors' lives were sacrificed, it couldn't make up for the various cannons and bomb launchers equipped on the ships.

For them, this was a significant loss of money!

Now they realized that their navy couldn't possibly match the native and adept sea clan units in battle.

Their gaze shifted to Ji Chen and Alice not far away.

In that case, let's capture the ringleader first.

Since they couldn't defeat the sea clan and couldn't capture them, they would start by catching this human who seemed to have little combat capability.

They believed that if they were to control their leader, the rest of the army would crumble on its own!

“Capture him for me!”

The private army surged forward, their weapons poised for a frontal assault.

Ji Chen looked slightly astonished, and there was even a hint of amusement in his expression. It was the first time he had been underestimated like this.

Did these council members not learn about the situation on the battlefield against sea beasts from their soldiers? They actually thought they could capture him with these feeble private troops?

“Alice.”

No need for many words, no need for many questions. Alice’s expression turned cold, her eyes filled with a hint of killing intent.

A strange, ancient rhythm, as if it came from the deep sea, suddenly echoed in the harbor, penetrating the ears of everyone around, just like seawater flowing into their ears.

The frontmost group of a thousand private soldiers suddenly halted in unison, disrupting the rhythm of the following private troops.

At the very moment when others were in doubt, they, like humanoid alchemical robots receiving a signal, collectively turned around and swiftly raised their weapons to strike at their colleagues.

In an instant, screams echoed from the sea surface to the harbor, and the scent of blood filled the air.

The other private military forces had never anticipated that their colleagues would suddenly attack them, resulting in heavy losses..

Chapter 457: Condensing Water into Soldiers, Occupy or Return (2)

The horrifying scene left everyone present in shock.

Even the players who were spectating on the sidelines were dumbfounded, completely unaware of why the councilor’s private army was attacking their own comrades.

Could it be because their paychecks hadn’t been delivered?

Hademan and the other councilors were also bewildered, and one of the councilors suddenly shouted angrily, “What are you idiots doing!? Stop it!”

This thousand-strong unit belonged to him as his private army.

But no matter how he angrily berated them, this private army continued to viciously attack their fellow comrades, their strikes exceptionally brutal.

However, they quickly noticed something unusual about them. These private soldiers who had turned against their own comrades had lifeless eyes and moved in an unusually stiff manner as if they were soulless husks who only knew how to swing their weapons.

With a simple connection of thoughts, they quickly linked it to the song that had been lingering around them.

Could it be that the singing of the masked woman had transformed them into this state?

Seeing that this “rebellious” private army was on the verge of going berserk, other councilors also became uneasy and ordered their private armies to eliminate them.

Under overwhelming numerical superiority, this thousand-strong private army was soon slaughtered to the last man.

But what filled them with despair was that another thousand-strong unit suddenly turned on them, catching them off guard.



At this point, they understood that as long as the singing didn't stop, there would be a continuous stream of private soldiers enchanted by the song, losing their sanity and attacking their own comrades.

“Contain this thousand-strong unit first, the rest attack.

This song can only affect a portion of us, no need to worry.

Everyone, charge together, and once we kill that woman, everything will be fine.”

As the President of the Council, Hademan had a keen eye and quickly realized the influence of Alice's singing. He shouted with authority.

At his command, ten thousand-strong private armies broke formation and charged directly at Alice.

Their eyes filled with hatred and a hint of fear.

The power of this woman's singing was so terrifying that, in their minds, this mind-controlling ability was no different from that of demons.

Seeing this, Ji Chen nodded slightly; they reacted swiftly.

But it didn't matter; he would take action.

He raised his hands, and clusters of seawater leaped into the harbor, transforming into a hundred and fifty humanoid sailors.

It was his skill, “Condense Water into Soldiers.”

With the increase in his level, he could now condense and control a significantly larger number of water soldiers.

Threads of aqueous connections, akin to umbilical cords, linked the water soldiers to the ocean, continually transferring energy.

The private army of the councilors looked at these water soldiers and swung their weapons without hesitation, intending to kill them. However, when the sword edges pierced their bodies, it was as if they had encountered no resistance and went straight through.

They could even see the sword edges passing through the water soldiers' backs!

Anyone who saw this would be momentarily bewildered.

However, the water soldiers didn't hesitate for a moment. They swung their weapons, directly tearing through the armor of the private soldiers and inflicting severe wounds. Then, they ignored the multiple weapon strikes that came at them, swiftly decapitating the private soldier in front of them.

In the face of enemies who couldn't be harmed in any way, the outcome of the battle had been known from the very beginning.

The more the private army of the councilors attacked, the more hopeless they felt. Their weapons were utterly useless. They could cut off a water soldier's arm, and the next moment, it would grow back, and it would counterattack.

Less than half a minute had passed, and they had lost hundreds of their own soldiers, while the enemy hadn't suffered a single casualty.

How could they even compete?

A mere hundred and fifty water soldiers appeared before them like a hundred and fifty towering mountains, inspiring fear.

Even the most loyal and fearless warriors would feel fear and confusion when facing such stubborn opponents. They didn't even know how to overcome them.

While the water soldiers held off the enemy, the battle on the sea's surface was coming to an end.

Dozens of warships were sunk without mercy by a single one, and hundreds of sailors drowned or were killed. The sea surface was littered with pale-skinned corpses and debris from the ships.

Faced with the Crown of the Ocean's army who held an absolute environmental advantage, these outdated traditional warships and sailors had no chance of resistance.

When the nearly unscathed Crown of the Ocean's army appeared in the harbor, and even after they had landed, the balance of the battle was completely disrupted.

The Crown of the Ocean demonstrated the brutal nature of soldiers born for warfare and the distinction between fifth-tier soldiers and those who truly fought like fifth-tier warriors.

Those two private armies of fifth-tier soldiers were even more fragile than paper before the Naga Legion and the Dragonblood Legion. They were easily scattered by a single charge.

Over thirty thousand fourth-tier soldiers lost their significance in the overwhelming magical light and arrow rain, falling one by one.

At this moment, human lives were worth less than the lives of sea beasts.

Especially when a few councilors and the President of the Council, Hademan, died in the chaotic and violent magical energy, the remaining private soldiers completely lost their will to fight. Except for a small number who continued to resist, most of the surviving ones chose to surrender.

As they watched the few remaining councilors being tied up with pale faces, the players of the Starshine Islands finally came to their senses after the initial shock.

They took a deep breath.

The heavens of the Starshine Islands... were about to change.

The events here were immediately posted on the forums.

“Shocking! The Starshine Islands are about to undergo a major transformation!”

Especially with a post title reminiscent of a certain news website, it piqued the curiosity of many players.

They clicked on it while grumbling about what kind of clickbait these guys were using.

But after reading the post, they were all stunned.

Oh my god! Is it really going to change?

Intertribal conflicts among native forces were common in this not-so-peaceful world. However, what was happening on the Starshine Islands was beyond their imagination.

But what happened in the Starshine Islands was beyond their imagination.

A passing indigenous army came to Starshine City's aid in repelling the sea beast onslaught, but after paying a steep price to fend off the oceanic threat, they discovered that Starshine City was unwilling to fulfill the promised rewards.

In a fit of anger, this indigenous army ruthlessly defeated Starshine City's forces, leaving them in disarray. They also captured the mastermind behind it all, a member of the council, and seized control of the entire Starshine Islands.

What kind of magical plot was this?

While the casual players were surfing the internet like madmen, one of the main figures in all of this, Ji Chen, was now seated in the council chamber at the center of Starshine City.

Looking at the council chamber, which symbolized the highest authority in Starshine City, he appeared somewhat troubled.

Wait a minute, wasn't he here to demand the reward for repelling the sea beast tide from Hademan?

How did they end up conquering Starshine City, and even the Starshine Islands, in such a haphazard manner?

All of this exceeded his original expectations.

But now, the die had been cast, and Ji Chen began to contemplate how to handle the situation.

Firstly, it was impossible for him to invest a significant amount of effort in completely taking over this place. There was no time for it, and he didn't have enough manpower.

Building the Crown of the Ocean and managing the Great Luminescent Sea was already taxing enough. Managing these islands hundreds of kilometers away would be even more challenging.

Distance was a problem that needed consideration.

So, should he simply return this place?

He quickly dismissed that thought. After just capturing this place, giving it back immediately would be pointless.

Besides, most of the councilors were already dead, and even the President of the Council, Hademan, had perished due to the magic. There was no one to return it to.

At the very least, he needed to secure the reward he was entitled to first.

Of course, one-tenth of the council families' wealth was the original price, and now he wasn't going to settle for anything less.

As he contemplated, a thought gradually emerged.

After a dozen or so minutes, Ji Chen concluded his contemplation and with a determined expression, gave his orders.

"Spread my command: Have the Naga Legion and the Dragonblood Legion block the estates of the Thirteen Council Families. Plunder their storerooms and treasuries, and bring me everything – resources, treasures, valuables, anything of worth, all of it!

Gather all the oceangoing ships in Starshine City. I need a sufficiently large fleet to transport these goods.

The Knight Legion and the Guardian Legion will maintain order in Starshine City and the surrounding waters. At least while we still occupy this place, everything must remain stable!

At the same time, have Anina return to the New Moon Islands as fast as possible. Notify Sonia to lead a Coral Palace army here at the fastest speed. I need their forces now.”

“Yes!”

Chapter 458 - 458: Submission, Spare Their Lives, Didn't I Say I'm the Lord of Glory?

In the dark prison cell, Xhakas' eyes were lifeless, his lips parched, and his throat felt like it had swallowed a stone, causing immense pain.

He looked at the other two councilors who clung to the cell door, staring outside with no glimmer of hope in their eyes. Despair gradually filled his heart.

Under the terrifying onslaught of magic, the Star shine City Council was reduced to just the three of them.

He remembered clearly how Hadman and the other council members were torn apart by the relentless onslaught of spells and arrows. Their once-proud private army fell apart like fragile sea beasts being mercilessly slaughtered by that powerful force.

Thinking of these memories, a look of pain flashed in Xhakas's eyes.

At this moment, he was filled with intense regret, regretting why he didn't simply hand over the one-tenth share of his family's wealth willingly back then. Instead, he had allowed himself to be misled by the foolish Hademan into refusing to pay.

Now, not only were they imprisoned here, but the Starshine Islands, which they had managed for centuries, were also occupied. He lost everything, and he wasn't even sure if he could keep his own life.

However, since they had been locked up here for a whole day, it was as if the man had forgotten about them. They were left here like a pile of garbage, with no one to guard them and no food brought to them.

They had gone without water the entire day.

No matter how much they shouted, no one paid them any attention, and their voices only echoed in this dark and desolate prison.

They felt uneasy, fearing that in the next moment, fearsome sea clan soldiers would come in and execute them.

The physical hunger and constant mental oppression had pushed them to their physiological limits.

At this moment, footsteps suddenly echoed from outside, resonating heavily within the prison.

The three of them turned pale instantly.

To them, these footsteps seemed like an ominous and terrifying sound, and the fear in their hearts surged like an overwhelming wave, threatening to engulf them completely.

Several figures appeared one after another outside the cell.

Xhakas squinted to get a better view and identified the leader of the group, who was also the commander of the army. The commander wore a mask, and behind it, his eyes were profound, resembling stars, as if they held the ability to discern everything in the world.

Yet, his gaze was also that of a ruthless sovereign, capable of bringing death and destruction at any moment.

The leader of the group spoke slowly.

“Are you the council member of Starshine City, Xhakas?”

Xhakas recognized this man as the commander of the army. His throat rolled, and he swallowed hard.

He wanted to burst out with curses, to demonstrate the courage and honor of one of the Thirteen Council Families that ruled the Starshine Islands for centuries, and then to be killed by him with dignity.

But at this moment, he felt that he couldn't say anything in front of those eyes.

He even felt his body trembling continuously.

In the end, he yielded. His legs slowly knelt on the ground, and his forehead pressed against the damp floor, adopting the most humble posture.

“I am, Lord.”

Ji Chen looked at Xhakas kneeling before him, a hint of surprise in his eyes.

Then he looked at the other two senators, “Councilor Kieran, Councilor Herman?”

The two men glanced at Xhakas kneeling motionless on the ground, and then remembered Hadman, who had been reduced to ashes in the explosion of magic. They clenched their teeth and knelt down, saying, “Yes, Lord.”

With their response, Ji Chen nodded slightly.

“Do you know what crimes you have committed previously?”

“We should not have failed to fulfill our promises and attempted to use force to compel you, Lord, and even plotted to take your life. We are guilty.”

Xhakas stated without hesitation, surprising the other two councilors with the speed of his confession.

Goodness, had he already planned all of this in advance?

What a coward, just looking out for his own life!

While they grumbled and complained, they didn't want to fall behind in confessing their own crimes.

“I should not have coveted that reward; I am guilty...”

“Offending you, Lord, is our greatest sin!”

Seeing them confess so straightforwardly, Ji Chen, who intended to find fault with them, found it difficult to find any fault. He abandoned the script he had prepared in his mind.

After a moment of thought, he decided not to dwell on these trivial matters.

So he simply said, “I have occupied the Starshine Islands, but I won’t invest too much energy here now. Therefore, I need people familiar with this place who can assist me in managing it.”

Upon hearing this, Kieran and Herman quickly understood Ji Chen’s intention.

As long as they could avoid death and regain their previous power, they were willing to pay any price.

“We are willing to work for you, Lord. We hope you can give us a chance to make amends for our past crimes,” they hurriedly said.

Ji Chen looked at each of them in turn, and finally, his gaze passed over the silent Xhakas.

In a calm tone, he said, “But I want you to sign a master and slave contract.”

A master and slave contract!?

Kieran and Herman’s faces showed a hint of hesitation.

Naturally, they were aware of such a contract. Once signed, the soul of the slave party would be under the control of the master, and the servant’s life would no longer belong to them.

Unless the master party voluntarily released them, the contract would exist forever.

For them, who had held high positions as councilors and were nobles with a long history, it was difficult to accept. After all, they migrated from the mainland and had a deep historical background. How could they become someone else’s slaves?

Seeing their expressions, Ji Chen sighed inwardly.

Indeed, such matters couldn’t be entrusted to these people..

Chapter 459 - 459: Submission, Spare Their Lives, Didn’t I Say I’m the Lord of Glory? (2)

“I’m willing!”

At this moment, Xhakas, who were silent since all this while, raised his head with a serious expression.

Ji Chen narrowed his eyes, a hint of admiration flickering in them.

Without delay, he extended his index finger and began to draw a floating contract in the air. As his fingertip moved, the contract text gradually appeared.

With a gentle push, it flew in front of Xhakas.

Without the slightest hesitation, Xhakas immediately signed his name on the contract.

The text containing the rules dissipated in the air, and Xhakas felt a certain connection between himself and Ji Chen, an inexplicable sense of awe and subservience rising from the depths of his soul.

With just a thought from Ji Chen, his soul would instantly dissipate.

Xhakas lowered his head again, showing profound respect, and said, "Thank you for your forgiveness, my Lord. I will do my utmost to assist you in controlling the entire Starshine Islands."

Ji Chen nodded. "Rise."

Xhakas straightened up, supporting himself with his arms, but his waist remained bent, his face filled with respect and awe.

This turn of events left Kieran and Herman dumbfounded. They hadn't expected Xhakas to be so decisive. Did he have no sense of noble honor left?

Having held high positions for a long time, they understood very well that if a person lost their utility, the price of their life would plummet.

In short, it seemed that they no longer had much value to Ji Chen.

In an instant, Kieran and Herman felt a sense of impending doom looming over them.

"My Lord, I'm also willing!"

"Please grant us another chance, and we are willing to sign the Master and Slave Contract!"

Ji Chen looked at the two who had belatedly come to their senses. There was no emotional fluctuation in his eyes as he gestured for the Naga Guardians following him to deal with them.

Witnessing this scene, Kieran and Herman turned pale and collapsed on the ground.

At this moment, the sea clan warriors, wielding double-edged swords, appeared to be demons of doom in their eyes.

"My Lord, I think we can spare their lives."

However, at this moment, a voice as if from the heavens granted them a reprieve.

Ji Chen furrowed his brow, his gaze turning toward Xhakas, who had once again knelt down. He slowly raised his hand, instructing the Naga Guardians, who served as executioners, to halt.

"State your reasons. I won't keep those who have no value."

Feeling the immense pressure, Xhakas took a deep breath and spoke in a concise and articulate manner.

"The Thirteen Council Families have occupied the Starshine Islands for hundreds of years, gradually cultivating their respective industries.

For example, under my banner, there's the Radiant Commerce Guild, which is the largest guild in the Starshine Islands, controlling the largest trading fleet and possessing a comprehensive system for both domestic and foreign trade. Through the Radiant Commerce Guild's fleet and a skilled

workforce, we can import goods from the Western Continent at the fastest speed, and, of course, export goods to the Western Continent.

In addition, the Radiant Commerce Guild has multiple offices in coastal cities of the Western Continent. Apart from handling commercial affairs, they also gather various news and intelligence.”

Ji Chen’s interest piqued, and his brow relaxed slightly. “Continue.”

Seeing that Ji Chen’s tone had softened, Xhakas cleared his throat and continued.

“Kieran is the largest agricultural producer in the Starshine Islands, and he owns several large food processing factories. These factories can produce and process a large amount of food, practically sustaining the entire food supply of the Starshine Islands.

Herman, on the other hand, possesses a large shipyard, the only one within the Thirteen Council Families capable of manufacturing steel warships. He has a significant reserve of alchemical technology and even a large alchemical cannon manufacturing plant, capable of producing various alchemical cannons and shells.

So, instead of killing them, it might be more beneficial to grant them a chance at redemption. They can use these industries and advantages to serve you better. This way, my Lord, you can have better control over the Starshine Islands and gain greater benefits.

After all, someone familiar with these affairs can better leverage their value.”

Finishing his explanation, Xhakas cautiously observed Ji Chen, feeling a bit apprehensive.

However, when he saw a hint of approval on Ji Chen’s face, he finally breathed a sigh of relief, his heart swelling with hope.

Ji Chen couldn’t help but admit that Xhakas’ words had indeed convinced him.

At the same time, he hadn’t anticipated that these Council Families did have some redeeming qualities.

For instance, Xhakas’ Radiant Commerce Guild.

While the Ocean Crown had gained the expertise of seasoned merchants like Raymond, its position in commerce and trade was not very strong. Welcoming a well-established guild like the Radiant Commerce Guild could greatly enhance the Ocean Crown’s ability to export goods to the untouched Western Continent.

On the other hand, Kieran’s agricultural production and processing were quite impressive. Food was an essential daily necessity, and often the market demand for it was the greatest, with a tremendous utility.

What caught his attention the most was Herman. He hadn’t expected that his shipyard could manufacture steel warships, something he had always dreamt of.

For Ocean Crown to face increasingly powerful enemies in the future, products like these, containing the crystallization of alchemical technology in this world and capable of traversing the vast oceans, were indispensable.



“Very well, I will give you another chance.”

Ji Chen didn't hesitate and drew up two sets of master and slave contracts, pushing them in front of the two men.

This time, Kieran and Herman didn't hesitate for a moment. They immediately signed their names.

The contracts were now established, and a hint of melancholy flashed across their faces, but they quickly accepted it.

Although becoming slaves felt a bit awkward, the fact that they could survive was already a good thing. Moreover, according to Ji Chen's intentions, they would still have control over their own industries. They just had to acknowledge there was someone they needed to serve.

Seeing the contracts signed, the three remaining council members of Starshine City also submitted. Ji Chen wasted no more time.

He led the three of them out of the prison and into the council chamber.

He immediately issued his orders to them.

“Starting today, the Starshine City Council is dissolved, replaced by the Ocean Crown Starshine Islands Office. The highest authority belongs to Ocean Crown, and the supreme ruler is me, Ji Chen.

Besides your own industries, you three need to take control of the properties left behind by the deceased council members as soon as possible and coordinate all available resources.

The regular city and private armies of Starshine City will all be disbanded. They can only join the newly established Starshine Islands Guard after passing several rounds of assessments. During this time, defense duties will be handled by the Coral Palace troops. Oh, by the way, the Coral Palace is an affiliated force of Ocean Crown.

As for the sea beast carcasses, you don't need to worry about them. The Glory Lords will be responsible for their disposal. For now, maintain the previous policies regarding the Glory Lords and avoid excessive interference. They just need to adhere to the order here.

The buildings and facilities on the southern islands of this archipelago, destroyed by sea beasts, will also be prioritized for repair...

In addition, you need to spread the news that Starshine Islands have successfully repelled the sea beast tide. This place needs new blood injected by those merchants...

Oh, by the way, the slums in Starshine City need to be demolished and rebuilt as soon as possible. Don't let the food in the warehouses go bad either. Allocate some of it to help the residents. At least ensure they all have warm shelter and enough to eat...”

The numerous decrees were delivered one by one, and the sheer quantity left the three of them feeling a bit overwhelmed.

However, having previously served as council members, they possessed some administrative capabilities and could grasp the meaning behind these decrees.

“I understand, we will take action as soon as possible.”

Xhakas respectfully replied but had a question on his mind, “My Lord, I have a question.”

“Go ahead.”

“Your domain is named Ocean Crown? It sounds similar to the names of those Glory Lords...”

Ji Chen looked at him strangely, “Did 1 ever say that I am a Glory Lord? Hmm... I don’t think 1 did.”

Xhakas and the others stared blankly, their faces filled with disbelief.

A storm of shock surged within their hearts.

The Lord is a Glory Lord!?

How is that possible!

Chapter 460: Talent as a Dog, Huge Resources,”

Acknowledge ”

At this moment, the three of them stood there as if thunderstruck.

This couldn’t be possible!

How could a Lord of Glory have amassed such an extremely powerful army in just a few months?

They witnessed his army holding off tens of thousands of sea beasts, even wreaking havoc on the armed forces of the Starshine Islands.

Are you telling them that he’s a Lord of Glory!?

“Why are you feeling so surprised?” Ji Chen glanced at them.

Xhakas quickly said, “No matter what the Lord’s identity is, 1 will remain loyal.”

Just as the other two were about to express their loyalty, Ji Chen waved his hand, “Don’t waste time with meaningless flattery. 1 need your actions, not words.”

“I’m a lord who has always been fair in rewards and punishments. If you perform well, you will be rewarded; if you make mistakes, you will be punished.

As long as you can complete the tasks I assign, everything will be fine.”

The three of them hurriedly saluted in response, but thoughts were brewing in their minds.

It seemed that this Lord they were “forced” to serve not only possessed immense strength but also seemed to be an ambitious individual.

Apart from the rather annoying master-slave contract, they hadn’t been mistreated. In fact, he entrusted them with industries and resources across the entire Starshine Islands, something they had never had before.

The situation... didn’t seem so bad?

Ignoring the three who were lost in thought, Ji Chen left on his own.

In the vast dome-shaped hall, they were left staring at each other.

Xhakas looked around, observing the unchanged council chamber, feeling like he had entered a different world.

Just a few days ago, they were sitting here high and mighty, dressed in suits, casually deciding the fates of many in the Starshine Islands, wielding the highest authority.

Now, returning here once more, they had become servants to others, with their lives at the mercy of someone else.

"I never thought that we would end up like this," Kieran sighed. "Can we consider this like we had invited trouble into our home? We did stop the sea beast tide, but we lost our wealth and even the entire Starshine Islands."

"It's all Hadman's fault. If it weren't for his instigation, we wouldn't be in this situation. Getting blasted by magic was a punishment too lenient on him!" Herman spat on the ground and complained.

"Well, now we can only accept our fate. A contract set by a legendary-level powerhouse is not something we can resist... Xhakas, what do you think?"

Xhakas didn't respond; he just gave them a cold look and reprimanded, "We should remain loyal to Lord Ji Chen and do more work, rather than secretly complaining here. Loyalty is the highest virtue."

Kieran and Herman looked a bit taken aback and annoyed.

"You, with those thick eyebrows and big eyes, you've quickly embraced your role, huh!?"

"Why didn't we know you were naturally talented at being a dog!?"

The three of them parted ways, not in the best of spirits.

Xhakas walked out with a cold face, his expression gradually relaxing.

He glanced sideways at the two who were still in the hall, a hint of a cold smile playing at the corner of his mouth.

These two fools. Despite knowing they had reached this point, they still dared to secretly complain behind the Lord's back, and clung to their old ways. Weren't they afraid of the Lord's blade?

Their foolishness would eventually be his gain. Thinking that the Lord would exclude them and trust him alone. By then, he'd be the one ruling over the Starshine Islands. As a result, Xhakas was feeling quite pleased with himself. With these thoughts in mind, Xhakas's mood improved slightly, and he left with his hands behind his back.

Halfway up the mountain.

The estate that originally belonged to a certain council member of Starshine City had become spoils of war for the Ocean Crown after the council member died in the previous battle.

This vast and beautiful estate was now temporarily used as Ji Chen's office.

In a luxurious room.

Ji Chen sat at his desk, leaning back in a soft chair made from the fur of some unknown sea creature, listening to Alice's report.

Since joining Ji Chen, Alice was exposed to various tasks and developed good administrative abilities alongside her formidable personal strength.

As Wilus and the others were currently on the New Moon Islands, Alice temporarily took on the role of secretary.

"All the resources in the warehouses of the Thirteen Council Families, except for those of Xhakas, Kieran, and Herman, are currently undergoing inventory, but due to the large quantity and disorganized state, it will take several additional days to finish the complete inventory.

However, we have already prioritized the rare resources, the ones you are most concerned about, my Lord. There is a total of four million units of rare resources."

"This seems a bit low," Ji Chen frowned and shook his head.

"Yes, indeed," Alice nodded in agreement, maintaining her poised secretary demeanor. "The Thirteen Council Families and the Starshine Islands don't have a significant demand for rare resources. Most of their internal and external trade relies on gold coins as the trading currency."

"So, compared to other things, there aren't many rare resources, but the quantity of gold coins is quite substantial."

"At that level of quantity..." Alice recalled the warehouses filled with gold coins she had seen earlier and used an analogy, "It's piled up like a massive underwater mountain."

"Oh? Approximately how many are we talking about?"

"Initially estimated to be over thirty million gold coins, with a specific quantity ranging from thirty million to thirty-three million.."