

## **Ocean Lord 471**

### *Chapter 471 - 471: Herald Is Injured? Battle Situation*

After leaving the Starshine Islands, Ji Chen headed northwest and, after four full days at sea, arrived near the northwest coast of the Central Ocean.

This journey was made possible by the Ocean Crown naval forces and Ji Chen's use of tidal acceleration, which significantly shortened the travel time compared to the usual one to two weeks it would have taken on a regular ship.

This vastness of the Central Ocean was truly astounding.

The sun was shining brightly, and the sea and sky merged into one.

When he saw a hint of brown amidst the usual blue and white in the distance, Ji Chen's heart relaxed.

They had arrived!

This marked their second journey to the mainland.

As they drew closer, more of the land became visible: rolling mountains, verdant trees, black cliffs, and seagulls hunting by the seashore.

However, this was evidently not their final destination.

Because Ji Chen didn't know the capital of the Lienhardt Grand Duchy or the location of their military encampments, he had no idea which part of this country's territory they had reached or which city was nearby.

To get involved in the affairs between the two countries, he needed to locate the Lienhardt Grand Duchy's forces first.

With this thought in mind, Ji Chen spoke in a solemn tone.

"Benbo."

"Master, I'm here."

"Have the Dragonblood Legion send out two hundred-person teams to scout along the coastline, one on the left and one on the right!

Remember not to initiate any hostilities, hide yourselves, and return promptly to report!"

"Yes!"

Benbo went to the Dragonblood Legion formation with his trident and soon dispatched two hundred-person teams. The Dragon Blood Murlocs shot out like white streaks on the sea, resembling a hundred boats racing on the water.

About twenty to thirty minutes later, the two Dragon Blood Murloc hundred-person teams returned with news.

They discovered a camp under attack about twenty to thirty kilometers to the right of this location on the coastal side.

Ji Chen's spirits soared.

He immediately waved his hand and led the army towards the camp.

In his line of sight, a camp with flames soaring into the sky quickly appeared. The sounds of battle echoed through the sky as soldiers, resembling black dots, defended against the enemy's assault using the camp's wooden walls and fortifications.

By focusing on their flags, he soon identified the two sides.

The defenders were from the Lienhardt Grand Duchy, while the attackers were unmistakably from the Kingdom of Bass. The exact number of defenders was unclear due to the fortifications, but it didn't seem to be many. On the other hand, the attackers numbered at least three thousand soldiers.

Judging by the situation, it wouldn't be long before the camp would be forcibly captured by the Kingdom of Bass.

Ji Chen's eyes lit up, but he also felt a sense of confusion.

This level of combat was clearly not a minor skirmish but a full-fledged war.

Could it be that while he was on his way, the two countries had already gone to war?

Seeing allies under attack right before his eyes, Ji Chen naturally couldn't stand idly by and immediately spoke up.

"Herald, take the Naga Legion to support the soldiers of the Lienhardt Grand Duchy, yes, the defending side."

"I will follow your will and bring you a perfect victory."

A hint of excitement and cruelty flashed in Herald's eyes as if he could already smell the enemy's blood. He let out a low growl, and with the Naga Guardians, he surged forward like a dark blue-black wave.

The Naga Legion now had over sixteen hundred Naga Guardians, all at Tier 5. After the battle against the sea beasts in the Starshine Islands, their average level had reached 42. They possessed formidable strength.

Upon landing, they suddenly struck the flank of the Kingdom of Bass' formation, causing chaos among the soldiers.

The soldiers of the Kingdom of Bass had never expected an enemy to appear suddenly on their flank. They were caught off guard, and the Naga Guardians, over two meters tall, were like rolling sharp blades, rapidly widening the gap, and the soldiers' lives flowed away as fast as blood.

The officers of the Kingdom of Bass, witnessing this scene, were both shocked and furious.

Where had these sea creatures come from?

They were on the verge of breaking through the Lienhardt Grand Duchy's camp to complete Marshal Russell's mission. They would not allow this merit to go to waste.

“All reserve units, charge out and kill those damned snake-tailed sea creatures!”

“Victory belongs to the great Kingdom of Bass, for His Majesty!”

Two reserve units immediately charged out, including a cavalry unit of three hundred soldiers.

He believed that under the iron hooves of the cavalry, these enemies would be crushed like rotten flesh.

Thud—

The hundreds of hooves trampled recklessly, shaking the ground. The eyes of the Kingdom of Bass’ cavalry behind their helmets were filled with coldness and cruelty. Under the charge of the organized cavalry, any enemy would be torn to pieces.

These snake-tailed sea creatures were no exception.

However, Herald, who felt the ground tremble, immediately sensed the enemy cavalry’s approach. In his vertical pupils, there was no fear but rather a sense of joy.

The more enemies there were, the happier he became.

His muscles, as solid as rock, rippled across his entire body. His menacing wings on his back suddenly spread, reaching a width of four to five meters. With a powerful flap of his wings, Herald, amidst the swirling dust, shot into the sky like a rocket. He traced a half-circular arc in the air, transforming into a streak of blue light.

Rip-

Four stunned heads were sent flying, and blood gushed skyward from the severed necks.

The sound was akin to tearing silk, and the enormous wings acted like the sharpest of blades, cutting straight through the torsos of the four riders at the front. Even their warhorses were torn into two pieces, twitching on the ground..

*Chapter 472: Herald Is Injured? Battle Situation (2)*

Merciless and bloody.

Herald, plummeting from the sky into the midst of the enemy, pierced through like a deadly blade, forcibly halting the entire cavalry unit.

Their once proud cavalry, in the presence of this winged creature, appeared fragile. Arrows couldn’t penetrate its thick scales, and even lances left nothing more than a white mark.

His elongated claws seemed like weapons left by the gods, effortlessly breaking through the heaviest armor, leaving a trail of severed limbs and mutilated bodies wherever he went.

In just a matter of minutes, the cavalry unit, capable of shredding thousands of infantry, had been reduced to a gruesome pile of unrecognizable flesh and limbs under the sweeping strikes of its claws.

The soldiers of the Kingdom of Bass, their faces filled with horror, instinctively backed away.

On the vast battlefield, for a moment, no one dared to approach.

Herald extended its slender tongue, licking the fresh blood splattered on its chin, revealing a satisfied smile.

That almost insane grin sent shivers down the spines of all the soldiers of the Kingdom of Bass.

The officers of the Bas Kingdom, seeing this scene, gritted their teeth, their eyes filled with fear.

Damn it!

Where did this monster come from?

He hadn't expected the combat prowess of this serpent-tailed sea creature to be so terrifying. In just one encounter, it had effortlessly slaughtered hundreds of cavalry like killing babies.

Not even a scratch on its body, not even a minor wound.

Under the influence of the kingdom's ethos that exalted strength and a martial spirit, he had always considered himself an outstanding iron-blooded soldier both physically and mentally. But now, an involuntary sense of retreat crept in.

But soon, the officer's face was replaced by a look of humiliation and shame.

As an outstanding soldier of the Kingdom of Bass, he should not have such fear. Otherwise, how could he repay the trust and expectations of his Majesty?

Perhaps to cover up the lingering fear that couldn't be shaken off, he shouted loudly.

"Don't be afraid! Kill it!"

"Crossbow teams, prepare! I refuse to believe that even crossbows can't take down this monster!"

Following the officer's orders, the soldiers behind brought out three heavy crossbows crafted from steel, calibrated their angles, and took aim at Herald, who was wreaking havoc in their ranks.

"Report, Commander. The ballistae are in position, ready to fire!"

Excitement flickered in the officer's eyes as he yelled hysterically.

"Die, you monster!"

"Fire!"

Soldiers hammered the firing mechanism with wooden mallets, infusing the steel-tipped arrows with terrifying kinetic energy using bowstrings made of bull tendons. Three heavy iron arrows disappeared from the crossbows in succession.

Suddenly, Heraldor sensed something and swiftly took two steps to the right. Two steel-tipped arrows, as thick as adult arms, brushed past him, piercing through several soldiers from the Kingdom of Bass behind him.

Then, he reached out his right hand, and the last iron arrow, shot at high speed, was caught firmly in his hand. The remaining tremendous energy caused the heavy arrow to rub violently in his thick palm, oozing a trace of blood.

Heraldor was finally wounded.

The officer from the Kingdom of Bass was now in a state of immense shock.

Did he just catch arrows flying at high speed with his bare hand?

How was this possible? Wasn't this a dream!?

At this moment, he saw the monster looking at him, and his fear spread like a tide, freezing his body, instantly dissolving his anger and resentment.

Monster!!

He screamed meaninglessly, then turned to mount his horse to escape. However, he suddenly spat out a mouthful of blood, and tremblingly lowered his head.

He saw a steel-tipped arrowhead embedded in his chest. His vision darkened, and he slowly fell to the ground.

Seeing their leader also killed, and in such an unprecedented way, the remaining soldiers from the Kingdom of Bass lost the last trace of their fighting spirit. They dropped their weapons and knelt on the ground, choosing to surrender.

However, these enemies had no sense of honor at all. The Naga Legion and Heraldor received orders to support the Lienhardt Grand Duchy's soldiers.

So, in order to support, they just needed to kill all the enemies to consider it a support, right?

Therefore, when they saw those who surrendered, they didn't care at all. They directly ended it with a single blow, causing a lot of confused and resentful souls for no reason.

So when Ji Chen arrived and made them stop, out of the originally five thousand-strong army of the Bass Kingdom, only less than five hundred remained. They huddled on the ground, trembling, and their eyes looked like they were gazing at some demon.

Ji Chen looked at the corpses strewn across the ground, feeling no emotional fluctuations.

He observed this massacre earlier and, while satisfied with the performance of the Naga Legion, he also gained a certain understanding of the Kingdom of Bass soldiers' combat capabilities.

Just as he was contemplating, the tattered camp gate from the previous attack creaked open, and several soldiers walked out, led by a Lienhardt officer.

The Lienhardt officer looked at the scattered limbs, the blood flowing like a stream, and felt a slight nausea in his stomach.

Even though he had risen from the ranks of lowly soldiers and experienced more than a dozen battles, he still found it hard to breathe when he saw this scene.

Had he ever seen such a slaughter in battle before?

These sea-dwelling creatures with serpentine tails were more ruthless and brutal than executioners, wielding their cleavers to slaughter the Kingdom of Bass soldiers.

Especially the one with wings, what kind of logic was it to catch heavy arrows fired from ballistae with one hand?

What was even more terrifying was that even after the enemy had surrendered, they hadn't stopped. If it weren't for the man who appeared to be their leader making them stop, he felt that these sea-dwellers might have wiped them all out.

To be the leader of these sea-dwellers, that man was probably not a simple character.

Maybe even more ruthless than these sea-dwellers...

As his thoughts swirled, the officer cautiously approached Ji Chen with his own bodyguards. His face displayed reverence.

"Your Excellency, thank you for extending a helping hand to us. May I ask for your name?"

Ji Chen replied indifferently, "I am Ji Chen, the Lord of the Crown of the Ocean, arriving from the distant seas."

"Where is this place? Is it within the territory of the Lienhardt Grand Duchy?"

The officer's face showed some caution, unsure whether he should answer.

Seeing this, Ji Chen smiled faintly. "I am a friend of Her Highness Monica. I came from afar to assist you in resisting the Kingdom of Bass. You can rest assured."

The officer was taken aback. A friend of Her Highness Monica?

Looking at the bodies of Kingdom of Bass soldiers strewn about and the formidable army, he began to believe it.

After some thought, he nodded and said, "Yes, this is the southern coast of the Lienhardt Grand Duchy, about a hundred kilometers from here is the city of Tressburg. We are the coastal defense unit stationed here."

Ji Chen furrowed his brow. The southern coast?

He remembered that this place was not a border area. Although it was not at the heart of the Grand Duchy, it was still a considerable distance from the mainland border.

The Kingdom of Bass bordered the western side of the Lienhardt Grand Duchy, and yet, there were already organized Kingdom of Bass land forces here. Did that not mean...

"The Lienhardt Grand Duchy is in full-scale war with the Kingdom of Bass?"

The officer's face revealed a bitter smile. "Your Excellency Ji Chen, it seems you are not aware of the recent events. Yes, the Grand Duchy has been in full-scale war with the Kingdom of Bass.

Three days ago, without any warning, the Kingdom of Bass launched a massive attack on the border under cover of night. In less than one night, eighty percent of the western border of the Grand Duchy fell.

After breaking through the border defenses, their offensive momentum remained extremely fierce, with more than ten separate forces relentlessly advancing, and our territory quickly fell.

Just two days ago, before the communication was cut off, seven fleets from the Kingdom of Bass poured out and engaged in a decisive battle with five Royal fleets of the Grand Duchy in the

Whirlpool Sea, about two hundred kilometers southwest of the capital city, Tressburg. I don't know the outcome...

The last piece of news said that the coastal fortress, Feiguang City, fifty kilometers west of here, has been heavily surrounded by Kingdom of Bass troops. If Feiguang City falls, then there will be no more defenses on the western coast towards the capital city, and the enemy's forces can head straight for the capital..."

Listening to the officer recounting the situation, Ji Chen's expression became increasingly solemn.

The disadvantage of the Lienhardt Grand Duchy was much greater than he had imagined.

Not to mention a slight disadvantage; they were being pushed back on all fronts..

#### *Chapter 473: Battle of Feiguang City, Revered Envoy*

In just one night, most of the border control was lost, and in just over a day, they were pushed back to Feiguang City.

As for the outcome of the decisive battle between the two naval fleets, it was an easy guess. Either the Royal Fleet of the Lienhardt Grand Duchy of Rheinhardt had been defeated or was in a disadvantaged position. The fleet of the Bass Kingdom had already gained control of the sea, allowing them to transport a large number of troops to the coastal hinterland of the Grand Duchy.

Otherwise, why would there be such organized Bass Kingdom troops in this remote military camp far from the border?

However, Ji Chen was somewhat puzzled. Although the military strength of the Lienhardt Grand Duchy was not as great as that of the Bass Kingdom, it should not have deteriorated to such an extent.

There were probably some unusual factors at play here.

"Do these Bass Kingdom troops have anything unusual or suspicious about them?" J

"Anything suspicious..." The officer pondered for a moment. "Well, it seems that their weapon equipment suddenly improved a lot. In the past, our Grand Duchy had much better quality weapon equipment than them, even though our numbers were smaller, we always had an advantage in battle.

But this time, we found that the weapons and equipment of the Bass Kingdom soldiers underwent a significant upgrade, even better than ours. They even have a lot of expensive siege equipment, which has made our situation quite challenging."

Ji Chen furrowed his brow slightly. Their weapon equipment had improved significantly?

He picked up a Bass Kingdom soldier's longsword and examined it closely.

Indeed, the quality was quite good, even better than what was produced by the Crown of the Ocean, which had not yet absorbed the Dwarven forging techniques.

Clearly, the Bass Kingdom probably received substantial support in the form of high-quality weapon equipment from somewhere.

In this war, there were not just two sides involved; there was also a third party lurking in the shadows, watching closely.

Suddenly, Ji Chen noticed a hidden mark on the back of the sword's blade, illuminated by the sunlight.

A pair of narrow, eerie eyes.

He recognized this mark; it belonged to the Deceiver!

Their masks all had such narrow eye marks on their foreheads.

He also remembered Thotmudo mentioning that the Deceiver had likely obtained the Dwarves' treasure, the Solar Furnace, which gave them the ability to produce a large quantity of high-quality weapon equipment.

It seemed that they were the ones providing these weapons, but he wondered what role they played in the war between the two nations.

Ji Chen didn't believe that these rats hiding in the sewers were merely providing weapon equipment; there had to be other motives at play.

But now, what needed to be done was to help the Lienhardt Grand Duchy hold off the Bass Kingdom's advance. Otherwise, if the former was completely defeated, he wouldn't be able to help them even if he wanted to.

With this thought in mind, Ji Chen asked the officer, "Where exactly is Feiguang City located?"

"It's on the coast about fifty kilometers west of here. You can see it as long as you spot a towering mountain peak."

Ji Chen nodded without delay. He waved his hand, and with the army in tow, they returned to the sea, swiftly heading west just as they had come, at an astonishing speed.

The officer and many soldiers from the Lienhardt Grand Duchy stared in amazement as Ji Chen and his troops departed, their eyes wide at the devastation on the ground.

Although they hadn't completely figured out what was going on, they had a vague premonition that this formidable army that claimed to come from afar might be able to turn the increasingly dire situation around.

Ji Chen and his group quickly returned to the point where they had initially arrived, which happened to be the midpoint between the military camp and Feiguang City. If the Dragon Blood Murlocs who were to explore to the left had ventured a bit farther, they might have already discovered Feiguang City.

Without pausing, the group set off once more, heading towards Feiguang City along the coastline.

Most of the Crown of the Ocean's troops were sea creatures, which gave them unparalleled mobility in the water. Even the slowest among them, the Water Nymph Archer and the Crab Guardians, had speeds that were beyond human comparison.

Fifty kilometers was no more than half an hour's time for them.



Ji Chen turned a corner around a cliff, and in the distance, he saw a towering mountain peak and, beneath it, Feiguang City standing on the coast.

The city walls, about fifty meters high and adorned with defensive runes, along with the numerous towering arrow and spell towers that outnumbered the city's houses, and the tens of thousands of Lienhardt Grand Duchy soldiers stationed inside, made this military stronghold, which had stood here for a century, resemble a hedgehog—ready to pierce any claw that reached out to it.

However, this city, known as the Beacon of the Northern Coast and considered a magnificent city even within the Northern Continent, was now shrouded in smoke and the sounds of battle, as if it were a battlefield.

Two days ago, as the border faced a full-scale crisis and the land forces were advancing swiftly, the Bass Kingdom's Eighth Fleet seized the opportunity. They surrounded this city, which acted like a crucial barrier on the main advance route, with a substantial force armed with heavy weaponry. This move occurred while the Lienhardt Royal Fleet and the majority of the army were engaged elsewhere.

As long as they could capture it before the Lienhardt Grand Duchy could react, the Bass Kingdom would firmly grasp the initiative in this war. They could either march straight to the capital, Tressburg, or cooperate with the land forces to sweep away any coastal resistance, leaving the Lienhardt Grand Duchy's naval forces with no place to stand.

Time was of the essence.

Therefore, the supreme commander of this lightning-fast Bass Kingdom offensive, Marshal Russell, demanded that it be captured at all costs within two days, even if it meant turning it into ruins in the end..

#### *Chapter 474: Battle of Feiguang City, Revered Envoy (2)*

So, the fierce assault on Feiguang City far exceeded everyone's expectations.

Facing the ocean, more than thirty warships of the Bass Kingdom were arranged in a line on the sea, firing cannons from their decks, raining down on the city walls like drops of rain.

Behind these warships, there were over a hundred transport ships. Landing crafts continuously rushed out from the openings at the bow of the ships, delivering fully armed soldiers to the beach under the counterfire from Feiguang City.

Strange beasts bred through special methods, clad in heavy iron armor, descended from large landing vessels. The arrow rain shot from the city walls couldn't harm them, as it clinked and clanked against their armor. Only a few heavy crossbows equipped with armor-piercing arrowheads and alchemical cannons could effectively damage them.

Small alchemical cannons mounted on the backs of these beasts kept firing, causing the defensive runes inscribed on the city walls to flicker erratically.

Teams of soldiers followed closely behind the beasts, attacking in accordance with the infantry assault tactics.

In the sky, Pegasus knights clad in runic light armor and giant eagle archers relied on their agility and mobility to evade the limited anti-aircraft fire angles. They skillfully found gaps between the barrages and dropped enchanted arrows at valuable targets, throwing alchemical bombs. With their formidable killing power, they dove repeatedly to eliminate the defending forces on the city walls and destroy defensive equipment, arrow towers, and spell towers, reducing resistance for the landing forces.

Soldiers kept losing their lives in the artillery fire and attacks, both from the Bass Kingdom and Lienhardt Grand Duchy.

This grand battle unfolded before him without any concealment.

At this moment, Ji Chen felt like he was transported to the D-Day landing scene on Earth. The strange beasts were tanks and armored vehicles, the Pegasus knights were dive bombers, and the giant eagle archers were combat aircraft.

The arrow towers and spell towers on the city walls were machine guns and anti-aircraft artillery.

As the largest coastal military city on the southwestern border of the Lienhardt Grand Duchy, Feiguang City was naturally armed to the teeth, with ample ammunition reserves and troops, indestructible city walls, and a well-organized fortification system.

The Lienhardt Grand Duchy was well aware that after the outbreak of war outside Feiguang City, they would undoubtedly face a heavy attack. Therefore, after the conflict with the Bass Kingdom, they further strengthened and consolidated the city walls' runes, enabling them to withstand seven days of sustained attacks under the expected firepower. This time was enough for them to dispatch reinforcements from various places in a timely manner.

However, they never expected that the Bass Kingdom would brazenly launch a blitzkrieg, catching the northern defense zone off guard. They were unable to organize reinforcements in time and were in a state of chaos. In addition, they used the advantage of the naval forces to tie down the Royal Fleet, and subsequently, the fleet deployed a large number of troops on the eastern coast of Feiguang City, delaying or annihilating the Lienhardt Grand Duchy's forces that were preparing to depart for reinforcement. At the same time, they scattered numerous annihilation squads to block communications between Feiguang City and other areas, turning it into a shadow on the intelligence communication map. They also carried out many deceptive actions and targets.

Leaving Tressburg hesitant due to the lack of intelligence – would the Bass Kingdom intentionally let them send out a large army for support and then attack the capital directly from elsewhere?

And this moment of hesitation would become the key to the Bass Kingdom's victory in this war.

All this planning left Feiguang City isolated and alone, relying only on the thirty thousand soldiers stationed in the city and the defensive efforts to withstand the Bass Kingdom's forces, which outnumbered them several times. If that were all, there would still be a glimmer of hope for salvation.

As long as Tressburg City could react promptly and send elite troops from the capital to reinforce them, this city with strong defensive forces might endure until the arrival of reinforcements.

However, the Bass Kingdom's army at the city's gates had a surprise in store for them.

The fleet, orderly arranged on the sea like a battlefield, abruptly ceased the bombardment that was going on for several hours. The sudden silence made the entire sea seem quite still.

Even the landing troops, who were charging like madmen, now halted their advance, stopping three hundred meters away from the city walls. Heavy infantry, sharpshooters, elite mage units, and even airborne units all ascended to higher positions. In the sky hundreds of meters away, they watched attentively. All the soldiers who could still move received orders to stop. Even the most fervent warmongers suppressed their restless hearts and obediently took cover behind the strange beasts that had crouched down.

The Lienhardt Grand Duchy's defenders, protected by rune-inscribed city walls amidst the deafening artillery fire, were puzzled by this scene. Even the slowest among them realized that something significant seemed to be about to happen.

From within the fleet, the colossal flagship slowly aimed its bow at Feiguang City. With a roar of gears and machinery, a black obsidian-like alchemical cannon ascended from the ship's bow.

Its black color seemed to swallow even the sunlight, and the massive barrel, capable of accommodating a person, drew the reverence of all the soldiers on board.

Inside the command room, the commander of the Bass Kingdom's Eighth Fleet, Admiral Shalifa, looked at this enormous cannon that almost occupied the entire ship's bow deck, a hint of suspicion in his eyes.

"Are you sure this cannon can blast open the walls of Feiguang City?"

"Of course, Your Highness Harifa."

The one speaking was a deceiver wearing a golden mask. The narrow eyes on the mask's forehead sparkled, and the loose gray robe struggled to conceal her fiery physique. Beneath that mask, a pair of equally golden eyes resembled the noblest of bloodlines, radiating majesty at all times.

Even though Harifa was a senior noble of the Kingdom of Bass, the supreme commander of the Eighth Fleet, he still felt a sense of unease when dealing with this mysterious and enigmatic woman. If it weren't for the direct order from the king, he would never have agreed to travel alongside such a person.

He remembered that the king once said that this woman seemed to be the Revered Envoy of an organization called the Deceivers?

"The Annihilator Cannon is only produced and exists in solitary numbers. It has consumed resources equivalent to emptying ten cities, and just as its name suggests, it brings destruction and annihilation. No city wall can withstand its bombardment.

With its assistance, the walls of Feiguang City will crumble in the blink of an eye. It's just that, Your Highness Harifa, you seemed to have some doubt about it. Your hesitation had caused so many soldiers to be sacrificed needlessly at the city's gates."

The envoy shook her head as if lamenting for the fallen soldiers.

Harifa's expression darkened, and he snorted, "This commander doesn't need your lessons."

With that, he became even more wary of this so-called Revered Envoy and the Deceivers organization.

He wondered what they had done to make the king trust them so blindly.

Not only were they allowed to participate in this honorable war, but they also resided within the palace, holding esteemed positions as advisors, and taking part in every aspect of the court's affairs.

It was shortly after the appearance of these individuals in the kingdom that the king suddenly proposed war with the Lienhardt Grand Duchy, fulfilling the ancestral wishes and the kingdom's centuries-old ambition.

Although this delighted the hawkish faction, including himself, he couldn't shake the feeling that something was amiss—it all seemed too sudden.

After all, at that time, although the kingdom's military strength surpassed Lienhardt by a considerable margin, the cost of defeating a power of the same tier would undoubtedly be heavy and costly. However, the emergence of the Deceivers expedited this process dramatically.

This organization, seemingly springing out of nowhere, not only brought in vast quantities of high-quality weapons, equipment, arms, and alchemical apparatus that could equip half of the kingdom's forces, but they also showcased remarkable alchemical expertise, catapulting the Kingdom of Bass to the forefront of alchemical technology among the four northwestern coastal nations.

Even more astonishing was their intelligence capabilities. Information on enemy military camps, military forces, fortifications, and more flowed in like water, giving them complete control over the information necessary for the war.

At this point, the kingdom resembled a rapidly fattening individual—though there might be some excess weight, it undeniably possessed the power to overthrow a nation.

As a result, launching a war against the Lienhardt Grand Duchy seemed to be perfectly timed. Under this influence, the doves turned into hawks, and the hawks became even more hawkish.

Then, through a series of overt and covert pushes, the war finally arrived as scheduled..

*Chapter 475: The Might of the Destroyer, the Fall of the City Walls, and the Anomaly in the Water*

Before him, darkness loomed, and there was no turning back now that the war had begun. After this war, the Lienhardt would either crush under their might, or the kingdom plummet into an abyss without end.

As a military man, he had a duty to fulfill the tasks set by the marshal and earn enough honor.

“Your Excellency Halifa, you may need to give the order soon. If you were to wait another minute, more soldiers would fall under the assault of the defenders.”

“Once the Destroyer is launched, that city wall will crumble, becoming the turning point in this battle. Breaking through Feiguang City will be a matter of time, and you will soon be hailed as the hero of this nation-destroying war.” The voice of the

Revered Envoy rang out again, alluring and seductive, like the voice of a tempting demon.

Though he felt wary and cautious about this envoy, his excitement couldn't be contained at this moment.

Shalifa suppressed these emotions, took a deep breath, and refocused on the situation before him, turning to the messenger.

“Convey my orders. Adjust the firing parameters for all cannons, and target the midsection gate of the south wall of Feiguang City.”

“Yes!”

With the command issued, the messenger relayed the information to the bow of the ship. Navy soldiers began adjusting the parameters, taking aim at the distant, towering city wall adorned with runic inscriptions.

“Firing parameters adjusted!”

“Load the shells!”

A loader brought out a jet-black shell with bright red runes etched on it from a nearby crate, and with the assistance of the loading mechanism, inserted it into the cannon barrel, securely locking the breech.

“Shells loaded!”

“Good!” A hint of joy flashed in Shalifa's eyes as he surveyed the soldiers waiting for his command.

In a deep voice, he declared, “Soldiers, we have come from a thousand miles away, not for tourism or leisure, but as soldiers and warriors! Fearless and undaunted, we were born to bathe in the blood of our enemies, and that is our supreme glory.

And now, there is an opportunity before us that can bring us unparalleled glory!

We will use this cannon to blast open the enemy's turtle-like city walls, create a breach for our Marine Corps brothers, and then destroy Feiguang City!

The Lienhardt Grand Duchy will eventually fall under our iron hooves! Long live the Kingdom of Bass! Long live the King!”

“Fire!!!”

The Destroyer cannon suddenly lit up with crimson runic patterns, extending from the base to the muzzle.

After a brief delay, a massive burst of orange-red flames shot out from the large cannon's muzzle.

Although the soldiers felt they were far enough from the ground, the terrifying shockwave that spread out in a ring almost swept them, along with the wooden crates holding the loaded shells, into the sea. The billowing smoke and dust quickly engulfed the entire bow of the ship.

The entire flagship shifted backward as if a giant had pushed it over. Everyone on board was caught off guard by this unusual recoil, crashing into the steel walls or falling to the ground.

Only the Revered Envoy, who had anticipated it, grasped the railing beforehand and watched gracefully as the smoke outside the command room slowly dissipated.

Shalifa propped himself up from the floor with the help of a chair, leaving a streak of blood on his forehead. However, he paid it no mind, his eyes fixed firmly on the window. His body trembled, not out of fear, but out of excitement.

The Revered Envoy, the sailors of the Eighth Fleet, the Lienhardt defenders of Feiguang City, and the soldiers of the Bass Kingdom's Marine Corps all saw in the sky a dark-red trail-bearing entity streaking toward Feiguang City with terrifying speed.

In the eyes of the onlookers, that object crashed into the still-sturdy runic city wall. Dazzling red light instantly occupied everyone's vision, followed by a deafening roar that echoed throughout the entire sea area.

Runes were shattered, robust bricks and stones were blown away, and countless pieces of flesh and military equipment dissolved in the red light. The roofs of numerous arrow towers were carried into the sky by the surging airflow, coming within tens of meters of the flying horsemen and giant eagle archers.

When everything calmed down, a massive gap, about one to two hundred meters wide, suddenly appeared in the thick, tens-of-meters-high city wall. The broken edges of the wall formed inclined slopes on both sides and the solid city gate, along with the soldiers on top of it, had vanished, revealing the houses and roads inside the city, like a missing tooth in a row of teeth.

Everyone stared in disbelief at this scene, as if they could still see the towering city wall that was there moments ago.

The shockwave from the explosion created waves that hit the fleet, snapping Shalifa out of his stupor.

He swallowed his saliva, his throat dry, and said, "This is... destruction..."

"Yes, this is the power of the Destroyer cannon." The Revered Envoy chuckled lightly. "Not to mention the cost of manufacturing the cannon itself, even a single specialized alchemical shell consumes the resources of an entire city. No city wall can withstand its bombardment."

"...How did you create such a weapon?"

"That's a secret." The Revered Envoy wore a mysterious smile, one that would be seen if visible. "Don't worry, as long as we are still allies, such weapons will not be aimed at you."

It was a veiled threat.

If this had happened earlier, Shalifa would have vehemently responded, but now he fell silent.

He thought of the capital of the kingdom, with walls even stronger and taller than those of Feiguang City.. Could they withstand such a bombardment?

*Chapter 476: The Might of the Destroyer, the Fall of the City Walls, and the Anomaly in the Water*  
(2)

The Revered Envoy looked at Shalifa, who remained silent, and smiled faintly.

“Your Excellency, the city walls have been breached now, and your soldiers should be able to capture Feiguang City. However, we have brought two cannonballs this time. If you feel it’s not enough, we can fire one more time to completely destroy the enemy’s morale.”

“No need, this is sufficient,” Shalifa replied, his confidence restored in his eyes. “Our warriors can take over the upcoming battle.”

After recovering from the devastating bombardment, all the soldiers of the Kingdom of Bass, under the shouts of various officers, once again plunged into the battle and rushed towards the wide breach.

The defenders of Feiguang City did not hesitate either and quickly organized their soldiers to build defenses at the breach.

This time, they were brought to the same level, with no advantages or strengths to rely on, only face-to-face combat.

However, the destructive power of the Destroyer’s artillery was terrifying. It not only directly disintegrated a large section of the city wall but also destroyed over a hundred arrow towers and spell towers on top of the wall. Some parts of the buildings were even blasted into the center of the city.

The thousands of soldiers stationed on the city wall also vanished in the bombardment, and such a large firepower gap could not be filled in a short time.

A group of a hundred defenders from Feiguang City just reached the breach in the wall and were turned into sieves by the arrow rain from the eagles in formation in the sky. The earth wall raised by the geomancers was shattered by the cannons on the shoulders of the strange beasts the next second.

The defending soldiers rushed up one after another but were systematically wiped out. In less than two hundred meters, the breach in the wall had become a slaughterhouse, and human lives became the least valuable thing at this moment.

The determination of both sides was to hold this place until the arrival of the reinforcements from the Duchy. But the Kingdom of Bass was determined to break through here, uproot this nail-like city, and establish an absolute advantage for the attack on Tressburg City.

Both sides had reasons not to retreat.

However, just an hour later, more and more soldiers from the Kingdom of Bass occupied the breach in the city wall. Instead, they used lightweight portable war equipment and dozens of exotic beasts

to build a thick defensive line on top of the wall. The defending soldiers from Feiguang City were ruthlessly killed outside the wall as they rushed in.

Then, they took advantage of their absolute advantage and advanced to both sides, starting to clear the defenders on the walls and the interior passages of the wall like a spreading virus, eroding the defense of the entire wall.

The defenders of Feiguang City were already inferior in combat power, and now losing the defensive advantage of the wall, they were retreating step by step.

At this point, a group of two thousand Wyverns, which was Feiguang City's only aerial unit and its most formidable force, launched into the air.

However, their departure indicated that Feiguang City had run out of options and had no other way to save itself.

If the Wyverns could not successfully counterattack the breach in the city wall using their breath and physical bodies, then they would have to abandon the defense of the city wall, withdraw all personnel back into the city, and use houses, ruins, and sewers to fight a guerrilla war, trying to delay as much time as possible.

This information quickly reached Shalifa, and there was no hint of surprise on his face because this intelligence was on his desk long before the war began. The entire Feiguang City was almost transparent to them.

Without hesitation, he gave the order.

“Let the aerial forces delay and engage the Wyverns, and have the ground forces carrying anti-aircraft equipment advance steadily!

As long as there are no other unseen circumstances, victory will ultimately belong to us!”

Wyverns, wearing lightweight armor, soared through the sky, braving the arrow rain from the giant eagle archers, and headed straight for the breach in the city wall, exhaling corrosive breath.

However, the enemy soldiers seemed prepared. They collectively took out scrolls of specific spell shields and placed themselves under the protection of the shields. This round of breath only melted a few exotic beasts and a few hundred enemy soldiers who were not protected by shields.

The results were not satisfactory.

But the next moment, their counterattack came.

Steel crossbow bolts with attached hooks and ropes were launched into the air, piercing through the Wyverns' lightweight armor and deeply into their bodies. Instantly, mechanical pulleys tightened, causing the taut ropes to unbalance the Wyverns and send them crashing down, resulting in a gruesome pile of shredded flesh.

The anti-aircraft units that arrived later set up spell pedestals, mages raised their staffs, and unleashed barrages, disrupting the formation and lowering the flight altitude of the Wyverns, bringing down another portion of them.

After one round of attack, less than one-third of the two-thousand-strong force of Wyverns managed to escape.



Seeing this scene, a smile finally appeared on Shalifa's face. At this point, Feiguang City's fall was inevitable. Under the complete suppression of troops, firepower, and intelligence, the Feiguang City defenders, without the protection of the city walls, had no way to stop their wolf-like assault.

Next, the enemy would likely continue to retreat, fall back into the city, and engage in guerrilla warfare using houses, ruins, and sewers, trying to delay as much time as possible.

However, that was not a problem. As long as they gained control of all the city walls, it was like catching turtles in a jar. When the reinforcements skilled in urban warfare arrived, they could capture them all at once.

With such a significant advantage, even the Revered Envoy couldn't help but nod. She couldn't think of anything that could reverse this situation.

Just as she was about to express her joy, she suddenly felt an unusual fluctuation beneath her feet. Before she could figure out what it was, the alchemical sonar operator on the warship exclaimed in panic..

*Chapter 477: The Might of the Destroyer, the Fall of the City Walls, and the Anomaly in the Water (3)*

“Underwater, there was an unusual disturbance at three hundred meters below, and a hundred unidentified objects appeared, rapidly ascending!

No, the speed is too fast; those are enemies!! We're only two hundred meters away, and there are at least eight hundred, no, a thousand!

Wait, they're about to collide with the bottom of the ship...”

This left everyone present stunned. In a matter of seconds, over a thousand unidentified objects rapidly ascended three hundred meters, so fast that they hadn't even had time to drop deep-sea bombs, and everyone was still in a daze.

Suddenly, around the flagship, thousands of water columns erupted. Shalifa and the Revered Envoy looked up through the glass window. In the brilliant sunlight, among the splashing water, snake-tailed sea creatures with blade-like hands descended from the sky.

Thud-

Thud—

After the Naga Guardians emerged from the water's surface, they fell heavily onto the deck like muscular giants.

Looking at the Bass Kingdom soldiers still in a daze around them, their eyes radiating cruelty and coldness, they raised their bone blades high.

Dozens of heads flew high, causing a shower of blood.

“They're enemies!!”

“Quick, grab weapons and fight back!!”

On the ship, weapons and armor were not carried unless it was an emergency. The naval soldiers, dressed in military uniforms from head to toe, were massacred by the fully armed Naga Guardians.

In just half a minute, half of the deck had been slaughtered, and the remaining half were gradually being cut down as they fled and tried to grab weapons.

The sudden appearance of these enemies stunned everyone on the ship, including Shalifa and the Revered Envoy.

The former was furious, slamming his hands on the table. "Damn it, where did these scoundrels come from? How dare they set foot on my battleship!"

"They're probably from the Lienhardt Grand Duchy, but now is not the time to discuss this. Your Excellency Shalifa, if you don't find a way to deal with them, your crew will probably be wiped out."

The Revered Envoy pointed to the Naga Guardians rampaging on the deck, her tone slightly urgent.

Suppressing his inner anger, Shalifa's brows furrowed, and he suddenly burst out with a formidable aura. His muscles tensed, and his fists seemed capable of punching a dragon to death.

He was no weakling; on the contrary, he was a noble of the Bass Kingdom with considerable combat strength. Otherwise, he wouldn't have become the commander of the Eighth Fleet.

Shalifa threw a punch, shattering the specially made glass in front of him. Like a cannonball, he fell onto the deck, raised his head slightly, and was about to strike down these snake-tailed sea creatures.

But before he could do so, a figure larger and more muscular than these monster creatures, with wings on its back, appeared in front of him.

Shalifa's face showed a touch of cruelty. "You must be the leader of these scoundrels, right? What gives you the confidence to stand before me?"

Facing his provocation, Herald simply looked at him with cold eyes, as if looking at a corpse.

The Revered Envoy watched Shalifa being entangled by the enemy leader and shook her head. She didn't know where these Naga had come from, but if they couldn't hold here, and if Shalifa made a mistake, it might affect the entire plan.

So she had to put in some effort to help resolve this...

The Revered Envoy walked out of the command room, intending to leave the deck, but her steps came to a halt.

That's because she saw a petite figure standing at the door, holding a sword taller than her in her hand, and smiling brightly at her.

"Hello, may I ask if you're the leader of those deceivers?"

*Chapter 478: Just This? Starting an Internal Strife*

More than 1,600 Naga Guardians, led by Herald, swiftly surfaced from the depths of the water with the power of Ji Chen's tides. Before the Bass Kingdom fleet could react, they successfully boarded the ships in a lightning-fast maneuver, catching them off guard.

The naval crew on these ships were caught completely off guard, without even decent weapons in their hands. They were slashed and crushed like fruits.

In addition to the Naga Legion, the Dragonblood Legion, and the Guardian Legion, which all had the capability to board ships, participated in this surprise attack. After the Naga Guardians initially gained control of the decks, they quickly emerged from the water and joined the action of slaying the enemy.

The decks were filled with screams as seawater mixed with blood and shredded flesh flowed into the sea.

As more and more enemies boarded the ships, the naval officers and sailors were in a panic. They tried to accelerate and escape, but no matter how they pulled the throttle, even at full speed, the ships showed no sign of moving forward.

"Get the ship moving!"

"The ship won't budge!! The propellers may be damaged!"

Underwater, Lobster Guardian Knights stuffed clumps of seaweed into the propellers. When the blades started to turn, the seaweed instantly wrapped around them, jamming the propellers. Unless there were frogmen who could slowly cut them off underwater, or the ships were towed back to port by other vessels, there was no way they could generate any power.

Now, these warships were like iron coffins floating on the sea, completely immobilized.

In this situation, the Ocean Crown's forces became even more audacious. Those legions that could only operate in the sea watched from the sides, eagerly waiting by the ship's sides.

The Lobster Guardian Knights used their spears to impale any enemies who attempted to flee into the sea in a panic or were dragged into the water by their lobster mounts, ensuring they met a watery grave.

The Dragon Horn Catfish and Silver Sea Pixies worked in coordination with their allies who boarded the ships, clearing the resisting enemy soldiers from the decks.

As the battle raged on, the resistance from the Bass Kingdom grew weaker. Most of the surviving crew members retreated into the cabins, stubbornly resisting in the familiar corridors and passageways.

The Revered Envoy looked at the gruesome scene unfolding on the deck, with more and more crew members lying in pools of blood. She began to suspect.

Where did these creatures come from?

Clearly, they weren't just passing by and attacking on a whim; they planned this in advance and possessed considerable intelligence.

Otherwise, how would some mindless sea creatures know to sabotage the propellers and leave the warships powerless?

“Old lady, what are you thinking about?”

A clear voice of a young girl brought her attention back.

The Revered Envoy chuckled softly, “Child, it seems you know my identity, so can you get these sea creatures outside to leave? Otherwise, with so many casualties, it’s going to be difficult for a young lady like me.

Anina looked surprised, “You’re calling yourself a young lady at your age. Don’t you feel shame?

You Deceivers wear masks all the time, not showing your true faces. Old lady, are you ashamed to show us how you look because you’re too ugly?”

The smile on the Revered Envoy’s face gradually disappeared.

This annoying child was really hateful.

“Hasn’t your master told you that speaking like this is impolite?”

“Look, you’re getting agitated.”

The Revered Envoy’s mouth twitched, her fists clenched, and her temples bulged with anger.

“You sharp-toothed little brat, I hope your strength matches your mouth, or else I’ll use iron wire to sew your mouth shut.”

She suddenly flashed forward like a phantom, appearing right in front of Anina. A dangerous runic blade slipped out from her sleeve, gleaming with a menacing edge, and stabbed straight at her.

Anina’s pupils slightly contracted as her extensive combat experience instinctively made her take a step back to evade. However, in the next moment, she regretted her decision because it exposed the position of the door.

The Revered Envoy’s eyes lit up, and she transformed into a phantom once more, passing through the doorway onto the open deck.

Seeing the Revered Envoy now on the spacious deck, Anina felt a bit frustrated. She initially planned to trap this woman with the golden mask in the narrow cabin and shut the door, but now that she had escaped, it would be difficult to execute that plan.

Slightly annoyed, Anina regained her resolve and charged forward, wielding her Dragon Slayer Great Sword.

She casually cut down several Bass Kingdom soldiers blocking her path and swung the sword like a staff. The Revered Envoy once again used her phantom-like flash to evade this attack, and a frosty aura materialized in her hand. With a flick of her wrist, the frost transformed into a dozen ice blades that flew toward Anina.

Without hesitation, Anina used her Dragon Slayer Great Sword to shatter them.

However, as the ice blades shattered, they clung to the sword like a festering sore, enveloping it in deep blue ice that quickly spread toward her arm and even began creeping toward her body.

“Ugh, such a hassle.”

Anina's face showed a hint of impatience. This woman with the golden mask was proving to be the most troublesome opponent she had ever encountered. She always kept her distance and used spells to hinder Anina's movements.

She clenched her arm tightly and exerted force, causing the encasing ice to shatter.

Her small mouth opened slightly, and the sound of an ancient Dragon Whale, capable of cracking stone and piercing the clouds, suddenly resonated, leaving all nearby enemy soldiers, including the Revered Envoy, stunned in their tracks.

[Warrior's Intimidation (Red skill, can forcibly stun enemies for 1 to 20 seconds with a roar, and even annihilate the souls of lower-level beings, the effect depends on the rank and level of the enemy and us)]

Forget about 20 seconds; even a mere half-second could have determined the outcome of the battle and the matters of life and death between formidable foes..

#### *Chapter 479: Just This? Starting an Internal Strife (2)*

Seizing this opportunity, Anina suddenly exerted force under her feet, leaving a deep footprint on the steel deck before disappearing from the spot. She reappeared only four or five meters away from the Revered Envoy. With her left hand clenched into a powerful fist, she struck with great force.

Her fair-skinned fist was accompanied by swirling vortex-like whirlwinds. If an ordinary human were to receive such a blow, their entire body would likely shatter into pieces.

The Revered Envoy had just recovered from a brief daze when she saw this fist, carrying terrifying power, rapidly approaching. The pupils under her mask shrank dramatically, and she quickly formed seals with both hands, trying to harness all of her magic to create an ice shield.

However, this shield couldn't withstand the power akin to that of an ancient dragon whale. The fist only encountered a momentary obstruction before shattering the ice shield, sending the Revered Envoy flying across the deck like a volleyball, tracing an arc in the air before plunging into the sea.

"Hmph, I thought you were so strong, but it turns out you're only at this level?"

Anina looked at the Revered Envoy as she splashed into the water, a disdainful expression on her face.

Remembering the instructions to spare the life of the Revered Envoy, she quickly jumped into the water to rescue the busty woman.

It seemed that the battle at the other end of the deck had also concluded.

Herald picked up the limp Shalifa, who felt like dead weight and held him at eye level, his eyes showing a hint of disdain.

"...Too weak."

Shalifa's body trembled, and his eyes were filled with fear.

Where did this monster come from?

Its strength was so terrifying!

Recalling how he was toyed with like a plaything just moments ago, completely helpless, he closed his eyes in pain.

“Big guy, are you done over there?”

Anina shouted loudly toward Herald while holding the Dragon Slayer Great Sword in one hand and dragging the soaked Revered Envoy with the other.

Herald, having dropped the completely incapacitated Shalifa, looked around.

The Naga Guardians had completely gained control of the deck and pinned the remaining enemy soldiers down in the lower compartments. There was nothing left to threaten them now.

“The task given by the Lord hasn’t been completed yet, there’s one last step.”

Herald slithered toward the front of the ship’s deck where the Destroyer cannon was located. With a casual swipe of his claws, he cut open a wooden crate, revealing alchemical cannonballs inscribed with runes inside.

Anina’s eyes lit up as she dropped the unconscious Revered Envoy.

She reached for the cannonballs, which required several soldiers and a loading mechanism to lift, and placed them directly into the cannon, closing the breach.

Then, she began adjusting the firing parameters. Unlike other precise alchemical cannons, this Destroyer cannon looked more like a coastal defense cannon, and its adjustments were straightforward. As long as one knew the approximate distance between the current position and the target, it was easy to adjust.

With a few swift movements, Anina quickly aimed the cannon at the collapsed section of the wall in Feiguang City. She looked at her handiwork, clapped her hands, and chuckled, “Done!”

She then motioned for Herald to move further away with Shalifa and the Revered Envoy to avoid being carried away by the shockwave.

Once they were in a safe position, Anina excitedly grabbed the railing and pulled a rope.

Boom!

The Destroyer cannon roared once again, but this time, the target was the very defenses constructed by the Bass Kingdom’s army.

The red-runed cannonball soared into the air, following the set parameters, and accurately struck the previously collapsed section of the city wall -the very location where the Bass Kingdom’s forces had built their defenses.

A soldier from the Bass Kingdom heard a muffled boom behind him, turned around in confusion, and saw a red tail streaking through the sky straight toward them. His face displayed a mix of astonishment and terror.

“Get down—”

Before he could finish his sentence, his ears were filled with a deafening roar, and his vision was completely enveloped in red light. Then, everything went dark, and consciousness faded away.

A red mushroom cloud rose at the breach in the city wall, and the power of this explosion was even greater than the previous one. The collapsed city wall had created a flat terrain, maximizing the impact of the explosion.

Rippling shockwaves like folded edges swept countless soil and rocks into the air, sending hundreds of meters of landing soldiers flying. Even the monstrous creatures had to lower their bodies to withstand the shock. Rings of shockwaves created waves several meters high, causing the landing craft to roll backward.

As the dust settled, the thousands of Bass Kingdom soldiers who were stationed at the breach had turned into nothingness. Not even a trace of their bodies remained. Apart from the residual heat and dust from the explosion, there was nothing left.

Inside the city, the defending soldiers stared at this scene in disbelief, looking at each other with wide eyes.

“What just happened...”

Could it be that the Bass Kingdom was in the midst of a civil war?

Were their own people attacking each other? What was the reason for this enmity?

Although they didn't understand what had happened, they realized that an opportunity had arisen.

This single cannon blast had wiped out over five thousand enemy troops, cleared the previously fortified breach in the city wall, and the shockwave prevented the next wave of invaders from returning in time.

Now was the best chance for a counterattack!

Realizing this, the commanding officer of the defending forces immediately ordered the soldiers who were prepared to retreat into the city to return and rebuild the defense line at the breach in the city wall.

They focused all their attention on preparing for the impending counterattack. However, to their surprise, they saw the Bass Kingdom soldiers in panic, rushing back to their ships and evacuating with haste.

But then, an even more shocking scene unfolded when these landing vessels were halfway to safety.

On the calm sea surface, three colossal waves, each several kilometers long and towering to a height of twenty to thirty meters, suddenly surged without any apparent cause. The engulfing spray instantly swallowed up those landing vessels.

The sea surface was left with only a few floating corpses and the wreckage of the ships.

The soldiers were utterly bewildered. What had just happened?

In the blink of an eye, the once formidable enemy forces were decimated.

First, a devastating cannonball rained down upon their warships, causing countless casualties among their own ranks. Then, during their retreat, they were inexplicably engulfed by three massive waves out of nowhere.

The once mighty Bass Kingdom army now lay in disarray, almost completely annihilated.

Even with their vivid imaginations, they could not fathom what had occurred.

“Look, the fleet’s flags have been lowered, and white flags are flying!”

People strained their eyes to see.

Indeed, the flags of that fleet had disappeared, replaced by high-flying white flags.

With their warships immobilized and a blockade of burly sea creatures, the crew of the Eighth Fleet had lost hope.

After hearing that their supreme commander, His Excellency Shalifa, had been captured and that surrendering could spare them from death, they had little will left to resist.

After a brief standoff, they chose to lay down their weapons, one by one raising their hands and lining up on the deck, waiting obediently.

This scene played out simultaneously on over thirty warships of the Eighth Fleet.

Ji Chen emerged from the sea, walking on a water ladder. Once his feet touched the steel deck, the water ladder collapsed with a resounding splash.

“My lord, we’ve completed the mission!”

Anina was the first to notice and ran over to boast.

Ji Chen smiled and patted her small head. “Well done, Anina. You’ve done splendidly.”

Feeling the warmth of that big hand, Anina giggled and pointed to the side. “The one you wanted to capture with the mask and the fleet commander are both here.”

Ji Chen glanced over and saw the Deceiver with the golden mask lying drenched but still slightly moving, indicating that she was alive. The other one was bound tightly like a dumpling, slumped against the wall with lifeless eyes.

After a moment of consideration, Ji Chen said, “Keep the Deceiver, and hand the other one over to the Lienhardt Grand Duchy..”

*Chapter 480: Battle Damage, Interrogation*

The nearly hundred thousand soldiers besieging Feiguang City from the Bass Kingdom had suffered heavy casualties in less than two days, with only a small number surviving.

Or rather, they had lost seventy to eighty percent of their soldiers in just two or three hours.

Among them, apart from the one or two percent lost in the intense early stages of the siege, the rest of the casualties were directly or indirectly caused by the Ocean Crown.

Some were blasted into bits by the treacherous Defenders’ cannons, while others, though not directly hit, had their internal organs shattered by the shockwaves. Some were sent flying over ten meters and turned into unrecognizable mosaics upon impact with the ground.

Moreover, more than thirty percent of the soldiers lost their lives while retreating, swept away by the three colossal waves. Thanks to Ji Chen’s precise command, the waves capsized hundreds of



landing boats, but miraculously disappeared just before reaching the muddy shore. They didn't even come close to the city walls of Feiguang City, let alone causing any harm to our own forces.

After all the losses, there were less than twenty thousand surviving soldiers.

Some were crew members of the Eighth Fleet who chose to surrender, some were from the airborne troops who returned in an attempt to rescue the fleet after it was ambushed but were driven away by long-range attackers like the Dragon Horn Catfish and Water Nymph Archers, suffering the loss of several hundred-person squads before reluctantly retreating.

The last group were soldiers who hadn't had time to board the boats and survived the waves.

However, they had lost their will to continue fighting, with most choosing to disarm and surrender, while a few fled in panic into the mountains and jungles, heading towards the border.

When the last enemy airborne unit disappeared from the northwest horizon, this multi-day urban defense battle quietly came to an end.

This time, the Bass Kingdom not only couldn't swiftly seize the vital coastal city of Feiguang, resulting in the loss of nearly a hundred thousand soldiers but also saw almost thirty steel warships from the Eighth Fleet captured in pristine condition. This essentially handed over an entire fleet's power and firepower to the enemy.

It was estimated that Russell, the overall commander of this war, would be fuming upon hearing this news.

A hundred thousand versus thirty thousand, and they got counterattacked, plus losing an entire intact fleet. Were they even capable of waging war?

Regardless, this could be considered the Bass Kingdom's most significant loss since the start of the war, one that would impact the overall strategic situation and direction of the entire conflict.

While nearly a hundred thousand soldiers might not be the entirety of the Bass Kingdom's current military forces, they constituted an essential auxiliary force in this war.

Besides the sheer numerical loss, it was also a declaration of the failure of their blitzkrieg tactics. Failing to capture Feiguang City swiftly gave Tressburg time to react, making the task of taking this city much more challenging.

It could be imagined that the Bass Kingdom would not set its sights on this city again in the short term.

At least, Feiguang City, which was severely battered, now had some breathing room.

The instigator of all this, Ji Chen, was slowly making his way onto the land while being watched by the soldiers of Feiguang City with a mix of awe and gratitude.

Awe, reverence, admiration, and various other emotions played across their faces.

Many soldiers had vividly witnessed this man unleashing those catastrophic waves that had engulfed the enemy.

In their impression, only deities could wield such power, right?

Perhaps due to this almost divine reverence, the soldiers dared not approach him. They simply watched him with eyes filled with awe, leaving Ji Chen, who walked onto the mudflat with his hands behind his back, feeling slightly awkward as he awaited their cheers and welcome.

“Why are you all just standing there and watching? Won’t anyone come and greet me?” Ji Chen thought to himself.

Just as Ji Chen was pondering what to say as an opening remark, a native of the city approached him briskly.

The one leading them wore military attire and exuded an imposing aura, likely a noble of the indigenous people.

He came up to Ji Chen and spoke with an expression of reverence, “Respected powerful one, I am the Lord of Feiguang City, Sylvansai.

Thank you for extending a helping hand to us in our time of peril, for crushing those detestable invaders, and allowing countless people to survive.

On behalf of the entire city’s military and civilians, we express our profound gratitude. We will surely remember this debt of kindness in our hearts.”

Ji Chen nodded and replied, “Hello, I am Ji Chen, the Lord of the Ocean Crown, and I have come from the distant seas.”

The Ocean Crown?

Sylvansai’s heart stirred; he seemed to have heard that name somewhere before.

Oh, right, not long ago, a shipment of weapons and equipment had arrived, and it seemed to have originated from a territory called the Ocean Crown.

“Lord Ji Chen, if I may be so bold as to ask, does your territory produce weapons and equipment?”

Ji Chen paused for a moment and then replied, “Yes, the Ocean Crown does indeed produce weapons and equipment, but our primary market is the Principality of Maple.”

“That’s right,” Sylvansai chuckled and said, “In the time before the war erupted, there was a merchant named Gilder who came here and sold a batch of weapons and equipment to Feiguang City. I believe it was purchased from your territory.”

Well, Gilder managed to sell weapons and equipment from the Ocean Crown all the way to Feiguang City, which was thousands of miles away from the Principality of Maple. He truly lived up to his reputation as a merchant.

“How are our weapons and equipment?”

“They are excellent. Many soldiers find them quite handy, and the quality is impressive.” Sylvansai glanced around. “But this is not the place for discussion.. If it’s possible, why don’t we continue our conversation in the city?”