

Ocean Lord 51

Chapter 51: Showing off is the Source of Motivation

Ji Chen casually replied when he saw the question.

“For the residents to live in.”

“For the residents? I don’t even live that well. I’m so jealous, it’s making me feel sour.”

“Seems like you have an abundance of resources to spare! Building such nice houses for the residents... Look at my territory, it’s just shabby thatched huts!”

“I’m envious to the point of separation!”

More and more players flooded into the thread, expressing their envy and astonishment after seeing the pictures.

In addition to admiring the beautiful scenery, they were also amazed by Ji Chen’s wealth.

They discovered that these were houses that required nearly a thousand units of resources to build.

While it wouldn’t be surprising for someone to build such a residence for themselves, it was quite unusual to build ten of them for the residents.

For most players at this stage, they would construct simple dwellings for the residents, as they required fewer resources. They would allocate the majority of their resources towards recruiting troops and purchasing food.

To build so many exquisite houses, it naturally required a significant amount of resources.

Resources don’t just fall from the sky.

This could only mean one thing: the player known as “Lonely Islander” in their eyes had reached a level of resource abundance in their territory that was truly remarkable.

Many players were even more envious and jealous of this conjecture.

He had already started to build beautiful houses for his residents to live in, but they were still struggling to decide whether they should be eating meat for their next meal or to save some dry rations.

Why was there such a big difference between them?

Seeing the comments from the idiotic players, Ji Chen’s small sense of vanity was satisfied. Satisfied with the response, he closed the forum contentedly.

Appropriate flaunting and timely satisfaction of vanity can help ignite the motivation to strive for more.

The forum is an excellent place for this, as long as one didn’t get overshadowed by others.

After enjoying a moment of satisfaction, Ji Chen felt energized throughout his body. He immediately called upon his army and headed towards the giant forest where the native tribe resided.

Today's plan was clear. Explore the three subsidiary islands in the northwest of the main island. There were currently six subsidiary islands remaining in the entire archipelago, as well as the mountain peak suspected to be a dragon's nest that hadn't been explored.

He intended to visit all of them in the next few days. Starting with the three subsidiary islands in the northwest.

After a two-hour trek, Ji Chen arrived at the location of the native tribe. The elderly leader of the tribe, with his white hair, welcomed him and respectfully performed a bow.

"My Lord, there has been progress in the search for suitable locations to cultivate sea rice, as you instructed," the leader said solemnly.

"We have discovered a large area of lowland in the southwest direction of the main island, which has been invaded by seawater. It is highly suitable for cultivating sea rice." Upon hearing this, Ji Chen's eyebrows raised in delight.

The entire main island was inclined from northeast to southwest. The terrain in the southwest was the lowest, and it was also the easiest to be flooded by seawater.

"Then we should start to plant sea rice on a large scale as soon as possible. In the future, the population of the territory will increase, and we need more food from sea rice."

"I will follow your will," the elderly woman respectfully bowed and continued, "My Lord, is there something specific you came here for today?"

"I need a canoe. I want to explore the three subsidiary islands on the northwest side," Ji Chen replied.

As a ruler, this request was naturally not a problem.

Soon, a canoe was brought over. Six native people sat in it, responsible for paddling for him.

Ji Chen got on board, while the rest of the troops either swam in the water or floated in the air.

With the wooden paddles stroking the water's surface, the canoe sailed out of the giant forest and reached the open sea.

The color of the sea became slightly deeper, indicating an increase in depth.

Holding onto the slightly swaying canoe, Ji Chen looked into the distance.

The three islands formed a crescent shape, arranged in order.

Two of them were covered in trees, while the last one was bare, with only a protruding reef above the water's surface. A large group of seagulls circled and landed there.

The reef was piled with a thick layer of white substance.

Ji Chen's expression became somewhat peculiar.

That white substance... Was it bird droppings?

If he remembered correctly, bird droppings seemed to be a rather good fertilizer.

Perhaps sea rice would need this?

“With the use of Kimkara, the yield per mu is 1,800.”

After planting the sea rice, he could send the kobolds to collect some bird droppings here and use them as fertilizer.

Let’s see if the already high-yielding sea rice will increase its production?

The main island and the first sub-island on the northwest side were separated by a shallow sea of one or two kilometers. With the speed of the canoe, it would take a lot of time to reach it.

“Croak-”

He had barely traveled a few hundred meters.

The shallow-water Murlocs leading the way suddenly cried out as a warning.

On the map, hundreds of red dots surrounded him in a circle.

And the number was still increasing.

Ji Chen narrowed his eyes and looked at the distant sea.

Flying fish with thick arms, sharp teeth, and three pairs of wings on their backs jumped and glided on the water’s surface, splashing water.

[Razor Jaw Flying Fish]

[Level: 7]

[Tier: 1,8 stars]

[Skill: Sharp Fangs (Green skill, sharp teeth can bite prey until only bones are left)]

Group Battle (Green Skill, has good combat power in group battles)

Wings Flight (White Skill, Able to Glide on the Sea)

[Military characteristic: Bloodthirsty (When you smell blood, you will attack crazily)]

[I can fly]

Tier 1 8-star, Level 7.

There were so many of them that at first glance, the entire surface of the water was filled with their figures flying and gliding from the water.

It sent shivers down people’s spines.

“The Razor Jaw Flying Fish! They’ll devour us until only skeletons remain!”

The native people on the boat cried out in fear.

“No need to worry,” Ji Chen reassured calmly, waving his hand.

Leaving ten guards of the shallow sea Murlocs by their side, the rest charged forward.

Amidst the astonishment of the native people, a one-sided battle unfolded between the agile shallow sea Murlocs, fierce Naga warriors, and skilled Sea Pixies.

With their superior speed, the shallow sea Murlocs swiftly darted underwater, disrupting the flying fish swarm's formation.

Keeping a safe distance, they swiftly eliminated the threat.

Their tridents, acting as precise fishing spears, impaled each flying fish with swift and clean strikes.

The Naga warriors, with their immense strength, brought a new level of ferocity to the battle.

Their massive bodies crashed into the fish swarm, intensifying the chaos that had already ensued.

Every part of their bodies became a lethal weapon, as they used their sheer force to collide and incapacitate their opponents, slicing through them with their sharp bone blades.

With a powerful whip of their serpentine tails, they launched several Razor Jaw Flying Fish into the air with a resounding crack.

Their own bodies, bearing the marks of relentless combat, endured the strain.

This primal display of violence, embodied by the savage aesthetics of their fighting style, left no doubt about their prowess.

Meanwhile, the Sea Pixies unleashed their explosive tactics, wreaking havoc among the fish.

Each water arrow detonated upon impact, creating a cascade of water mixed with the blood and fragments of countless Razor Jaw Flying Fish.

The once tranquil blue sea transformed into a crimson-stained battlefield..

Chapter 52: The Miserable Gale of the Dragon

After a few minutes, the sounds of battle subsided.

Ji Chen glanced at the progressing experience bar and gestured for the natives to continue moving forward.

"Ah? Oh, yes, my lord," the bewildered native responded, swallowing hard and quickly obeying.

Their astonishment lingered, for in their understanding, even the most skilled warriors in the tribe would meet a fatal end against the swarm of Razor Jaw Flying Fish. Yet before their eyes, their newly loyal Lord had effortlessly annihilated them all without any casualties.

What kind of extraordinary power was this?

The chieftain's decision seemed wise and correct. Refusal would have likely led them to the same fate as those Razor Jaw Flying Fish.

Ji Chen remained oblivious to the inner thoughts of the natives. Even if he knew, he would only wear a knowing smile.

Those who refused to submit would not face such severe consequences, but their fate would resemble that of the Kobold Tribe.

The first subsidiary island was within reach, and after docking the canoe, Ji Chen instructed the natives to wait while he led his army towards the island.

They began circling the island's perimeter.

On the muddy shores, several marine creatures basked lazily in the sun.

Seizing the opportunity, Ji Chen dispatched them one by one.

After completing a full circle, he had a rough idea of the size and terrain of the island.

The subsidiary island had an oval shape and was only about one-tenth the size of the main island, spanning around ten square kilometers. The surrounding areas consisted of mudflats, while the center was occupied by a large forest.

However, the creatures within the forest remained unknown.

Once he had a better understanding, Ji Chen found an entry point and ventured into the thick vegetation, making his way towards the central area. Although the forest was dense, he only encountered small animals such as rabbits and foxes, without any larger predators like wolves or leopards. This indicated that it was not a reliable source of food and had limited developmental value, considering its considerable distance from the main territory.

As they delved deeper, they soon arrived at the island's central location.

Before their eyes lay an open clearing amidst the trees.

In the middle of the clearing stood an ancient and rustic altar. Resting atop the altar was a treasure chest, emanating a mesmerizing allure with its twinkling starlight.

Judging by its appearance, it was at least a 2-star-rated treasure chest.

However, Ji Chen did not move. Instead, he took two steps back warily and had the soldiers surround him tightly.

This was because there were dozens of red dots surrounding the altar on the Omniscience map.

He was certain of one thing.

Once he approached the altar directly, these hidden monsters would instantly emerge and deliver a deadly blow.

However, upon closer inspection, there was nothing at the locations indicated by the red dots on the map. Not even a stone or a patch of grass could be seen.

There was simply nothing to hide.

Could it be... underground?

With this possibility in mind, he waved his hand, summoning a Murloc.

A Murloc promptly stepped forward.

Swish-

The trident was swiftly thrown-

its tip forcefully pierced into the soil.

"Ding- You have alerted a group of burrowing dragon lizards."

"...Engage in battle... Our overall morale is at 70 points..."

The soil suddenly arched, and thirty to forty humanoid-sized horned lizards emerged from the ground. Their blood-red eyes were filled with confusion and anger.

Who disturbed their slumber!?

Ji Chen's gaze fixed upon them as the panel information of these horned lizards appeared before his eyes.

I Earth-drilling Dragon LizardJ

[Level: 10 J

[Tier: 3, 2 stars]

[Skill: Rampage (blue skill, can use the hard horn on the head to attack the enemy)]

Cuticular Scaly Armor (Blue skill, the thick cuticular layer on the back can provide powerful defense)

Burrow (Green skill, able to burrow into the ground to hide)

[Military characteristic: Eat soil (can survive by eating soil and rocks)]

[A lizard with some dragon bloodline. The hard horn on its head cannot be underestimated.]

Ji Chen's expression was a little strange. He didn't know what to say.

It was not because of the strength of these monsters, but because of their species.

Just how many new creatures did that giant dragon have? First, it was the Kobolds, then the Earth-drilling Dragon Lizard. They really didn't discriminate when it came to mixing different species.

Was this what they called "The Miserable Gale of the Dragon"?

If he had met these dragon lizards before, he would have turned and fled without hesitation.

But now, he had the shallow sea Murlocs and the Naga warriors, all of whom were third-tier units.

His confidence swelled within him.

He faced these fierce dragon lizards without any fear.

However, he was also curious about the altar and the treasure chest atop it.

Being guarded by so many formidable dragon lizards, it couldn't be something worthless. Perhaps it would bring him some surprises.

He raised his arm and gave the command, and his troops launched their attack.

The sea pixies wielded their staves, and powerful water arrows filled with intense energy shot out.

Boom-

Explosions erupted, splashing water in all directions.

However, the burrowing dragon lizards seemed completely unharmed. The horny layer covering most of their bodies only showed slight damage, barely breaking their defenses.

The water arrows were ineffective!

This was because the level difference between the Sea Pixies and the Earth-drilling Dragon Lizard was too great. There was a total of 9 stars between them.

Under the overwhelming suppression of their tier difference, the damage was significantly reduced.

However, Ji Chen didn't expect the sea pixies' attacks to have much effect. The main force in this battle was still the Naga warriors and the Murlocs.

"The sea pixies will continuously launch water arrows for harassment."

"The Murlocs will throw tridents to inflict ranged damage on the enemy."

The Naga warriors will hold the front line!'¹

"Alice, provide support with your singing at any time."

Ji Chen remained calm, issuing his orders methodically.

Upon hearing his commands, the morale of the troops soared, and they quickly acted accordingly.

At the same time, the burrowing dragon lizards on the opposing side also launched their attack.

Coiling their slender bodies into a circular shape, they charged forward like a steamroller, moving at incredible speed.

They kicked up countless tufts of grass and clouds of dust.

The hardened horns on their heads became deadly weapons at such speed, capable of penetrating armor.

Faced with this situation, the Murlocs didn't hesitate to hurl their tridents.

Clang—

A loud metallic collision rang out.

The tridents bounced off the hard cuticle and scales and stabbed into the ground.

However, the first wave of Earth-drilling Dragon Lizards was also shaken by the huge force contained in it, making them dizzy and swaying.

This wave of tridents forced more than a dozen Earth-drilling Dragon Lizards to stop.

However, the rest of the Earth-drilling Dragon Lizards had already rolled to the front of the formation.

The hard horn, which was terrifying because of its speed, was even more lethal than a sword.

However, the Naga warriors were like mountains, standing motionless at the front.

Their eyes were cruel and cold.

It was as if they would not waver even if a huge rock rolled over from the opposite side.

They stabbed their two blades into the ground and exerted strength with both arms.

The hard horns and the bone blades collided violently.

Dong—

The Earth-drilling Dragon Lizards were sent flying and fell heavily on the ground. They struggled to get up.

The Naga warriors leaned back, and a visible dent could be seen on the bone blades, but other than that, there was no obvious damage.

At a glance, both sides seemed to have tied in this round.

But in Ji Chen's eyes, the Naga Warriors had won.

This was because the Earth-drilling Dragon Lizard's most powerful attack had not worked. It had already used up all three of its axes. How could they defeat him?

“Roar!”

The Naga warriors roared at the sky as if they wanted to vent all the anger in their hearts.

The snake's tails wriggled quickly, leaving a deep groove in the soil.

They waved the bone blades that were sharper than ordinary metal swords.

They suddenly chopped at the enemies.

Sla –

The Earth-drilling Dragon Lizards that were struggling on the ground instantly had two huge wounds.

Another slash.

A huge lizard's head flew into the air.

The struggling body gradually lost its response, leaving only occasional spasms..

Chapter 53: Hero Altar

The first wave of Earth-drilling Dragon Lizards that rushed up were slaughtered by the Naga warriors.

Blood rained down, accompanied by fragments of flesh, splattering the ground, the altar, and even the trees several meters away.

The scene was gruesomely bloody.

Ji Chen smacked his lips and took a few steps back in disgust to prevent blood from splattering all over his face.

Naga warriors were fierce fighters, but they tended to go wild in battle, often turning the scene into a gory dismemberment site.

Meanwhile, the burrow lizards, initially pushed back by the tridents, regained their composure.

Seeing their comrades being mercilessly slaughtered, they immediately coiled their bodies, ready to charge once more.

However, they had no further opportunity to strike.

Ji Chen's patience with their performance had worn thin.

He raised his arm and called out.

The enchanting voice of Alice filled the air, causing the burrow lizards, with their physical defense but no resistance to spells, to freeze in place.

Their attempt to coil their bodies was interrupted.

Leaving their vulnerable underbellies exposed.

Seizing this golden opportunity, the Murlocs swiftly hurled their tridents once again.

No matter how powerful a creature may be, there are always weak points.

The back of the Earth-drilling Dragon Lizard was covered with hard cuticles and scales, which were enough to withstand the damage of swords and sabers.

However, its abdomen was very fragile, and it was only covered with a layer of soft skin.

Even an average person wielding a sword could easily pierce through it.

And the tridents of the murlocs, designed to tear through metal and rock, were even more formidable.

In the blink of an eye, the tridents found their mark.

With a muffled thud, the weapons penetrated their bodies.

The trident stabbed into the Earth-drilling Dragon Lizard's abdomen. The sharp tip of the trident almost completely sank into its body, crushing and tearing its soft internal organs.

The trident flew back with a splash of blood.

The tridents forcefully plunged into the underbellies of the burrow lizards, their sharp tips almost completely piercing their bodies, shredding and crushing their soft internal organs.

The tridents were flung back, leaving a trail of blood in their wake.

The triangular barbs on the trident tips caused secondary damage, enlarging the original wounds several times over.

Shattered organs and blood flowed out like water.

Such injuries brought swift death to the burrow lizards, nearly instantaneously.

After a brief whimper, they became completely motionless, only sporadic unconscious twitching of their nerves remained.

They were dead beyond measure.

The Earth-drilling Dragon Lizards were either stabbed to death or killed by the Naga warriors who came after them.

After the last one was cut into two by the Naga warrior.

The notification of the end of the battle sounded.

“Ding – You have obtained a glorious victory. You have received 2800 experience points.”

“Sea Pixie leveled up (5—6).”

After many days of fighting, the Sea Pixies had already reached Level 6.

However, it was a level behind the Murlocs and Naga warriors.

Ji Chen shook his head and let out a sigh, realizing how quickly the sea pixie had fallen behind, struggling to inflict significant damage on these Dragon Lizards.

It seemed that he had to find a wave of resources to strengthen and upgrade the Sea Pixies.

In terms of potential, the Sea Pixies were not bad.

After all, it was magic damage.

Just a noble mage profession, coupled with the characteristic of not needing food, was enough for him to spend some effort to cultivate.

He looked at his experience bar.

[Level 7 [88%/100%]]

Yes, he was close to Level 8.

Not just himself.

Apart from the Sea Pixies, the experience bars of the other troops were also reaching the end of their level.

He would probably be able to level up after one or two more battles.

Before reaching level 10, leveling up was relatively easier.

As the level increased, the required experience also grew, making it more challenging to level up.

He set a small goal.

Before setting sail on the pirate ship, he aimed to reach level 10!

He once again checked the map.

Confirming the absence of any hidden creatures, he ascended the altar and turned his gaze toward the treasure chest.

[Unlocked Treasure Chest]

[Level: 2 stars]

[There seems to be something inside.]

Without any hesitation, he opened it.

“Ding ~ You have obtained Murloc Ranger Recruiting Camp Core (Tier 2 5 Star) x2.”

The core of the recruitment camp for a tier 2 5-star soldier?

And two!

This was the first time he had obtained a military recruitment camp core from a treasure chest.

Thinking back, the first treasure chest he obtained was the Resource Detection Tower Blueprint, the second was the Crown of Omniscience, and the third treasure chest was temporarily put on hold because he did not have the key.

And this is the fourth treasure chest he encountered in the first place.

His luck was pretty good.

Ji Chen casually took out one of the cores and looked at the stats panel of the army.

[Murloc Ranger]

[Race: Murloc]

[Level: 5]

[Tier: 2, 5 stars]

[Skill: Spine stab attack (blue skill, can use muscles to press the long spikes on the spine, causing them to shoot out)]

Shallow Sea Cruise (Green Skill, Able to Enter Cruise State, Greatly Increases Swimming Speed)

Scent 'Fracking (Green skill, extremely sensitive sense of smell, able to track enemies over long distances by relying on scent)

[Military characteristic: conservative (will not leave the territory, has a strong sense of territory)]

The second-tier 5-star units might not keep up with the strength of his first-tier units, but they were still considered decent troops.

From their skills and characteristics, they were more suitable for guarding the territory.

This meant that the Murloc Rangers could protect the territory, watch over the Kobold inhabitants, and patrol the islands.

This would completely free up the pirates, allowing them to focus on their designated tasks.

Satisfied, Ji Chen closed the panel and shifted his gaze to the altar beneath his feet.

This altar was clearly not an ordinary object.

Rather than saying there was an altar and a treasure chest, it was more accurate to say that the treasure chest was simply an accompanying gift to this altar.

Looking again, at the edge of the altar stood twelve stone pillars, intricately carved with strange symbols and patterns.

They appeared both ancient and exuded a sense of sacredness.

The floor beneath his feet was also marked with orderly lines, forming a pattern resembling a magical array.

It commanded respect and evoked a sense of awe in anyone who beheld it.

[Hero Altar]

[Level: Special]

[Effect: After activation, it will randomly summon a blue outstanding hero with both aptitude and potential.]

[Activation cost: 3000 units of Mithril, 3000 units of Crystal, 3000 units of Adamantine]

[Remark: Self-destruct after activation]

!!!

He widened his eyes in astonishment.

What a valuable find!

It was an altar that could summon heroes!

Whether it was a hero for battle or for governance, it didn't matter.

As someone who had Alice, he understood the immense significance of having a Blue-Rank Excellent hero.

One powerful hero could surpass a thousand soldiers.

Perhaps it was an exaggeration, but there was no denying the tremendous advantages it would bring to the development of his territory.

However, as he looked at the resource requirements for activation, he furrowed his brow.

While 3000 units of Mithril was not a small amount, he could acquire that much from two mini Mithril mines in a short time.

But the real challenge lay in the two advanced resources: Crystal and Fine Gold.

Where could he possibly find such a large quantity of high-level resources?

Was he supposed to go and snatch them?

Chapter 54: Broken Warning Lighthouse

Snatch?

Ji Chen hesitated for a moment, but then an idea struck him.

After all, he had a legitimate pirate ship and a group of skilled pirates under his command, didn't he?

Sending them on a plundering mission would be a return to their roots.

Yes, this plan had potential...

However, until they acquired sufficient resources, the Hero Altar would have to remain dormant for the time being.

Aside from the Hero Altar, there didn't seem to be anything else of note on this secondary island.

They could always retrieve the bodies of the burrowing drakes when they returned.

Ji Chen glanced at the sky and made his way back to the edge of the marshes with his army.

Boarding the canoe, they set sail towards the second auxiliary island.

Along the way, they encountered a few waves of attacks from sea creatures, but swiftly overcame them.

Just as the final battle concluded before their island landing, Ji Chen achieved Level 8, surpassing Level 7.

The Murloc, Naga Warrior, Sea Nymph, and Alice had all reached Level 8 as well.

Level 10, the significant milestone in “Lord of Glory”, was now within their grasp.

Upon reaching Level 10, players’ primary professions would transition from apprenticeship to official status, unlocking new skills and experiencing a substantial boost in individual combat prowess.

By then, players themselves would also possess some combat prowess, ensuring they wouldn’t be completely helpless when facing beheading tactics.

The canoe drifted forward, riding the gentle ebb and flow of the waves.

As they ventured further from the islands, the variety of sea creatures gradually increased. The farther they were from the islands and the mainland, the higher the frequency and quantity of encounters.

One could imagine that once they were far away from the islands and the coastline, the number of sea creatures would instantly surge, including both small and large monsters.

Without a sufficiently large and sturdy ship, the danger of venturing out to sea would multiply.

This was one of the major challenges faced by most island-based territories during external expansion and exploration.

Fortunately, through a fortuitous turn of events, Ji Chen had obtained a three-masted pirate ship, granting him the means to venture out to sea.

After a little over ten minutes, the second auxiliary island came into view.

Compared to the previous one, this auxiliary island was even smaller in size.

It was roughly about one-thirtieth the size of the main island, with a lower elevation in the southeast and a higher elevation in the northwest.

On the southeastern side, there was a vast expanse of coconut groves, with large coconuts hanging from the treetops, looking incredibly tempting.

Heading in the northwest direction, the terrain gradually ascended, eventually forming a cliff that reached a height of thirty to forty meters.

The waves crashed against the rocks at the base of the cliff, creating white foams that rose several meters high.

Amidst the overgrown weeds on the cliff, there was a faintly visible site of a dilapidated building.

Ji Chen’s eyes showed a hint of curiosity, but not much surprise.

This was because the stone structures on the main island indicated that there was once a civilization on these archipelagos, albeit ages ago.

Perhaps due to a disaster or other reasons, this civilization seemed to have vanished or departed.

Most of the remnants had been eroded by the passage of time, with only a few architectural ruins offering faint traces of their existence.

As for the indigenous tribes he had subjugated, judging from their architectural style and level of civilization, they seemed to be newcomers who arrived later.

The probability was high that the crumbling building on the cliff was a remnant of that ancient civilization.

Ji Chen had the canoe dock in a calm area and stepped ashore, arriving at the edge of the coconut grove.

Looking at the large, ripe coconuts hanging from the treetops, his appetite was instantly aroused.

He had always believed that an island landscape like this couldn't possibly be without the classic food item of coconuts.

Today, he finally discovered them here.

He was immediately filled with excitement and had the Murlocs shoot down a few coconuts with their tridents.

Plap!

Four or five coconuts fell to the ground.

He picked up a suitable stone and forcefully smashed one open, revealing the milky white coconut water inside.

With one gulp, the sweet and refreshing coconut water made him feel completely at ease.

“Ah, refreshing!”

This instantly lifted Ji Chen's spirits, especially since he had been almost sick of eating only meat and seafood.

After devouring three coconuts in a row and satisfying his craving, he continued on.

He moved through the coconut grove, effortlessly taking care of a small group of monsters that lurked among the trees.

Following the faintly visible stone steps carved by humans, he ascended to the top of the cliff.

There, he saw the dilapidated building.

Due to years of erosion from sea winds and salt, the structure was mostly in ruins, but the circular base hinted that it was probably a tower-like construction.

Ji Chen pondered for a moment and attempted to access the information panel to see if he could gather any details.

[Broken Warning Lighthouse]

[Status]: Highly damaged

[Effects]: ? Provides illumination and guidance? Establishes a connection with the territory after binding? Can provide warnings and detect the sea within a radius of ten nautical miles [The range of warning and detection depends on the size of the object]

[Materials required for repair]: 10,000 units of stone, 5,000 units of clay, 1,000 units of crystal

[A structure left behind by a certain civilization, capable of powerful detection when intact]

A warning lighthouse?

Ji Chen looked around at the surroundings and nodded in realization.

This place was indeed suitable for building a lighthouse.

However, its current condition matched its appearance—highly damaged to the point where none of its effects were functioning.

The third effect piqued his interest.

Detecting and warning within a radius of ten nautical miles of the sea.

Ten nautical miles is roughly equivalent to 18.5 kilometers, covering a range of a circle with a diameter of 37 kilometers.

In essence, if there were larger objects like merchant ships within the ten-nautical-mile distance, they would be detected.

However, for smaller vessels like fishing boats, this range would be reduced, and they might only be detected within eight nautical miles.

As for individuals, monsters, and other smaller objects, the distance would be even smaller.

Looking at it from another perspective, this warning lighthouse was an upgraded, super-enhanced version of the Crown of Omniscience with expanded capabilities.

He looked at the resources needed to repair it.

Three resources were required: stone, clay, and crystal.

He needed as many as 10,000 units of stones, but he only needed a week to gather them since he had several mines that could produce tens of thousands of stones every week.

He needed 5000 units of clay. He had three small clay mines, so it was not a problem.

Finally, there were 1000 units of crystals.

High-level resource points could only be found by luck.

It was the same as the Hero Altar.

This early warning lighthouse could only be put on hold for the time being until the crystal was found.

At this point, the exploration of the three sub-islands to the northwest was basically completed.

Overall, the harvest was pretty good.

Two military recruitment camps, thirty to forty Earth-drilling Dragon Lizards, a Hero Altar that could summon blue Excellent Heroes, and a repairable Warning Lighthouse Ruin.

The Hero Altar was the biggest surprise of the day.

Ji Chen looked at the sky.

After a series of battles, it was already noon.

The fierce sunlight shone down.

The Murlocs and Nagas were a little tired from the sun.

They were all classified as the species of aquatic and liked to stay in wet places.

They rested for a moment.

Carrying the Earth-drilling Dragon Lizard's corpses, the group set off on their way back.

On the way back, he also made a detour to the western coast of the main island to check on the progress of repairing the pirate ship.

The remaining pirates said that it would take about three more days to complete the repairs, and then the ship would be ready for long voyages.

He was looking forward to the moment when he could embark on his pirate king journey.

But before that time, he needed to identify and eliminate all the destabilizing factors in the New Moon Archipelago.

Otherwise, it would be quite ironic if his homeland was attacked while he was out at sea..

Chapter 55: Murloc Ranger, Beginner Stage

Returning to the territory, Jichen stood by the Murloc statue and the Fountain of the Sea Pixie, taking out the two recruitment cores of the Murloc Ranger.

Using them together, he inserted both cores into the ground.

After a moment, with a rumbling sound, two moss-covered stone arches emerged from the soil.

The mottled stone surfaces exuded an ancient and primal aura.

I Murloc Archway]

[Rank]: Tier 2, 5 stars

[Recruitable Unit Type]: Murloc Ranger (Tier 2, 5 stars)

[Weekly Recruitment Limit]: 21

[Current Recruitment Count]: 28

I Recruitment Cost |: 20 units of Wood, 20 units of Fiber, 20 units of Coarse Iron

[Clickto Recruit]

Wow, that was impressive.

The initial recruitment offered 28 Murloc Rangers, and he could recruit 21 every week.

That was quite a high production rate.

But the more, the better. He needed a sufficient number to keep those Kobolds in check.

Jichen glanced at the resource levels in the territory.

There are still 1900 units of Coarse Iron and 2000 units of Fiber.

Thanks to the diligent work of the Kobolds, the Wood stockpile has been accumulating rapidly. It hasn't been long since the last unit upgrade, but the accumulated quantity is already at 1200 units.

All three resources are sufficient.

"Recruit." x2

"Ding- Consuming 560 units of Wood, Fiber, and Coarse Iron each, recruiting 28 Murloc Rangers." x2

Both Murloc Archways were recruited simultaneously.

Spending 1120 units of Wood, Fiber, and Coarse Iron in total, recruiting 56 Murloc Rangers.

The silent Murloc Archway trembled slightly, and a shimmering water gate gradually formed at the arch.

Then, the water surface rippled gently.

Murloc Rangers, with spines on their backs and iron spears in their hands, walked out.

Compared to the Shallow Sea Murlocs, these Murloc Rangers appeared more slender, lacking some of the strength.

However, their backs were adorned with neatly arranged spine protrusions, each measuring over twenty centimeters even when exposed.

Once they were all pressed and launched, it would be as terrifying as a rain of needles, piercing the enemies like a hedgehog.

But one similarity with the Shallow Sea Murlocs remained.

These Murloc Rangers were also noisy.

"Groa—groa!"

"Groagroagroa!!"

Hearing this, the nearby Shallow Sea Murlocs looked over in astonishment and began to make noise as well.

"Groa! Groagroagroa!"

Two different species of Murlocs were communicating excitedly.

"Hey, where are you guys from? Your bodies are so strong, it's impressive."

"It's alright, big bro. The spikes on your back look pretty cool. It seems like you put a lot of effort into evolving them, right?"

"Indeed..."

Jichen felt like he was witnessing an encounter between two elementary school classes on a spring outing.

It was incredibly noisy.

So he directly launched a powerful attack and quickly dispatched the Murloc Rangers.

He immediately sent them to the Kobold Caves and various resource points, replacing the stationed pirates.

Watching the Murloc Rangers leave in formation, Jichen pondered for a moment and opened the territory panel.

[Crown of the Ocean]

[Overlord: Jichen]

1 Level: Level 2 village (250 prosperity points required to upgrade to the next level, 1250 units of wood, fiber, and clay consumed)]

[Prosperity: 2472/250)

[Popular sentiment: 72 (support)]

[Citizens: Human (472 [410 natives)), Cave Miner (18), Kobold (640 [slaves))]

[Territory buildings: Level 1 lord's residence, simple residential houses (7), simple tool room (1), resource detection tower (1), simple dock (1), new residential houses (10)]

[Occupy Resource Points: Level 1 crude iron mine (mini x2, small x2), Level 1 clay mine (small x3), Level 1 Bass Fish Farm (small xi), Level 1 quarry (small X3, medium xi), Level

2 copper mine (mini xi, small xi), Level 2 refined iron mine (mini xi, small xi), Level 3 Secret-Silver mine (mini x2)]

[City defense works: None]

[Military recruitment camp: Murloc statue (tier 3, 3 stars), Naga warrior recruitment camp (tier 3, 5 stars), sea pixie fountain (tier 2, 3 stars), Murloc arch (tier 2, 5 stars) x 2]

[Number of troops: Shallow Sea Murlocs (25), Naga Warriors (20), Elite Pirates (80), Sea Pixies (14), Murloc Ranger (56))

[Hero: Siren: Alice (blue excellent). Human: Panther (Aspiring-Hero)

[Territory size: 200 x 200 (m)]

[Resources: Wood (86 units), fiber (1240 units), stone (1010 units), clay (716 units), crude iron (680 units), star iron (40 units)]

I Food Storage: Meat (23058 units)]

[Territory Protection: Gift of the Sea (The subjects and soldiers can catch more fish in the sea, and their sense of direction and swimming in the sea will be greatly improved) I

[Territory Specialties: Precious Jungle Wood (4-star specialty), Fine Coffee Bean (4-star specialty), Golden Bass (2-star specialty))

After this period of conquests, the attributes on the territory panel have undergone many changes compared to before.

The Prosperity has surpassed the threshold of 2000 points.

Each ordinary native contributes at least 1 point of Prosperity. With 410 people, that adds up to 410 points.

As for each enslaved Kobold, they can only contribute half a point of Prosperity, which means 640 Kobolds have still added a significant 340 points.

Therefore, it can be anticipated that many players, like him, will forcibly enslave other races to increase Prosperity.

In addition to that, the newly occupied dozen resource points have also added a large amount of Prosperity.

Particularly, the two Mithril mines are estimated to have added a three-digit number of points.

He carefully browsed through the panel.

A smile appeared on his face.

During this time, he had accomplished quite a lot.

His gaze shifted.

The territory is currently at Level 2 Village. To upgrade it to Level 3 Village, he would need 250 points of Prosperity, in addition to 1250 units of Wood, Fiber, and Clay each.

Compared to the upgrade from Level 1 to Level 2, the resources required have increased by 250 units each.

From this, a bold speculation can be made.

Upgrading from Level 3 Village to Level 4 Village required 1500 units of each resource, and from Level 4 to Level 5, it was 1750 units.

So, to upgrade from Level 5 Village to Level 1 Town, it would have required 2000 units of each resource.

After calculating, the total amount of Wood, Fiber, and Clay needed for the Ocean Crown to reach Level 1 Town was 5250 units.

Jichen nodded to himself, having a clear understanding, and made a mental note to prioritize the territory upgrade in his schedule.

The territory level not only significantly expanded the territory's range but also determined the types of buildings that could be constructed.

In simple terms, a Village-level territory could only have Village-level buildings, such as basic dwellings and simple docks. Overall, the variety of constructible buildings was limited, and the additional effects they provided were quite modest.

On the other hand, a Town-level territory allowed for the construction of Town-level buildings, such as harbors that accommodated medium and large-sized ships, blacksmith workshops, and various

supporting facilities. At the Town level, the content of territory development gradually became more diverse.

At that time, he was still in the beginner stage as a player..

Chapter 56: Sea Heir

Of course, players could also obtain building blueprints for construction through channels such as treasure chests and trading.

A clamor of voices came.

About ten villagers hurriedly ran back to the territory.

Their faces showed some anxiety.

Ji Chen remembered them. They were responsible for the fishing operations at the sea bass fishery.

Had there been a problem over there?

He walked over with his hands behind his back.

“What happened?”

Seeing him, the villagers seemed to have found their backbone and quickly saluted.

“My lord, there was a situation at the sea bass fishery.”

“A group of monsters crawled out of the sea!”¹

“Did anyone get injured or killed?”

“No.” They shook their heads. “As soon as we saw those monsters, we immediately climbed ashore and escaped.”

Ji Chen nodded, relieved that no one had been injured or killed.

But he had a thought and asked, “What did those monsters look like?”

“They were extremely bizarre!” one of the villagers said fearfully. “They were like flowers with legs, and there were terrifying spikes on their petal-like heads.”

“That’s right, it was so scary.”

He narrowed his eyes.

The kobolds had mentioned before that several years ago, powerful monsters attacked them. The slain kobolds were taken back to the sea as food.

Those monsters were also described as walking flowers.

It matched exactly with the villagers’ description.

Wow.

These monsters were treating this archipelago as their livestock farm.

Every once in a while, when the “lambs” grew fat and strong, they would come here to harvest their food?

But it all depended on the master when it came to dealing with dogs.

Now that he had enslaved the kobolds, they served as an important labor force in the territory.

Although they were at the lowest level, they were still a vital part of the territory.

And now this archipelago was his territory. Could he allow these monsters to come and go as they pleased?

With this thought in mind, Ji Chen furrowed his brows and quickly headed to the sea bass fishery with his army.

To reach the scene as quickly as possible, they didn't follow the coastline but cut through the jungle along a newly opened path.

After more than ten minutes, they arrived at their destination.

On the mudflats.

Lurking there were numerous monsters.

He narrowed his eyes and took a closer look.

Based on the descriptions from the kobolds and the villagers, he knew that the appearance of these monsters was extremely bizarre.

However, he didn't expect them to be this grotesque.

The lower half of their bodies consisted of dozens of intertwined tentacles, wriggling and leaving behind a trail of slime as they moved.

On top was a head resembling a flower petal, with a long snout-like appendage that had a sharp spike inside it.

The spike reflected an eerie color, indicating the presence of some toxin.

Disgusting, absolutely disgusting.

How could such abominations emerge in the ocean?

He already felt a strong aversion towards them, wishing to eliminate them immediately.

But Ji Chen chose to restrain himself for now.

Being able to kill so many kobolds and treat this place as a livestock farm meant that these creatures possessed extraordinary strength.

To be cautious, it was necessary to first assess their true capabilities.

[Deep Sea Impaler]

[Race]: Sea Heirs

[Tier]: 2nd Tier, 9 stars

[Skills 1: Spine Projection (Blue Skill: Able to launch highly penetrating spikes from its mouthpiece, capable of piercing through rocks)

Neurotoxin (Green Skill: The spikes carried a potent neurotoxin that affected movement)

[Unit Characteristics!: Hive Mind (Mental connection between individuals)]

Adaptive Evolution (Capable of continuously adapting to the environment and evolving towards advantageous directions)

[Backbone Force in the Lower Sea Heirs]

Despite having only two skills, its tier was remarkably high at 2nd Tier, with 9 stars.

What was even more peculiar was that this sea heir creature had two-unit characteristics.

Hive Mind...

Evolution...

A serious expression filled Ji Chen's face, sensing that these creatures resembled a certain race.

Not only were these monsters repulsive in appearance, but their inner qualities were also extraordinary.

"It seems we have to be cautious in dealing with these creatures..."

Facing such eerie monsters, he maximized his caution.

Turning back to Alice and the army, he spoke earnestly.

"When the battle begins, immediately use the Song of Temptation to control them, don't give them any chance to react."

"And don't let a single one escape. Eliminate them all on this mudflat, leave none behind!"

With that, Jichen squinted his eyes.

In a low voice, he exhaled, "Attack! "

As soon as the words left his mouth, the focused Alice gently opened her lips, and her resonating voice quickly spread across the entire mudflat.

The Deep Sea Impalers squirming body trembled slightly, and then it instantly froze on the spot.

When Ji Chen saw this, he waved his fist excitedly.

Since the singing was effective, it would be much easier.

The Murlocs suddenly threw out his trident.

These Deep Sea Impalers looked disgusting and ferocious, but fortunately, their defense was not outstanding.

Under the relentless assault of sharp tridents and impaling mouthparts, the Deep Sea Impalers met their demise.

Their bodies were pierced, releasing a burst of green blood akin to puncturing a water-filled balloon.

A pungent and sour odor filled the air.

A horde of around two hundred Deep Sea Impalers had been lurking on the mudflat.

Their sheer numbers and high tier made them formidable opponents, surpassing the ordinary 2nd Tier, 3-star Kobold Workers, and the 2nd Tier, 7-star Dragon Vein Kobolds. The intervention of Jichen prevented another wave of annihilation, sparing the grateful kobolds from their impending doom.

The Deep Sea Impalers considered this island their livestock farm, feasting on the hapless kobolds until they grew fat and strong enough to be consumed.

However, Ji Chen knew better than to underestimate them. These grotesque creatures possessed unique characteristics that set them apart.

Their appearance was repulsive, with their lower bodies comprised of numerous intertwined tentacles, leaving behind a trail of viscous slime as they moved.

On top of their bodies were petal-like heads, adorned with long proboscis-like mouthparts that housed sharp spikes.

These spikes reflected an eerie sheen, hinting at the presence of potent toxins.

Disgusted by their presence, Jichen's aversion fueled his determination to eliminate them swiftly.

But he exercised caution, knowing that creatures capable of slaughtering so many kobolds and treating this island as their personal grazing grounds must possess formidable power.

To assess their strength and capabilities, Jichen ordered his forces to engage cautiously.

He instructed Alice to use her mesmerizing songs to mesmerize and control the Deep Sea Impalers, depriving them of any chance to retaliate.

Not a single one was to be spared; they were to be eradicated from the mudflat.

With his instructions given, Jichen narrowed his eyes and declared, "Attack!"

Instantly, Alice, fully focused and absorbed in her task, parted her lips, and her enchanting voice resonated across the entire mudflat.

Her alluring melody entranced the Deep Sea Impalers, rendering them vulnerable to the relentless barrage that followed.

The battle ensued, and the Deep Sea Impalers fell victim to the combined might of Jichen's forces.

Their bodies were impaled by the sharp tridents of the Shallow Sea Murlocs and shredded by the bone blades of the Naga warriors.

Green blood stained the weapons and the ground, giving the scene an eerie ambiance.

The progress of the slaughter was swift and efficient. Faced with little resistance, the enemies were dispatched with ease.

In just a few minutes, the once formidable horde of over two hundred Deep Sea Impalers was reduced to a mere handful.

"Ding- You have achieved a victory of great honor."

"You have gained 28,800 experience points, and your level has increased from 8 to 9."

“The Shallow Sea Murlocs, Naga Warriors, and Siren Hero: Alice has also leveled up from 8 to 9.”

“The Sea Pixies have progressed from level 6 to 8.”

Ji Chen’s eyes widened slightly, and a surge of excitement coursed through him. The amount of experience points earned from slaying these Sea Heirs far exceeded his expectations. It was as if each of them was a living vessel of experience.

He couldn’t help but wonder: If he encountered a few more groups of such creatures, would he reach Level 10 in an instant?

Chapter 57: Mysterious Girl

Arriving at the mudflat, corpses of the Deep Sea Impalers were scattered everywhere. Broken tentacles, withered petals, and shriveled mouthparts lay strewn across the ground. Large patches of green blood added to the sensory assault.

Jichen furrowed his brow slightly. Despite being accustomed to the sight of death and bloodshed, this slightly nauseating scene made him feel somewhat uneasy. Especially the tentacles, they resembled something out of a Lovecraftian nightmare, sending shivers down his spine.

He approached the corpse of a Deep Sea Impaler, crouching down to examine the spikes on its mouthparts. Perhaps because the host was already dead, the venom on the spikes seemed to have lost its potency, making them no different from ordinary spikes.

He had initially thought of collecting them to use as concealed weapons, but now it seemed like a futile idea. Standing up, he surveyed the chaotic scene around him. Although he hadn’t yet determined the composition of the Deep Sea Impalers’ bodies, his intuition told him that they were definitely not edible.

After some thought, Ji Chen summoned the Shallow Sea Murlocs and pointed at the corpse.” Do you guys eat this?”

The shallow sea Murlocs looked at it, and their dull faces revealed undisguised disdain.

Alright, even the Murlocs didn’t eat such things...

However, leaving them here unattended would be both repulsive and highly polluting to the environment. Jichen pondered for a moment. He instructed his troops to collect the corpses and remains of the Deep Sea Impalers, gathering them together for incineration to eliminate any traces.

Watching the towering pile of carcasses before him, Jichen raised his torch and unhesitatingly threw it in. Soon, the corpses ignited fiercely. Within the flames, all impurities were being eradicated.

Just as Jichen was admiring this “volcano” before him, the Naga warrior suddenly roared towards the sea. His heart skipped a beat. Could it be that more Deep Sea Impalers were approaching?

He turned his head to look, but was left stunned. Emerging slowly from the seawater was a young girl wielding a massive sword. In terms of appearance, this girl, with her beautiful silver-gray long hair, was no less impressive than Alice.

She wore a form-fitting black combat attire, with faint glimpses of intricate scales appearing on its surface. Beneath her battle skirt, a pair of fair and well-proportioned legs were revealed. Although not as slender and straight as Alice's, the shape and size of her legs were just right.

Not too plump, not too thin—clearly someone who regularly exercised. In simple terms, those legs were worth a year of play.

As Jichen hid behind his troops, enjoying the view with a gentlemanly gaze, the silver-haired girl glanced at the burning mound of corpses. A flicker of admiration flashed in her crimson eyes.

“Human, your approach is correct. Incineration is one of the most effective ways to deal with the Sea Heirs,” she said.

Jichen narrowed his eyes slightly. His alertness increased because the beautiful girl before him was not human at all!

[Anina (Hero)]

(Race): Deep Sea Dragon Whale

[Level]: 20

[Current Tier]: Purple (Rare Tier)

[Potential]: Red (Heritage Tier)

(Skills): War Intimidation (Purple Skill, can stun enemies for 1-10 seconds with a roar, the duration depends on the tier and level of the enemy)

Dragon Whale Bloodline (Purple Skill, the bloodline grants a robust physique, resilience, endurance, and an 80% increase in strength)

Slaughter Revival (Purple Skill, the combat power increases as the battle progresses, with a maximum increase of 50% combat power)

Sea Current Blessing (Blue Skill, gains a boost in the ocean, increasing swimming speed by an additional 200% with the power of the water current)

[Unit Attribute): Endurance in Battle (recovers stamina with each enemy killed)

[A deep sea dragon whale transformed into a humanoid form, but she seems to be troubled by something)

A rare hero of purple tier!

With a potential of red tier heritage.

And a level as high as 20.

These three pieces of data instantly made his breathing slightly erratic.

Just this morning, he was marveling at the ability to summon blue-tier heroes at the Hero Altar.

And now, before his eyes stood a living, breathing hero of purple rare tier.

Her formidable purple skills were simply intimidating.

And there was that gigantic sword, almost as tall as her, resembling a massive door panel.

With a single strike, she could easily kill someone.

Yet, she effortlessly carried it on her shoulder, seemingly without any effort.

This damn thing was a giant whale disguised as a human!

It was downright frightening.

However, if he could recruit her... wouldn't he gain another formidable and unstoppable general, capable of slaying enemies with ease?

As for the fact that she wasn't human, well, he already had the adorable singing siren girl, Alice, so having one more powerful deep sea dragon whale girl wouldn't be a big problem.

With that thought in mind, the look in Ji Chen's eyes gradually grew passionate.

His heart burned like the blazing mountain of corpses.

He cleared his throat and spoke in a friendly tone.

"Do you know about these deep sea piercers... the Sea Heirs?"

Anina furrowed her brows and nodded. "Of course, the Sea Heirs are an extremely formidable enemy, known by all the marine intelligent races."

Observing her grave expression, Ji Chen couldn't help but ask curiously, "Their strength isn't that great, so why do you say that?"

"Weak in strength? That's only for their current state," Anina replied with a heavy tone, her gaze fixed on the burning mountain of corpses. "The Sea Heirs have a desire to destroy living beings and possess a powerful ability to evolve and adapt. They can evolve into even more formidable beings through battle."

"As long as they are given the chance to adapt, you will witness Sea Heirs that are several times stronger than before."

Ji Chen still didn't fully understand. "But doesn't evolution take time?"

"What if I told you that they can evolve in an extremely short period?" Anina shook her head.

"As long as the main brain of a group of Sea Heirs isn't killed, they will quickly adapt to their enemies and develop abilities specifically targeting them."

"Perhaps within a few months, or maybe even within a month, they will come knocking on our doors again."

Ji Chen was momentarily stunned.

This damn thing was like a race similar to the Zerg, wasn't it?

He didn't realize it earlier, but now, after being mentioned, it all became clear to him.

Their ability to adapt and evolve in a short period of time.

And their Hive thinking.

Doesn't this mean that more Sea Heirs would have appeared in the future?

With this thought, his face darkened.

But then...

He thought about the battle just now.

Didn't Alice control these Sea Heirs from the beginning with her Enchanting Song?

Controlling them on a mental level was like occupying the bandwidth of a network.

So, was it possible that these Sea Heirs hadn't had a chance to transmit the situation back, and the network had been completely cut off?

Thinking about it, there was a good chance!

Although contacting their main brain and realizing that over 200 Sea Heirs suddenly lost connection would have prompted them to send another batch.

But the Sea Heirs sent over wouldn't have developed specific abilities.

It was much better than sending a bunch of Sea Heirs with 100% mental resistance who completely ignored Alice's singing.

Bring it on, one wave at a time!

If that was the case, there was no need to worry too much.

Besides, he was a man with cheat-like abilities!

Who knows, maybe his units would have evolved even faster than the Sea Heirs!

Chapter 58: Little Whale, Swim into the Net

"I understand... but why did you come here?"

"I came here to find something," replied Anina with a hint of distress. "I have lost a very important item, and its last known location was in this sea area."

"So I followed the trail and ended up here, but this sea area is so vast..."

Upon hearing this, Ji Chen's face lit up with enthusiasm. "I am the lord of this archipelago. You can describe the appearance of the item, and I can mobilize people to help you search for it."

"Mobilize people?" Anina hesitated as she looked at the shallow sea Murlocs, Naga Warriors, and Sea Pixies beside her. She nodded slightly, reluctantly accepting the proposal. Although they were of inferior bloodlines, searching together increased the chances of finding the item compared to her searching alone.

"It's a sachet made of special leather, and it dries quickly when taken out of the water..."

Ji Chen's expression became somewhat peculiar. Did he catch something like that while fishing yesterday?

"Take a look. Is this it?" He took out the mysterious accessory from his equipment slot.

Anina's eyes brightened with joy. "Yes, that's it! But why was it in your hands?"

"I caught it from the sea yesterday..."

The whale girl approached, carrying her giant sword, and reached out to take the accessory. She fastened it around her waist, pondered for a moment, and then continued speaking.

"Human, since you helped me find the accessory, I can do something for you."

"Whether it's killing or other matters, as long as it's within my abilities, I swear on the bloodline of the Deep Sea Whale."

The whale girl effortlessly lifted the giant sword, as if lifting a wooden stick, and plunged it into the mud, with a large portion of the blade disappearing into the ground, surprising Ji Chen.

She crossed her arms, wearing a proud expression.

"Anything you want?"

Such a good opportunity!

Could she become my... ahem, my subordinate?

Of course, even though he thought that way, Ji Chen naturally wouldn't directly say it. He had to gradually conquer the mind of this muscle-headed girl.

"Help me with something?" Ji Chen pondered for a moment and looked at her. "I will be going on a journey in a few days, and the defense of the territory will become vulnerable."

"So, if possible, I would like you to stay and help me guard it for a while."

Anina blinked her eyes, her gaze slightly puzzled, as if saying:

Just that?

"For such a simple task, leave it to me," the whale girl patted her chest, speaking with confidence. "I guarantee the safety of your territory."

He smiled. "That would be wonderful. With your assistance, I can rest assured."

"Indeed, the bloodline of the Deep Sea Whale is remarkable."

Anina hummed lightly, a hint of satisfaction appearing on her lips. It seemed that she found his words quite pleasing.

He noticed it too.

Although this muscular girl possessed formidable strength, her temperament was not much different from that of an ordinary human girl.

As if recalling something important, the whale girl hurriedly asked, "Will I have food and accommodation here?"

He raised an eyebrow and chuckled. "Of course, I will treat you with the etiquette befitting the most esteemed guest. You don't need to worry."

The whale girl finally breathed a sigh of relief and patted her chest. "That's good to hear."

Ji Chen's gaze at this moment was somewhat nuanced.

Why did she appear so... excessively naive?

It was as if she hadn't interacted much with humans or other intelligent beings.

But if that was the case, it would be even easier to manipulate her.

A blank sheet of paper is the easiest to color...

Ji Chen, accompanied by Anina, returned to the territory.

He immediately called for Wilus.

"Prepare the best room for this esteemed guest immediately and ensure that food is delivered on time," Ji Chen instructed. "In addition, assign two maids to be on standby at all times, with no room for any negligence."

Wilus looked at Ji Chen with a serious expression, and they exchanged a knowing look. He quickly saluted and replied, "Yes, I will make the arrangements accordingly."

Satisfied with his response, Ji Chen nodded and turned his gaze towards Anina.

"If you have any other needs, feel free to inform the maids or Wilus," he said. "You can also come directly to me, and I will do my best to fulfill your requests."

Under these arrangements, the innocent whale girl seemed a little embarrassed, her face slightly flushed as she nodded. "I understand."

As Wilus led Anina to her accommodation, Ji Chen's lips curled into a smile.

"Little whale, swim into my net obediently."

The next day, Ji Chen arrived at the wild coffee tree.

The fenced area surrounding the coffee tree was now filled with ripe coffee beans.

Each bean was vibrant red and plump, hanging from the branches, ready to be harvested.

[Fine Coffee Tree]

[Level: Special]

[Status: Mature]

[Usage: Generates 4-star specialty premium coffee beans]

[Effect: Consuming and using premium coffee beans can greatly increase the speed of mana recovery. Long-term can slowly increase the upper limit of mana.]

[Production: 2units/week]

[Current Receivable: 2 units]

There were a total of twenty-five wild coffee trees, and this time they yielded a total of 50 units of premium coffee beans.

It was a bountiful harvest.

In addition to the premium coffee beans, there was also a significant yield of the other two specialties. Especially the precious jungle wood, which had accumulated in large quantities as they cleared ordinary trees.

The warehouse was filled with stacks of jungle wood, enough to fill half of the cargo hold of a two-masted merchant ship.

By the time Raymond returned, it was unlikely that even a two-masted merchant ship would be enough to hold all the wood.

Ji Chen planned to sell a batch of precious jungle wood to obtain the necessary resources for the territory. Afterward, he would gradually reduce the production.

After all, rarity commanded value.

If there was an excessive supply in the market, the prices would likely decrease.

By tightly controlling the output, he could sell at the best prices.

After all, only the indigenous nobles valued such commodities.

Moreover, it was important to note that the jungle wood on the island was not infinite. Excessive logging would deplete the resources.

One mustn't kill the chicken that lays the golden eggs, or there would be no more eggs to enjoy in the future.

"However, in the future, we should have also tried to seek out more specialties. This would have diversified the output of the territory and allowed us to continuously exchange resources from the outside world..."

"In addition, once the territory had upgraded to a town level, we could have started developing advanced products. We shouldn't have just sold raw materials; we needed to have added value and extended the industry chain."

"For example, turning the jungle wood into furniture, jewelry, and other processed products, processing the premium coffee beans into coffee powder, creating coffee sachets, or even producing magical potions..."

"This way, we could have maximized the value of our specialties and earned more money and resources..."

The more Ji Chen thought about it, the more he believed that this was the future development direction of the territory.

It might have seemed simple to think about, but in reality, the difficulty would not have been small at all.

Especially on such a relatively isolated island, the difficulty would have increased several times over.

Talents, resources, transportation, channels.

These were all mountains that would have needed to be overcome.

He couldn't have helped but sigh.

The task was arduous and the road was long..

Chapter 59: The Secret Stories of Sirens

After this round of maturity, the coffee tree would need a week to bear fruit again.

However, the territory's unique building, the forest plantation, could increase production.

He looked at its construction price.

1000 units of wood and stone resources.

The stones were easy to deal with, as they were available now.

As for woods, he had used up all of them after recruiting a wave of Kobolds and Rangers yesterday.

However, with more than a hundred Kobolds working at full speed, the wood accumulation speed was still quite fast.

The Kobolds could cut down about 7 to 8 units of wood or collect 10 to 12 units of fiber in a day.

1000 units of wood. Over 100 Kobolds would only need a day to gather them.

Very stable!

Back in front of the lord's manor.

Ji Chen began to gather the army.

On the last day of the week, they explored the three sub-islands in the northeast.

In this case, only the mountain peaks in the entire archipelago had not been visited, and they would be placed at the finale.

He had a feeling that he would encounter some very powerful enemies on the mountain peak.

With the current strength of the army, it might be a little difficult to deal with them.

Therefore, it was better for him to obediently finish the last three sub-islands and increase his strength before heading there.

He was about to leave with his army.

Anina walked out from the side of the house, rubbing her eyes as she asked curiously.

“Where are you going?”

“We’re going to the wild to hunt monsters.” Ji Chen smiled. “Anina, did you rest well last night? Is there a place where we can receive you?”

“No, I rested well.” Anina shook her head.

But there was one thing she didn’t say.

This was the first time she had slept on such a comfortable and soft bed. In the past, she had always slept directly on the beach of a deserted island...

Moreover, the food here was also very delicious. It was the best food she had eaten in the past ten years.

“You’re going to kill monsters? Then I’ll go with you.”

“But you are a guest...”

“It’s okay. When you said that you wanted to protect the territory yesterday, you also meant to protect yourself.” Anina waved her hand casually.

Ji Chen hesitated, but when he saw the anticipation on her face, he nodded.

It just so happened that he also wanted to see the strength of a Purple Rare Hero.

However, he suddenly felt a grip on his arm.

He looked down and saw Alice hugging his right arm tightly. She was looking at Anina with a slightly hostile look in her eyes.

Was this child jealous?

Ji Chen didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. He patted the little Siren’s head and comforted her.

However, Anina’s attention was also attracted by Alice. Her red eyes were filled with curiosity.

She had noticed this beautiful girl with fins on her ears yesterday.

“What race is she from?”

“Alice is a Siren.”

“So, she’s a Siren... What?”

The Dragon Whale girl’s mouth opened wide. Her eyes were filled with surprise.

Her face, which had a little baby fat, puffed up. She looked very cute.

Ji Chen was curious about her reaction, so he asked her why.

Anina took a while to recover and explained with a complicated look in her eyes.

“The Sirens are an extremely rare race in the sea. Their numbers are basically no more than two digits. They are born with the ability to bewitch the mind and control living creatures, so they are not very popular with other races.”

“Moreover, there are rumors in the ocean that once you are entangled with or close to the Siren, you will encounter endless misfortune...”

“But now, such a young Siren is actually beside a human like you. That’s why I’m so surprised.”

The population of the tribe does not exceed two digits?

So rare?

Ji Chen was surprised.

What kind of luck was it that he managed to fish Alice out of the sea?

Bewitching the mind...

Could it be Alice’s Song of Temptation?

But the effect of the song did not seem to have reached the level of bewitching...

Could it be that she only possesses this ability after fully maturing?

And what misfortune... Alice has been here for so many days. He was more inclined to believe that this was just a rumor about three people becoming a tiger.

Soon, he shook his head and said with a firm gaze.

“I don’t believe this rumor. No matter what, Alice is already a part of the territory. This is her home.”

Upon hearing Ji Chen’s words, Alice hugged him even tighter and rested her head on his shoulder.

There was a hint of pride in her eyes as he looked at Anina.

“... As you wish, don’t blame me for not reminding you when the time comes.” The Dragon Whale girl said with a nonchalant expression.

However, when she looked at Alice, a hint of envy appeared in her eyes.

Home.

A distant and unfamiliar word...

“Alright, let’s set off now.”

Ji Chen, who hadn’t noticed the Dragon Whale girl’s strange behavior, waved his arm and led everyone away.

Soon, they arrived at the beach where they had met Anina yesterday.

That mountain of corpses made from Sea Heir’s corpses was burned to ashes, leaving behind a much smaller pile of ash.

As the sea breeze peeled away layer by layer, the ashes flew and scattered everywhere, becoming fertilizer for the trees and weeds.

Without lingering there, they continued to move forward along the beach.

Heading towards the northeast.

The terrain on the left changed from a gentle jungle to a steep cliff. On the cliff that was dozens of meters high, many birds were building their nests in the cracks.

After walking all the way, they gradually saw the three sub-islands in the northeast.

The reason why Ji Chen didn't borrow a canoe from the natives was simple.

The sea receded during the day, and the water level dropped.

A very long and narrow tidal flat would be exposed on the sea between the main island and the northeast island.

At this time, even if they did not use a boat, they could easily walk over with their feet.

Walking on this tidal flat, the clear blue water on both sides gave him a wonderful feeling.

Speaking of which, the scenery of this archipelago was quite good.

There were giant forests that were hundreds of meters tall, primitive jungles, rugged and complex caves, mountain peaks that reached into the clouds, white sandy beaches that stretched for ten miles, and this marvelous tidal flat in the sea.

Ji Chen couldn't help but inwardly sigh.

"If this world could develop tourism, wouldn't it become rich?"

After passing through the tidal flat, the group arrived at the first sub-island in the northeast.

Unlike the northwestern sub-islands, the three northeastern sub-islands had many traces of civilization.

The ruins of buildings were hidden in the dense vegetation, giving off a desolate look.

He could vaguely see the ruins of city walls and towers.

"Could this have once been a military facility?"

Ji Chen pondered for a moment, then waved his hand and led the army in.

On the Omniscience map, a large number of red dots were already displayed in the ruins.

However, the enemies were a bit different from what he expected.

[Skeleton Monster]

[Race: Undead]

[Level: 1]

[Tier: 1,1 star]

[Skill: Undead Body (White skill, immune to most curses, poisons, and other negative effects)]

Revival (White skill, can repair oneself by piecing together white bones)

[Military characteristic: Fearless (does not know what fear and death are)]

[The lowest level of monsters among the undead]

Chapter 60: Returning to the Beginner's Village

A group of skeletons, holding broken swords and rusty blades, their bodies covered in sea salt, were wandering amidst the ruins.

The flickering flame of their hollow eye sockets swayed unpredictably.

Ji Chen, upon seeing them, couldn't help but pause for a moment.

His expression became somewhat peculiar.

How should he put it... He hadn't encountered such weak enemies in a long time.

Seeing these skeletons gave him a feeling similar to returning to the Beginner's Village and encountering beginner monsters.

It was somewhat nostalgic.

A thought sparked in Ji Chen's mind, igniting his personal interest in taking action.

Previously, he would let his troops handle killing the enemies, and he rarely needed to personally intervene.

But now, with such weak skeleton monsters appearing, why not use them to practice his own skills?

With this in mind, he waved his hand, signaling the army to stop, intending to take matters into his own hands.

A swift and agile figure darted out by his side.

—It was Anina.

The Dragon Whale girl was seen wielding a massive sword that resembled a door panel, eagerly charging into the midst of the skeleton horde.

The enormous sword swung.

The skeleton monsters were shattered as if struck by a fully loaded truck, disintegrating before they could even fly away.

Alternatively, they were smashed into a pile of shattered bones, completely unrecognizable, with their remains embedded in the soil.

It could be described as brutal.

Right before Ji Chen's eyes.

The little skeletons endured a level of pain that they shouldn't have experienced.

Skeleton Monster mocked, "You, a level 20 Purple Rare Hero, are attacking me, a Tier 1, 1-star little skeleton? You've lost all dignity!"

Several minutes later.

Seeing the emptiness surrounding him, not a single standing skeleton monster remained.

Anina returned with a satisfied expression on her face, muttering that they had all fallen before she even had a chance to warm up.

Ji Chen looked around at the scene resembling the aftermath of a tornado, and his eyelids twitched. This Dragon Whale girl was so terrifying!

Seeing the abundance of skeletons present here, he became more alert.

Skeletons, as undead creatures, could arise naturally or be summoned by entities such as necromancers.

Regardless of the method, there was always a cause for their existence.

Therefore, there might be a source of mutation deep within the ruins.

“Let’s continue forward.”

Ji Chen nodded towards Alice and Anina, leading the army to advance.

Along the way, they disturbed many dormant skeletons within the ruins.

In addition to humanoid forms, there were also numerous amphibious marine monster skeletons with strange and bizarre shapes.

Overall, their strength was slightly higher than the humanoid skeletons.

However, in the face of their formidable army, this elite force, they were as futile as a mantis trying to stop a chariot.

As many died as came.

“Ding- You have gained 280 experience points...”

“Ding- You have gained 320 experience points...”

Although the experience granted wasn’t much, even the smallest mosquito leg is still meat.

It made the experience bar move slightly forward.

When they passed through what appeared to be the remnants of a city gate, a clear view opened up before them.

It was a place that resembled a training ground.

Ruins of city walls and towers surrounded them—mostly eroded by the sea breeze, leaving only two to three meters of foundation.

Ji Chen speculated that when intact, the city walls here were at least six to seven meters high.

And at regular intervals along the walls were corner towers or watchtowers, closely monitoring the surroundings.

They were built along the coastline, with some parts extending into the shallower sea waters.

However, what puzzled him greatly was why a certain civilization that once inhabited this place went to such great lengths to build a city wall around the coastline?

The ocean lay outside the city wall. Could it be... that there were enemies lurking in the depths of the sea?

Ji Chen thought it was highly probable.

But he didn't delve too deeply into the thought.

This civilization had vanished ages ago, likely along with its enemies, disappearing into the river of time.

Returning to his senses, he looked towards the training ground.

It was filled with densely packed skeletons, presenting a pale and dismal sight.

Various types of skeleton monsters.

Two-legged, four-legged, and even three-legged ones, numbering in the thousands.

Among these ordinary skeletons, there were some that stood out from the rest.

Their bodies were not white, but rather pitch black, shimmering with a metallic texture.

Eerie green flames flickered in their eye sockets, and although they lacked swords or blades, their claw-like appendages, as sharp as metal, were sufficient as weapons.

A clear space surrounded them, and the white skeletons dared not approach them.

[Black Skeleton]

[Race: Undead]

[Level: 10]

[Tier: 3,1 star]

[Skill: Undead Body (Blue skill, immune to most curses, poisons, and other negative effects, defense increased by 50%)]

Corpse Poison Curse (Blue skill, the corpse poison attached to the claws can infect the enemy, causing the attributes to decrease by up to 20% over time)

Revival (Green skill, can repair oneself by piecing together white bones)

[Military characteristic: Fearless (does not know what fear and death are)]

[When infected by something, defense will be strengthened]

Good heavens, he had jumped from a white skeleton to a black skeleton.

If he was not careful, he might really be caught off guard.

Tier 3,1 star...It was 4 stars lower than a Tier 3 5-star Naga Warrior.

However, at a glance, there were more than a hundred of them. Together with a large number of ordinary white skeletons...

It looked like this was going to be a tough battle.

Other than these skeleton monsters, he also saw a box on the ruins of the city wall.

Could it be another treasure chest?

Ji Chen focused.

[Medium Resource Box]

[Effect: After activation, 3000 units of wood, fiber, stone, clay, and coarse iron will be obtained.]

3000 units are equivalent to the production of a small resource point for a week and a half.

That's quite valuable.

But in order to unlock this resource chest, we must first deal with this group of skeletons.

Ji Chen looked around, observing the environment.

They were currently in a ruined city gate area, about ten meters wide, with remnants of walls on both sides measuring two to three meters in height.

By establishing a defensive line of more than ten meters in this narrow passage, they could hold off the skeleton's charge with a one-man-for-the-pass approach.

—Skeletons, in general, weren't very bright creatures. Even if there were other ways around nearby, they would only recognize a direct attack.

After devising a strategy, Ji Chen began to calmly command his army.

Using the remnants of the walls on both sides, they constructed a defensive line.

Twenty Naga warriors formed the front line, twenty-five shallow sea Murlocs climbed the remnants of the walls on both sides and fourteen sea pixies floated in the rear.

The setup was complete.

Ji Chen waved his arm, signaling the Murlocs to throw the first wave of tridents, drawing aggro.

“Ding- You have alerted a large number of skeleton monsters... Allied morale is at 55 points.”

Although they were at a significant numerical disadvantage, their levels and tiers gave them an advantageous position.

The group of skeletons was immediately alarmed and swarmed over like a tide, accompanied by the sound of bones rubbing against each other.

All he could see were pale white skeletons mixed with some black.

The Shallow Sea Murlocs took advantage of the distance and kept throwing tridents.

The power of the trident was like that of a city-guarding crossbow. Every time it was thrown, it could pierce through three or four skeletons.

The Sea Pixies also swung their staves, causing violent explosions that reduced the skeletons to powder and bone fragments.

However, the gaps created by their attacks were immediately filled.

It had no effect in delaying the enemy's advance.

The numerical advantage of the skeleton army was evident.

The Naga warriors stared at the enemies before them, their eyes gleaming with bloodlust.

With each swing of their weapons, they took down several skeletons.

One acted as the tank, another as the physical ranged attacker, and the third as the spellcaster.

The three units complemented each other in their coordinated efforts.

The efficiency of their kills was extremely high, with each wave of attacks taking out a group of skeletons.

The narrow city gate and the remnants of the walls prevented the skeleton horde from fully utilizing their numerical advantage.

They could only squeeze in and be cut down by the Naga warriors.

It was like walking into a meat grinder.

The skeleton horde was being gradually diminished, layer by layer, like peeling an onion.

Seeing this, Ji Chen nodded in approval, but then caught a glimpse of Anina next to him, eager to join the action.

He immediately dissuaded her, saying, "We'll take care of these little skeletons, you don't need to intervene."

"Um, alright. Just let me know if you need any help," replied the Dragon Whale girl with a slightly disappointed expression on her face..