

Ocean Lord 521

Chapter 521: You Deserve to Die! Divine Relic (2)

Monica was not surprised at all; she had known for a long time that the Lord of Glory had two names. One was like an alias, and the other was his real name. But why did they both have such strange expressions on their faces? Was there something inappropriate about this name?

Although she had doubts in her mind, the tactful Monica didn't inquire further.

Taking advantage of the opportunity, Ji Chen stepped in and said, "President Jiang is here to assist the Lienhardt Grand Duchy. Monica, I hope you can include them in our counteroffensive force."

"We welcome any force that opposes the tyranny and ambitions of the Kingdom of Bass."

Monica blinked and smiled, saying, "Just as Lord Ji Chen said back when we were walking in the woods of the New Moon Islands, you told me that we should unite all the forces we can."

With these words, I_Love_Black_Socks and Wang Shanyue both looked at Ji Chen, their eyes filled with shock and admiration.

Did you really manage to bring the daughter of a Grand Duke to your territory?

Clearly, the relationship between Monica and Ji Chen exceeded their imagination.

Ji Chen thought for a moment, realizing that he had indeed said that casually at the time. He was surprised that Monica remembered it.

"Yes, we must unite all the forces we can, as a great figure from our land once said."

Monica nodded, "Now we have joined forces with the Thorey Kingdom, the Pelan Kingdom, and many other Lords of Glory. It is based on this principle that we are proceeding.

Over in Tressburg, the decision has already been made. We will march out the day after tomorrow, launching an attack from the eastern border of the Kingdom of Bass, directly towards Ilkand City. We will occupy it with the help of the naval fleet, use their resources for supplies, and then proceed to attack the capital of the Kingdom of Bass, Victory City.

Although the Eighth Fleet of the Kingdom of Bass was captured by you, and the Ninth Fleet was defeated by us, the enemy still has seven fleets roaming the seas. Once we launch a direct attack on Ilkand City, they are bound to attack like a pack of wolves...

Lord Ji Chen, we need your help."

Looking at the hopeful expression in front of him, Ji Chen showed a gentle smile and reached out to touch her hair. "Of course, I will help you."

Monica smiled in response, her beautiful smile instantly brightening the surroundings. I_Love_Black_Socks looked at her in a daze, while Wang Shanyue had a bitter expression on his face, muttering something like, "You really are something, making me feel worse than if you had killed me."

The day of departure came quickly.

On the previous day, a total of two hundred thousand troops from the Lienhardt Grand Duchy had also arrived at Feiguang City from the rear.

While this army was far smaller in number compared to the player's army, their quality was on a completely different level.

The lowest-ranked soldiers in this two hundred thousand-strong army were Tier 5,1-star units, well-equipped and well-trained, looking much more formidable than the player's haphazardly assembled troops.

On the right flank of this indigenous army were the players, including the Shanyue Guild, King Kong Island Guild, and some smaller guilds. Their numbers were much larger, nearly reaching tens of millions, extending from the city walls to the distant forests, appearing endless and magnificent.

However, the armies of the solo players were not included in this count. Most of them had small forces, so they were tasked with smaller missions like infiltration, assassination, sabotage, and other small-scale operations within the Kingdom of Bass.

Monica began with an inspiring pre-battle speech as the daughter of the Lienhardt Grand Duke. Afterward, the massive army set off.

Ji Chen did not mix with them but instead led the Ocean Crown's forces into the sea.

According to intelligence from the Lienhardt Grand Duchy, aside from the Eighth Fleet that had already been captured and the Ninth Fleet that had been defeated, the Kingdom of Bass had ordered the return of the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Fleets to defend their waters due to increased pressure. The First and Second Fleets had also been dispatched to reinforce Ilkand City several days ago.

The remaining Third and Fourth Fleets disappeared in the open sea two days ago, seemingly to lurk just beyond sight, exerting invisible pressure on the Lienhardt's fleet. But Ji Chen always felt there was something fishy about it.

Therefore, the first thing he did when he set out was to search for the traces of these two fleets.

The Ocean Crown's forces raced across the sea, entering the area where they were last reported in the intelligence.

For an ordinary person, trying to locate two fleets on the vast ocean would be like searching for a needle in a haystack.

But for Ji Chen, who possessed the Tidal Dominator profession and commanded a powerful marine army, it wasn't an impossible task. He had insider information from a certain source.

On the night before departure, Revered Envoy Katie finally revealed a clue. Several months ago, it seemed that the Kingdom of Bass had found a divine relic in a certain sea area. That relic appeared to contain something capable of bringing about the destruction of a nation.

In this moment when the Kingdom of Bass was facing a siege from three nations and was on the brink of destruction, they might be pinning their hopes of a comeback on this relic.

However, Ji Chen also noticed something peculiar. The location of the relic seemed to coincidentally overlap with the direction and gathering point of the sea beast tide that had plagued the entire Western-Mid Ocean in the past..

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Combining various pieces of information and clues, it seemed that there was indeed a divine relic attracting the attention of sea beasts and the Bass Kingdom.

If the Bass Kingdom had truly obtained a divine relic capable of reversing the situation, it would not be good news for them.

Regardless, they had to stop the Bass Kingdom!

With this thought, Ji Chen made up his mind.

The sea area was far from land, and it took the Ocean Crown fleet an entire day to reach it.

As they entered this sea area, Ji Chen could clearly feel a strange fluctuation emanating from the center of the sea, casting hues of light into the sky, and creating a beautiful yet eerie atmosphere.

However, upon closer inspection, things didn't look good at all.

Countless sea beasts occupied every inch of the sea surface, and it seemed like an endless array of various sea beast heads. The constant low growls echoed from the edge of the sea all the way to its center.

Ji Chen, witnessing this "spectacle," couldn't help but shudder.

Just how many sea beasts were there here?

"Alice, check if there are any sea beasts in the water."

Alice dived into the water, and soon resurfaced, saying, "Lord, the sea beasts are only on the surface of the water; they haven't occupied the underwater."

Ji Chen nodded slightly; that made things easier. Since they couldn't pass through on the surface, they could go deep underwater. The prerequisite was not to attract the attention of these numerous sea beasts, as they would be outnumbered.

"Everyone, submerge into the water, but don't attract the sea beasts' attention!"

"Yes!"

With that command, numerous heroes and military units followed Ji Chen, diving into the water and slowly advancing toward the center of the sea at a depth of about a hundred meters.

However, the deeper they went, the more alarmed Ji Chen became.

There were tens of millions of sea beasts occupying this area. Under the influence of some unknown force, it seemed that sea beasts from the entire Western-Mid Ocean had gathered here, appearing as if they were waiting for something...

This eerie sight made everyone uneasy.

The sea was dark, and the seawater, blocked from the sunlight by the densely packed sea beasts, was pitch-black. One couldn't see their own hand in front of their face.

Under Ji Chen's leadership, they approached the center of the sea, where the strange fluctuations grew stronger. It was a type of energy that couldn't be emitted by ordinary things. Ji Chen became even more convinced that there must be a divine relic here, and it might be on the verge of awakening.

As Ji Chen cautiously advanced, he suddenly noticed a large area of clear water on the sea surface where no sea beasts were present. Moreover, this clear area was slowly moving.

In their line of sight, dozens of dark shadows resembling ships were moving within this clear space.

This left Ji Chen feeling puzzled; why weren't the sea beasts bothering these ships?

"Benbo, infiltrate the sea beast group and find out what's going on with those ships."

Benbo followed the order, transforming into the form of a Murloc, and successfully infiltrated the group of sea beasts. The sea beasts around him even moved away because of the Dragon's aura emanating from him.

As he beheld the scene before him, he couldn't help but be surprised.

Dozens of Bass Kingdom warships were slowly sailing on the sea surface. For some unknown reason, although the sea beasts around them kept roaring, they showed no intention of attacking. It was as if there was something within those ships that made the sea beasts dread them. The sea beasts could only watch helplessly as these warships advanced toward the center of the sea.

Benbo seemed thoughtful as he returned underwater and recounted the details to Ji Chen.

Hearing this, Ji Chen furrowed his brow.

It appeared that these warships were indeed the two Bass Kingdom fleets. They arrived here, yet the sea beasts weren't attacking them...

Could it be that they possessed something that made the sea beasts wary?

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The flagship of the Bass Kingdom's third fleet.

"The things you've provided are quite useful,"

Inside the steel-clad command room, Duoru, with a slightly surprised expression on his face, gazed at the sea beasts lurking around the fleet. The sea beasts appeared reluctant to approach.

The Deceiver, who had never taken off his mask, spoke in a throaty voice as if he had eaten charcoal.

"We used a powerful tool and some interesting materials to create this treasure that can drive away and repel sea creatures."

"A powerful tool?" Duoru's interest showed on his face.

The Deceiver chuckled ominously. "You don't need to inquire about that, sir. Just know that we can help you enter that 'graveyard.'"

Upon hearing this, Duoru no longer pressed for details but instead looked with increasingly fiery eyes toward the depths of the sea.

A few days ago, when they received the news of the declaration of war from the Thorey Kingdom and the Pelan Kingdom, and the retreat of the land expeditionary force, they had been planning to return to the kingdom's waters to assist in the defense. However, they suddenly received direct orders from the king – to go to this sea area and explore what appeared to be a relic left by the gods, searching for divine treasures that could turn the tide of war.

As the highest commander of the third fleet, which was second in military strength only to the first and second fleets, Duoru still didn't believe that the kingdom would fail even if they had to wage war against three nations simultaneously. As long as their mighty navy sank the Lienhardt Royal Fleet and gained absolute naval supremacy, then transported soldiers like dumplings to the enemy's rear, everything would turn out fine.

At that time, they could make up for the mistakes made by those damn land-based fools.

However, this was a direct command from the king, and as a loyal soldier, he could not disobey it. Therefore, on the way back, he and the fourth fleet had detached from the main force and took a different route.

But even so, Duoru couldn't help feeling angry and disdainful. Those damn land-based fools were consuming so much of the military budget, yet they had not gained an advantage in the war. Their efforts to tie down the Lienhardt Royal Fleet were all in vain.

And that Eighth Fleet, led by that fool Shalifa, was a disgrace to the Bass Kingdom's navy. An entire fleet was captured, and even the personnel were taken as prisoners.

Duoru didn't care about the life or death of that idiot Shalifa, but his actions undoubtedly severely damaged the honor and image of the navy.

He had heard that the Eighth Fleet was captured by a Lord of Glory. Thinking about it, he couldn't help but sneer.

If that Lord of Glory appeared before him, he would make him understand the anger of a Bass Kingdom soldier. He was no Shalifa.

After calming his emotions, Duoru looked towards the depths of the sea, his emotions surging.

In that place, there was a divine relic, and inside it, there was a high probability of the existence of powerful treasures left behind by the gods, which could reverse the current situation of the kingdom's defeat.

They were determined to obtain it.

Soon, the two fleets gradually approached the depths of the sea and began to see a colossal blue water gate hundreds of meters high.

In front of this gate, the warships, tens of meters tall, seemed like insects, and they themselves were like ants.

Duoru's gaze became even more fervent. Such a magnificent gateway could only have been created by the gods who once controlled this world and possessed supreme power.

As long as he obtained the divine treasure from it, he could more quickly reverse this damned situation. At that time, even someone like Russell, who had a reputation but lacked the ability, would be crushed under his feet!

Just as he was envisioning this beautiful scene for the future, the warship he was standing on suddenly slowed down, and eventually, it crawled at a speed like a turtle.

Duoru cursed, "What's going on? Why did we suddenly slow down!?"

"I'll go check the situation," the vice-captain left the command room and quickly returned.

"Reporting, Commander, the engineering department says that two propellers suddenly stopped spinning as if something was jamming them."

Duoru frowned, feeling a growing sense of unease, but he knew that getting agitated now wouldn't help. He could only suppress his anger and urge, "Then go and clear it!"

"Yes, sir!"

"Damn it, why is there a problem at this crucial moment."

Duoru grumbled, then had the vice-captain inform the other ships to reduce their speed. Since the flagship had a malfunction, the other ships couldn't just leave it behind. They had to slow down together.

In the deep waters, a group of Dragon Blood Murlocs, led by a Murloc hero, returned.

"Lord, we've used seaweed to jam the propeller of that warship."

Ji Chen nodded with a sinister smile. This seaweed trick was really effective; it could render a warship useless in no time.

However, once the enemy saw that it was seaweed causing the issue, they would quickly realize that someone was causing trouble covertly. So, they had to enter the so-called divine relic as quickly as possible.

While the Bass Kingdom fleet slowed down, Ji Chen and his group moved underwater, gradually approaching the colossal gateway that seemed to connect heaven and earth.

This gateway was not entirely above the water; it extended to a depth of dozens of meters below the surface.

Underwater, the gateway still rippled like water, as if it concealed another world inside.

Ji Chen paused for a moment and quickly realized something.

Could this gateway be something like a portal to a realm?

Did this so-called divine relic turn out to be a mystic realm?

Several heroes realized this possibility, and Alice spoke cautiously, "Lord, there might be danger inside. Let us go in first.."

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Benbo and Herald also said one after another, "Let us go in first to investigate, my lord, and you can follow."

Ji Chen didn't refuse. As a lord, his safety was undoubtedly a priority among all. He didn't hesitate and said, "Let Benbo go in first, and if he encounters danger, he can quickly withdraw using his speed advantage."

Benbo nodded, picked up his trident, and swiftly swam towards the portal, plunging into it, creating ripples and disappearing.

They waited in silence.

More than ten minutes passed, and Benbo still hadn't returned, but the lord's panel showed that he hadn't died.

However, the time without his return made Ji Chen furrow his brows.

Time continued to pass slowly, half an hour had already gone by, and there was still no sign of Benbo.

Alice whispered, "My lord, the Bass Kingdom's warships have started moving again..."

Ji Chen nodded, and suddenly his face changed because he felt a tremendously powerful energy rapidly approaching from the sea beyond.

This energy was as enormous as a mountain, as vast as the deep sea, and its unbridled frenzy caused the sea to churn with towering waves, transmitting through every inch of seawater.

Wave after wave of savage, ferocious, ruthless, and cold-blooded auras surged forth, crowding every inch of space in this world in an instant.

These were far from the emanations of ordinary creatures.

Before this, he had only felt something similar from the elf Elin, who was an epic-tier powerhouse.

Meanwhile, on the surface of the sea, the horde of sea creatures grew restless, their excited roars echoing in a chorus, as if welcoming their king.

Ji Chen furrowed his brows deeply, pondering the unusual behavior of these sea creatures gathering here. The hints and pieces of information slowly connected in his mind, all pointing to the presence of an unidentified entity and a formidable surge of energy.

He suddenly raised his head, could it be that this was the mighty sea beast that triggered the sea beast tide!?

At this moment, the deep sea Naga hero Herald's face was also filled with seriousness, and his hoarse voice rang out, "My lord, the bloodline of this thing has already had a certain influence on me..."

Ji Chen's heart sank even further.

Even the legendary-tier Herald had been affected to some extent by its bloodline, indicating that this was probably that powerful sea beast.

But he had no interest in directly confronting such a formidable sea beast that could trigger a sea beast tide.

At this moment, a piercing and indistinguishable cry, like no known creature, resounded throughout the entire world, even though they were underwater, they could hear this sound carrying a psychic attack.

There was no more time to waste.

Ji Chen ordered in a deep voice, "Everyone, enter the portal!"

The Ocean Crown army didn't hesitate, and under the leadership of various heroes, they entered the portal one after another, disappearing entirely.

On the surface of the sea, Duoru stared in stupefaction at the terrifying behemoth in the distance, taller than a city wall. His entire being was plunged into a state of shock, and his soul trembled.

"What in the world is this...?"

Beside him, the Deceiver urged, "Your Excellency Duoru, the purpose of this massive sea beast is also this divine relic site. We'd better enter the relic as soon as possible, or both you and I, along with the two fleets, will perish here." Duoru suddenly erupted in anger, grabbing the Deceiver's collar forcefully. His voice was as icy as the coldest winter, "You knew in advance that this monster would come here, didn't you!?"

The Deceiver replied calmly, "Whether I did or not, we are still here. You need the divine treasures to turn the tide of the war, and we also need what's inside. It's a mutually beneficial arrangement."

Duoru glared at him but eventually let go and turned to his adjutant, speaking sharply, "Spread my orders, all ships accelerate into the portal!"

"Once those sea beasts attack, use the cannons to greet them mercilessly!"

The ships of the two fleets maximized their power, their propellers spinning rapidly, propelling the vessels straight toward the enormous portal. At the same time, the cannons on their decks erupted in flames, shattering into pieces the sea beasts that had already gone out of control and charged towards them from both sides and the front.

One by one, the warships collided with the massive portal and then disappeared.

Seeing this scene, the giant beast let out an angry roar and rushed forward in a frenzy. It crushed countless sea beasts beneath its massive body without any restraint.

However, when its body touched the portal, it emitted a painful sound. Its entire body recoiled as if it had touched a scorching hot anvil, only able to let out an unwilling roar and wildly swing its enormous body, smashing innocent sea beasts around it into pieces.

Ji Chen entered the portal, and everything in front of him turned white. He found himself in another unfamiliar sea area.

The water was very cold but with high clarity.

This was a sea area that seemed like it was in the polar regions. Above, a thick layer of ice formed on the sea surface. Enormous icebergs, larger than hills, connected between the ice layers, reflecting the surrounding environment.

Plump giant fish swam lazily between the underwater icebergs, looking curiously at the group of people.

The sunlight struggled to penetrate the ice layer, but it couldn't make anyone feel even a hint of warmth.

Everything before their eyes was an interplay of white and blue. The ice-blue color dominated this world.

Ji Chen surveyed the surroundings, confirmed that there was no immediate danger, and finally let out a sigh of relief.

"Lord, all the troops have assembled, and not a single one has been left behind," said Herald, adding..

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Ji Chen nodded slightly, "Maintain formation, stay vigilant. We move forward." "Yes."

The heroes nodded in agreement, their eyes gradually filled with seriousness.

As they entered this icy sea, they sensed a peculiar disturbance in their souls, as if something was constantly wailing and moaning, these whispers, like a drizzling rain, infiltrated their minds, carrying negative energies that induced fear.

But soon, they realized the source of this strange disturbance.

As they approached those icebergs, weighing tens of thousands of tons each, they discovered that these icebergs were frozen with corpses. There were humans, elves, orcs... preserved in the icy seal, these corpses looked lifelike, frozen in the moment of their death. Their faces displayed expressions of pain, fury, or madness. Some had their hands raised as if trying to reach the surface but drowned midway while fighting with weapons.

However, the sudden ice instantly froze them all, without distinction between allies and enemies, preserving them until now.

It was not just one iceberg; all the icebergs around them held a large number of bodies. The total number of corpses was incalculable.

Ji Chen realized the truth; this place was not a divine relic, but an ancient battlefield.

Or rather, it was an ancient battlefield from an ancient divine war.

In a distant era, a protracted battle took place among the gods, and their followers followed suit, waging wars in the name of their faith, which was later referred to as the Divine War.

These souls, frozen in the ice, were soldiers, believers, and fanatics of different races who wielded their weapons for their respective faiths, aiming to exterminate the heretics.

Perhaps due to their intense hatred, anger, lust, and the collective negative emotions generated after their deaths, these emotions persisted and expanded over an unknown period of time. This negative energy still enveloped this ice sea, making people feel uncomfortable at the very least and driving them insane to the point of killing each other at the worst.

However, the Ocean Crown's army was all at the fifth tier, and they had a certain resistance to this negative energy. The heroes, in particular, were even more immune to it, thanks to their extraordinary bloodlines and legendary professions. Ji Chen, in particular, felt a slight anomaly at the beginning but easily adapted to it.

However, it was a different story for the other people who entered this place. As soon as the Third and Fourth Fleets of the Bass Kingdom entered this ice sea, a large number of soldiers began to display abnormal reactions. Their eyes turned bloodshot, and despite their disciplined training and strong willpower, they were affected. They became irritable, and any slight abnormality almost led them to fight each other. This surprised Duoru.

Surrounded by nothing but glaciers, icebergs, and floating ice, this was clearly not what was known as a divine relic!

“What the hell is this place?”

The Deceiver wearing a mask muttered ominously, “I’ve already told you; this is a ‘graveyard,’ the resting place of countless foolish, despicable, and ignorant believers.

This is a battlefield left behind by ‘them’ after their battle. What we need is deep within this battlefield.”

Duoru gave him a deep look, and a strong sense of wariness rose in his heart. These masked individuals seemed to know everything, even about this eerie place. Working alongside someone with such an unclear background made it difficult to trust them.

However, they had no choice now. The giant beast had already blocked their way outside.. They could only delve deeper to obtain the treasures they needed and then use those treasures to break free!

Chapter 526 - 526: Tree of Life, Deviant Ghost

Even though the godly battle had long passed, its lingering effects continued to influence this icy sea, undeterred by the passage of time.

It wasn't just the negative energy left behind by countless fallen believers, but also the remnants of power that the gods had once wielded, which lingered in this ancient battlefield turned mystic realm.

The towering ice mountains and sprawling glaciers served as undeniable evidence.

Ji Chen and his companions navigated through the ice mountains with caution, avoiding the icy grip that had frozen the believers.

Suddenly, he sensed a peculiar fluctuation, akin to stumbling upon a hot spring in the midst of a vast, freezing tundra—conspicuous and inviting, a source of warmth amidst the cold.

The direction was north, approximately seventeen to eighteen kilometers away.

Ji Chen swiftly determined the general location and wasted no time, leading the Ocean Crown expedition in that direction.

Whatever lay ahead, he felt it was essential to investigate. After all, this was the ancient battlefield of the gods, a place that potentially concealed ancient treasures.

These remnants that had withstood the relentless passage of time were bound to be extraordinary.

Several minutes later, they halted about a kilometer away from their destination. Countless layers of ice blocked their path, leaving them with no clear route forward.

Looking up at the thick ice above, Ji Chen spoke solemnly, "Blast open the ice layer above."

The expert shooters of the Ocean Crown expedition, consisting of the Silver Sea Pixies and Lobster Guardians, immediately unleashed powerful magical energy. Hundreds of magical arrows and bolts of red lightning streaked upward from beneath the water's surface, colliding forcefully with the ice that had covered millions of years.

With a resounding boom, accompanied by the violent surging of seawater and a deep rumble, the several meters thick ice layer exploded upward, sending shards of ice and seawater shooting into the sky.

A gaping hole, tens of meters wide, appeared in the thick ice layer.

Under Ji Chen's command, the Ocean Crown expedition passed through the opening, steadily ascending to the icy surface.

Taking in their surroundings, they found themselves on an ice plain, with steep ice mountains jutting out haphazardly, like a collection of swords thrust into the ice, exuding an awe-inspiring aura.

With a quick glance, Ji Chen spotted a vibrant grassland to the north, teeming with life. Flowers adorned the landscape, and in the center of the grassland stood a towering tree. The lush, verdant canopy nearly obscured half of the grassland, like a semicircular shield sheltering the entire area.

The howling, frigid winds swept across the ice plain but couldn't even sway the tree's branches, merely causing them to rustle gently.

On this tree, which stood dozens of meters tall, golden droplets of liquid flowed slowly from a hollow in the trunk, forming a small pool about twenty centimeters wide at the intersection of the tree's roots.

Anyone could easily sense that these liquids were filled with a majestic vitality, akin to an elixir of immortality that could grant eternal life with a mere sip.

On the other side of the tree, the group also noticed a humanoid crystal skeleton.

This lush and vibrant grassland stood in stark contrast to the pale and lifeless ice plains that surrounded it.

Ji Chen, observing this scene, couldn't help but feel astonished.

In the midst of this ancient battlefield filled with death and corpses, there appeared such a vibrant and out-of-place oasis of life.

At this moment, he was filled with numerous questions.

How had this tree survived in the icy wasteland?

What was the nature of those golden liquid droplets?

Who was the owner of the crystal skeleton?

Just as his mind was filled with a myriad of thoughts, the thunderous roar of artillery fire erupted in their rightward direction.

A massive ice mountain, whose age was indiscernible, shattered into countless ice fragments under the relentless bombardment of artillery fire. The ice layer beneath it was also shattered, revealing seawater mixed with floating ice.

Ironclad warships plowed through the broken ice, their deck cannons belching flames as they shattered the ice obstructing their path, creating a clear channel for navigation.

Ji Chen furrowed his brow slightly; the fleet from the Kingdom of Bass had unexpectedly arrived here. This complicated matters.

However, as he looked at the grassland, the fleet boldly clearing a path with artillery fire, a faint smile played on his lips.

In that case, let them go ahead and explore, draw out any potential dangers, and step on any possible traps first.

He didn't believe that this ancient battlefield was devoid of danger.

"Everyone, return beneath the ice layer and await further orders!"

"Yes!"

The Ocean Crown expedition once again submerged beneath the ice through the previously opened hole, clinging to the underside of the ice like ghosts, patiently awaiting their lord's instructions.

"Give me full firepower and clear a navigable route!"

Duoru shouted loudly, his words filled with aristocratic authority. He watched as the ice shattered one after another under the continuous barrage of artillery fire and nodded in satisfaction.

Whether it was the enemy or the obstructive ice, anything standing in their way would be ruthlessly crushed!

However, shortly after, Duoru frowned deeply as he looked around. Apart from the icebergs, glaciers, and frozen corpses, there was nothing else in this icy wasteland.

He turned to ask, "Where is what you're looking for?"

The Deceiver shook his head, and beneath his mask, his cloudy eyes seemed somewhat lost. "This is our first time in this place, and we don't know its exact location. But based on the clues that have been passed down, that thing is hidden somewhere within this icy wasteland.."

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"Damn it, how big is this icy wasteland? How is he supposed to find that thing?"

These masked rodents don't even reveal their names!

“What about the divine relic we’re looking for?”

The Deceiver chuckled. “As long as you help us find that thing, we can certainly help you locate the divine relic.”

Duoru cursed inwardly at this cunning fox.

“Report! A large tree has been found ahead!”

Upon hearing this, Duoru, who had been fuming, suddenly shouted in anger, “Are you kidding me? How can there be trees on the ice? Has the cold wind frozen your brain?”

The scout looked aggrieved and said, “But I really saw a tree not far ahead.”

Duoru, in frustration, pushed him aside and took a look through the binoculars himself.

“I want to see if you’re blind or if I...”

Duoru froze. In the scope of the binoculars, a lush and towering tree stood between the icebergs and glaciers, and beneath it, a verdant grassland contrasted vividly with the pale ice.

The Deceiver’s excited voice rang out, “That’s what we need on this journey the Elf’s Tree of Life and the life-giving water it produces!”

Duoru was stunned. “Why is there a Tree of Life here?”

In this desolate place, why was there such an incredibly precious thing?

It was rumored that in ancient times, the ancestors of the elves would plant a Tree of Life on every land they settled, using it to improve the soil and the surrounding environment. The Tree of Life would also produce a precious liquid called the Water of Life, which not only increased strength and healed fatal injuries but also enhanced the elves’ breeding capabilities.

The most famous and significant effect, however, was its ability to purify bloodlines.

This liquid, as if a gift from the gods, had the power to purify the elf’s bloodline. Ancient elves continually refined their own elven bloodlines with high concentrations of blood, which allowed them to maintain combat prowess far surpassing other races.

However, perhaps the departure of the gods later caused the elves to lose their protection, and the once flourishing Trees of Life withered and died one by one.

Until this era, only one Tree of Life remained in the most central lands of the elven kingdom. But how could one tree satisfy the needs of so many elves?

Without an adequate supply of the Water of Life, the elves’ bloodlines had gradually diluted over generations, and many elven spells that relied on bloodlines could no longer be cast.

And now, there was actually a Tree of Life here. How could he not be astonished?

The Deceiver looked at the vast icy wasteland around them and spoke with a hoarse voice, “This is an ancient battlefield of divine wars. The elves who worship the Mother Goddess first occupied this land and planted the Tree of Life here.

The orcs, who worshiped the savage gods, were incited by their deities to attack this place, intending to claim it as their own.

And at that time, even humans, who were allies of the elves, participated in this battle.

In the end, the elves paid a great price to hold this place, but they couldn't sustain the land. Therefore, under the guidance of the Mother Goddess of the elves, they destroyed the Tree of Life before leaving."

At this point, the Deceiver chuckled ominously. "They didn't expect this Tree of Life to be so tenacious, absorbing the essence of many deceased believers, allowing it to survive until now..."

Duoru suddenly realized. "So, even the elves don't know that a Tree of Life still exists here?"

"Of course, if they knew, they would spare no effort to obtain it..."

Upon hearing this, Duoru's expression changed, and a fiery determination ignited within him.

Although this Tree of Life couldn't grant them immediate strength, they could use it as a bargaining chip to get the elves involved in the war and threaten them to destroy the three nations of Lienhardt, Thorey, and Pelan.

And the elves would definitely agree to such a deal for the sake of one of the only two remaining Trees of Life.

This was a matter of purifying their bloodlines!

Yes, this Tree of Life was the so-called "divine relic," the "divine relic" that could help them turn the tide!

Duoru couldn't wait to seize it now and immediately negotiate with the elves.

Suppressing his excitement, he eagerly said, "The first Marine Corps of the Third Fleet, land on the ice surface and dig up that Tree of Life. It's the key to reversing the situation!"

"Wait." The Deceiver stood in front of Duoru, a hint of anger in his cloudy eyes. "This belongs to us, not to you."

Seeing that they were about to obtain such a divine object, Duoru had no intention of stopping, and he had long grown tired of the "faceless" person who always wore a mask.

"Take him to the detention room."

"Hmph, do you think you can handle me?"

Just as the two sides were about to come to blows, a chilling scream echoed from deep within the ice, a sound that even the heavy bulkhead couldn't block the eerie chill it contained.

Then, like the first howl of a wolf in a pack of wolves, more screams followed one after another, getting closer and closer.

"Report, there are a large number of unidentified black creatures rapidly approaching from the north side...."

Chapter 528 - 528: Tree of Life, Deviant Ghost (3)

Duoru's face changed as he snatched the binoculars and looked to the north. A large group of black creatures were swiftly running across the snowy ice field, heading straight for the fleet.

These creatures had limbs as well as tough skin covering their bones. They had sharp teeth in their mouths, three rows of menacing bone spikes on their backs, and metallic-like hooks growing at their joints.

Their humanoid body structure made them chilling to behold.

"Those are deviant ghosts, likely survivors from the war who failed to leave in time and evolved into these grotesque beings

It's probably your previous bombardment that woke them up from their nests.

You'd better deal with them from a safe distance, or your soldiers won't be enough for them."

Duoru gave the Deceiver a deep and penetrating look, then issued his order without the slightest hesitation.

Without hesitation, Duoru issued the order, "All cannons, shift your aim to the enemy deviant ghosts, unleash saturated firepower."

"Don't hold back the firepower; eliminate these damned creatures from a safe distance."

Listening to the commotion outside once again, Ji Chen crawled out of the hole and observed the situation outside. He saw thousands of black creatures aggressively attacking the Bass Kingdom fleet, and he couldn't help but smile.

Well, it seemed like there were treasure chest-like creatures here, after all?

Watching the Bass Kingdom fleet trying hard to stop the monsters from getting closer with their cannons, Ji Chen felt that if he didn't take advantage of this opportunity now, it would be unfair to them for all their hard work and intensity in battle.

"Herald, take a hundred Naga Guardians with you, and follow me to explore that grassy area. The rest of you stay here and provide support at any time."

The heroes nodded in agreement, and Ji Chen wasted no time.

With a wave of his hand, he led the Naga Guardians and Herald to land once again, relying on the cover of the towering icebergs as they headed towards the grassy area. The Bass Kingdom fleet was completely absorbed in dealing with the incoming monsters, oblivious to anyone passing right under their noses.

One kilometer was not far, and over a dozen minutes later, they arrived at the edge of the grassy area. Following his signal, several Naga Guardians advanced first and did not encounter any attacks. Even when they reached the tree canopy, they remained unharmed.

Seeing this, Ji Chen walked in with confidence, treading on the soft grass until he reached the shade of a large tree. He then looked at the faint golden liquid.

Under the sunlight penetrating the branches and leaves, this liquid displayed a remarkable brilliance, reflecting a color more dazzling than gold itself, resembling liquid amber.

A sweet fragrance wafted around, making one feel that even a sip could prolong one's life.

As Ji Chen looked at the liquid that could fill only a wine jug, his throat gulped, and he had a faint feeling.

If he were to drink this liquid, perhaps his strength would experience a growth that rivaled the blessings from the gods.

As the sounds of artillery from the other side gradually subsided, Ji Chen no longer hesitated. He took out a crystal bottle with the intention of collecting the liquid.

"Little one, if you use a regular bottle, the Water of Life will lose its effectiveness quickly."

Suddenly, a voice sounded in his ears, causing Ji Chen, who was caught off guard, to take a few steps back and instinctively place his hand on the Void Ring, ready to teleport at any moment.

However, when he saw the familiar figure in front of him, he couldn't help but be stunned.

"Lady Elin!?"

Chapter 529 - 529: Ocean Power, You Thieves!

The owner of the sudden voice was none other than the long-unseen epic-level powerhouse, Elin Apocalis.

At this moment, the enchanting elf, whose voice alone was highly seductive, sat atop the treetops. She swayed her shapely, fair thighs concealed beneath her robe and wore an enigmatic smile on her face.

With her vibrant appearance and the strange aura of magic emanating from her, it seemed that her strength had fully recovered.

"Lady Elin, it's been a while."

Elin smiled coyly, appearing quite pleased. She lightly pushed off the tree and gracefully descended, her body moving as gracefully as a leaf in the wind. Her skirt billowed, revealing her snow-white legs.

She casually smoothed out the wrinkles in her robe, exuding the grace of an elf as she approached with a smile.

"It's been a while, little human who aided me in escaping captivity. I didn't expect to encounter you here."

Ji Chen smiled and replied, "Perhaps it's fate."

Elin also smiled, understanding that in such a vast world, meeting again without deliberate effort could indeed be called fate.

"Perhaps," she said. "But how did you end up here? This place is quite far from your territory."

Ji Chen briefly explained the war between the Lienhardt Grand Duchy and the Bass Kingdom, as well as the unusual behavior of the sea beasts.

Elin nodded in understanding. “I see. Despite covering most of the Western Mid-Ocean, the sea beast tide has gathered here. It’s normal that you sensed something amiss.”

Ji Chen nodded and asked curiously, “Lady Elin, did you see that big creature outside? It should be the mastermind behind this sea beast tide. Since it’s driving the sea beasts to gather outside, does it want to obtain this liquid?”

After all, I can sense that this liquid contains a vast life force, which might make it even more powerful.”

Elin shook her head, smiling mysteriously, and her gaze suddenly became profound. “That little thing doesn’t know about the Life Water here. What it wants is something that can control the ocean.”

“Control the ocean?”

Elin gazed into the depths of the icy wasteland and slowly said, “That is an artifact left behind by a powerful deity, containing a certain degree of oceanic power. It can harness the vast power of the sea and possesses a terrifying ability.”

Ji Chen’s expression also changed slightly.

Deities, the most powerful and revered beings in this world.

Anything related to deities seemed to be enough to make people eager to obtain it.

And this item, astonishingly, contains the power of the ocean, allowing it to harness a trace of authority to wield the might of the sea?

Doesn’t that bear some resemblance to his Lord-given talent—Ocean Favor, and his mastery over water and oceanic forces?

Elin seemed to have realized this as well and looked at Ji Chen with a thoughtful expression, as if she had suddenly understood something.

“So, it seems that everything has already set its course...”

Ji Chen didn’t understand and asked, “What are you talking about, Lady Elin?”

Elin shook her head, retracting her profound gaze, and smiled.

“This tree is called the Tree of Life, a treasure of our elf clan with extraordinary properties. And this liquid is the Water of Life, possessing incredibly magical effects.”

Ji Chen nodded in realization. The tree was an elf treasure, which explained why Elin was here. However, it was astonishing that even in this desolate icy wasteland, the tree could still flourish, and its name was quite fitting.

“What are the effects of this Life Water?”

Elin extended a few fingers and replied, “The effects of Life Water are numerous. It can heal injuries, enhance strength, serve as a precious alchemical material, improve the breeding capabilities of elves, and even enhance one’s bloodline.

Even a small amount of Life Water, diluted several times, can heal the wounds of a dying person. But the quantity here is equivalent to that of a wine jug. It seems that it has accumulated this much because this place has been isolated from the world for a long time and lacks nutrients.”

Ji Chen’s eyes lit up.

Such potent effects?

If he could carry some with him, wouldn’t it be a life-saving treasure?

He quickly asked, “What kind of instrument is needed to store this Life Water?”

Elin pursed her lips and said, “It’s simple. You just need an instrument made from Elfwood, grown by elven druids.”

Ji Chen furrowed his brow. Where could he find Elfwood?

Unhesitatingly, he turned to Elin and asked, “Since you’ve come here, you should have it, right?”

Elin gave Ji Chen an exasperated look. “You’re not very polite, are you? The Tree of Life belongs to us elves. Shouldn’t you ask me if I’m willing to give it to you first?”

Ji Chen shrugged.

“When you left the Crown of the Ocean, you said you were returning to the Elven Empire to support the Crown of the Ocean. But now, you’re nowhere to be seen. Instead, I had to personally go to the Maple Principality and establish trade relations with the elves there.

If I’m not mistaken, you haven’t even returned to the Elven Empire, have you? Seems like you’ve been playing around outside.”

Elin was caught off guard by Ji Chen’s directness and looked somewhat embarrassed. She stammered, “No, it’s not like that. I just stopped by for a bit...”

Ji Chen seized the opportunity to continue, clutching his chest and wearing a pained expression.

“Sir Thotmudo completed his tasks and actively came to find me. He fulfilled the contract honestly and even stayed in the Crown of the Ocean to help build workshops and impart knowledge. But you? After leaving, you disappeared without a trace, leaving me feeling quite disheartened..”

Chapter 530: Ocean Power, You Thieves! (2)

“This is not what I know, and it’s not what noble and promise-keeping elves should do!”

Elin felt even more embarrassed by these words, but after all, she was an elf who lived for thousands of years. She had thick skin, and her expression remained unchanged. She simply turned her hand and magically produced a wooden bottle emitting a faint woody fragrance, handing it over with a light cough.

“These Water of Life can be considered a gift for our meeting, but I must take the Tree of Life with me; I cannot give it to you.”

“Of course, I can’t take such a big tree with me either.”

As Ji Chen spoke, he accepted the wooden bottle, a smile on his face. He raised his hand slightly, and a thread of magic emerged, transferring all the pale golden Water of Life into the bottle, not leaving a single drop.

Looking at the wooden bottle in his hand, a hint of satisfaction flashed across his face.

Even though it was contained in the bottle, the life force that could make people excited with just a whiff could still be felt from it.

Well, now this journey had finally yielded a substantial harvest.

Ji Chen put the wooden bottle into his backpack, calming his emotions.

He walked to Elin’s side.

“Is taking away this Tree of Life your purpose for this journey?”

Elin nodded and looked at the large tree that was still lush despite the biting cold wind, sighing slightly.

“The elves once had hundreds of Trees of Life, and we were incredibly prosperous at that time. But now, only a few of them remain, our bloodline is becoming thinner, and our strength is declining.

I have doubts about whether the elves can continue to exist when facing the inevitable darkness and terror of the future...”

He was puzzled; the elves were one of the most prosperous races in this world.

The Elf Empire and the Silvermoon Dynasty were among the most powerful nations, with numerous strong individuals and millions of soldiers. What enemy could threaten them?

Ji Chen shook his head, and then as if remembering something, he said in a deep voice, “Lady Elin, two fleets from the Bass Kingdom have also entered this icy wilderness. They may be here for the Tree of Life and the Water of Life you mentioned.

Furthermore, they may want to obtain the divine relic that is located deeper in the ice wilderness. Those black creatures probably won’t hold out for long.”

Having Elin, an epic-tier powerhouse, take action would undoubtedly settle things here and save him from expending more effort and energy.

Besides, if Elin helped on the journey ahead, that divine relic imbued with the power of the ocean might also become his.

Ji Chen encouraged Elin without changing his expression, "These small fries dare to covet the possessions of your elves. It's truly despicable. They need to be taught a lesson."

However, Elin, being a crafty individual who had lived for thousands of years, furrowed her eyebrows slightly, but soon she thought of something. She raised the corner of her mouth with a sly look and said without a smile.

"They will still be your problem to deal with. I'll leave immediately after taking the Tree of Life. If you want that divine relic, go and get it with your own power."

With that, Elin used her magic to perform a certain elven secret technique. A majestic golden magic enveloped the tens of meters tall Tree of Life, pulling it out of the ground and suspending it in mid-air.

Elin's expression was solemn as she formed hand seals. The Tree of Life rapidly shrank until it became the size of a human head.

The Tree of Life, which had been reduced countless times in size, floated in her hand like a miniature model.

Then, in the midst of the astonished gazes of the onlookers, Elin casually opened a one-person-high, eye-shaped void tunnel. She walked into it without haste, and with a swish, she disappeared, leaving behind a disarrayed group of people in the cold wind.

Ji Chen was speechless.

He didn't know when the artillery fire had stopped, and on the ship, they watched as the oncoming deviant ghosts were all blasted to pieces. Only the wreckage remained. Duoru breathed a sigh of relief and shifted his attention back to this side.

However, when he looked over here, he couldn't help but freeze.

The lush tree that stood on the grassy field had disappeared, leaving only a huge pit in the ground.

Where had his massive Tree of Life gone to?

How did it vanish in the blink of an eye!?

Duoru saw Ji Chen and his eyes turned red instantly.

It must have been this person who dug up his Tree of Life and took away what belonged to him!

This thief was the one who had previously entangled the propellers with water plants, trying to get here ahead of them and claim the Tree of Life and Water of Life for himself!

You damn thief!

Duoru trembled with anger, his voice becoming hoarse.

"All cannons, target the enemy! Blast him to death!"

At the same time, Ji Chen also noticed that the Bass Kingdom fleet took notice of them. The corner of his mouth twitched.

Damn it, it seems like I'm the scapegoat.

Seeing that the warships and their cannons were turning towards them, Ji Chen knew that they couldn't withstand artillery bombardment head-on. Without hesitation, he led Herard and a hundred Naga Guardians to start retreating.

“Quickly retreat below the ice layer!”

They had barely moved away from their initial location when a relentless barrage of cannon fire wreaked havoc on the grassy field. Shells poured down like bullets, making sharp whistling sounds as they plummeted from above. The resulting explosions and shattered ice fragments resembled a powerful, advancing force, mowing down everything in its path. It shattered the icy surface and towering icebergs into countless pieces.

Under the relentless bombardment of artillery fire, the thick ice layer cracked and shattered, revealing the seawater beneath.

Ji Chen remained calm, and with a thought, he drew out pieces of seawater, quickly condensing them into a massive water curtain tens of meters high and tens of meters wide in front of him. It was like a city wall, blocking the incoming barrage of shells.

The rain of artillery fire exploded on the water curtain, splashing water everywhere but showing no signs of breaking through.

Several tens of seconds later, the water curtain collapsed with a thunderous roar, but there was no trace of Ji Chen and his group behind it. There was only a gaping hole in the ice layer, seemingly mocking their incompetence.

Duoru slammed his fist heavily on the table, his face contorted, and his molars almost crushed.

Damn it, they let those thieves get away!!

Right under their noses!!

Beside him, the Deceiver looked at the gaping hole, his tone as dark as water.

“...They must also be heading for the divine relic. As long as we find the divine relic first, we can lie in wait and retrieve the Tree of Life and Water of Life and capture them.

At that time, I will torture their bodies and souls with the most brutal torture, making them wish they were dead.”

Duoru took a few deep breaths, trying to calm himself down forcibly.

His eyes were still bloodshot, and his words were filled with suppressed rage like a volcanic eruption.

“Advance towards the depths of the glacier, continue searching for the divine relic.

If you encounter suspicious enemies, use saturation fire cover without hesitation, do not spare any shells.

I will make those thieves perish and be buried here!”

Three kilometers away from the grassy field, behind an ice mountain.

Ji Chen watched as the Bass Kingdom fleet sailed slowly between the floating ice and glaciers, a faint smile curling up at the corner of his mouth, feeling quite pleased.

The commanders of these two fleets must be furious, right? Disappearing right under their noses is like a slap in the face.

“My lord, should we continue entangling their propellers with water plants?” Benbo asked with a sly look.

Ji Chen shook his head. “This tactic can only work once. We used it before, and they must be on high alert now. Using it again would only result in pointless losses.

Now what we need to do is to find the divine relic first. Even if we sink these two Bass Kingdom fleets here, it won’t matter if we don’t deal with the extremely powerful sea beast and millions of ordinary sea beasts outside. We can’t leave until we deal with them.”

After a moment of contemplation, he continued, “The Dragonblood Legion will spread out in a fan-shaped formation under the ice layer to search. The other legions will conduct surface searches on the glacier. If you find any clues, report back immediately.”

“Yes!”