

Ocean Lord 621

Chapter 621: Spectacular Underwater City, Glorious Sea Clan Civilization

They followed this small fish all the way to a seemingly ordinary underwater canyon hundreds of miles away.

The underwater canyon, deep in the waters of several kilometers, was completely devoid of any light. However, the small fish didn't hesitate and swam right in.

Seeing this, Ji Chen also didn't hesitate and said, "Let's follow them in."

The Sea Crystal Wurm slowly flapped its crystal wings and followed the small fish, heading deeper into the canyon at an unhurried pace.

Once inside the canyon, though it was imperceptible, Ji Chen keenly sensed a dark current slowly flowing from the outside of the canyon towards its depths.

Soon, they reached the end of the canyon, where a pitch-black abyss-like hole suddenly appeared on the rock wall, slanting downward, leading deeper into the sea.

The small fish stopped in front of the large hole and turned around, its eyes fixedly waiting for Ji Chen. Ji Chen understood this and gave a reward – a tiny amount of energy, about the size of half a pinky fingertip.

This energy was given in the form of deducting some experience points, a power Ji Chen gained after obtaining the power of the ocean bestowing.

This energy amounted to approximately 10,000 experience points.

Upon seeing this small cluster of energy, the small fish appeared very happy and didn't hesitate to bite onto it, swallowing about a third of it in one gulp. Then, it continued to swallow, one after another, until it completely absorbed it into its belly.

After consuming this energy, the small fish's belly expanded as if it were eight months pregnant. Its small fins vigorously moved its body, and bubbles came out of its mouth.

Ji Chen couldn't help but smile as he sensed that the small fish was slowly realizing the changes. Upon closer inspection, he could see a glimmer of brightness in its eyes, and its body seemed to be evolving gradually.

Given enough time, if this small fish could fully digest these energies before being preyed upon, it might have a chance to transform into a sea creature with a hint of intelligence.

Leaving the small fish struggling in place with its tail, Ji Chen guided the Sea Crystal Wurm into the large hole and proceeded in the direction of the flowing water.

After advancing several kilometers diagonally downwards, the water current gradually calmed down, and the surroundings became brighter. An immense underwater cavern stretched out before them.

Fluorescent algae grew in the gaps of the rocky formations, forming an “underwater forest” standing tall at the bottom. Glowing coral grew on the seafloor, and small shrimps and fish darted in and out of the coral. Sea serpents and trilobites slowly moved through the mud.

Numerous bizarre and heavily armored fish, some with long mouths and scales, swam around. There were even creatures resembling marine dinosaurs.

Looking at the entire scene, it felt as if they had traveled back to some ancient era, like the Cambrian or Cretaceous period, brimming with a primitive atmosphere.

The primordial marine landscape of the Age of God’s War had, in some miraculous way, been reproduced in the present, thousands of years later, as a dungeon scenario.

As Ji Chen and his companions appeared here, the creatures panicked and scattered, disappearing from their sight within a dozen breaths – the law of the ocean, where the one with the largest size was the boss.

The Sea Crystal Wurm, which was comparable in size to a small truck, was definitely a top-tier presence. Its crystal body emitted a faint azure light in the deep waters, giving the impression that it was not to be trifled with.

However, it seemed that this place was not without larger creatures. After advancing several hundred meters, more than a dozen massive fish with fearsome fangs, heavy scales, and lengths of up to eight or nine meters, swam towards them. Their size even exceeded that of the Sea Crystal Wurm by a bit.

Heavy Armor Toothfish, Tier 6, 2 stars, Mount.

They also noticed that on the backs of these Heavy Armor Toothfish, there seemed to be burly figures wielding metal spears.

Heavy Armor Toothfish Knights, Tier 5, 8 stars, Sea Tribe.

“This is the sacred territory of the Sea Tribe, outsiders are not allowed to enter! Proceed one more meter, and there will be no mercy!

Immediately return the way you came, and you may be spared...”

Before they could clearly see what was in front of them, surprised voices suddenly reached their ears.

The burly Heavy Armor Toothfish Knights, with astonishment in their eyes, looked at Alice, who was beside Ji Chen, and their eyes displayed surprise.

This Sea Tribe member looked somewhat strange, like...

Ji Chen, regardless of the knight’s astonishment, spoke in a calm tone.

“We have no ill intentions; we simply wish to meet with your ruler and discuss a matter that concerns the life and death of the Sea Tribe.”

The Heavy Armor Toothfish Knight shifted his gaze from Alice to Ji Chen and once again his eyes changed. If his previous expression while looking at Alice was one of surprise, now, when he looked at Ji Chen, it was one of shock.

Human!?

This was the deep sea, thousands of meters below the surface! How could a human possibly come to this place?

The Heavy Armor Toothfish Knight seemed to see something that challenged their understanding of reality, stared at Ji Chen with an incredulous look, and even rubbed his eyes, thinking it was an illusion.

Seeing their reaction, Ji Chen showed no surprise and explained.

“I am indeed a human, but I have the protection and guidance of the ocean, granting me the ability to move freely underwater.”

Upon hearing this, the Heavy Armor Toothfish Knight slightly calmed down his astonished gaze, subdued the tumultuous emotions within him, and solemnly said to his companions, “Keep an eye on this human. I will return and report this matter; it must be decided by the king..”

Chapter 622: Spectacular Underwater City, Glorious Sea Clan Civilization (2)

Ji Chen watched as the leading knight commanded the Heavy Armor Toothfish to leave. He remained calm and ordered the Sea Crystal Wurm to wait in place.

Soon, the knight returned and approached, casting a complex gaze towards Alice. Then, in a polite tone, he said, “Please follow us. Our queen wishes to meet you, but apart from her, your subordinates must remain here.”

Ji Chen nodded in agreement. It was better to be able to meet the ruler of this sea domain directly, avoiding the complications that arose from conflicts with the elves earlier.

Following these knights, they advanced deeper into the cave, encountering patrols of sea creatures along the way, all under the guidance of these knights who led them through multiple checkpoints.

What surprised him was the strength of these sea tribe warriors they encountered along the way, which exceeded his expectations.

These knights riding Heavy Armor Toothfish were not the most formidable units. Some sea tribe warriors, riding even larger mounts, emitted a more powerful aura than the Sea Crystal Wurm. Moreover, their numbers were not just a hundred or two; there were thousands of them.

On their journey, Ji Chen saw no less than three thousand sixth-tier units, and the fifth-tier units numbered over ten thousand. It was evident that the sea tribe possessed deep and extensive strength.

The Heavy Armor Toothfish knight silently observed the human following behind and, though he showed a hint of surprise in his eyes, he didn't display any fear. He nodded in acknowledgment.

However, when he saw the young Siren, who followed behind him like a servant, a trace of strangeness crossed his expression.

A Siren bowing to a human?

If someone had told him this before, he would have considered it a massive joke. But today, he witnessed it with his own eyes.

Not only the young Siren, but even these sixth-tier sea tribe units were bowing before a human. Had something earth-shattering happened outside? Had his thoughts and impressions fallen far behind?

They continued in silence until it seemed they had passed through the outer regions and reached the true heart of the sea. Upon seeing the scene before him, Ji Chen's face finally showed a hint of astonishment.

Before his eyes stood a massive underwater city built within a colossal underwater cave, standing proudly on a wide seabed basin.

A hundred-meter-high wall surrounded the city, and countless blue buildings stood within it. Towers reaching hundreds to thousands of meters high, magnificent epic temples, neon-lit spires, massive blue stone arches, and colossal stone statues flanking the entrance.

This underwater city even had roads—a floating energy road constructed from some blue material. Creatures could move swiftly on it, and these energy roads were spread throughout, with transportation vehicles powered by sea horses and giant turtles, among others, moving along them.

If one ignored the fact that they were deep underwater, at first glance, it seemed like they had entered some kind of cyberpunk city.

The most conspicuous among them was a towering temple located in the city's center. It was primarily made of blue stone-like material, with coral and shell materials as auxiliary constructions, and it reached heights of over a thousand meters.

Its grandeur, magnificence, and intricacy rivaled any wonder Ji Chen had ever seen. It was undoubtedly the most spectacular structure he had ever witnessed.

Ji Chen observed with a fleeting glance. Based on everything he had seen along the way, at least in this era, the sea tribe possessed a civilization that was no less magnificent than that of elves and humans. In the unfathomable depths of the sea, they had built a splendid and thriving society.

This can be seen from the spectacular underwater buildings along the way.

In appearance, it resembles a mature feudal kingdom, with a very stable social structure and social order, all smoothly operating on this foundation.

However, the more it is like this, the more it makes him wonder what caused the sea tribe to become completely fragmented hundreds of thousands of years later, within the chaotic and bloody sea society, devoid of order.

They turned against each other, with no order, filled with chaos and bloodshed.

The knights led Ji Chen and Alice all the way to the majestic temple at the city center. Security here was extremely tight, and not even the guiding knight could enter.

A sea tribe general, clad in cold iron armor and of the merfolk race, emerged from the entrance and approached them. With sharp, narrow eyes, he scrutinized the two. When he saw Ji Chen and Alice, a hint of surprise flickered in his gaze.

But there wasn't much of a reaction, just a command, "Follow me."

He then walked towards the interior of the temple, and Ji Chen, with Alice in tow, followed the sea tribe general. They passed through a straight passage and arrived at a massive space resembling an oval-shaped arena.

Around the “arena,” on the steps, sat numerous sea tribe members. Judging from the decorations signifying their status and identity, they appeared to belong to the nobility and officials.

Ji Chen briefly scanned the area and quickly fixed his gaze on a platform positioned at a middle height, directly across from the passage.

On the platform, a merfolk with a dazzling crown and adorned in luxurious attire sat on a throne crafted from white jade. Her hands rested on the armrests as she looked down.

Upon seeing Ji Chen move through the water freely like a sea tribe member, a hint of curiosity flashed in her golden eyes.

As they entered the arena, the surroundings suddenly fell silent. Sea tribe nobles and officials looked at them with inquisitive gazes, their eyes filled with surprise. They whispered among themselves.

“I’ve never seen a human survive in the deep sea before. This is the first time.”

“That human looks rather handsome, but his body seems a bit frail. I doubt he can even lift a weapon. Probably doesn’t have much strength.”

“The sea tribe accompanying that human, as I watch her, I have a strangely peculiar feeling...”

Seeing these sea tribe members sizing him up with eyes resembling those observing monkeys in a zoo, Ji Chen felt displeased. His brows furrowed, and he released his magical power. Intense waves surged, causing the surrounding seawater to churn. The sea tribe members on the seats were thrown off balance, looking quite disheveled.

“Bold! To be so insolent in front of the queen!”

“Guards, subdue this ignorant human!”

Just as the surrounding sea tribe soldiers rushed forward to apprehend Ji Chen, the merfolk sea tribe sitting on the throne spoke.

“Step back.”

Her voice wasn’t loud, but it carried an imposing aura that made people feel the urge to submit.

Upon hearing this, the sea tribe soldiers who had charged forward didn’t hesitate for a moment and immediately retreated to their original positions, watching Ji Chen with vigilant eyes.

The queen rose to her feet, her gaze unwavering, and spoke slowly.

“Human, I am the Ruler of the Kingdom of Heraklion. Speak of your purpose for coming here.”

There was nothing unusual on Ji Chen’s face as he replied in a casual tone.

“The sea tribe will face extinction.”

This statement caused an uproar among the sea tribe nobles and officials who had been suppressing their anger because of the queen’s presence.

“What is this human talking about? Unbelievable! He should be banished to the Abyss of Flames to endure the punishment of flames!”

“Our sea tribe is incredibly prosperous; how could we face extinction? We will continue to thrive for tens of thousands of years!”

“I propose executing this human! The sea tribe accompanying him is probably a servant, so they should be executed as well!”

The sea tribe nobles and officials were incensed, and even the queen on the throne couldn’t help but furrow her brow slightly. Her tone became less courteous.

“Human, I know you possess some strength, enough to be proud outside the ocean, but within the sea, the sea tribe is the true ruler, unrivaled.”

Ji Chen shook his head as if unsurprised and said, “But it’s precisely because of your excessive self-confidence, disdain for the outside world, and complacency that you sow the seeds of your future demise.”

Seeing Ji Chen’s calm demeanor, as if he had nothing to fear, the queen felt a hint of curiosity but still spoke in a stern tone.

“I’ll allow you to continue speaking, otherwise, you’ll pay the price for your words..”

Chapter 623: Playing with a Communication Gap: What’s Gotten into Those Demons?

[Theresa (Hero)]

[Race]: Siren

[Tier]: Above Epic

[Level]: ????

[Abilities]: ????

[Ruler of the Heraklion Ocean Kingdom, a member of the Heraklion royal family]

Theresa was the most powerful hero unit Ji Chen had ever encountered. The four words “Above Epic” prove that she was more powerful than the elf hero Elin and the dwarf hero Thotmudo, on the same level as the Infernal Fire Demon that once destroyed the Black Iron Fortress of the dwarves.

Her level was most likely already above level 79, reaching level 80 or even higher.

However, under the gaze of such an unfathomably powerful figure, Ji Chen neither shows arrogance nor timidity. He met her gaze without being haughty or timid, showing neither submission nor fear.

His tone was calm and decisive, as if stating a fact.

“In the not-so-distant future, demons will extend their claws towards the sea clans and engulf this splendid marine civilization with extreme malevolence.”

Theresa furrowed her brows slightly and sat up straighter.

Her majestic presence, like a vast ocean, permeates every inch of seawater.

“No matter how evil and arrogant the demons may be, they can never reach this place. The ocean is our best barrier.”

“Human, your fearmongering words cannot shake my determination, nor can you persuade the sea clans to join that meaningless, ugly, and impure war.”

The queen, being a ruler, had long seen through the purpose of the human visit from their words and actions.

Ji Chen’s eyelids twitched slightly, but then his expression became calm.

“I do have such thoughts indeed, but these are not empty words. Lady Theresa, if I’m not mistaken, you must have already reached an agreement or treaty with the demons, probably something like non-aggression between the two sides?”

Theresa’s expression remained unchanged as she leaned back against her throne. “And if I have?”

Ji Chen suddenly smiled, “Since you are not afraid of the demons, why did you make such an agreement?”

Could it be... you also have concerns of your own?”

Theresa’s eyes flickered slightly, and her expression became somewhat more serious.

Ji Chen noticed Theresa’s subtle reaction and became certain.

He guessed it right! The sea clans indeed have some kind of agreement with the demons or even the forces of evil!

This was a conjecture he had made based on his knowledge of the history of divine wars and his strategic thinking.

In the colossal divine war that spanned hundreds of thousands of years, involving countless races and nations, resulting in widespread suffering and devastation, the sea clans, even in their isolation, couldn’t possibly be oblivious to it.

Elves, humans, and other orderly divine factions may be seen as acting in self-defense, but the sea clans, perhaps, wouldn’t harbor any hostility, even showing compassion. But how could they not have a shred of concern when it came to the evil faction that had actively triggered the Divine War?

Imagine two neighbors wielding weapons, fighting fiercely in your yard, with blood flowing and chaos reigning. How could anyone remain indifferent to such a situation?

No matter how strong one might be, they would still fear that their fence, flowers, and plants in the yard would be damaged.

According to common sense, one would probably hold defensive weapons and hide behind the window, secretly observing, or even proactively warning the neighbors not to let the conflict spill over into their territory.

At the very least, something along those lines.

Perhaps it wasn't apparent from Theresa herself, but the changes in the expressions of those sea clan nobles and officials easily revealed these sentiments.

Once this was confirmed.

The next steps would be straightforward.

It's all about creating an information gap that couldn't be bridged between the two sides.

He knew what happened to the sea clans during the divine war, how they were invaded by demons, and so on, but the sea clans in this instance, like replicas replaying a segment of time, were completely unaware of these facts.

In other words, he could exploit this "foreknowledge" information gap to influence Theresa and the sea clans' future decisions.

For example, in this replica, the Battle of Panas was nearing the middle of the divine war, the point in time when the demons and other evil forces were about to target the sea clans. He couldn't believe that the demons hadn't started nurturing new underwater units for the impending attack.

In a word, it's all about bluffing!

"Based on the information I've obtained, the demons have been secretly cultivating a large number of units adapted to underwater environments. Their purpose is to launch a surprise attack on the sea clans at some point in the future, annihilating the sea clan civilization once and for all."

Ji Chen spoke with a calm tone, saying, "If you don't believe it, Lady Theresa, you can send soldiers to secretly investigate."

If there's even a trace of falsehood from me, you're welcome to deal with me."

Theresa looked at Ji Chen, who was confident and calm, and couldn't help but feel a hint of doubt.

Could it be true?

Have the demons indeed harbored malicious intentions towards the sea clans?

Theresa signaled with her eyes to the merfolk general who had brought Ji Chen in and then turned her gaze to Alice, showing a hint of interest.

"You're a Siren?"

Alice remained unfazed and just looked at Ji Chen.

Ji Chen nodded slightly.

Only then did Alice look at Theresa, nodded, hesitated for a moment, and then transformed back into her Siren form.

As the faint blue tail fin and the aura that symbolized the Sirens spread through the vast space, the sea clan nobles and officials were astonished, looking at Alice with incredulous eyes.

It was actually a Siren!?

Sirens were a noble lineage among the sea clans, with an extremely high and esteemed bloodline. If one were to distinguish bloodline based on rank, Sirens would undoubtedly be at the level of dukes..

Chapter 624: Playing with a Communication Gap: What's Gotten into Those Demons?(2)

What was even more important was that Her Majesty Theresa's bloodline was also that of the Sirens!

Theresa had evidently discovered this when Alice arrived here and was quite curious why her own kin would serve humans.

"As a noble-blooded Siren, why do you submit to a mere human?"

Hearing this, the usually calm Alice showed a rare moment of anger, "Lord Ji Chen is not an ordinary person."

Theresa chuckled and shook her head. "If we talk about the ability to move in the water as a human, he might be considered exceptional, but it ends there.

As members of the Siren race, our bloodline has been incredibly noble since ancient times, and we should not serve any outsiders. If you wish, I allow you to return to the tribe and join the Kingdom of Heraklion. This is your home." Without hesitation, Alice shook her head. "My home is in the Crown of the Ocean, not here."

"Lady Theresa, is it not impolite to speak on behalf of Alice without asking for my opinion?" Ji Chen said with an unkind tone. "Is this how the Kingdom of Heraklion, or even the sea clans, behaves, domineering and arrogant?"

To be honest, Ji Chen was getting angry.

This behavior of blatantly poaching in front of him, undermining him, was simply disrespectful.

He hadn't been so angered in a long time!

Theresa gradually restrained her smile, her eyes showing a hint of indifference and mild anger.

It had been a long time since any living being dared to speak to her like this, not even the demons dared, let alone a mere human.

She was naturally familiar with the human race, weak, cowardly, opportunistic, and fond of killing each other. The achievements they had created in this era paled in comparison even to the savage and impulsive orcs.

Not to mention compared to the great sea clans.

She admitted that this human might indeed possess some power, but it was limited to this extent. In the vast expanse of the ocean, her sea people were the absolute rulers!

Theresa slowly rose from her throne, looking down on Ji Chen like a god overlooking a mortal, with a hint of disdain in her gaze.

Suddenly, the sea surged like boiling water, and the momentum, as if a thousand tons of water pressure, pressed down on Ji Chen.

She wanted to give this human, who didn't know his place, a little lesson.

Perhaps in doing so, the young kin who had been deceived by this smooth-talking human could wake up and return to the embrace of the tribe.

The sea clan nobles and officials at the table all showed excitement at this sight. They had long since found this human displeasing, but they had temporarily tolerated him because of Her Majesty Theresa's reluctance to take action.

As for when the displeasure started... it was probably from the moment this human entered here, not looking up at them with respectful eyes, not bowing and kneeling in the manner they desired.

This world is a place where the weak are preyed upon by the strong, and the strong can freely oppress the weak. The weak must grovel at the feet of the strong!

And their sea clan, of course, are the strong. Humans, naturally, are the weak!

Ji Chen looked at the sea clan nobles and officials who were enjoying his predicament, shaking his head.

The final question in his mind had finally been answered.

He finally understood why the sea clans, even though they had been wary of the demons tens of thousands of years ago, were still ultimately plundered.

Decaying and outdated thoughts had completely taken over their minds. They hid in the layers of the sea, thinking they could overlook the struggles of other races like gods, just like watching actors on a stage.

Their stagnant thinking prevented them from reacting to potential crises in a timely manner. They remained stuck in their past glory and achievements, closed-minded and complacent. Even when they saw danger, they still disregarded it.

Just like the elves tens of thousands of years later.

However, whether it was tens of thousands of years ago or tens of thousands of years later, one rule remained unchanged.

Only the strong had a say.

Before Theresa's overwhelming force, an extreme azure light erupted like an atomic explosion. That sense of holiness and nobility far surpassed what any bloodline could offer.

It transcended the realm of bloodlines, existing in a higher dimension.

Compared to each other, one was earth, the other was the sky. One was mortal, the other divine.

Theresa's face underwent a drastic change. This ruler who had ruled the glorious Kingdom of the Ocean for centuries, the strongest being in the epic realm, showed a shocked expression for the first time.

Her imposing aura involuntarily dissipated, her expression filled with astonishment and suspicion.

"The power of the ocean?"

You actually control the power of the ocean!?"

Ji Chen didn't speak, just calmly looked at her, but the fluctuations grew stronger, beginning to gain the upper hand.

Theresa seemed to have seen something she couldn't believe, her eyes filled with resentment and unwillingness.

Why?

Why could the power of the ocean be controlled by a human instead of their sea clan?

Clearly, their sea clan was the representative, executor, and guardian of the will of the ocean!

This was also something she had longed for. As long as she could control the power of the ocean, her realm of rule would cover a broader expanse of sea, and she would possess even greater power, perhaps even the opportunity to touch the unreachable supreme power.

Faced with this temptation, a hint of greed flashed in Theresa's eyes, but she quickly regained her composure.

The power of the ocean was a gift from the gods, a favor from the will of the ocean, not something to be barbarically seized or claimed as one's own.

Theresa's expression became extremely complex, and after a long while, she sighed heavily and sat back down, sounding somewhat resigned.

"Human, I acknowledge your strength, and I apologize for my earlier words. However, I cannot accept what you said earlier unless there is concrete evidence to prove it."

The balance between offense and defense had shifted.

Ji Chen slowly retracted his power but still had an unpleasant expression on his face. He spoke in a cold tone, "Believe it or not, it's up to you. The survival of the sea clan depends on your decision."

Theresa's current mood was quite complicated, and she hesitated somewhat.

She was not completely without vigilance towards demons, and she knew that demons and evil factions were causing wars outside the ocean. However, she needed to consider the prevailing sentiments within the kingdom.

At present, most of the sea folk in the Heraklion Kingdom adopted a hands-off approach, refraining from getting involved and merely observing the conflicts from a distance. She also had to consider this perspective to a certain extent.

Moreover, it was mostly about interests. By using their natural resource and geographical advantages, the sea clan exported various resources and weapons to both the orderly divine faction and the evil faction, raking in massive profits.

Wouldn't reckless involvement in the war result in a significant loss of profits?

Those sea clan nobles and officials certainly wouldn't want that.

Furthermore, she was not entirely convinced by Ji Chen's words. However, this human strangely controlled the power of the ocean.

The power of the ocean was bestowed by the will of the ocean. Maybe this human had received a warning from the will of the ocean about the demons' conspiracy.

In an instant, countless thoughts raced through Theresa's mind.

At this moment, a sea clan officer suddenly swam in from outside, wearing a somewhat panicked expression.

"Your Majesty! Demons have suddenly slaughtered our resource transportation team, looting all our supplies! They also destroyed our transit station on the sea surface!

Not a single soldier there survived!"

This announcement not only caused a commotion among the sea clan nobles and officials but even left Theresa stunned. She subconsciously looked at Ji Chen in the center of the room.

How could this be so coincidental? You just came to persuade, and the demons started attacking?

Ji Chen was also taken aback. What had gotten into those demons? Could it be that they were really planning to attack the sea clan?

But this didn't make sense. They were currently engaged in fierce battles with elves and humans. How could they possibly divert their forces to provoke the sea clan?!

For some reason, Ji Chen suddenly remembered a tactical maneuver used by a certain country on Earth during a major war.

Although he didn't understand what was happening, he took the opportunity to stoke the flames.

Ji Chen maintained his composure and spoke with a tone of regret.

"Those demons have finally taken action. The evil faction will never be satisfied with the status quo. Their goal is to destroy everything and spread the flames of war to every corner of the world, leaving no race or being untouched."

He sighed, then continued, "It's a pity for those brave sea clan soldiers..."

Theresa's expression darkened, and then her eyes narrowed. There was anger in her voice as she addressed the sea clan nobles and officials who had been doing nothing.

"Everyone, go into high alert and prepare for battle. Seal off a hundred miles of the kingdom's waters.

Send a troop over there.. I want an immediate explanation from the demons!"

Chapter 625: 60% Instance Dungeon Completion Rate

When the War Begins in the Future

The coast of Panas.

As night fell once again, the orc army receded with the tide, leaving behind a field of corpses.

The alliance of elves and humans had once again repelled the orc's attack, but Theodore, standing on the high ground, wore a concerned expression.

This was the third day of the orc's offensive, and the intensity and brutality of the battle far exceeded his expectations. The orc's relentless onslaught surprised him the most.

These savage beings, whom he had always seen as bloodthirsty, did not lose morale as he had anticipated. Instead, their desire to attack only grew stronger, showing no signs of slowing down or fearing casualties.

In terms of sheer willpower and battle fervor, the orcs were even more formidable than the elves.

What was even more remarkable was that the orc's assault was not haphazard or disorganized. It displayed a remarkable degree of organization and order. Whether it was the selection and deployment of their troops or adjustments made based on the battlefield situation, it was evident that there was an outstanding commander behind their actions.

Theodore couldn't help but feel that he had encountered a formidable opponent.

In reality, despite their defensive advantage, the alliance of elves and humans had suffered heavy losses under the orc's relentless assault.

In just three days, they had lost over 20% of their forces, and the field hospitals in the rear were already overflowing with wounded soldiers. Priests tasked with guiding the souls of the fallen worked tirelessly, their mouths nearly aflame from reciting the rites.

Theodore believed that the orcs had suffered far more casualties than they had, but the alliance's forces were significantly smaller than the orc's, and there was no possibility of receiving reinforcements from the rear in the short term. They had to rely on the dwindling army of less than four hundred thousand to persist.

Among them, only about a hundred thousand elves had high combat effectiveness, while the rest were subpar human troops.

The orcs alone numbered at least three hundred thousand, not to mention the tens of thousands of demon troops.

Over the past few days, Theodore had also noticed that the orc commander was consciously consuming the alliance's forces by continuously sending out mixed groups of orcs and demons for surprise attacks, causing them considerable trouble.

Theodore thought back to the Islander.

Two days ago, the Islander had suddenly left his troops behind and headed into the open sea. Those humans who had accompanied them had only received a reply from the Islander, stating that he was going into the sea to seek help from the sea clan.

However, seeking aid from the sea clan was no easy task.

The sea clan, protected by the natural barrier of the ocean, remained unaffected by external threats. No race could threaten them. Therefore, from the very beginning of this war, the sea clan had remained aloof, neither joining the orderly side nor assisting the evil faction. They simply watched from the sidelines.

Theodore remembered the sea clan's envoy who had come to the land decades ago. They had an air of arrogance and looked down on all races, displaying an unwarranted sense of superiority.

Even more arrogant than the elves!

If it hadn't really touched their interests, how could the sea clan have joined this war?

Theodore sighed. At this point, his only hope was that the Islander could truly bring help from the sea clan. Otherwise, judging by the current trend, the alliance would have a hard time holding out against the orc's onslaught for another week.

A group of sea clan soldiers raced across the sea and arrived at a small island that was only tens of meters long and wide. When they saw the grim situation on the island, their faces were filled with anger.

This was the third sea clan supply depot that had been ravaged by demons.

At this moment, the island was littered with the corpses of over a thousand sea clan members. Blood had tainted the soil, and the supplies that had once been stockpiled here were nowhere to be found.

As soon as these sea clan soldiers arrived, they understood that the culprits behind all of this were the demons. The pervasive and malevolent aura that constantly emanated from the demons had not dissipated even now.

It was disgusting.

"Damn those demons, they really dare!" one of the sea clan soldiers gritted their teeth.

The other sea clan soldiers were also filled with anger. What was even more humiliating to them was that the demons made no attempt to conceal their actions. It was as if they wanted to tell them, "This is what we did, what can you do about it?"

This blatant act of provocation made the usually proud sea clan feel a deep sense of shame!

"We must report this situation to Her Majesty Theresa and seek vengeance!"

Heraklion.

A tall building near the center of the city, on its highest floor.

Ji Chen looked at the view outside the window, his expression shifting.

Observing the bustling streets of Heraklion from this height was quite enjoyable. Perhaps no player could imagine that in the depths of the ocean, there existed such a prosperous and magnificent underwater city.

Suddenly, he thought of a question. This instance was recreated by the gods using their divine power, and everything within it was historically accurate. This underwater city did exist in the real world.

So, could it be possible to find this city in the outside world?

With this thought, Ji Chen's interest was piqued.

Heraklion was approximately one or two hundred miles away from the Panas coast. As long as he could determine the location of the Panas coast in the outside world, he could trace his way back here.

Only needing to confirm the approximate location and then mobilizing marine creatures for a carpet-style search, they would be able to find Heraklion tens of thousands of years in the future.

The wealth hidden within a lost sea clan city was enough to tempt anyone.

Ji Chen looked through the window and saw several sea clan teams entering the city from outside. They all hurried towards the temple in unison, and a smile slowly appeared on his face..

Chapter 626: 60% Instance Dungeon Completion Rate When the War Begins in the Future (2)

It seemed that the time for the sea clan to mobilize was not far off.

Inside the majestic temple, Theresa sat on her throne, suppressing the anger in her heart as she looked down at the sea clan soldiers.

“How are those supply stations?”

The sea clan soldiers lowered their heads and dared not raise them. “Yes, when we arrived, they had all been destroyed. None of our fellow clansmen who were stationed there survived, and all the supplies were plundered. All twelve supply stations were destroyed.”

As these words came out, sea clan nobles and officials alike showed expressions filled with righteous indignation.

“Damn those demons! We cannot let this go unpunished!”

“If it weren’t for us selling weapons and equipment to them, how could they have so easily taken over such vast lands, and dared to attack us!?”

The sea clan soldiers spoke with a tone filled with grief and anger.

“Your Majesty, we must seek revenge for our brethren!”

Theresa rose from her throne, her expression unusually stern. “I won’t let our kin die in vain. The demons will pay a heavy price.”

She looked around at the many sea clan nobles and continued in a commanding tone.

“Everyone, the demons have revealed their greedy ambitions and evil intentions. They have brazenly shown their claws to us. Are we going to continue hiding here, waiting for the demon army to encroach upon us?”

“No, we cannot! We must teach them a lesson!”

“Your Majesty, it’s time to let those races know of our sea clan’s strength, starting with those vile demons and savage orcs!”

The sea clan nobles spoke with righteous fervor. In this atmosphere, even those sea clan nobles who were reluctant to go to war had no choice but to remain silent.

The enemy was closing in on them rapidly, and if they didn't engage in battle soon, they feared they would become the target of widespread criticism.

Theresa nodded in satisfaction and continued in a commanding tone.

“Since they want war, we shall give them war!

From this moment on, Heraklion enters a state of war mobilization. Assemble the soldiers and prepare for war supplies! Let those foolish demons and orcs witness our power!”

With the orders given, the prosperous underwater city of Heraklion instantly sprung into action. Countless sea clan members began preparations for war.

And Ji Chen, just as he had expected, was soon invited by Theresa to her palace.

Theresa's palace was located at the top of the majestic temple, high above a kilometer in the air.

Guided by a maid, Ji Chen passed through layers of guards and arrived at this luxurious palace. When he entered, the epic sea clan powerhouse was looking down at the entire Heraklion through the window.

Theresa withdrew her gaze and slowly turned around, her face devoid of any emotion.

“Human, did all of this go according to your expectations?”

“I understand Lady Theresa's feelings and suspicions. After all, I have only been here for a short time, and such a thing happened.” Ji Chen shook his head, his expression sincere. “But I really have nothing to do with this. How could a human like me command the enemy?”

Theresa neither confirmed nor denied it, but she had a faint premonition that the sudden tearing of the agreement and the brazen attack by the demons were closely related to this human gifted by the gods.

In fact, it was precisely because the Demon Hunters saw the Sea Clan's army from the Crown of the Ocean joining the alliance of elves and humans that they believed the Sea Clan had already torn the agreement. It was even more due to the presence of Alice.

Coincidentally, the ruler of Heraklion was of the Siren race, and the ruler herself was none other than Theresa, a Siren. This further confirmed that she had given her consent, which was why the Sea Clan's army from the Crown of the Ocean participated in the war.

It could be said that this was a result of many coincidences.

Theresa did not continue on this topic, as she was not too concerned about it.

War was already inevitable.

She even felt a hint of joy in the demons' inexplicable attack, as it united the hearts of the Unified Kingdom and removed the obstacles to launching the war.

As an epic powerhouse, Theresa knew the brutality of the divine war outside. Countless races and kingdoms were killing each other, even the gods were fighting in places unseen. How could their Sea Clan remain detached forever?

Being involved was only a matter of time. Therefore, it was better to take the initiative, swiftly occupy territory at lightning speed, and gain more resources. Through war, they could continually strengthen the Sea Clan.

However, due to the previous prevailing war-weariness and the mentality of watching from afar within the kingdom, she had no chance to express her desire for war, despite her intentions.

But now, a perfect opportunity had arisen.

With this thought in mind, Theresa looked at Ji Chen and spoke with a solemn tone.

“In a maximum of five days, Heraklion will complete its war mobilization and officially join the war. Human, I request that you provide information on the orcs and demons.”

Ji Chen smiled slightly. “Of course, I am more than willing to help. The nearest battlefield is not far from Heraklion, just two hundred miles west of here.

There are hundreds of thousands of orc troops and tens of thousands of demon forces attacking a coastal area called Panas.

I believe that if Heraklion can assist the alliance of elves and humans in completely annihilating these orc and demon forces, it will surely give them a painful lesson.”

Theresa’s eyes deepened as she nodded. “Very well, then let Panas Coast become the site of our Sea Clan’s first victory. Since the demons have reached out their claws to us, I will cut off those claws without mercy!”

As she spoke, a system prompt suddenly sounded in her ear.

“Ding- You have successfully persuaded the Sea Clan to join the war, greatly increasing the chances of victory in the Battle of Panas. Completion rate of the instance increased by 50%, currently at 60%.”

Ji Chen was pleasantly surprised.

Darn!

Persuading the Sea Clan to join the war directly increased the instance completion rate by 50%, and it’s already at 60% now!

This was an incredible gain!

However, he soon became puzzled. After persuading the Sea Clan to join the war, the completion rate was at 60%. How could he obtain the remaining 40% completion rate?

Was there something he had overlooked or not considered?

At that moment, Theresa suddenly spoke up.

“This child’s potential should have been limited to the Red-Legacy Tier for a long time, right?”

Ji Chen was momentarily taken aback and then realized she was talking about Alice. He nodded without hesitation.

Receiving his response, Theresa continued, "I have a way to help her break through her potential."

Ji Chen's eyes lit up. There was such a good opportunity?

"Our Siren clan has had a systematic advancement route since ancient times. As long as the bloodline is thick enough, one can grow all the way to the Epic Tier.

The reason she has been stuck at the Red-Legacy Tier is that her bloodline density is too low, preventing her from fully unleashing the power of a Siren." Theresa looked at Alice. "I can use secret techniques to increase her bloodline density."

Ji Chen hesitated for a moment and asked, "Why do you want to help Alice?"

Theresa replied, "Consider it my care for a fellow clan member. The Siren clan has always been scarce in numbers, and the total number in Heraklion is only a handful. If I can help an external clan member grow, it can also contribute to the development of our clan."

There was another point she didn't mention. A Siren accompanying a Divine Patron might bring new opportunities for the development of the Siren race.

Without much hesitation, Ji Chen said, "If Alice wants to, I will have no objection."

Alice didn't hesitate at all and said, "If it's what the Lord wishes, I'll accept it."

Theresa nodded. "It should be possible to complete this during the days leading up to the official start of the war."

Alice was left with Theresa, and Ji Chen departed from Heraklion on a Sea Crystal Wynn.

At the same time....

Chapter 627: Killing a Legendary-Tier Demon Hunter, Side Mission

Leaving Heraklion, Ji Chen returned to the surface via the passage.

Just as he was about to head back to the Panas coast, he suddenly stopped and looked north.

For some reason, he felt an irresistible urge to explore that direction, as if something was drawing him there.

After a moment's contemplation, Ji Chen decided to resist this strange feeling and promptly return to the Panas coast.

The orc army was still relentlessly attacking the Panas coast. Even though he had intervened and caused some losses to the demon hunters and several thousand-strong squads, the orc forces still held a clear advantage in terms of numbers and strength. He was genuinely concerned whether the alliance of elves and humans could hold on until the Sea Clan officially joined the battle.

Finding the underwater travel speed inadequate, Ji Chen instructed the Sea Crystal Wynn to fly at an altitude of several meters above the sea surface.

Without the hindrance of other armies and with no obstacles in the open sea, the Sea Crystal Wynn could unleash its full-speed potential.

Fifty Sea Crystal Wyrms flew in a V formation at breakneck speed. As they raced across the sea, the water churned and splashed violently due to the intense force, creating dozens of silvery chains visible from the sky, spanning tens of meters.

Standing on their backs, Ji Chen conjured a barrier to shield himself from the wind and calmly absorbed the sensation.

The Sea Crystal Wynn's top speed was estimated to have reached seven to eight hundred kilometers per hour, faster than the fighter jets in the War World II. During normal cruising, it maintained a speed of four to five hundred kilometers per hour. If it flew from the New Moon Islands to the Starshine Islands at cruising speed, it would only take a few hours. If it headed to the Fish Tail Island in the Lienhardt Grand Duchy, it would take half a day at most.

The significance of this swift travel speed was self-evident. If he wished, Ji Chen could easily reach any location in the western Pacific in a short time.

Just as Ji Chen was urging the Sea Crystal Wynn towards the Panas coast, he suddenly felt a strange disturbance as they passed a group of islands.

After a moment of sensing, he quickly confirmed that it was the presence of demons.

The foul, ominous, and evil aura could be felt even if they were several kilometers apart.

"Could it be a demon army?" Ji Chen murmured to himself.

After some consideration, he decided to take a detour and investigate.

The demon race remained quite mysterious to him. So far, he had only encountered the demon hunters during this adventure. He saw this as an opportunity to gain insight into the composition of demon forces.

Controlling the Sea Crystal Wynn, he ascended to a high altitude to avoid detection, gliding between the clouds stealthily.

The disturbance originated from an island at the center of the group, covered in lush vegetation. Among the mudflats and trees, skeletal structures stood tall, and groups of grotesque demons patrolled the mudflats.

These demons had terrifying appearances, with single horns on their heads, fleshy wings on their backs, claws for hands, and skin resembling that of a desiccated corpse.

Single-Horned Fiend, 5th Tier, 1 Star.

Two-Headed Hound, 5th Tier, 3 Stars.

Wing Fiend, 5th Tier, 5 Stars.

The more Ji Chen observed, the more surprised he felt. The average strength of the demon forces was almost on par with the elves, and in some cases, even higher. There were no less than five different types of demons patrolling the mudflats, and without exception, they were all at the fifth-tier level.

He continued to observe.

At this moment, several dozen transport ships slowly approached from the eastern sea and docked at the makeshift port on the island. The patrolling Single-Horned Fiends hurriedly approached.

“You idiots, quickly unload the supplies and move them to the island!” shouted the Wing Fiend holding a long whip at the Single-Horned Fiends. He cracked the whip forcefully, causing a loud cracking sound in the air.

The Single-Horned Fiends, who were at the lower ranks of the demon hierarchy, dared not disobey the order. They immediately boarded the ship and began moving large wooden crates to the island.

One of the Single-Horned Fiends accidentally stumbled while carrying a crate, causing it to fall to the ground with a loud thud. Weapons and equipment spilled out of the crate onto the ground.

The Wing Fiend’s face was filled with anger, and he lashed the Single-Horned Fiend’s back with his whip. “You imbecile! Can’t you even handle such a simple task?”

The Single-Horned Fiend looked terrified, enduring the pain from the whip, and quickly gathered the scattered weapons and equipment, placing them back into the crate. He then continued carrying it on his shoulder towards an open space at the edge of the forest.

However, this scene caught Ji Chen’s attention.

These weapons and equipment did not appear to be manufactured by the demons themselves; instead, they bore a striking resemblance to the style of the Sea Clan.

“Are these... supplies stolen from the Sea Clan?”

Ji Chen’s eyes narrowed slightly. The fact that the demons were transporting these weapons and equipment here suggested that there might be a warehouse or armory of some kind on the island.

These weapons and equipment could potentially be used in an attack against the allied forces.

As the embodiment of justice and order, Ji Chen couldn’t ignore this. After confirming that this was indeed a demon supply base, he immediately ordered the Sea Crystal Wyrms to launch a surprise attack.

Apart from the Sea Crystal Wurm he was riding, the other forty-nine swiftly adjusted their flight positions and descended from the sky like a squadron of dive bombers.

The demons on the mudflats quickly noticed the descending enemy and erupted into chaos.

The Wing Fiend, upon seeing the Sea Crystal Wyrms descending rapidly from the high altitude, shouted in anger, “You fools, what are you waiting for?! Use the anti-aircraft weapons to counterattack!!”

The Single-Horned Fiends were jolted into action, as if they had just woken from a dream. They hastily operated the ballistae set up on the mudflats, hurriedly loading ammunition..

Chapter 628: Kill the Legendary-Tier Demon Hunter, Side Mission (2)

Taut

As the bowstring was pulled taut, powerful crossbow bolts harnessed the energy from the string and defied gravity, soaring upward towards the approaching enemies.

The Sea Crystal Wurm dove at incredible speed, slightly adjusting its posture to easily avoid this sparse barrage. It fell abruptly amid the terrified gazes of the demons.

With the sound of flesh being torn apart, like the crackling of beans frying, limbs and body parts flew in all directions.

In the face of the sixth-tier Sea Crystal Wurm, whether it was the lowest-ranking Single-Horned Fiends, Two-Headed Hounds, or higher-level Wing Fiends, there was little difference under its razor-sharp claws. A single strike meant death.

After completing its dive, the Sea Crystal Wurm pulled up slightly in altitude and began spewing beams of light. The speed of light was like a machine gun firing in bursts, efficiently clearing the demons on the mudflats.

When Ji Chen stepped onto the damp mudflat, there were no more demons left standing.

Ignoring the broken bodies littering the ground and the nauseating stench of blood, Ji Chen walked to a wooden box that the demons had hastily dropped in their panic. He picked up a steel trident from the damaged box.

The trident was engraved with patterns of the ocean, displaying exquisite craftsmanship, indicating that it was likely part of the loot from the demons' raid on the marine tribe's supply station.

In fact, Ji Chen still didn't know why the demons had turned hostile toward the marine tribe. Did the orcs know about this?

If the orcs knew, they would probably curse their bad luck.

Deeper within the island, it seemed that the demons had also sensed Ji Chen's sudden attack. Hundreds of demons emerged from the forest, their claws and fangs bared.

The Sea Crystal Wurm advanced once again, harvesting the demons' lives like wheat.

Ji Chen didn't move but instead looked in the direction of the forest. Suddenly, he raised his right hand, and a rain of blades descended from above.

As soon as a claw emerged from the air, it was covered by the rain of blades and quickly retracted in pain.

Not far away, the legendary-level Demon Hunter slowly appeared, his face filled with darkness and resentment.

Damn it!

Why does this human show up everywhere!?

Previously, during the two attempts at ambushes on the Panas Coast, not only did they fail to assassinate Theodore and this human, but they also suffered heavy casualties among their own kind. Even he had been seriously injured.

Contemplating a retreat to their rear base for healing and preparations for the final showdown, he was taken by surprise when this human, who had been a constant source of frustration, unexpectedly sought him out shortly after his arrival.

It seemed like he was chasing them to the ends of the earth!

If the Demon Hunter had known about this, he might have cursed his rotten luck.

This human was no ordinary person; even the Demon Hunter couldn't fathom his true strength.

The demon hunter sensed the less-than-ideal state of his body and felt a bit apprehensive.

Seeing this "old acquaintance," Ji Chen couldn't help but feel a sense of delight. This time, he wouldn't let this demon hunter escape.

As the demon hunter noticed the delighted look in the human's eyes, he suddenly felt a chill running down his spine. Alarm bells rang loudly in his mind. He immediately tried to teleport away from his current location, but all around him, a sudden blue light enveloped him, making his body sluggish. He felt both his physical and spiritual aspects being suppressed.

His heart trembled suddenly.

Damn it, this is a domain!

[Ocean Domain (Golden Skill, can activate a domain with a radius of eight hundred meters, reducing the enemy's various attributes by 0-90% within the domain, with the reduction based on the difference in strength between enemies and allies. Reduces physical and magical damage by 50% and mana consumption by 50%; the domain can absorb nearby water sources, forming a suspended water area in the air).]

"Ding- The Legendary-tier Demon Hunter has been covered by the Ocean Domain, reducing all attributes by 45% and spatial movement capability by 50%."

Hearing the prompt from the system, Ji Chen's smile grew even wider.

The most troublesome aspect of Demon Hunters was their spatial movement ability, which allowed them to move freely and made it challenging to inflict effective damage.

Now, under the influence of his Ocean Domain, their escape ability was significantly reduced by half, and with few demons around to hinder them, it was the best opportunity for a kill.

The legendary-tier Demon Hunter also sensed this and his face turned pale. He immediately attempted to use spatial movement to escape the suppression.

However, within the domain, his body became extremely rigid, even the flow of demon blood within him slowed down, and his abilities were greatly affected. A single spatial movement could only take him a hundred meters.

But the domain's range was a full eight hundred meters, so he would need to teleport eight times to escape, taking at least twenty seconds to get away!

Forget about twenty seconds; he felt that even staying for a second in front of this human was dangerous!

The legendary-tier Demon Hunter dodged the attacks of numerous water-based weapons while feeling miserable. Soon, he had multiple wounds, and his body became weaker and weaker.

Ji Chen, a nearly level 50 epic-tier profession, with the terrifying suppression power of his domain, and the acute perception brought by the power of the ocean, had an absolute advantage over the merely legendary Demon Hunter in terms of stats and hard power.

The Demon Hunter, who was infamous among elves and humans, was being toyed with like a plaything by Ji Chen, desperately evading lethal water-based weapons.

Finally, he abandoned his dignity and begged for mercy.

“Human, spare me, and I’ll give you all the supplies here!”

Ji Chen sneered. “After I kill you, the supplies here will all be mine.”

The Demon Hunter, seeing that Ji Chen was determined to kill him, cursed bitterly, but he was powerless to stop himself from growing weaker step by step.

Ten minutes later.

A blade pierced the Demon Hunter’s heart, extinguishing his life.

“Ding- You have killed the legendary-tier Demon Hunter Varudo Mubarak, gaining 250,000 experience points, and leveling up (Level 48—>49).”

“Ding- You have killed the legendary-tier Demon Hunter, inadvertently delaying the demons’ plan, increasing the completion rate of the instance by 10%, currently at 70%.”

The fall of the legendary-tier demon hunter brought about an increase in Ji Chen’s level and another boost in the completion percentage of the instance.

Now, with a full completion percentage of 100% for the instance rewards within reach, there was only 30% left to obtain.

However, what did it mean by “inadvertently delaying the demons’ plan” in the notification?

Could it be that there is something hidden on this island that should remain unseen?

Seeing the powerful Demon Hunter being killed, the demons’ morale plummeted, and a rout quickly ensued as they fled into the forest.

The forest was dense, even the Sea Crystal Wyverns found it difficult to enter and pursue them. Seeing this, Ji Chen ordered them to stop and followed the path the demons had opened through the woods, heading deeper into the island.

Deep within the island, there was a well-hidden natural cave, where the demons had stored all the resources they had transported and looted. In the depths of the cave was a demonic altar built by demons.

The altar was made of blue stone, and its walls were carved with grotesque reliefs. Inside the altar lay the bodies of thousands of elves, humans, and sea creatures, and the dark red blood stained the entire altar.

[Demon Sacrificial Altar]

[Effect]: Sacrificing a large number of living beings can summon higher-order demons, current progress [8548/10000]

Well, it turns out the demons were tinkering with this thing. If he had arrived a little later, they could have summoned a higher-tier demon through a ritual not inferior to the legendary-level Demon Hunter.

However, it was clear that this was probably just a side quest, and it wouldn't contribute much to the instance completion.

Ji Chen casually destroyed the sacrificial altar, and the system prompt sounded in his ear.

“Ding- You have destroyed the demon's sacrificial altar, thwarting the demon's plan, and increasing the instance completion by 10%, currently at 80%.”

Good, another 10% completion added. Now, only 20% completion is left to obtain.

He had a rough idea of this remaining 20% completion. Most likely, it would be achieved when he successfully repelled the orc and demon armies and defended the Panas Coast.

If that's the case, then all he needed to do now was to return to the Panas Coast, wait for the Sea Clan to mobilize, and he could complete this instance..

Chapter 629:100% Completion Rate, Rich Dungeon Reward

The battle at the Panas Coast grew increasingly fierce as time passed, with both sides determined to destroy each other and committing all their forces to win this campaign.

On the fifth day of the battle, the orcs couldn't hold back any longer and began deploying sixth-tier units. They launched a massive attack with four 2-star teams of sixth-tier berserkers and three teams of stormwing wyverns. Tens of thousands of fifth-tier orcs joined the assault.

The alliance of elves and humans didn't hesitate and also sent several teams of sixth-tier units, along with numerous fifth-tier warriors, to resist fiercely.

However, amidst the intense battle, a demon army quietly bypassed the coastline and launched a surprise attack on the flank of the Panas Coast, putting the alliance in a precarious position. They had to repel this attack at a significant cost, with over a hundred thousand human and elven warriors paying the price in blood.

After this battle, the alliance found itself in a dire situation, with only a little over two hundred thousand forces remaining, struggling to contend with the formidable orc and demon armies.

As night fell, Theodore's heart felt as heavy as the night itself. He looked at the officers in his tent on both sides, speaking with a solemn tone, “Gentlemen, we have entered a moment of life and death. Do any of you have a strategy to break through the enemy?”

His words fell, and the officers remained silent for a long time. Finally, an elven officer sighed and said, “At this point, there is no way but to fight to the death.

Our forces are severely depleted, strategic resources are scarce, and enchanted arrows and alchemical cannonballs are nearly exhausted. Without reinforcements, we cannot withstand the onslaught of the orc and demon armies.”

Other officers nodded, but how could they expect reinforcements?

Currently, the Orderly Faction was at war with the Evil Faction in every corner of the world, struggling to resist. This alliance of elves and humans was the last sizable army stationed in the heartland of the Orderly Faction.

Once they were defeated and the Panas Coast was breached, the consequences were evident.

Thinking of this dreadful outcome, both elves and humans in the tent couldn't help but feel pessimistic.

At this moment, a sudden voice broke the silence. "What about that Divine Patron? Didn't he go to seek aid from the ocean tribe?"

"Aid? I think he's just afraid of the orcs and demons and made an excuse to run away!" someone said in a disgruntled tone.

The other officers didn't say anything, but their expressions more or less agreed with this point. Since that day, the human known as the Islander had disappeared into the depths of the ocean and hadn't been seen since.

"Humph, humans are indeed unreliable..."

Suddenly, Theodore slammed the table in anger, exclaiming, "Is this how you speak of a friend? Do you doubt the army that fought bravely on position 58 for the past few days?"

Two legendary-tier heroes, one Legacy-tier hero, and thousands of fifth-tier troops. Do you really think this is what you call running away?"

Theodore's words silenced many elven officers, and quite a few wore unnatural expressions, seemingly feeling ashamed of their previous thoughts.

If that human truly wanted to escape, why would he leave behind so many heroes and armies?

At the very least, two legendary-tier heroes and one legacy-level hero were not forces that could be easily abandoned.

Seeing the reaction of the officers, Theodore's expression finally softened a bit. "Lord Islander is working diligently in places we cannot see. We should also hold our positions and persevere until he brings back aid from the ocean tribe." "Yes!" This time, the elven officers all responded in unison.

Though they said this, the elves in the tent understood very well that getting the ocean tribe to join the battle was not an easy task; otherwise, it would have been accomplished at the beginning of the war.

At this moment, there was a sudden sound of footsteps outside the tent, followed by slightly urgent voices.

"Commander Theodore, Lord Islander, has returned!"

The elven officers were stunned, sharing looks of surprise with each other. This human had actually come back?

Theodore was equally surprised, but soon a hint of joy appeared on his face as he quickly said, "Please, bring him in!"

“Yes!”

Soon, the tent curtains were lifted, and Ji Chen, dressed in a dragon-scale robe with a mysterious aura about him, walked in.

The elven officers stretched their necks to get a better look, only to find that there were no ocean tribe members following him. Disappointment was evident on their faces.

It seemed that they had not managed to secure the support of the ocean tribe after all, indicating that the Panas Coast was inevitably destined to fall.

In that case, they would fight bravely until the last moment, using their blood and sacrifice to compose an epic of elven heroism that would make the orcs and demons understand their courage!

Suppressing his inner disappointment, Theodore forced a smile and said, “Lord Islander, it’s good to see you safe.”

Ji Chen looked at them strangely, wondering if something had happened during the few days he was away.

“Has something happened while I was gone?”

Theodore briefly summarized the current situation in the war. As he spoke, he gradually wore an expression of noble sacrifice, his tone becoming more fervent.

“...Even if we fight alone, the elves will not take a step back.. If the orcs and demons want to break through the Panas Coast, they’ll have to step over my dead body!”

Chapter 630:100% Completion Rate, Rich Dungeon Reward (2)

After hearing this, Ji Chen was momentarily stunned. After some thought, his expression became even more peculiar, and he couldn’t help but say, “You might have misunderstood something. I’ve come back to fight alongside you, and who said I didn’t bring reinforcements?”

“To be able to fight alongside you, Islander, is... Wait, what did you say?” Theodore was dumbfounded and quickly asked for clarification.

“I said the Sea Clan will send troops to join the battle against the orcs and demons.”

Seeing that Ji Chen didn’t appear to be joking, Theodore’s face lit up with joy. “That’s fantastic! Panas Coast can finally be defended!”

“Lord Islander, how did you persuade the Sea Clan to join the battle!? Those guys hiding in the sea are usually very aloof and prefer to stay out of wars.”

Ji Chen chuckled as he explained, “Believe it or not...”

Theodore listened, and his expression suddenly became somewhat strange. He hesitated for a moment and asked with uncertainty, “Is there a possibility that the Sea Clan heroes and units under your command made the demons believe that the Sea Clan was joining the battle?”

Ji Chen paused for a moment before realizing that it was indeed a possibility.

Theresa was a Siren, and the Sirens were the rulers of Heraklion. Alice had previously demonstrated Siren's powers to the demons. It was quite plausible that the demons had misunderstood.

Unfortunately, the legendary-tier demon hunter had already been eliminated by his own hands, so he couldn't ask him about it.

Theodore was a bit taken aback by this unexpected turn of events, but he quickly became excited again. The fact that the Sea Clan was willing to participate in the battle meant that Panas Coast could be defended!

Seeing Theodore's excitement, Ji Chen couldn't help but remind him, "While the Sea Clan has agreed to join the battle, it will take several days for them to complete their war mobilization. We must hold out until the Sea Clan arrives."

Upon hearing this, Theodore regained his composure and nodded, saying, "You're absolutely right. We've held on for this long, and it would be a shame to fail at the last moment. Even if it means sacrificing our lives, we must use our bodies to block the orcs and demons here!"

Seeing Theodore's determination, Ji Chen felt reassured. He had been worried that the elves might lose their fighting spirit in the final moments before victory.

The night passed quickly, and as the first rays of dawn pierced the eastern horizon, the orc landing ships once again appeared within sight.

Panas Coast.

With only a little over two hundred thousand elves and humans remaining, they stood ready with burning determination in their eyes. Their blood boiled within them, and they knew that the Sea Clan would join the battle. As long as they held on until that moment, they would achieve the victory they longed for.

The battle began, with bodies torn apart, blood splattering in the air, and souls extinguished.

The orcs were surprised to find that their enemies, who seemed to have lost their spirit, were exceptionally brave and fearless today, stopping them at all costs.

Ayuug, the commander of the orc army, seemed to realize something and immediately ordered an all-out attack on Panas Coast.

On the coast, hundreds of landing ships rushed onto the shore one after another, and thousands of orc warriors brandished their weapons and charged forward. In the sky, flocks of Stormwing Wyverns engaged in fierce combat with the elves and humans' aerial units. The elves drew their bows and fired arrows, switching to melee combat when their arrows ran out, while the human warriors, despite their weaker strength, charged recklessly to block the enemy's advance with their own flesh and blood.

Under the incredibly high morale of the battle, the Allied forces miraculously managed to hold back the orc and demon armies for several days.

Several days later, with the Allied forces almost running out of supplies and less than fifty thousand survivors, the moment of ending this war finally arrived when a Sea Clan army of over three hundred thousand troops appeared on the distant sea horizon.

“Ding- The Elf and Human Allied forces held on until the Sea Clan army arrived, successfully defending Panas Coast, and the completion rate of the instance increased by 20%. The current completion rate of the instance is 100%.”

“With a completion rate of 100%, you have cleared this instance; you can stay in this instance world for a maximum of 24 hours. Instance rewards will be distributed after exiting the instance.”

When the system notification came, Ji Chen finally breathed a sigh of relief.

After several days of effort, he finally cleared this 7-star instance. Although it might not have seemed difficult for him to clear, in reality, this instance had many hidden challenges.

Whether it was meeting the Elf Commander Theodore and preventing his assassination or subsequently searching for the Sea Clan in the vast sea and persuading them to join the battle, each step required solid strength and a certain degree of luck.

If he hadn't arrived in time to stop the legendary demon hunter's killing, or if he hadn't found the Sea Clan's location, or if he hadn't brought Alice into the instance, causing the demons to misunderstand, missing any of these crucial elements would have made it difficult to achieve a 100% instance completion rate.

Tianshu and the others were full of admiration at this moment. They had played a minimal role throughout this instance, and the most critical moments were all resolved by the Islander. Without his help, they would never have achieved such a high completion rate, let alone cleared it.

At this moment, they truly acknowledged the Islander's abilities.

“Big Boss, if you ever need anything from us in the future, just let us know. We'll do our best to help,” Tianshu said with respect as he and the team approached Ji Chen.

Ji Chen didn't say much, just nodded slightly in response.

Tianshu was also pleased to hear that, as agreeing to stay in touch meant that they were willing to maintain a connection. It was a valuable networking opportunity.

He smiled and said, “Since we've cleared the instance, we won't linger any longer.”

“I have some matters to attend to; you all can leave first.”

Tianshu nodded, and with his team, they transformed into a beam of white light and disappeared into the air.

Theodore, accompanied by several elven officers, approached and looked somewhat surprised as he watched Tianshu and his team vanish. “Lord Islander, what about your friends?”

“...They had some urgent matters to attend to. Don't worry about it.”

Theodore expressed a hint of regret upon hearing this. “Are they in such a hurry? I was planning to host a banquet to thank them in person.”

During these days of battle, they had witnessed the humans fighting bravely. They had already come to respect them.

In this battle, they realized that humans were not a useless race, and their courage in the face of strong enemies was no less than that of the elves.

Perhaps, forming an alliance between elves and humans was the right decision.

Ji Chen remained silent. In history, Panas Coast had not been defended, and the entire Elf and Human Allied forces had been wiped out. In other words, Theodore and all the living elves before him were already dead.

“Lord Theodore, I also need to leave.”

“So fast?” Theodore looked surprised but then seemed to recall something and smiled as he nodded. “Then I wish you a smooth journey. May we have the opportunity to meet again.”

Ji Chen wasn’t one to dwell on sentimental feelings. Without hesitation, he said, “Until we meet again.”

He immediately turned and left with his Ocean Crown heroes and army, gradually disappearing from the sight of the elves, walking on the water.

Ji Chen headed to the Sea Clan army’s encampment. After expressing his gratitude, he took the transformed Alice from Theresa and left the instance directly.

As the white light gradually enveloped him, he soon heard a series of system notifications.

“Ding- You have cleared the 7-star instance: Battle of Panas, with a completion rate of 100%, achieving the highest level of reward. You played a crucial role in advancing the instance and are now calculating additional rewards...”

“Ding- You have gained 500,000 experience points, leveling up (49—>50), and unlocking a new skill.”

“Ding- You have obtained the Wonder Blueprint: Heraklion.”

“Ding- Your subordinate, the Siren Hero: Alice, has gained the Epic-level Siren Hero: Theresa’s Potential Template.”

“Ding-...”

As he listened to these notifications, Ji Chen’s face gradually showed a mix of surprise and excitement..