

Ocean Lord 641

Chapter 641: Two New Tier 6 Units, Merchants Who Arrived at Ocean Crown

Ji Chen pondered for a moment, then remembered that this feature seemed to appear when he cleared a 7-star instance in the Irante Temple and reached level 50, but he didn't pay much attention to it at the time due to the overwhelming system notifications.

With a hint of curiosity, he clicked to investigate further.

Soon, a look of pleasant surprise appeared on his face.

This unit fusion feature had great potential!

In simple terms, this function allowed two different units to merge into one, with the merged unit possessing the characteristics of both units.

Of course, the results of the fusion could be good or bad.

The effectiveness of the fusion depended on the compatibility between the two units. If you merged an undead unit with a light faction unit, for example, the result might turn out to be something bizarre. However, if the compatibility was high, it could produce a more powerful unit.

Additionally, the difference in tier between the two units would also affect the fusion result.

With a rough understanding of the rules, Ji Chen's interest was piqued. Perhaps this fusion feature could bring him a different kind of surprise, offering another path to enhance his unit's strength.

Of course, this path came with certain risks.

The selection of units for fusion could only be made from the units he currently possessed. After some thought, he chose the 1-star Tier 5 Water Nymph Archer as the base unit.

The reason was simple. The Water Nymph Archers, at their current Tier 5 and 1-star rating, were falling behind the current version. Their slow movement speed and single-attack method had caused their combat effectiveness to decline significantly, especially when they required the protection of the Crab Guardians.

"Using the Water Nymph Archer as the base, check the compatibility with other units for fusion."

The fusion page refreshed.

[Water Nymph Archer]

[Compatibility with Tyrant Azure Dragon]: 38%

[Compatibility with Sea Crystal Wurm]: 41%

[Compatibility with Crab Guardians]: 23%

[Compatibility with Lobster Guardian Knight]: 95%

Among a series of compatibility percentages below 50%, the one with 95% compatibility stood out.

Water Nymph Archers and Lobster Guardian Knights?

One was a race of water nymphs, and the other was a sea tribe. At first glance, they seemed unrelated, yet their compatibility was the highest, leaving Ji Chen puzzled.

Could it be that the fusion would produce something extraordinary and unusual?

Despite his confusion, he chose to trust in the Unit Talent Tree. As his ultimate trump card, the Unit Talent Tree shouldn't let him down.

Considering that unit fusion likely required resources just like unit upgrades, Ji Chen scrolled to the bottom and carefully examined the details.

[Fusion of Tier 5 Units requires one million units of resources.]

Well, besides the potential outcome of the fusion, the initial cost of one million units of rare resources was no small matter. Even for someone like Ocean Crown, who had accumulated some wealth, it was a significant resource investment that couldn't be taken lightly.

“Confirm the fusion of Water Nymph Archer and Lobster Guardian Knight?”

“Yes.”

“Fusion successful, Water Nymph Archer and Lobster Guardian Knight fused into— Lobster Nymph Spirit Archer.”

[Lobster Nymph Spirit Archer]

[Race]: Sea Tribe

[Tier]: Tier 6,1-star

[Skills]: Omitted

[Unit Abilities]: Can use spears and bows as weapons

[Bloodline Abilities]: Rapid Fire (Significantly increases firing speed and accuracy when using a bow, extends the shooting range) / Charge (Greatly enhances the impact force of a charge when using a spear, forms a shield in front of the mount)

[The fusion of Water Nymph Archer and Lobster Guardian Knight results in a unit with the characteristics and abilities of both units.]

This was incredible. Two Tier 5,1-star units had merged into a Tier 6,1-star unit!

It was like turning a sparrow into a phoenix.

Upon closer inspection, the fusion had combined the charge ability of the Lobster Guardian Knight with the ranged attack capability of the Water Nymph Archer.

It was akin to having mounted archers, capable of both charging into combat and engaging in long-range attacks. This greatly compensated for the weaknesses of both units, resulting in a significant enhancement for each.

Ji Chen couldn't help but smile, finding the expenditure of one million resources to be absolutely worthwhile!

If mere Tier 5,1-star units could fuse so effectively, then it was likely that other combinations could achieve similar results.

His enthusiasm was ignited, and he opened the unit fusion page once again.

The first fusion had been between two physical units, so this time, he decided to choose a magical unit.

“Using the Silver Sea Pixies as the base, check the compatibility with other units for fusion.”

[Silver Sea Pixies]

[Compatibility with Heavy Armor Toothfish Knight]: 9%

[Compatibility with Naga Guardian]: 38%

[Compatibility with Blue Dragon Blood Murloc]: 25%

[Compatibility with Tyrant Azure Dragon]: 96%

The Silver Sea Pixies and Tyrant Azure Dragon had an astonishing compatibility of 97%, surpassing the compatibility of Water Nymph Archers and Lobster Guardian Knights by 1%. This filled Ji Chen with anticipation.

Without hesitation, he initiated the fusion.

“Fusion successful, Silver Sea Pixies and Tyrant Azure Dragon fused into—Leviathan Dragon.”

[Leviathan Dragon]

[Race]: Sea Tribe

[Tier]: Tier 6, 2-star

[Skills]: Omitted

[Unit Abilities]: Echo Location, capable of hearing prey from a great distance

[Bloodline Abilities]: Water and Ice Dual Mastery (Able to manipulate seawater and simultaneously cast water and ice spells)

[The unit formed by the fusion of the Silver Sea Pixies and the Tyrant Azure Dragon possesses the characteristics and abilities of both species.]

Perhaps due to the higher tier of the Tyrant Azure Dragon, the resulting new unit was primarily based on it. However, it also inherited the magical abilities of the Silver Sea Pixies, resulting in a Tier 6, 2-star Leviathan Dragon with both physical and magical attack capabilities..

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Four different units merged into two new Tier 6 units, and the fusion results were generally satisfying, with overall improvements.

After the unit fusion, the recruitment camps for these units needed to be merged as well.

There were ten Water Nymph Archers and ten Lobster Guardian Knights, which could be combined to form ten new recruitment camps.

Tyrant Azure Dragons had six camps, while Silver Sea Pixies had seven camps, resulting in a maximum of six new camps.

Ji Chen clicked the fusion button, and sixteen brand new recruitment camps were instantly created.

The Lobster Nymph Spirit Archers produced 10 units per camp per week, totaling 100 units. Each unit required 18 units of Spirit Crystals, meaning they needed 1800 units of Spirit Crystals per week.

The Leviathan Dragons also produced 10 units per camp per week, totaling 60 units. Each unit required 20 units of Spirit Crystals, so they needed 1200 units of Spirit Crystals per week.

Altogether, these four Tier 6 units required a total of 5000 units of Spirit Crystals per week, significantly increasing the consumption rate of the available stockpile of tens of thousands of Spirit Crystals.

Ji Chen shook his head, realizing that resources, no matter the phase, seemed to always be a concern. What was once ordinary resources, then rare resources, had now become high-tier Spirit Crystals. It appeared that resource management was a constant challenge.

Without hesitation, he began the recruitment process.

The number of troops increased once again, with the remaining four Tier 5 units gaining an additional 140 units each.

However, one camp of Tyrant Azure Dragons remained unused as it was no longer needed after obtaining Leviathan Dragons.

As for the four Tier 6 units, the Leviathan Dragons increased by 60 units, the Lobster Nymph Spirit Archers by 100 units, the Sea Crystal Wynns by 50 units, and the Heavy Armor Toothfish Riders by 50 units.

In total, the Tier 6 units amounted to 360 units, roughly equivalent to three and a half Centurion squads. Although their numbers were relatively small, their combat capabilities surpassed thousands of Tier 5 units.

After this round of adjustments, the resource stockpile saw a significant decline. The unit fusion consumed two million units of rare resources, while recruiting the Tier 5 units used up 777,000 units of rare resources.

Over the past week, the Ocean Crown had received an additional 450,000 units of rare resources through exports, adding an extra 100,000 compared to before. However, considering the massive consumption, this was merely a drop in the ocean. Currently, there were around 3 million units of rare resources remaining, along with 61,500 units of Spirit Crystals.

Resource usage remained a pressing issue, but Ji Chen believed that with some more time and the recovery of the Starshine Islands from the damage caused by the Sea Beast Tide, the Ocean Crown would receive an infusion of resources. The official exploration of the Great Luminescent Sea's Abyssal Layers of Darkness was about to begin on a large scale, which would also bring in a substantial amount of rare resources and Spirit Crystals. Leysha's wine was about to enter the market, and the stockpile of Dwarven weapons could be shipped to the market soon.

With patience, he believed that the Ocean Crown's various industries would experience explosive growth in output values. Eventually, achieving weekly gains of millions of rare resources would no longer be a fantasy.

After recruiting the new units, Ji Chen headed to the port on the eastern side of the main island.

Looking eastward from the port, he could see an island not too far away, where construction was underway, and a tower-like structure was gradually taking shape in the center.

This island was the giant turtle's shell. Since Ji Chen had helped him lift the curse and signed a hundred-year contract, the giant turtle had come to the New Moon Islands. It peacefully floated in the sea, allowing the residents of the Ocean Crown to work on its back.

According to Wilus, the giant turtle had been sleeping soundly since it arrived at the New Moon Islands, without any interruptions. With the curse no longer tormenting it, the giant turtle's vitality gradually recovered, and its lifespan extended for thousands of years. A few days of sleep here and there was nothing significant.

Looking at the completed base of the giant tower, Ji Chen felt delighted. He could already envision the day it would be finished, standing at the tower's top while the giant turtle carried him across this vast ocean.

When Ji Chen arrived at the port, it naturally attracted the attention of many people.

Among them were the residents of the Ocean Crown and some long-distance merchants who had heard of the Ocean Crown's existence.

Lein, the merchant who had unintentionally arrived here due to the attack by Lord of the Waves, had returned to Lienhardt as promised. He used his connections to spread the word about the Ocean Crown's existence, which surprised many long-distance merchants.

For these merchants who spent years traversing the seas, having a comfortable transit point and resupply station in the vast ocean was a dream come true. Even if it required spending some money, it was well worth it.

Therefore, in the few days before Ji Chen headed to the Maple Principality, there were sporadic visits from merchant ships to the New Moon Islands, stopping for rest and replenishing supplies like food and freshwater.

As for pricing, Ji Chen took inspiration from the costs on Earth, such as docking fees, layover fees, supply fees, accommodation fees, and more.

Of course, the charges here were quite reasonable but around 20% higher than other Western Mid-Ocean ports.

In the beginning, some merchants expressed dissatisfaction, but Wilus was firm and didn't back down, telling them to take it or leave it.

The merchants had no room for complaints in this situation. With the excellent services and pleasant environment, including food and beverages, they felt quite comfortable. They only had to endure the absence of prostitutes.

However, when they arrived at the Ocean Crown, they couldn't help but feel shocked. Here, there were not only humans but also sea races, half-orcs, lizardfolk, and even elves. Some even claimed to have seen dwarves..

Chapter 643: Two New Tier 6 Units, Merchants Who Arrived at Ocean Crown (3)

Who is the lord of this place? He can actually bring together various races and make them live together peacefully, resolving their conflicts and differences?

Some clever-minded merchants, seeing the residents of the Ocean Crown looking at Ji Chen with respect and admiration, suddenly realized that he must be the lord here, and their eyes lit up.

They approached one by one, getting closer.

"Are you the lord of Ocean Crown? I am the consul of the Shanlan Merchant Caravan..."

"I am a merchant from the White Dew Principality. Your Lordship, thank you for providing us with such a place to rest..."

Ji Chen looked at the enthusiastic approach of the merchants, with a gentle smile on his face.

"Thank you for staying in the Ocean Crown. I hope you will have a wonderful time here."

"Definitely, Your Lordship, your territory is very well developed. It is the best territory I have seen among many Lords of Glory."

Although the merchants felt that the fees here were slightly higher, they wisely did not mention it in front of the lord, so as not to provoke him. They all offered words of praise.

At this moment, a tall and thin merchant clasped his hands and said, "Your Lordship, I wonder if your territory has any specialty products? I intend to make some purchases."

As soon as this was said, other merchants also said, "Yes, your territory seems to have a large population, so the production must be very rich. If your specialty products are good, then we don't need to detour to the Maple Principality or Lienhardt and can purchase directly from you."

Ji Chen smiled faintly. "Of course, we have weapons and equipment, ores, non-perishable food, precious wood, and more. It won't disappoint you.

If you want to make a purchase, you can go directly to the port's Shipmasters' Office."

When building the inn for hosting guests and dining, a specialized agency for ship docking, fees, and trade activities was also established. Dozens of trained residents were responsible for these affairs.

The merchants, seeing that there was business to be done, nodded in thanks.

"Besides these, do you have any luxury items?" a merchant who seemed to deal in luxury goods asked.

“Of course, being located in the open sea, the Ocean Crown naturally produces various marine products, such as deep-sea pearls, blood jade corals, and more.” Ji Chen paused. “Recently, we have also brewed a specialty wine of the Ocean Crown. I wonder if you would be interested?”

At these words, the merchants’ faces showed interest. As long as the wine is good, there is no need to worry about market demand, and the profit is also very high, making it one of their favorite commodities to buy and sell.

“Please have someone take us to see it.”

“No need, I happen to have some free time. I’ll take you there myself.”

Ji Chen also became interested and personally led these merchants to the grape plantation located on the northeast slope.

Several months had passed, and what used to be a barren hillside was now filled with grapevines. The grapevine plantation was well-planned, with clearly defined rows and all the necessary facilities. The grapevines wound their way up wooden frames, weaving a canopy of greenery on the top, adorned with clusters of crystal-dear, plump grapes.

Some young residents shuttled back and forth between the narrow pathways, taking care of the grapes that were soon to ripen.

In front of a house at the foot of the mountain, Leysha was talking to the elven druid Martino.

When Leysha saw Ji Chen approaching, her cute face with freckles instantly lit up with joy, and she greeted him happily.

“My Lord, good day!”

Ji Chen nodded with a smile.

Leysha’s tone was somewhat excited as she continued,. “I was discussing grape cultivation with Mr. Martino! Mr. Martino has profound insights into cultivation, he’s a very capable person... uh, elf!”

Martino also approached and performed impeccable elven etiquette, smiling as he greeted, “My Lord.”

This legendary-tier druid seemed to always maintain a neat appearance and impeccable manners, no matter the circumstances.

“Martino, what do you think of these grapes?”

Martino replied, “Grapes nurtured in different soils and climates vary, but obviously, the grapes here can be considered quite good. However, I can make some improvements in cultivation.”

Curious, Ji Chen asked, “How much can the quality and yield be increased after improvement?”

Currently, the newly cultivated grape plantation could produce approximately ten thousand units of grapes per month, enough to brew three thousand barrels of wine.

“Well, it can increase the quality by about 30% and triple the yield.”

Leysha covered her mouth in astonishment, her eyes filled with surprise.

This was more than just a slight improvement; it was practically a change in grape variety!

Ji Chen smiled and said, "Very well, whatever resources or manpower you need, just let me know."

Martino smiled and expressed his gratitude, saying, "Thankyou for your support, Lord."

The group of merchants following behind were staring at the scene in amazement, and they could see the astonishment in each other's eyes. If they were not mistaken, this was an elven druid!

Elven druids were experts in planting and cultivating crops, renowned on the continent. Crops under their care invariably had exceptionally high quality, often reserved exclusively for the nobility of various kingdoms and rarely making their way outside.

If such a druid were to cultivate these grapes, wouldn't it be...

The merchants' spirits lifted, and their eyes became filled with eagerness.

They had detected a business opportunity!

Chapter 644: Search for the Ancient Deep Sea Dragon Whale

"Your Lordship, I would like to purchase a batch of your wine."

"I'll take a hundred barrels!"

"I'll take three hundred!"

Ji Chen looked at them with a slight "surprise." "But none of you have tasted the Crown of the Ocean wine yet."

"We believe that the wine produced here must be of excellent quality," a tall and thin merchant said with a flattering smile. "Besides, with the Druid's expertise, I don't think it's a problem. Don't you agree?"

"That's right!" The other merchants nodded in agreement.

Another merchant added, "In addition to the wine, I would also like to buy a batch of your sea rice, fluorescent mushrooms, and other local specialties."

With a legendary Druid overseeing the production, the prices were naturally higher. A barrel of wine was priced at one hundred units of rare resources, a price that some merchants initially found unacceptable.

Ji Chen looked at the smiles on the faces of these merchants and couldn't help but guess their hidden intentions. However, he decided not to expose them and immediately agreed to their requests.

Being cultivated by a legendary-tier Druid naturally meant that these grapes were quite different from the common varieties found elsewhere, so the price was naturally higher.

The selling price for a barrel of wine was set at one hundred units of rare resources, a price that was undeniably high, and initially, the merchants openly stated that they couldn't accept it.

However, Ji Chen did not back down. The Crown of the Ocean wine was clearly in high demand, and these merchants were eager to profit from it. As long as it carried the name of the Elves, they were confident it would sell, especially since this wine would be exclusive to nobles in various kingdoms and duchies, targeting the wealthy rather than the poor.

In the end, these merchants had no choice but to reluctantly accept the terms. They were already thinking about the prices at which they could sell the wine and make a substantial profit.

Ji Chen maintained a gentle smile on his face, but there was a genuine sense of satisfaction.

With each barrel of wine sold for sixty units of rare resources, at the current monthly production rate of five thousand barrels, the monthly revenue would amount to three hundred thousand units of rare resources. When Martino doubled the production, the monthly income would reach nine hundred thousand units of rare resources!

Selling wine alone would yield nearly a million in profit!

When the news spread that there was a Druid overseeing the island, other merchants rushed to the harbormaster's office to buy the limited stock of wine. Many of them purchased hundreds of barrels, quickly depleting the five thousand barrels available.

Merchants who didn't manage to secure enough wine wore regretful expressions but planned to return next month specifically to purchase more. While the wine had sold out, other specialties of the Crown of the Ocean also attracted the attention of these merchants. They soon realized that this relatively small New Moon Island had an abundance of unique products.

Seeing the bustling scene at the harbormaster's office, Ji Chen felt a sense of gratification.

Over the past few months, the Crown of the Ocean had been steadily developing various industries, and today, it finally paid off. However, this was just the beginning. More merchants would come in the future, making the island even more prosperous and turning it into a shining gem in the middle of the ocean.

In the future, as more and more merchants arrive, the issue of safety and order becomes increasingly important. No merchant is willing to trade in a place where even safety cannot be guaranteed. Therefore, Ji Chen incorporated the Crab Guardians, Tyrant Azure Dragon, and Water Nymph Archers into the Guardian Legion, forming an independent unit known as the First Guardian Legion.

Previously, units like the Murloc Rangers and Ocean Guardians, which were Tier Three and Tier Four, were assigned to the Second Guardian Legion.

As the enemies grew stronger, units like the Murloc Rangers, which were Tier Three and Tier Four, became less useful. At most, they could serve as lookouts and protect against sea creatures. It felt like times had changed.

Little did they know that the units commonly used by players outside were generally in the Tier Three High-Star to Tier Four High-Star range. Under Ji Chen's command, having Tier Five units was quite common, with only a few players possessing them.

Forming organized armies of a hundred or even a thousand with Tier Five units was even rarer.

Up to this point, Ji Chen had only seen a few guild leaders of medium to large-sized guilds, as well as independent players like Tian Shu who possessed organized armies of Tier Five units.

However, that was several days, even months ago. Players' progress was astronomical, going from nothing to commanding thousands in just a few months. Ji Chen himself now had Tier Six units, and who knew what he and other players would become after a similar amount of time had passed.

Two days passed.

Perhaps because Miligas had already spread the news and the list of territories that had earned the "Elf-Friendly Territory" title, over the past two days, merchants from several "vassal states" of the Elves, including the Maple Principality, gradually arrived in the Stormy Sea. They docked at the Crown of the Ocean, bringing quite a bit of attention to this remote island.

If it weren't for the Elf's guarantee, most of them would find it hard to believe that such a prosperous territory existed in this forbidden sea area. When they heard that this territory was established by a Lord of Glory, they were even more surprised.

Many merchants wanted to meet this Lord of Glory, but they had to wait for days without a sighting. They were informed that he was currently not on the Crown of the Ocean..

Chapter 645: Search for the Ancient Deep Sea Dragon Whale (2)

Two thousand kilometers southeast of the Crown of the Ocean, in the sky, Ji Chen and Anina rode on the back of a Sea Crystal Wurm, surrounded by over a hundred Sea Crystal Wyrms.

"Anina, are you sure Abyss of the Dragon Whales is in this direction?"

Anina lay on the back of the Sea Crystal Wurm, peering at the sea below, her face somewhat tense. "Of course! I'm a Dragon Whale. When have you ever heard of a whale getting lost?"

Ji Chen looked at her with a raised eyebrow, despite her lack of confidence, and how she tried to sound convincing, he couldn't help but sigh and facepalm, leaving a few black lines on his face.

Two days ago, they embarked on a quest from their territory to the Abyss of the Dragon Whales, seeking the key to Anina's progression – the coveted high-level Dragon Whale bloodline.

However, what caught him off guard was that just before they set off, Anina had sworn she knew the way to the Abyss of the Dragon Whales, but halfway through, she suddenly started to stutter and seemed disoriented, as if she had lost her way.

Clearly, she was lost!

Ji Chen found it strange. Even whales on Earth could find their way across thousands of miles. Could it be that the whales in this otherworldly realm were different?

Anina seemed to realize that she was truly lost, and her head drooped in frustration.

She couldn't understand!

Why were the memories from her bloodline so clear when they had just set off, but the further they went, the more blurred they became?

What was even stranger was that when they retraced their steps a bit, the bloodline memories became slightly clearer again!

This was baffling. Could it be that the bloodline inside her was trying to prevent her from knowing the way to the Abyss of the Dragon Whales unless she was close to it?

Seeing Anina's disappointed and frustrated expression, Ji Chen had no intention of blaming her. He gently patted her head and comforted her.

"If you can't remember, it's okay..."

"No!" Anina's reaction was quite intense. "If I can't find it, then I won't be able to get stronger, and I won't be able to help you, Lord. I can't accept that..."

Ji Chen was momentarily speechless. After a moment of silence, he suddenly smiled. "Well then, let's keep searching. We have plenty of time."

Feeling the change in Ji Chen's tone, Anina put away her frustration and nodded vigorously. "We must find it!"

However, reality doesn't always bend to one's will. Anina couldn't recall the specific location of the Abyss of the Dragon Whales or even the general sea area. It was as if there was a hidden long-distance signal jammer blocking the memories in her bloodline.

Even when Ji Chen asked the marine creatures for help in finding it, they were of no use. These marine creatures had no idea where the so-called Abyss of the Dragon Whales was, perhaps due to its extreme secrecy and long-term isolation.

For three consecutive days, Ji Chen and Anina searched in a mostly haphazard manner towards the southeast, hoping to find some clues.

However, the vastness of the ocean also came with a monotonous nature.

In the Stormy Sea, thousands of miles southeast of the New Moon Islands, there were only a few sparsely inhabited islands scattered around, and apart from that, all they could see was an identical sea surface and the clear blue sky.

Two entire days went by with no headway. Ji Chen and Anina's excitement for the search waned considerably, made worse by the harsh weather, blistering sun, and continuous outdoor living.

By the end of it all, Ji Chen was feeling somewhat numb and had little hope of finding the Abyss of the Dragon Whales. He had come to regard this journey as more of an adventure.

However, he did get a glimpse of what it felt like for those traders who sailed on slow-moving sailboats, braving the open ocean for days on end. They faced the same seascape, the same sky, and the same scenery repeatedly. Ji Chen couldn't help but wonder how they coped with the loneliness of long voyages.

As night fell, it was not advisable to continue their journey. They found a relatively small island, and Ji Chen had his Sea Crystal Wyrms clear it of the dozen or so amphibious sea creatures that had occupied it. They landed there to rest temporarily, seeking shelter in the shade of a few coconut trees.

With a stick skewered with sea creature meat in hand, Ji Chen roasted it over a campfire. He sprinkled some spices on it from time to time. The sea creature meat was naturally rich in oil, so there was no need for additional brushing.

The dripping oil sizzled in the fire, emitting a pleasing sound. Under the high-temperature roasting, the rich aroma of the meat filled the air, whetting one's appetite.

Anina sat beside him, her large black eyes fixed on the food, her expression filled with longing. Occasionally, she wiped away the droplets of saliva at the corner of her mouth.

After a while, the meat was finally cooked. Ji Chen couldn't help but smile at her, who resembled a little hungry cat. He handed her a piece of the roasted meat and said, "Go ahead. This is meat personally roasted by your lord. It's not something you get every day."

Anina's eyes sparkled with excitement as she thanked him. She grabbed the stick with precision and took a bite of the skewered meat. She savored the delightful texture and the rich flavor of the seasoning and meat. Two eyebrows curved upward in satisfaction, and the frustration she had felt from not finding the Abyss of the Dragon Whales faded away.

Ji Chen watched Anina shake her head playfully while enjoying the roasted meat, looking adorable. His mood improved a bit, and he continued to grill his own meat.

After finishing their dinner, they leaned against the coconut trees to rest.

Due to the need for efficiency in their journey, they didn't take a boat, so they had to make do with resting on the ground. This made Ji Chen think about the construction of the building on the back of the giant turtle. Once it was completed, he wouldn't have to rough it like this during his travels. He could simply sleep in a bed and continue his journey comfortably..

Chapter 646: Search for the Ancient Deep Sea Dragon Whale (3)

After satisfying her hunger, Anina regained her spirits and played on the beach. She then plunged into the sea, claiming she wanted to exercise.

On the contrary, Ji Chen looked up at the flawless jade disk suspended amidst a sea of stars, relishing the exceptional and exquisite nighttime view on Earth.

With a splash –

Anina emerged from the water, her face filled with excitement, as if she had discovered something incredible.

"Lord! I heard the call of our kin!"

With the protection of the Sea Crystal Wyrms, Ji Chen and Anina sped underwater. Anina listened carefully, her ears tuned to the deep, sonorous song of the dragon whale.

Maybe it was a matter of desiring something elusive and stumbling upon something unexpected. While Anina was having a good time in the water, she unexpectedly heard the haunting cry of a deep-sea dragon whale.

Their dragon whale clan could communicate through these calls, able to hear the cries of their kin from thousands of miles away.

Initially, this might not appear particularly thrilling. Deep-sea dragon whales were loners, usually only gathering when a mother whale had newborns. Once the young ones matured, they would go their separate ways.

Perhaps this was just a solitary deep-sea dragon whale, making a few calls out of boredom to see if there were any others in the area.

However, Anina informed him that the call of this particular deep-sea dragon whale was incredibly ancient, slow, and hoarse – a sign that it was nearing the end of its life’s journey and about to embark on its eternal rest in the Abyss of the Dragon Whales.

If they could follow it, they would reach the Abyss of the Dragon Whales!

From feeling helpless to finding a way, it all happened in the blink of an eye, just as in the saying, “When you’re at your wit’s end, there’s a way out.”

Perhaps this aging deep-sea dragon whale, with its infrequent calls and slower pace, was their ticket to their destination.

As they ventured through the dimly lit waters, they finally spotted the aging deep-sea dragon whale.

It measured over thirty meters in length, and like its call, it appeared greatly aged, covered in wounds of various sizes. One particularly gruesome scar ran diagonally from its lower head to the rear of its abdomen, a testament to the battles it had once fought.

The deep-sea dragon whale seemed to have noticed Ji Chen and his companions and instinctively perceived them as threats. Its entire demeanor swiftly changed, emitting a long, battle-ready roar.

“Though I may be old, I’m not someone you can provoke. Let your blood paint the final chapter of my lifelong battles!”

With these words, it twisted its massive body and charged towards them.

Anina quickly explained, “I’m part of your clan!”

The aged deep-sea dragon whale froze in its tracks, gradually ceasing its movements. It stared at them with cloudy eyes, filled with confusion, and asked, “A young dragon whale?”

Anina’s face darkened as she replied, “I’m not that young anymore.”

The aged deep-sea dragon whale gave them another look, then nodded its massive head in acknowledgment. “Indeed, you’re not that young anymore. To reach your potential at such a young age, it seems you’ve had quite the opportunities.”

The dragon whale’s gaze was sharp, able to discern even that Anina had reached her potential. It must possess formidable strength.

Ji Chen squinted slightly.

[Deep Sea Dragon Whale Hero: Solidus]

[Race]: Deep Sea Dragon Whale

[Tier]: Legendary

[Potential]: Legendary

[Level]: 69

A legendary-tier hero unit!

Level 69 was the highest level achievable for a legendary tier!

Ji Chen couldn't help but marvel silently. The deep-sea dragon whale clan truly lived up to its reputation as a powerful marine race. Encountering one of them casually revealed such astonishing strength.

Solidus looked at Ji Chen beside Anina, a hint of confusion in his eyes. "A human capable of moving underwater? Quite rare..."

Seeing the conversation shifting toward him, Ji Chen politely introduced himself, "Sir Solidus, I am Ji Chen, the lord of Anina."

Suddenly, the ancient deep-sea dragon whale erupted with an astonishing aura, its eyes filled with a self-imposing manner.. "A prestigious deep-sea dragon whale submitting to a mere human!? Absurd! Shameful!"

Chapter 647: Solidus, The Power of the Water of Life, The Desolate Southern Seas?

Solidus' reaction was intense, even more so than when he mistakenly thought they were enemies as if he had heard something unimaginable.

"The deep-sea dragon whale clan has always been unyielding, taking pride in dying in battle. Why would you submit to a lowly human lord?"

"My Lord is not lowly!" Anina detected the disdain and resentment in his words and, like an irritated kitten, retorted, "It was my great lord who took in the homeless me! It was the people of the Crown of the Ocean who gave me a home!"

"Humph! Can a deep-sea dragon whale ever truly integrate into human society? We are the rulers of the ocean, and we have never bowed to any other race! Not even the gods could make us submit!"

Solidus spoke with a voice that was old but unyielding, looking at the still-defiant Anina and Ji Chen by her side, his anger rising.

From his perspective, it seemed that this sly human lord had employed persuasive words to trick this young descendant, simply aiming to take advantage of her abilities.

No need for confirmation; it must be the case because humans have always behaved like this!

As if recalling some painful memory, anger flared in Solidus' eyes as he continued, "Human, even though I've reached the end of my life, I'll expend my last ounce of strength to defeat you for my people."

As a proud member of the deep-sea dragon whale, known for their arrogance and strength, Solidus, at this moment, was willing to attack Ji Chen without any reservations.

Anina looked worried, not wanting her own clan elder to take action against her lord. But she couldn't just stand by and watch her lord be attacked.

"No need to worry; I won't harm him," Ji Chen said with a gentle smile, reassuring Anina.

Then he turned to face the approaching Solidus. Despite being a legendary level 69 hero, Solidus had already weakened significantly due to his aging and the waning of his life force. His strength was no longer as formidable as it appeared on the surface.

[Deep Sea Dragon Whale Hero: Solidus (Aging)]

[This hero unit has entered the aging phase, with all attributes decreased by 50%.]

At this moment, Solidus had only about half of his normal strength, which was not much different from a level fifty-something legendary hero. He posed less of a threat to Ji Chen than Lord of the Waves.

Ji Chen remained calm.

He raised his hand, and the aura belonging to an epic-tier profession surged out like a volcanic eruption. The surrounding seawater instantly boiled, creating violent currents that radiated outward, tossing Solidus aside as he charged in.

"Epic-tier?! How is this possible? How can a human possess such power?"

Solidus, struggling to stabilize himself, showed a mix of disbelief and sadness in his gigantic whale eyes.

He had fought his entire life, slaying countless foes and earning countless victories, only to be effortlessly tossed aside by a human in his old age. Heroes do age, indeed!

Ji Chen watched as Solidus remained motionless after being tossed by the currents, not making any further attacks. He spoke calmly, "Sir Solidus, I have no intention of being your enemy.

We have come here, traveling thousands of miles, to find the Abyss of the Dragon Whales."

Solidus, seemingly awakened from his desolation and sorrow, stopped his hostile actions and replied with a resigned tone, "What do you seek in the Abyss of the Dragon Whales? This young one is not me, and she is not gravely injured either. It's far from her time to die. Could it be... you want to sneak in and steal a dragon whale's corpse!?"

As if realizing something, he suddenly grew furious.

The ancient dragon whale clan was considered giant dragons living in the ocean. Their whale scales, bones, and oil were extremely precious. However, due to the isolation of the deep sea, they rarely faced threats from land-dwelling races.

Seeing Solidus' intense emotional swings, Ji Chen's lips twitched slightly as he glanced at Anina.

"It's not like that. As you saw earlier, Anina has reached the limit of her potential. Therefore, we want to obtain a high-level dragon whale bloodline within the Abyss of the Dragon Whales, allowing her to break free from the constraints of her life and gain even greater power."

Solidus looked skeptical. "I've never heard that a high-level dragon whale bloodline can help break through the limit of potential. Human, are you trying to deceive me?"

"...I do have a method to help Anina break through. The only thing missing now is this high-level dragon whale bloodline." Ji Chen replied with a calm demeanor.

"Even so, I cannot possibly take you into the Abyss of the Dragon Whales. It is the most sacred and important place for our deep-sea dragon whale clan, where countless deep-sea dragon whales rest in peace, their souls at ease. It cannot be entered by outsiders."

Solidus snorted, "Even if you were to kill me now, I would never do something that goes against our ancestral teachings."

"Then let Anina enter."

"That's also impossible," Solidus replied. "I'm afraid this young one has already realized it. The closer she gets to the Abyss of the Dragon Whales, the more her bloodline's memories will blur. As long as a deep-sea dragon whale is not gravely injured, near death, or dying of old age, they all experience this. It's to prevent some young clan members from attempting to sneak into the Abyss of the Dragon Whales to steal the whale corpse.

In addition to that, the entrance to the Abyss of the Dragon Whales is protected by countermeasures that prevent young dragon whales from entering.."

Chapter 648: Solidus, The Power of the Water of Life, The Desolate Southern Seas? (2)

Ji Chen furrowed his brow; could there really be such a thing?

Anina couldn't help but show a hint of disappointment upon hearing this. Wouldn't that mean she couldn't obtain high-level Dragon Whale bloodline?

Without the high-level Dragon Whale bloodline, she wouldn't be able to break through her potential limits and would remain at the Legacy Tier. She couldn't accept such an outcome...

It seemed like they had hit a dead end.

"I can help you obtain the high-level Dragon Whale bloodline, but I have a condition."

Ji Chen said, looking at Solidus with a slight surprise. "Solidus, please go ahead and tell me, I'll do my best to meet your request."

Solidus' whale eye revealed a hint of cunning and mockery as he replied, "As long as you help me find a way to extend my life by one or two hundred years, I'll assist you."

Anina was shocked; this was really making things tough for them!

At this point, Solidus' body was like a leaky bucket, with his life force constantly draining away. The injuries he had sustained over the years of battle had left him battered and bruised. After growing old, the injuries led to his collapse.

If a water bag had only one hole, it could still be patched up and used. But if it had dozens or hundreds of holes, there was no saving it.

Solidus felt quite pleased with his idea at this moment. Even though he couldn't defeat Ji Chen, watching him struggle was satisfying in its own way.

As for the idea of this young descendant being bound by her potential, he didn't actually believe what this human was saying. The potential limit was determined for each race at birth, and it was a rule that bound them. Only deities could change something like potential.

Just like him, hundreds of years ago, reaching level 69 in the Legendary Tier, despite constantly fighting and consuming divine treasures to enhance the potential of his life, he hadn't made any progress even after hundreds of years had passed.

This human claimed to be able to break through the potential limit?

He didn't believe it.

"Okay,"

Just when he wanted to see the human in misery, Solidus heard the resolute words from the human.

He widened his eyes in surprise and asked, "Human, you should know my current condition. If I hadn't truly lost all hope and was waiting for my downfall in the Abyss of the Dragon Whales, I wouldn't consider this. My intention is not just to extend my life by a few hundred years, but to truly add years to it, not just hang on to life."

Ji Chen smiled and said, "Of course, I have a way to heal your injuries, Solidus, and prolong your life."

As he spoke, he produced a crystal vial filled with amber-colored liquid in his palm and gently pushed it towards Solidus. The vial floated over with the flow of water.

Solidus stared at the crystal vial, his eyes filled with puzzlement. "What is this?"

"It's the Elf's Water of Life, the undiluted kind."

Solidus was stunned. Although he didn't know or had never seen it, it didn't stop him from knowing that this was an incredibly valuable treasure in this era, almost priceless.

He hesitated for a moment as he looked at Ji Chon, then shifted his body.

In an instant, his massive Dragon Whale form transformed into an elderly man with a hunched back and a wrinkled face. He twisted open the vial's cap and poured the Life Water into his mouth before it could flow out.

Solidus swiftly emptied the bottle, and initially, he hesitated, but then his whole face flushed as if something was coursing through his body.

His posture became upright, and the visible wounds on his body healed at an astonishing rate. His once pale hair rapidly turned black, and the wrinkles on his face vanished.

In just a few dozen breaths, an elderly man on the brink of death had transformed into a middle-aged man in the prime of his life.

With a head full of black hair, a robust physique, and a vibrant spirit.

Anina watched this scene with wide eyes.

Solidus was filled with excitement, feeling the comfort that spread throughout his body. It was a stark contrast to the pain and weakness he had experienced before. He clenched his fist tightly, feeling an endless surge of strength.

Almost all the hidden injuries on his body had healed, and the vast vitality flowed through every part of his being.

“Solidus, have I not deceived you?” Ji Chen said calmly, also surprised by the effectiveness of the Life Water.

This undiluted Life Water had brought a deep-sea Dragon Whale back from the brink of death. Its power was truly astonishing.

Back when he obtained a jug of Life Water from the Life Tree in the frozen wilderness, he had already used about one-fifth of it. It made him a bit regretful, but considering the possibility of helping Anina break through her potential limit, he felt that it was worth it.

With this in mind, Ji Chon continued, “Solidus, I’ve restored your vitality. It should be effortless for you to live another one or two hundred years, or even more. So, you should fulfill your previous promise.”

This statement brought Solidus, who was filled with excitement and excitement, back to reality. He looked serious as if he was contemplating something.

He wanted to back out now that he had already recovered, especially since he could start anew with a fresh lease on life. However, the Dragon Whale bloodline and honor did not permit him to do so, especially not in front of this young descendant. If this matter were to become known, his reputation among his kin would undoubtedly suffer.

Who would have thought that this human would possess such a rare item as the Life Water!?

His emotions were now incredibly complex, a mix of joy at being freed from aging and death, and a headache over his previous words.

After deep contemplation, Solidus cleared his throat and said....

Chapter 649: Solidus, The Power of the Water of Life, The

Desolate Southern Seas? (3)

“I do indeed know where to obtain high-level Dragon Whale bloodlines, but it’s not an ordinary place... Simply put, at least a century ago, I discovered that an epic-tier ancient Dragon Whale powerhouse had fallen into a semi-sealed mystic realm.

That mystic realm is now on the brink of destruction, filled with chaotic spatial storms, and riddled with void fissures. One wrong step, and you could be swept into the void turbulence.

The bloodline of an epic-tier ancient Dragon Whale can remain preserved for thousands, if not tens of thousands of years. If luck is on your side, there’s a good chance of obtaining an epic-tier Dragon Whale bloodline. However, that semi-sealed mystic realm is fraught with danger...”

Without hesitation, Ji Chen spoke up, “Sir Solidus, please tell me the location of this semi-sealed mystic realm.”

Solidus appeared somewhat surprised and his gaze softened as he looked at Ji Chen. This human didn’t seem as he had initially thought. He looked decent and was willing to take risks for this young junior.

Seeing this, he didn’t hesitate much and said, “It’s in a sea southwest from here... I can take you there, even accompany you in the search.”

Ji Chen responded, “That would be perfect, but I need to return to my territory to make some preparations.”

Solidus had no objections and nodded in agreement.

Both sides quickly reached an agreement, and Ji Chen gestured for him to board the Sea Crystal Wyrm. They swiftly returned to the Crown of the Ocean.

With a clear goal in mind, the return journey was much faster. After an uninterrupted night of flight, they successfully returned to the Crown of the Ocean on the following day at noon.

Wilus was surprised by Ji Chen’s swift return but immediately began preparations for the upcoming expedition upon hearing they would be setting out soon.

Solidus mentioned that the semi-sealed mystic realm was inhabited by many high-level indigenous creatures. Over the past century, he wasn’t sure how much had changed there. To be safe, Ji Chen pulled together a considerable force.

The North Sea Behemoth Kraken, the Deep Sea Naga Herald, the Blue Dragon Blood Murloc Benbo, the Deep Sea Dragon Whale Anina, the Dragon Horn Catfish Diago, along with the foreign reinforcement Solidus, amounted to six hero units in total. Among them, one was epic-tier, three were legendary-tier, and two were legacy-tier.

Additionally, several mainline legions were included in the expedition.

On the morning of the next day, after completing their preparations, under Ji Chen’s command, they marched in the direction indicated by Solidus.

This semi-sealed mystic realm was located in the southern part of the Western Mid-Ocean, approximately 1,500 kilometers southwest of the New Moon Islands. This vast sea area was marked as extremely dangerous on many merchants’ maps.

With descriptions from Solidus, a former tour guide who had traveled extensively across most of the Mid-Ocean, and insights from Kraken, a native of the region, Ji Chen gained a better understanding of this unfamiliar sea area in the southern Western Mid-Ocean.”

Compared to the relatively bustling central regions, the northern and southern sea areas were desolate. For miles around, not a single island inhabited by people could be found. However, this was only in relative terms to land-dwelling races like humans.

Because of the rare disturbances by other races, the southern sea area had given rise to a prosperous civilization of marine tribes. There were far more marine tribes here compared to the central and northern sea areas, turning it into a “paradise” for these tribes. Here, the most primitive and savage

jungle laws were enacted, with the strong dominating the weak. Powerful marine tribes ruled over everything while the weaker ones struggled to survive.

“Lord, I’m not exaggerating. As soon as I return to the southern sea area, I guarantee that all the marine creatures there will bow down and pledge allegiance. When the time comes, with a command from me... Ahem, from us, thousands of marine creatures will serve us!”

Kraken waved its tentacles enthusiastically, its face filled with excitement.

As the initial instigator of the Sea Beast Tide, Kraken had originated from the southern sea area and was naturally familiar with it.

Ji Chen rolled his eyes. “Well, then I’ll have you lead the way later.”

Kraken chuckled a few times, imagining the scene where it returned and commanded obedience from countless marine creatures, showing off its might as the North Sea Behemoth!

However, when they entered the southern sea area, they discovered that it was entirely different from their expectations.

Not a single marine creature appeared here!

Whether in shallow waters or deep-sea trenches, it was as if they had vanished completely. Not only were there no marine creatures, but even fish were extremely rare.

Ji Chen looked at this lifeless ocean, furrowing his brow deeply. Even though Kraken had initiated the Sea Beast Tide a few months ago, it couldn’t possibly turn this place into such a desolation. The ocean was teeming with countless beings, and the Sea Beasts were just a small part of it.

Were Sea Beasts affected like this, or were other ordinary marine creatures similarly scarce?

“This is strange, very strange. I remember that when I came here before, it was still thriving.” Solidas, in his human form, crossed his arms and looked grave.

In the rippling seawater, he faintly sensed an ominous presence..

Chapter 650: Corrupted Skeleton Lizard

Solidus could sense it, and so could Ji Chen, and it felt oddly familiar.

This ominous aura, he had sensed it not long ago in the Panas Battle instance.

— Demons!

Demons appearing in the main world? Or was there something related to demons?

If it was the latter, it would be somewhat manageable, but if it was the former, it would be a grave matter.

However, without seeing it with his own eyes, he couldn’t make a definite judgment.

“Sir Solidus, we must be extremely cautious on this journey.”

Solidus hesitated for a moment, but seeing the seriousness on Ji Chen's face, he nodded solemnly.

The group continued to move forward.

The desolation of the ocean was entirely different from that of the land.

The desolation of the ocean was characterized by the lush underwater vegetation, yet it was impossible to see any signs of life for miles. The more prosperous the vegetation, the more it accentuated the desolation, like an empty city without inhabitants.

Moreover, the closer they got to the semi-closed mystic realm that Solidus mentioned, the more intense and obvious the ominous aura became. Even the sea crystal wyrms showed expressions of disgust.

"It's right ahead."

Solidus' voice revitalized Ji Chen, who focused his gaze ahead.

It was a vast ocean basin that stretched as far as the eye could see. It sank a hundred meters from the seafloor, and a spatial rift, dozens of meters long, hung vertically at the bottom of the basin. Its eerie purple light made it seem exceptionally scary as if it concealed some great terror.

"It's called a semi-closed mystic realm because this place lacks a stable entrance and exit, and this spatial rift could close at any time."

Solidus looked at the eye-shaped rift that flickered like a devil's eye and said with a solemn tone.

If it weren't for the immense favor Ji Chen had granted him this time, he wouldn't have been willing to come here. No one knew when this rift would disappear, and being trapped inside would be the most serious consequence.

"A spatial rift?"

Ji Chen paused and added, "Kraken has the ability to pierce through space and stabilize spatial rifts. You can rest assured."

Solidus looked at this sea monster with a hint of surprise and wariness in his eyes.

This giant octopus was undoubtedly an epic-tier creature, coupled with its colossal size, its combat strength was formidable. The ocean was not the same as the land, and large sea creatures could truly dominate here.

Combined with other legendary-tier heroes and legacy-tier heroes, this human unexpectedly possessed six high-tier heroes, which even someone as experienced as Solidus found extremely astonishing.

Furthermore, with this army composed of fifth and even sixth-tier units, the power of the Ocean Crown on the surface was quite impressive. However, he didn't believe it was just limited to this. During his brief stay on the New Moon Islands, he had sensed several powerful and mysterious auras hidden on the island.

Solidus had encountered Lords of Glory in the past few months, but he had never seen such a powerful individual before, surpassing other Lords of Glory by a wide margin.

Further recalling what Ji Chen had said about having a way to break through the potential limit using the high-level Dragon Whale bloodline, Solidas seemed to understand something. If that were the case, perhaps he could ask this human for help with that matter?

Seeing Solidus suddenly fall into silence and seemingly pondering something, Ji Chen couldn't help but ask, "Sir Solidus, do you have any concerns?"

Solidus temporarily set aside his thoughts and shook his head, saying, "Nothing, let's prepare to go in."

Back when they were in the Frozen Wilderness of the Divine Battle Ancient Battlefield, Kraken needed the Deceiver to use a certain scroll to disrupt the spatial structure from the outside to enter. However, this semi-closed mystic realm was already on the brink of collapse. Along with its fragility came a vulnerable spatial structure. Even without disrupting the spatial structure, Kraken could easily open a space passage connecting the inside and outside.

Entering the mystic realm through this spatial rift, their vision turned white, and they instantly arrived at another place.

Before them was a vast expanse of water, but the sea surface was pitch-black, covered by dense black clouds that seemed ready to press down. Countless branched lightning bolts illuminated the sky. Upon closer inspection, one could see numerous small and large violet fissures pervading the air. They seemed to pulsate and throb, directly connecting to the void. If touched inadvertently, there was a high chance of being sucked into the void.

Chaos, fragility, oppression.

This was Ji Chen's first impression of this secret realm, far worse than the Frozen Wilderness of the Divine Battle Ancient Battlefield. It made him doubt whether any lifeforms could survive here.

In the far distance, a floating mountain hovered above the sea surface out of nowhere. It cast a deep shadow amidst the constant lightning, appearing magnificent against the gloomy sky.

"Those floating mountains are the nests of one of the indigenous tribes living in this mystic realm," Solidas pointed to the floating island and explained, "Our destination is not there, so there's no need to provoke them."

Ji Chen nodded in agreement. To survive in such a hostile environment, these indigenous tribes likely possessed some unique abilities, and there was no need to provoke unnecessary conflicts.

"That epic-tier Deep Sea Dragon Whale is not far from here, underwater."

The pitch-black sea surface, reflected by the dark clouds, appeared terrifying, but as soon as Ji Chen entered the water, he felt like he had control over everything. His consciousness extended far, far away with the flow of the water..