

## **Ocean Lord 651**

### *Chapter 651: Corrupted Skeleton Lizard (2)*

Hmm?

Ji Chen suddenly looked towards the western direction. In his perception, it seemed that something was approaching them in large numbers.

”Prepare for battle, enemies are coming from the west.”<sup>1</sup>

Several heroes, including Solidus, perked up, readying themselves for action.

Soon, a massive swarm of giant lizard reptiles, each with only a pair of forelimbs and a sturdy tail occupying the rear half of their bodies, appeared rapidly swimming towards them. Their bone-covered heads were exposed, and their bodies looked as if they had rotted for months, with muddy decaying flesh revealing pale bones.

Their eyes were filled with madness and chaos.

[Corrupted Skeletal Lizard]

[Tier]: Fifth Tier, Seven Stars

[Indigenous reptiles tainted by some evil aura, driven to madness and chaos]

Excellent, our very first encounter upon entering are lively opponents that are Fifth Tier Seven Stars.

With a thought, Ji Chen ordered his Kraken to charge out. These corrupted skeletal lizards were not small, about seven to eight meters long, but compared to the colossal Kraken, they appeared rather petite.

The Kraken’s massive tentacles seized several of the foremast corrupted skeletal lizards, flinging them hundreds of meters away with a sudden force. Other tentacles swung like electric fly swatters, shattering dozens of them into pieces, their bones sinking into the depths like mud.

However, what caught Ji Chen off guard was that even those shattered skeletal remains of the corrupted lizards still attempted to struggle and swim back. There was no pain or fear in their eye sockets, only madness.

It was as if something was driving them to recklessly pursue their objective, regardless of life or death.

In front of a Level 55 Epic-tier hero, a swarm of corrupted skeletal lizards, numbering a thousand, was quickly cleared, though many managed to get close while their companions were being attacked. However, the wounds they inflicted with their bites and claws were negligible to the Kraken, healing in moments.

But Ji Chen’s expression didn’t show satisfaction; instead, it revealed a slight frown. He watched the corrupted skeletal lizards rot rapidly after death, and the prefix “corrupted” left him with an uneasy feeling.

An ominous premonition pervaded his mind, and his sense of unease grew stronger.

His tone became somewhat urgent.

“Sir Solidus, let’s quickly find the corpse of that Epic-tier Deep Sea Dragon Whale and obtain the high-level Dragon Whale bloodline. Then, we should leave immediately.”

Solidus also sensed something unusual about this ocean and nodded, “The corpse of the Epic-tier Deep Sea Dragon Whale is not far ahead. Follow me.”

With that, he took the lead.

Ji Chen waved his hand, leading the heroes and the army to follow closely behind.

However, what they didn’t know was that those skeletal remains of the corrupted skeletal lizards, which had completely rotted away to nothing but bones, suddenly began to tremble after they had left. One by one, they struggled to climb up, their eye sockets ignited with a faint blue flame.

After a brief moment, they regrouped and headed in the opposite direction, as if driven by some unknown force.

Ji Chen and his group quickly arrived at their destination. They saw the remains of an epic-tier Deep Sea Dragon Whale, even though all that was left were its bones, which were a whopping sixty meters long. Looking down from above, the pale skeleton resembled a sunken ship resting quietly on the seabed. The spaces within the ribcage were overgrown with underwater vegetation, adding to the sense of forgotten desolation.

The enormous skull slanted into the muddy seafloor, and within the skull, a suspended bead emitted an enchanting blood-red light, casting the surrounding seawater in a crimson hue.

This bead was the core of the epic-tier Deep Sea Dragon Whale, containing its bloodline, combat skills, experiences, and even a portion of its memories. This was why the Deep Sea Dragon Whale clan always strived to return to the Abyss of the Dragon Whales, whether heavily wounded, dying, or when their lifespans were nearing the end.

Only there could they pass on their accumulated combat experience, skills, and knowledge to their descendants through their bloodline memories, ensuring the continued growth and survival of their species.

This particular epic-tier Deep Sea Dragon Whale had likely suffered such severe injuries that it couldn’t muster the strength to return to the Abyss, resulting in its death in this place.

As Anina and Solidus gazed upon the lonely death of their fellow kin here, unable to find peace for their souls, a profound sadness filled their eyes, and an indescribable emotion welled up within them.

However, Ji Chen interrupted their thoughts, saying, “Anina.”

Anina snapped out of her reverie, turned towards Ji Chen, and saw him smiling gently while patting her head.

“Hurry, it’s time.”

Anina nodded solemnly, her expression becoming resolute. She swam towards the enormous skull with deep reverence and gently placed her hand on the blood-red bead.

A majestic and resounding whale song echoed in her ears, and she seemed to see a hundred-meter-long giant whale challenging a storm, roaring defiantly amidst thunderstorms, as if challenging a presence high above in the heavens.

She also witnessed the giant whale surrounded by countless enemies, showing no signs of retreat. With its colossal body, it turned the enemy formation into chaos, accompanied by a resounding battle cry filled with determination and fearlessness.

“Wo arc proud children of the sea, fearless and eager for battle and victory!”

At the same time, memories, combat experiences, and skills flowed into her mind like a surging river...

Seeing that Anina had started absorbing the memories without any issues, Ji Chen nodded in approval. He was about to say something when he received a warning from the Naga Guardians stationed on the outskirts..

*Chapter 652: Corrupted Skeleton Lizard (3)*

—A large number of enemies are attacking!

Ji Chen looked at the massive horde of corrupted skeletal reptiles swarming in the distance, sighing inwardly. He knew this journey wouldn't be as smooth as he hoped.

Regardless, they had to hold out until Anina finished absorbing!

“Prepare for battle, no one is to retreat without my command!”

Ji Chen gave a resolute order.

The Ocean Crown's army swiftly established a defensive line centered around the epic-tier Deep Sea Dragon Whale's skull, and hero units were ready for slaughter.

Before the horde of corrupted skeletal reptiles reached the frontline, a barrage of light beams, like brilliant shooting stars in the night, pierced the dark waters, creating a burst of blood mist among the ferocious enemies.

The Sea Crystal Wurm's beams were effective even underwater, with slightly reduced power compared to on the surface. However, they were still potent enough to deliver fatal blows to these creatures, which didn't even reach Tier Six, tearing off limbs or piercing their bodies.

Between the dancing beams of light, inconspicuous ice-blue arrows suddenly exploded within the enemy group. The exploding arrows sent water splashing like flying blades, creating a storm of flesh and blood wherever they passed.

After the Lobster Nymph Spirit Archers fired three rounds of arrows, they dispelled the water-formed longbows, picked up their spears, and, with a shout, charged alongside the Lobster Guardian Knights around them.

Cavalry was most lethal during a charge.

However, before they could charge, the fifty eight-meter-long Heavy Armor Toothfish and their knights had already accelerated to the maximum.

“Pledge loyalty to our Lord and charge into the enemy formation, crushing them!”

The massive and sturdy charge horns instantly crushed the skeletal lizards that attempted to use their heads as a defense. Fifty Heavy Armor Toothfish knights surged forward like a tidal wave, firmly halting the advancing horde of corrupted skeletal reptiles.

Seeing this, the leading Lobster Guardian Knight heroes’ eyes lit up, realizing it was a golden opportunity.

They raised their spears and shouted loudly.

“Everyone, accelerate!”

The knights swung their reins, pushing their lobster mounts to top speed.

Thud—

A dull impact echoed as thousands of corrupted skeletal lizards were sent flying by the tremendous force of the charge. Spears protruded like silver snakes, puncturing them.

Sixty Leviathan Dragons had somehow circled around to the flanks. They resembled giant snakes with two pairs of menacing pincer-like mouthparts on their heads and fluorescent blue singular horns on their foreheads.

Plop-

Clusters of water nymphs, seemingly harmless, descended into the enemy formation. After a brief pause, they exploded like water mines, their bursting water turning into razor-sharp blades. Wherever they passed, a storm of flesh and blood erupted.

The frontal assault had been somewhat restrained and even pushed back.

Solidus looked somewhat surprised at the Ocean Crown’s explosive combat prowess and chuckled, “It seems I can’t afford to lag behind!”

Transforming into his massive whale form, he suddenly appeared. Compared to before, his whale form had undergone a remarkable transformation, with wounds healed. He launched attacks in his most proficient combat style.

Seeing this, several heroes of the Ocean Crown were unwilling to let outsiders steal the limelight before their lord, and they joined the fray.

Ji Chen observed the battlefield and nodded. If it were only this, it would be difficult to break through their defenses. What concerned him was not these fearless corrupted skeletal lizards but the sinister presence lurking behind them.

He raised his head and looked into the distance. His gaze seemed to penetrate through the crawling creatures and layers of seawater, revealing the evil entity concealed in darkness and shadows..

*Chapter 653: The Hidden Secret*

The transit station between the Abyss of Chaos and the main world.

The sky was gloomy and oppressive, the land a foreboding black, with an evil black mist lingering in the air. The air and the land were saturated with a dense negative energy.

Looking down from the sky, one could see countless dark fur tents standing on this vast land, and tens of thousands of demons occupying this sprawling campsite. Behind the campsite was a deep passage connecting to the Abyss of Chaos, while in front was a dimly lit spatial channel leading to the main world.

However, at this moment, the spatial channel was blocked by a thin, iridescent membrane. It seemed to be covered with magnificent rules, making it difficult for the demons to penetrate it.

“When can we completely open the channel to the main world?”

“It will take some time. The barriers constructed by the rules of the main world are tougher than we anticipated. Demon Hunters have been working hard to break through.”

“Damn it! If it weren’t for that epic-tier Deep Sea Dragon Whale obstructing us recklessly, we would have invaded the main world a hundred years ago!

Now, the gods have used their supreme power to entangle the Orderly Divine Beings, making it difficult for them to stop our invasion. We want those races that have imprisoned us in the Abyss of Chaos for hundreds of thousands of years to feel the same pain we’ve endured. We want the main world to experience our suffering!

We’ve already contacted some allies from the ancient war tens of thousands of years ago – evil orcs, gnomes, goblins, trolls, dungeon creatures... When we’re about to open the channel, they will rise up at the same time, drawing the attention of races like elves, humans, and goblins.

During this opportunity, we will advance rapidly...

Those fools who have lived in peace and comfort, their fighting spirit long dulled, will have no idea what we’ve experienced in the Abyss of Chaos or how much stronger we’ve become over hundreds of thousands of years.

If everything goes as planned, we will soon become the new rulers of the main world, turning those races into our slaves!”

“Now, those skeletal lizards we’ve released to pollute the land are our experiments. Let’s see how the strength of the outside world’s races has changed, and then we can formulate our invasion plan...”

“This won’t expose our invasion intentions prematurely, will it?”

“Hmph, those races nurtured by the Orderly Divine Beings are like sheep, how could they possibly know the power of demons? They’ll probably only think it’s the work of the undead, especially since the undead is a force we demons researched tens of thousands of years ago, a foreshadowing of our return...

Besides, we’re just experimenting in a nearly doomed, semi-closed mystic realm. Who would be foolish enough to barge in?

My comrades, the world belongs to us. With the blood and suffering of those sheeps, we shall welcome the great descent of demons!”

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The semi-closed mystic realm.

The corrupted skeletal lizards kept pouring in like a relentless tide. Starting with thousands, their numbers had now swelled to thousands more, densely packed, converging from all directions.

No one knew where these creatures came from, but it felt like the entire ocean was teeming with them, and no matter how many the Crown of the Ocean’s forces and heroes had already slain, it seemed like there were still more to be killed. At least tens of thousands had been eliminated by now.

However, the surrounding pitch-black seawater seemed like the mouths of colossal beasts, continuously spewing forth these bloodthirsty monsters.

Solidus punched one of the corrupted skeletal lizards, shattering its head with sheer force, then casually grabbed its tail and threw it away. The Deep Sea Dragon Whale in the form of a small giant was also busy, every punch capable of killing one, and countless had perished under its iron fists.

However, the skulls of those that were smashed started to rapidly decay in the seawater in an inexplicable manner, turning into skeletons once more and attacking again, their strength not much weaker than before.

Ji Chen looked at the still-dense enemies, deep in thought.

Resurrection as skeletons after death was a specialty of undead creatures. Could it be that this strange situation here was the work of undead?

As his thoughts raced, he glanced at Anina.

Anina still held her hand out, but the epic-tier Deep Sea Dragon Whale’s blood-red pearl had shrunk considerably compared to before. There was also an increasingly powerful aura emanating from Anina, indicating that the absorption was nearing its end.

“Alice, can you control these corrupted skeletal lizards?”

“I can, but it’s more challenging to control them than ordinary creatures.” Alice nodded lightly, her expression somewhat grave. “Their bodies and souls have been thoroughly corrupted and eroded, their minds filled with madness and chaos, becoming mere puppets driven solely by the urge to kill.”

“So, does this have something to do with the undead?”

“Surface-level indicators suggest it’s highly likely, but I believe there might be deeper reasons behind it.”

After listening to Alice’s words, Ji Chen couldn’t help but sink into thought, his mind flashing back to that 7-star dungeon.

He had a nagging feeling that there might be something unsavory hidden here.

After a moment of contemplation, he made up his mind.

“Once Anina’s absorption is complete, we’ll start investigating the secrets hidden within this semi-closed mystic realm and the mysteries concealed within these corrupted skeletal lizards.

However, if there are any signs of this realm collapsing, we must leave immediately.”

Despite their large numbers, the corrupted skeletal lizards were still struggling to make an effective breakthrough in the face of several high-tier heroes and the defenses constructed by thousands of fifth and sixth-tier troops..

#### *Chapter 654: The Hidden Secret (2)*

As time passed, the crimson pearl gradually became smaller until it completely dissolved.

A system prompt echoed slowly.

“Ding- Your Deep Sea Dragon Whale Hero, Anina, has absorbed the life essence left behind by the epic-level Deep Sea Dragon Whale. The seals on combat skills, combat experience, and bloodline memories have been released.”

“Deep Sea Dragon Whale Hero, Anina, has gained a high-level Dragon Whale Bloodline (Above-Epic Tier).”

Ji Chen’s spirits lifted as he looked at Anina.

She slowly opened her eyes, and golden light burst forth, as if emitting an ancient gaze that had spanned millennia. Her entire demeanor underwent a tremendous transformation, shedding her youthful and naive appearance for a more dignified and majestic presence.

Although her strength didn’t seem to have changed significantly, anyone could see that Anina now stood like a bird on a mountaintop, ready to soar at the right moment.

Anina’s expression was calm and her eyes swept over to Ji Chen, revealing a hint of familiarity.

However, her countenance soon turned solemn.

“Lord, I have completed the absorption, and within the memories of this predecessor, I found something related to... demons.”

Ji Chen’s expression changed slightly, and he nodded without hesitation.

“Prepare to withdraw, everyone.”

With his command, they shifted from defense to offense.

“Clear the path!”

The Crown of the Ocean’s forces surged upstream in the black and white tides, mercilessly slaying one corrupted skeletal lizard after another.

Seeing their attempt to leave, the corrupted skeletal lizards became even more frenzied. They used their bodies to form flesh and blood walls, blocking the way, and more of them rushed in from the distance.

Ji Chen raised his hand expressionlessly.

[Typhoon Storm (Golden Skill): Create a massive water typhoon that sucks in nearby objects and inflicts massive damage.]

Suddenly, a small high-speed whirlpool appeared in the sea. It gradually expanded as it spun rapidly, forming a gigantic water typhoon that connected the sea surface to a hundred meters deep. It generated a terrifying suction force in the surrounding area.

The gigantic water typhoon concealed countless sharp water blades within its whirlpool, akin to a grinder rapidly dismembering the corrupted skeletal lizards that were swept into it. They were eviscerated, dissected, and reduced to tiny pieces as they spun together.

In just one strike, over two thousand corrupted skeletal lizards were reduced to smithereens.

When the subsequent waves of corrupted skeletal lizards broke through the resting typhoon and whirlpool, they had already lost track of Ji Chen's group.

On the sea surface, Ji Chen and the others resurfaced from underwater and scanned their surroundings, finding no trace of the corrupted skeletal lizards.

"Rest for now, and Dragonblood Legion, spread out and be on guard!"

The blue-scaled merfolk of the Dragonblood Legion immediately dispersed in a semi-circular formation centered around Ji Chen, beginning their vigil.

"Anina, what did you see in the memories of that epic-level Deep Sea Dragon Whale?" Ji Chen asked, looking at Anina.

"Lord, that predecessor... died rapidly due to the depletion of his vitality, and the culprit was none other than demons," Anina slowly recounted everything she had seen in the memories remaining in her bloodline.

A hundred years ago, a level 77 epic-tier Deep Sea Dragon Whale, in the prime of its life, roamed the vast oceans. It arrived in the southern waters of the Western Mid-Ocean and stumbled upon a semi-sealed mystic realm out of curiosity.

Driven by curiosity, it ventured inside.

However, upon entering, it discovered that the spatial structure here was fragile, teetering on the brink of destruction. An evil force was silently infiltrating from the outside, trying to open a spatial passage.

This malevolent force was none other than the demon race, who, according to legends, had been sealed along with the Dark God in the depths of the Chaos Abyss.

This revelation shocked the epic-tier Deep Sea Dragon Whale. How could demons, sealed in the Chaos Abyss by the orderly gods, possess the energy to open a passage?

Without much time for contemplation, at that very moment, the demons were on the verge of completely opening the spatial passage. In this critical moment, the epic-tier Deep Sea Dragon Whale resolutely used its own life to repair the shattered spatial structure, obstructing the demons'



progress in opening the spatial passage. It allowed this nearly doomed mystic realm to persist for another hundred years.

The memory was simple, but the impact was profound.

Not only Ji Chen but also several heroes were astonished by what Anina had just revealed.

Demons, attempting to invade again!?

A repeat of the godly battles from tens of thousands of years ago?

“But if the orderly gods had sealed the Dark God and the demon race in the Chaos Abyss, wouldn’t they be vigilant and intervene if they sensed such intentions?” Solidus furrowed his brow as he questioned.

Other heroes shared a similar sentiment. If the orderly gods had the power to seal them, they would surely be monitoring any potential threats, not just from the demon race but even the Dark God itself.

“All I mentioned comes from the memories in my bloodline, and a hundred years ago, the demons indeed intended to open a spatial passage in this semi-sealed mystic realm,” Anina affirmed with certainty.

However, Ji Chen’s brow furrowed slightly, and he spoke slowly.

“If that’s the case, there’s a possibility that the orderly gods knew about the demon race’s intention to invade again but were unable to stop it.”

This statement was shocking, and the heroes exchanged surprised glances.

Even the orderly gods couldn’t prevent it?

“If the demons dared to open a spatial passage from the Chaos Abyss to the main world, and a hundred years ago, they were just one step away from succeeding. However, the orderly gods did not send down any divine revelations to warn the elves, humans, and other orderly races.”

So, the bold speculation is that the orderly gods may not have wanted to warn but were entangled by something, making it impossible to convey divine revelations to the main world protected by the rules.

Seeing their shocked expressions, Ji Chen continued, “And it’s very likely that those dark gods are the ones entangling the orderly gods, allowing the demons to secretly open the invasion channel.

And those corrupted skeletal lizards might be their vanguard sent to investigate the situation.”

Solidus’s face was filled with astonishment, and his thoughts were in turmoil. He spoke in a dry voice, “This speculation... it’s too audacious. How could the suppressed dark gods possibly turn the tables and entangle the orderly gods?”

According to legend, the Chaos Abyss is an extremely hostile place, filled with destruction and death, completely cut off from the outside world.

The orderly gods had chosen this place to suppress and seal the dark gods, cutting off their supply of faith. The longer they were suppressed, the weaker the dark gods became, making it even less likely for them to escape.

A group of prisoners growing weaker over time in a water dungeon, how could they have the strength to break free from their cell and attack the guards outside?

Based on this, Solidus found this speculation unbelievable.

Ji Chen smiled and said, "This is just a bold speculation based on the information we currently have, one of countless possibilities, and it may not necessarily be the truth.

But regardless, the fact remains that the demons intend to open a spatial passage and invade again. This matter should be shared with the elves, humans, and other orderly races."

Solidus nodded in agreement. "Major events like this cannot be resolved by one individual or one race alone. We must inform other races to guard against the demons.

However, before that, I need to find concrete evidence to prove this point."

This information was derived from Anina's absorption of the memories of the epic-tier Deep Sea Dragon Whale. It was intangible and would likely be considered as madness if spoken without substantial evidence.

Only with solid and convincing proof could they hope to persuade the races who held unwavering belief and superstition in the gods.

"It seems that we need to search for sufficient evidence in this ocean filled with corrupted skeletal lizards and possibly other corrupted creatures," Ji Chen said, shaking his head. He had only intended to help Anina obtain a high-level dragon whale bloodline, but now he had become entangled in the matter of demon invasion.

Demon invasion was undoubtedly a situation that required thorough preparation, and it might lead to a war that engulfed the entire world, much like what had happened tens of thousands of years ago.

However, the outcome remained uncertain..

#### *Chapter 655: Featherfolk Race*

Although Ji Chen didn't know the exact number of those corrupted skeletal lizards, he was likely they now now prevalent throughout this ocean. In theory, there was no safe place in the sea.

Ji Chen asked, "Sir Solidus, who are the native inhabitants residing on the Floating Mountain?"

"The inhabitants of the Floating Mountain are a group known as the Featherfolk. They are one of the original peoples of this realm."

Since the Featherfolk are indigenous, they probably knew something about the specific origins of those corrupted skeletal lizards and events that occurred in this realm a century ago.

If they could rest temporarily on the Floating Mountain, it would be even better for reorganizing their military forces.

Ji Chen made up her mind, but he didn't immediately voice it. Instead, he looked at Solidus and said, "Sir Solidus, we agreed earlier that you would lead us to find high-level Dragon Whale bloodlines. Now that Lady Anina has successfully absorbed it, the agreement is complete. Investigating the demons carries some risks, and you are free to leave this matter..."

Solidus' expression turned somewhat unpleasant, and he spoke with a hint of anger, "Do you think I, Solidus, am the kind of person who fears death? As you humans often say, 'When a disaster strikes, it is rare for everything to remain unharmed.'

The invasion of demons concerns the entire world. How can I retreat just because of some danger?

The epic-tier Deep Sea Dragon Whale who arrived here a hundred years ago discovered the intent of the demon invasion and resolutely sacrificed their life to stop it. As a member of the Deep Sea Dragon Whale clan, how can I shrink back!?"

These words left Ji Chen speechless, and he could only nod.

"In that case, Sir Solidus, you can continue to travel with us and find evidence of the demon invasion."

Solidus finally smiled with satisfaction, which changed Ji Chen's opinion of him considerably.

He continued in a gentler tone, "Let's go to the Floating Mountain and make contact with the Featherfolk."

After a brief orientation, they headed in the direction of the Floating Mountain.

As they got closer, the Floating Mountain appeared even more magnificent. There were dozens of towering peaks suspended above their head, casting a massive, looming shadow over the sea surface.

The Floating Mountains were not linked together; each one floated separately, and the lowest one was positioned at about fifty to sixty meters above the sea level.

Looking up at the Floating Mountains above their heads, Solidus couldn't help but grimace, feeling a genuine aversion to the sky as a marine race.

But he still asked, "How do we get up there? You have over a hundred flying dragons, but it will take quite an effort..."

Ji Chen smiled and shook his head, not answering directly but snapping his fingers.

[Ocean Domain (Golden skill, can create a floating ocean domain within a radius of eight hundred meters...; the domain can absorb nearby water sources and create a suspended water domain in the air).]

The second effect of the Ocean Domain.

Suddenly, a layer of seawater beneath their feet surged upward, lifting the Crown of the Ocean and all the heroes as if they were on an elevator, slowly ascending towards the heights.

The heroes looked down in astonishment as their bodies submerged into this layer of seawater, which disappeared abruptly at a depth of twenty meters, leaving only air below.

From a distance, they appeared to be floating on a lake.

Solidus had a nervous look on his face, fearing he might fall. The entire whale's body remained tense until they reached the same height as the lowest floating mountain. Only then did he relax a bit, jumping from the suspended water domain to a platform on the floating mountain.

Ji Chen climbed onto the platform of the floating mountain, looked around, but saw no traces of the Featherfolk. They were likely living on higher floating mountains.

Looking upward, the tallest floating mountain was probably hundreds of meters high, with outlines of buildings faintly visible, resembling a city in the sky.

Ji Chen glanced at Solidus, who appeared somewhat uncomfortable as he peered over the edge. He smiled and said, "Sir Solidus, please return to the suspended water domain. We need to continue ascending."

Solidus visibly swallowed hard and, while looking at the several hundred meters high floating mountain above, instinctively wanted to refuse. However, seeing Ji Chen's enigmatic smile, he gritted his teeth and jumped back into the suspended water domain.

Ji Chen couldn't help but chuckle when he noticed Solidus avoiding looking down and appearing tense. He raised her hand and controlled the suspended water domain to continue ascending.

The farther they were from the sea surface, the more difficult it became to control, and the faster the consumption of magical power increased exponentially. When they reached a height of about a hundred meters, it started to feel strenuous. But it was at this moment that the Featherfolk finally noticed the suspended water domain rising.

Two groups of Featherfolk, each consisting of a hundred people, flew down from above with bows and spears in hand.

Featherfolk Divine Archers, Sixth Tier, 1-star.

Featherfolk Spear Masters, Sixth Tier, 1-star.

The Featherfolk bore a resemblance to humans, including both men and women among their kind. They possessed a delicate and graceful appearance, featuring pristine white wings on their backs and a few feather-like plumes behind their ears. Their skin was as fair as snow.

They were dressed in scale armor, wielding steel-tipped spears and sturdy bows. Coupled with their exceptional beauty that was no less than that of elves, they appeared quite heroic.

"Don't move! One more step, and we will launch an attack!" shouted the lead Featherfolk Centurion loudly.

Ji Chen stopped ascending to indicate a friendly gesture. However, the Sea Crystal Wyrms had taken off unnoticed and were circling around. If one were to look closely, one could see their flight paths intersecting with the trajectories of the Featherfolk's arrows. Once the Featherfolk initiated an attack, the Sea Crystal Wyrms would use their bodies to block the arrows, preventing them from reaching the suspended water domain.

It was necessary to take precautions before understanding the Featherfolk's temperament.

The Featherfolk Centurion looked at the extraordinary sight before them with a hint of amazement. This sight of something ascending as if defying gravity, carrying thousands of soldiers on top, was truly astonishing to them.

Ji Chen stepped forward and spoke loudly, "I am Ji Chen, the Lord of the Crown of the Ocean. We have come to discuss matters with your Featherfolk tribe."

Discuss matters?

The Featherfolk Centurion refused without much thought, "We Featherfolk have no connection with you humans or the aquatic races, and there will be no overlap... You better leave, or we will launch an attack."

Perhaps seeing that two more groups of a hundred had arrived from his own side, the Centurion's tone suddenly became more assertive.

Ji Chen didn't appear angry and responded calmly, "Are you not concerned about the corrupted skeletal lizards? Have you no worries at all?"

The Featherfolk Centurion's complexion changed slightly at her words. "You have already fought against those lizards?!"

"More than just fighting; we've killed quite a few of them. We may even know where these corrupted skeletal lizards come from."

"Really!? Tell me quickly!"

Feeling a sudden sense of urgency, the Featherfolk Centurion spoke impulsively before realizing he had spoken out of turn. He recognized the significance of the human's words and said earnestly, "Please wait here; I will go and report this."

With that, the Featherfolk Centurion flapped his wings and flew towards the higher floating mountain. He left behind hundreds of Featherfolk soldiers hovering in the air on alert.

Ji Chen watched as the Featherfolk Centurion gracefully flapped his wings, swiftly maneuvering between the Floating Mountains like a bird in flight. He couldn't help but admire the agility of the Centurion.

The Featherfolk truly seemed like children of the sky, their agility surpassing even that of the Sea Crystal Wyrms. If a military force were formed by Featherfolk, it would indeed compensate for the Crown of the Ocean's lack of aerial combat capabilities.

As thoughts swirled in Ji Chen's mind, the Featherfolk Centurion returned with a slightly more polite tone.

"You can take a few guards to the uppermost floating mountain, but these troops will need to stay here."

Ji Chen glanced around and replied, "Without me, this suspended water domain cannot be maintained. Please find a sufficiently deep lake or water source to accommodate my army, as I am not comfortable leaving them on the sea surface."

The Featherfolk Centurion nodded in agreement. "There is a floating mountain on this level that can accommodate them. Please lead them to follow me."

"Lord Ji Chen, you may go up, and I will stay on this level," Solidas suddenly spoke. Seeing the strange looks from the heroes, especially the disdainful expression in

Annina's eyes, he quickly explained, "I'm just afraid you won't be able to bring so many heroes up with you."

Ji Chen smiled and nodded. "Very well, Sir Solidas, you can stay on this level."

"Annina, Alice, Herald, the three of you will follow me, and Benbo and Diago will also stay."

"Yes!" the heroes replied.

Seeing that they had finished arranging everything, the Featherfolk Centurion didn't waste any more time. He led them to a flat floating mountain a few hundred meters away. At the mountain's waist, there was a lake several tens of meters deep, large enough to accommodate thousands of troops from the Crown of the Ocean.

After settling the army, Ji Chen and the three heroes boarded the Sea Crystal Wyrms and followed the Featherfolk Centurion, circling and ascending around one floating mountain after another.

After roughly ten minutes, they arrived at the uppermost layer of floating mountains. In front of them stood magnificent Gothic-style buildings constructed on the floating mountains.

Continuous arches and spires, flying buttresses hanging from the mountain's edge, elegant glass windows, round gazebos, fountains made of white stone...

In the dimly lit sky, this predominantly white-colored architectural complex exuded an atmosphere that was both grand and slightly decadent.

The Featherfolk had built such a stunning dwelling place on these floating mountains, which truly surprised Ji Chen.

"Please follow me to the council hall up ahead," the Featherfolk Centurion urged.

Ji Chen snapped back to attention and nodded.

The group landed on a rather spacious floating mountain, walked across a square paved with stone, and entered a magnificent building where a group of Featherfolk was already waiting.

Seeing Ji Chen enter, a Featherfolk with a circular gold crown stood up and politely said, "I am Augustus, the chieftain of the Featherfolk tribe. Welcome, Sir."

"I am Ji Chen, the Lord of the Crown of the Ocean," Ji Chen replied casually.

However, his eyes were fixed on the Featherfolk chieftain.

The Feather folk chieftain was not a hero unit, but the young female Featherfolk by his side was a hero unit.

[Patheia (Featherfolk Hero)]

[Race]: Featherfolk

[Tier]: Legacy (Red)

*Chapter 656: Patheia, Another Natives*

Augustus noticed Ji Chen glancing to the side and, with a slight pause, he smiled and said, "I forgot to introduce her. This is my daughter, Patheia, also one of the most powerful warriors of the Featherfolk."

Patheia gave a subtle nod in Ji Chen's direction, her face showing a cool demeanor with a hidden air of pride and self-assuredness. It reminded him of his first meeting with Anina, both exuding a similar sense of arrogance, as if they had no rivals.

However, as they faced increasingly formidable opponents over time, Anina gradually tempered her pride, growing more composed and revealing the depth of this Deep Sea Dragon Whale Hero.

"Lord Ji Chen, please have a seat," Augustus gestured.

Ji Chen nodded and sat down at the opposite side of the table, facing Augustus. The other heroes positioned themselves behind their respective leaders.

In terms of numbers, the Crown of the Ocean had three heroes, one legendary and two legacy-tier, while their counterparts had only one legacy-tier hero. Although unintentional, this moment marked the beginning of a certain rivalry between the two sides.

Patheia didn't want to appear weaker in terms of presence. Her lovely face carried a stubbornness, and her eyes radiated an unyielding pride and confidence, much like that first encounter with Anina, where they both seemed to overlook any competition.

However, when faced with such a "provocation," Alice, Anina, and Herald couldn't help but feel anger and a desire for confrontation. They were the representatives and support of their lord and couldn't tolerate such blatant disregard for their leader.

In an instant, a clash of auras ensued, with the Deep Sea, Melody, and Sharpness auras bursting forth.

The Featherfolk soldiers on both sides instinctively placed their hands on the hilts of their swords, a cold edge appearing in their eyes.

This tense atmosphere filled the entire hall.

However, all of this unfolded in a matter of seconds, almost too quickly for Augustus to respond. When he grasped the situation, his expression shifted slightly. "All Featherfolk stop what you're doing!"

Upon hearing his command, the Featherfolk soldiers hesitated for a moment and then sheathed their blades.

Ji Chen raised his hand in a calming gesture, and Alice and the others gradually retracted their auras.

Patheia's body swayed, her face pale. Her eyes no longer held the sharpness they did before, but there was still a trace of dissatisfaction on her face.

Seeing this, Augustus could only ask her to leave and rest.

After Patheia left, the Featherfolk chieftain wore a somewhat embarrassed expression and spoke apologetically, "Lord Ji Chen, I'm very sorry. I've always spoiled Patheia, and her exceptional

talent combined with the lack of encounters with strong opponents has made her somewhat arrogant. Please don't take offense."

Ji Chen waved his hand dismissively and said with a smile, "It's alright. Being young and powerful naturally comes with confidence. I understand."

"I'm glad you're not offended," Augustus replied with a forced smile. However, in the brief clash between the two sides, he sensed that all three heroes under Ji Chen's command were of high rank, with one even being a stronger legendary-tier hero.

According to the reports from his soldiers, it seemed there were more heroes left in the lower Floating Mountain, and some of them were nearly as powerful as Patheia...

Oh My Feathered God, where did this human come from?

The heroes under his command seemed to have been assembled in abundance, like a wholesale market. In that world, strength had always been the most esteemed currency, and even Augustus had unconsciously adopted a more courteous tone.

"Lord Ji Chen, let's discuss the matter of those corrupted skeletal lizards. I heard from my soldiers... Do you know the source of these corrupted skeletal lizards?"

Seeing that the conversation had finally taken the right track, Ji Chen wasted no time and immediately inquired, "When did the anomalies in this ocean begin?"

"The anomalies?" Augustus's expression darkened. "I believe it began around a hundred years ago. At that time, the ocean was still tranquil, and the sky was clear blue. But one day, the sea creatures suddenly went mad, engaging in mutual slaughter, and the population dwindled rapidly. In recent years, the corrupted skeletal lizards appeared. Aside from those corrupted creatures, there aren't many normal beings left in this ocean.

But if we talk about the most noticeable change, it would be the Ocean Pixies living in the depths."

Ji Chen's interest was piqued. Ocean Pixies were distinct from Sea Pixies; the latter were ocean-elemental creatures, while the former were a branch of the Pixies race adapted to the marine environment.

Ocean Pixies came into existence after the great war hundreds of thousands of years ago, when they suffered heavy casualties, the land was desolate, and resources were scarce. To ensure their survival, Pixies tribes dispersed to various places on land.

Among them, one group set their sights on the resource-rich ocean, using magic and secret techniques to transform their bodies to thrive in the aquatic environment. Over time, they evolved into the unique branch known as the Ocean Pixies.

"That Ocean Pixies tribe is within this Mystic Realm, and apart from our Featherfolk, they are the only intelligent race. Over the centuries, we have had periodic exchanges, trading our specialties."



Augustus sighed. “However, since the ocean underwent these changes, they seem to have fallen on hard times. The most recent contact we had was three years ago, and it seemed they discovered some clues about the anomalies. But since then, our communication with them has been severed by those corrupted skeletal lizards. We have no idea about their current situation..”

*Chapter 657: Patheia, Another Natives (2)*

Ji Chen nodded in agreement. This clue held great value. If they could locate these Ocean Pixies, it might lead them to more evidence.

Augustus paused for a moment, a puzzled expression on his face as he asked, “Lord Ji Chen, how did those corrupted skeletal lizards come about? Have you discovered anything in the ocean?”

Ji Chen looked at him solemnly and replied with a serious tone, “We have found that demons are attempting to invade once again.”

“What!?” Augustus was shocked by this news and quickly stood up in surprise. He quickly connected the dots with the ocean anomalies. “Are you saying that these anomalies are all caused by demons?”

“It’s very likely,” Ji Chen briefly explained about Anina absorbing the bloodline memories of an epic-tier Deep Sea Dragon Whale.

He tapped his index finger on the table and continued in a heavy tone, “Those corrupted skeletal lizards are probably creations of the demons, acting as their vanguard, perhaps trying to establish a hidden foothold in this secluded Mystic realm, using it as a forward base for their invasion into the main world.

If we just stand by and do nothing, the demons will soon launch a massive invasion. I need to find concrete evidence to make other races aware and prepared.”

“This is... truly astonishing,” Augustus muttered in disbelief, still showing the surprise in his eyes, and then he sat back down.

He hadn’t previously considered this possibility. Who could have imagined that the demon race, suppressed by the orderly gods, would attempt to invade the main world again?

As a native of this realm, when prompted by Ji Chen, he quickly recalled the various events and anomalies that had occurred in this realm over the past century. The appearance of corrupted creatures, infighting among marine creatures, ocean pollution... all seemed closely related to the malevolent demon race, and he found Ji Chen’s account highly credible.

“Lord Ji Chen, is this truly the case?”

“It is indeed, I witnessed and heard it firsthand. An epic-tier Deep Sea Dragon Whale willingly sacrificed its life to delay the demon invasion by a hundred years. This information comes directly from its bloodline memories, and there is no falsehood in it.”

Augustus was filled with respect upon hearing this. He hadn't expected that this realm, which should have been on the verge of collapse a hundred years ago, had been stabilized by an epic-tier Deep Sea Dragon Whale.

This fact alone earned his trust to a great extent.

With a deep sense of responsibility, Ji Chen continued, "Lord Augustus, I need you to guide me in finding the Ocean Pixies. For the safety of the main world, it is essential that we thoroughly investigate this matter."

Upon hearing this, Augustus became solemn and replied with a serious tone, "Of course, considering the gravity of the situation with the demons attempting to invade again, I cannot simply stand by.

In the ancient divine war hundreds of thousands of years ago, our Featherfolk were also members of the anti-evil faction. This matter is a duty we cannot evade."

Following that, Augustus sternly addressed the nearby Featherfolk soldiers, saying, "Issue my command, assemble the first thousand troops!"

The Featherfolk soldiers promptly nodded and saluted, saying, "Yes!"

Watching the Featherfolk soldiers hastily leave the hall, Ji Chen asked, "Your Excellency, since this realm is on the verge of collapse, and the living conditions are deteriorating, why don't you consider relocating to the vast main world?"

Augustus sighed, "While the main world is vast, it seems there is no place for us to settle. This realm, harsh as it may be, can still provide us with a meager existence, preventing our tribe from being annihilated."

Ji Chen quickly understood the reason behind this.

Featherfolk were highly sought after in the slave market, even more so than Elves. They possessed exceptional beauty, graceful bodies, and a pair of pristine white wings, making them almost as attractive as Elves in appearance. However, their influence was not as powerful as the Elves, and they often faced various threats.

Featherfolk in the main world either lived in seclusion or were under the protection of stronger powers, as they dared not roam freely, fearing capture by slave-hunting squads.

The Featherfolk tribe here clearly understood the dangers that the outside world posed to their kind and chose to stay despite the harsh environment, which was perfectly reasonable.

"Your Excellency Augustus, I have a suggestion."

"Please, go ahead."

"You may consider joining the Crown of the Ocean."

Augustus paused for a moment, immediately grasping Ji Chen's intention. He fell silent for a while and then said, "Your Excellency, your domain is undoubtedly powerful, but the Featherfolk tribe currently has no intention of seeking allegiance to any power, so..."

Facing the polite refusal, Ji Chen did not dwell on it and simply smiled. He was merely trying to explore the possibility.

“Lord Augustus, the first thousand troops have assembled!”

Soon, the Featherfolk soldier who had left returned and reported.

Augustus stood up, slightly bent over, and extended his hand, saying, “Lord Ji Chen, let us go.” His demeanor clearly regarded Ji Chen with the utmost respect, placing himself in a subordinate position.

Leaving aside other matters, this Featherfolk tribal leader was indeed both sensible and considerate.

Ji Chen did not hesitate and led the way. Respect for strength was a common practice, and his actions were perfectly normal.

In the square outside, a thousand-strong Featherfolk unit had already assembled, standing in formation on both sides. At the forefront was the Featherfolk hero of the legacy tier, Patheia.

Upon seeing Ji Chen and the three heroes of the Crown of the Ocean, her expression became somewhat unnatural, and her hand restlessly gripped the hilt of the sword hanging at her waist..

*Chapter 658: Patheia, Another Natives (3)*

Having just experienced the events in the hall, it left her with some psychological scars.

This transformation from being so timid and far from the arrogant demeanor from earlier made Ji Chen quite astonished.

When did he become someone who could make a legacy-tier hero like her so wary with just his subordinates’ aura?

Augustus glanced at Ji Chen, seeing no immediate reaction from him, he relaxed a bit and spoke.

“Lord Ji Chen, Patheia will take you to the area where the Ocean Pixies reside later. However, we cannot assist you on your journey underwater. I’ll be waiting here for your triumphant return.”

Without saying much, Ji Chen nodded.

“All right, everyone, let’s depart!”

With that command, the Featherfolk battalion began to rise in rows, their pristine white wings forming a breathtaking white carpet in the sky.

Ji Chen and his group boarded the Sea Crystal Wurm, flying towards the lower floating mountain where the army was stationed.

Solidus, seeing so many “bird people” following behind, couldn’t help but be puzzled. “What’s going on...?”

“The Featherfolk are taking us to find another indigenous group, the Ocean Pixies. Perhaps we can obtain some valuable evidence and clues from them,” Ji Chen briefly explained before delving back into his expertise in the realm of the sea.

A massive stretch of seawater, seemingly defying gravity, surged upwards and formed a floating watery area about a hundred meters above, leaving the inexperienced Featherfolk warriors and Patheia utterly amazed.

Is this even possible!?

As they slowly descended from a hundred meters high to the sea's surface, Kraken emerged from the ocean, its colossal forms nearly scaring the Featherfolk out of their wits. Swords were drawn, and arrows were nocked on bows.

"Don't worry; this is my servant, Kraken," Ji Chen reassured them as he observed them hastily taking to the skies.

Patheia, displaying a blend of astonishment and skepticism, had her longsword at the ready until she noticed the Kraken remained still. After a moment's pause, she sheathed her sword and signaled for the other Featherfolk to relax.

The imposing presence of this giant octopus had a greater impact on her than the legendary Naga.

So, there were many powerful individuals in the world beyond? Even a human lord's group had so many impressive individuals, and none of them was weaker than her.

Her sense of competition and self-assuredness took another hard hit, and she regarded Ji Chen with a hint of fear.

Ji Chen couldn't help but smile when he saw that.

I still prefer your untamed and headstrong demeanor from the beginning.

In the sky, thousands of Featherfolk warriors flew through the air, and on the sea surface, thousands of Ocean Crown soldiers raced forward.

The habitat of the Ocean Pixies lay at the far end of the sea, and it took them several hours to reach a sea area dotted with small island groups.

Ji Chen stepped onto the beach of one of the islands, where some facilities remained. However, looking at the dilapidated state, it had clearly not been maintained for a long time.

Patheia descended from the sky onto the beach, her wings quickly folded and hanging on her back. She hesitated for a moment before walking over to Ji Chen.

"We used to trade with the Ocean Pixies on this small island. However, since they failed to show up for the scheduled trade two years ago, they haven't appeared on the sea's surface, and our two races lost contact. If you want to..."

Suddenly, a strange roar echoed from the island, followed by magical beasts shrouded in black mist emerging from the forest.

Patheia's words were interrupted, and upon seeing the approaching magical beasts, she drew her longsword and shouted, "Deal with these corrupted creatures!"

Featherfolk Divine Archers quickly nocked their arrows and released a barrage that turned the first wave of magical beasts into sieves. Then, Featherfolk swordsmen, armed with longswords,

swooped down from the sky, effortlessly severing the heads of the corrupted creatures with their razor-sharp blades.

After a few rounds of diving attacks, hundreds of attacking corrupted creatures didn't even manage to touch the hem of their clothes before being reduced to lifeless bodies.

The entire battle was executed with grace, efficiency, and precision.

Seeing their fellow Featherfolk cleanly dispatch the enemies, Patheia seemed to regain some confidence, nodding in satisfaction.

Their Featherfolk tribe was indeed quite formidable..

*Chapter 659: Ocean Pixies, Elwin*

In the past, the Featherfolk tribe generally possessed high average strength. In the case of the Augustus Featherfolk tribe, their warriors were typically at the level of Tier 6,1-star. Their numbers were around two thousand in size, and this strength was still considered impressive even in the main world.

However, like the Elves, the Featherfolk tribe shared a common flaw, which was their low breeding capacity. While they had high average combat prowess, their numbers were scarce compared to other races such as humans.

This made them cautious in their actions, fearing casualties among their people. This, in turn, further reduced their ability to acquire resources, leading to a decrease in breeding resources. In this vicious cycle, they had become as rare as protected animals.

Just as Patheia was feeling somewhat complacent, she heard Ji Chen say something.

“Be careful with those corrupted creatures' corpses.”

As soon as he finished speaking, a strange sizzling sound accompanied by the friction of bones could be heard. Patheia's pupils suddenly shrank as she looked at the ground in astonishment.

She saw that the long-dead, corrupted beasts were rapidly turning into blood and flesh, like melting snow in spring. They struggled to stand up with their pale skeletons and rushed towards her as their mouths opened wide.

“Undead!?”

Patheia swung her longsword in a somewhat frantic manner. With her absolute strength and speed, she quickly killed several undead creatures in front of her. Seeing that her fellow Featherfolk were also dealing with the other undead creatures, she finally breathed a sigh of relief.

Ji Chen, watching this scene, shook his head silently.

The performance of this Featherfolk hero, who was considered the most powerful in the Featherfolk tribe, could only be described as disappointing. When facing resurrected undead enemies of Tier 5, she displayed signs of panic.

Having power alone without the corresponding combat skills, Ji Chen believed that even a rare-tier half-orc hero like Daro could potentially defeat her if flight were prohibited.

In other words, she was an embarrassment, and he was utterly disappointed.

After snapping out of it and noticing the strange looks from Ji Chen and the other heroes of the Ocean Crown, Patheia felt her face burning with embarrassment. She wished she could bury her head in the mountain.

She also knew that her performance seemed to be unworthy of her status as a legacy-tier hero. Feeling a mix of anger and shame, she didn't dare to vent her frustration on Ji Chen and the others, so she could only keep it to herself. Soon, this anger turned into disappointment, causing Patheia to start questioning her own abilities.

Was she really the strongest warrior of the Featherfolk tribe?

Ignoring Patheia's moment of emotional turmoil, Ji Chen inquired about the residence of the Ocean Pixies, which was said to be beneath this water area. He then led the heroes of the Ocean Crown, along with the others, to dive underwater and begin their search.

This ocean has been completely polluted, and even normal creatures find it difficult to survive here. Instead of turning on each other, they become corrupted creatures like corrupted skeletal lizards and corrupted beasts.

This process had been ongoing for over a hundred years. Under such prolonged erosion, with the emergence of numerous corrupted creatures, Ji Chen wondered whether the Ocean Pixies could still hold out.

Not long after they had dived into the sea, Ji Chen and his group were attacked by waves of corrupted creatures. Besides the corrupted skeletal lizards, other corrupted fish and even corrupted whales appeared one after another.

After being corrupted, these low-tier creatures gained strength multiple times over and became incredibly frenzied and chaotic. Ji Chen even witnessed these corrupted creatures killing each other due to overcrowding.

Such behavior confirmed Ji Chen's suspicion that there must be some evil entity related to demons within this ocean, which not only polluted the sea but also corrupted the marine creatures.

During the early stages of the Divine War hundreds of thousands of years ago, demons were able to challenge several powerful orderly races single-handedly, thanks to their ability to corrupt and transform creatures, summoning legions of corrupted minions as their servants, overwhelming their opponents through sheer numbers.

This tactic continued until the mid-stage of the Divine War when the orderly faction developed specialized purification spells and breeds, effectively cleansing corrupted environments and healing corrupted creatures, turning the tide in their favor.

However, after hundreds of thousands of years of demon suppression, how much power did the orderly faction have left to combat the demons?

Moreover, Ji Chen couldn't believe that they would be able to wait silently for hundreds of thousands of years without making preparations to counter this kind of purification, in case demons invaded again without warning.

If a demon invasion was indeed inevitable, then the Ocean Crown would need to light the torches to warn the unprepared before the impending darkness arrived.

With heavy thoughts, Ji Chen and his team continued to defeat wave after wave of corrupted creatures as they gradually ventured into the deep sea. After passing through an underwater rocky forest, the residence of the Ocean Pixies suddenly appeared in the distance.

It was a city built alongside a gigantic underwater mountain range, with predominantly white buildings densely surrounding one side of the underwater mountain and extending upwards in layers for dozens of levels until reaching the mountain's peak, giving it a three-dimensional appearance.

The city had walls, towers, and castles, all contributing to its grandeur.

In terms of the city's magnificence, it was not much less impressive than Heraklion from the Panas Battle replica.

A semi-circular blue shield was inverted over the city, enveloping the entire city within its protective barrier, as if it had become a captive cage.

Outside, tens of thousands of corrupted creatures were attacking the shield, causing concentric ripples to form on its surface, resembling wrinkles on the skin..

*Chapter 660: Ocean Pixies, Elwin (2)*

Inside the protective shield, the ocean pixies watched all of this with numb expressions.

...

In a council chamber within the city.

Dozens of noble ocean pixies sat on either side of tables made of coral, discussing animatedly with a mixture of unease and anxiety in their eyes.

"When will these corrupted creatures stop? It's been two whole years! Don't they need rest at all!?"

"They indeed don't need rest. These corrupted creatures have been completely tainted by the demonic aura which controls their bodies and souls. They won't stop until they've consumed their own lives."

"At this rate, our reserve resources will run out sooner or later. Forget about food; we can hardly maintain the shield any longer. Once the shield is gone, we won't last a day with so many corrupted creatures!"

"But there's no other option, is there? Going outside means certain death. Staying within the shield allows us to cling to survival for a bit longer."

"What about our allies?"

“You mean the Featherfolk tribe? They reside on the floating mountains and probably haven’t been attacked by the corrupted creatures yet. But don’t count on them for support; Featherfolk can’t venture into the water.”

Seeing the commotion in the council chamber, Chief Elwin furrowed his brows, and slammed the coral table forcefully, creating ripples in the water that gradually calmed the many noble ocean pixies.

As they all turned their attention towards him, Elwin seemed determined and said, “I propose a plan: we find an opportune moment to forcefully break through the encirclement of corrupted creatures and leave this realm for the main world.”

“Forcefully break through? How many of our kin will have to sacrifice their lives for that?”

“Indeed, I’m not optimistic about this proposal. Even if we manage to break through the corrupted creatures outside the city, there’s no guarantee of successfully leaving the realm; these corrupted creatures are everywhere!”

As soon as these words were spoken, several noble ocean pixies voiced their opposition.

Elwin spoke with a solemn tone, “Everyone knows that if we continue to hold our ground, it’s a slow death. Sooner or later, we’ll deplete our resources, and when the corrupted creatures breach the shield, I fear not many of our kin will survive.

Now, we must gather our strength and resources to carve out a path while our capabilities still suffice. We should ensure that as many of our people as possible can evacuate. Otherwise, if we delay further and our strength continues to wane, our ocean pixie lineage will come to an end.”

Elwin looked around and his voice grew even heavier, “What’s more crucial is that we must inform the outside world’s races about the situation here, warning them to be vigilant against the demon’s invasion.

This is our duty and responsibility.”

Upon hearing these words, those who had been silent earlier among the noble ocean pixies nodded involuntarily, and even the few who had opposed fell silent.

After two years of investigation, they had also learned the source of these corrupted creatures – demons.

More specifically, it was the Dreadlord Balzarna, a member of the demon clan, who had been the primary spreader of the corrupted beings during the ancient divine war hundreds of thousands of years ago.

This time, Balzarna sought to implement the same plan from hundreds of millennia ago, intending to sow destruction and death once again into the main world.

Although they had distanced themselves from their fellow pixies on the mainland for quite some time, and their physical appearances were noticeably distinct, when confronted with a worldwide crisis, they had no choice but to take a stand without hesitation, just as their pixie ancestors had done hundreds of thousands of years ago.



Elwin made a decisive statement, "It's settled then. Everyone, go and make preparations."

Just as the noble ocean pixies were leaving, a soldier rushed in from outside with a hurried expression.

"Lord Elwin, there's a commotion among the corrupted creatures outside the city... a human with an army has started to intrude!"

Elwin was momentarily surprised but quickly reacted, "Quick, go and assist them! Be ready to open the shield to let them in!"

Several minutes ago.

"My goodness, there are so many corrupted creatures here!"

Solidus looked at the countless corrupted creatures surrounding the shield one after another, exclaiming in disbelief, "It seems that this underwater city still has survivors; otherwise, these corrupted creatures wouldn't have gathered in such numbers."

"This might be why the ocean pixies stopped communicating with the Featherfolk tribe," Ji Chen remarked, observing the dense, swarm-like mass of corrupted beings.

Seeing this scene, all the heroes understood. The ocean pixies didn't want to sever their communication with the Featherfolk tribe, but they were blocked at their doorstep by these numerous corrupted creatures, making it impossible for them to establish contact.

This was good news; at least the ocean pixie race still existed.

However, to enter this ocean pixie city, they would have to pass through the horde of corrupted creatures. There were at least a hundred thousand of them outside the shield, and forcibly barging through didn't seem like a good idea.

But the solution was simple.

"Benbo, lead a portion of the Dragonblood Legion to distract the corrupted creatures and create an opportunity for us to enter. Utilize your speed advantage to shake off pursuit, and the Featherfolk will provide support."

Benbo had done this kind of task before, and he immediately responded, "I will follow your orders."

This tactic was quite similar to the one they used during the previous Sea Beast Tide to lure the sea beasts. These corrupted creatures and the sea beasts from the Sea Beast Tide shared a common trait – when lacking proper leadership, their cognitive abilities weren't very functional.

Particularly when these corrupted creatures became tainted and polluted, their mental faculties were limited to thoughts of attacking and causing destruction. Saying they had an IQ of 10 would be considered generous compliment to them. Hence, it was clear that this strategy was highly effective..