

Ocean Lord 661

Chapter 661: Ocean Pixies, Elwin (3)

“Alice, Anina, come with me. The rest of you wait outside.”

“My Lord, isn’t this too dangerous? What if the Ocean Pixies don’t open the shield for you?” Herald expressed his concerns.

Ji Chen waved his hand. “Don’t worry. You can provide support from outside if needed. I need you all to be ready out there.”

Seeing Ji Chen’s determined expression, the other heroes had no choice but to follow his orders.

“Sir Solidus, you should also wait outside. Once I come out from inside, you can assist me.”

“Of course.” Solidus nodded, having already gained confidence in this human. Since Ji Chen was willing to take such a risk, he must have a plan.

Soon, Benbo led hundreds of Blue Dragon Blood Murlocs to charge outside, diverting a large number of corrupted creatures in the western direction. Taking advantage of this, Ji Chen and the three heroes, along with their entire sixth-tier army, forcefully broke through the weak point and quickly slew thousands of corrupted creatures blocking their way.

The Ocean Pixies in the city seemed to have noticed them and promptly opened a large entrance in the shield for them to enter, closing it in time before the pursuing corrupted creatures could catch up.

Shortly after the Ocean Crown army had entered, a horde of corrupted creatures swarmed the shield, creating waves of chaos and disturbance. Yet, despite the commotion, there was no sign of the shield giving way, showcasing its impressive durability.

Not long after, several groups of Ocean Pixies approached them.

The Ocean Pixies had some differences in appearance compared to their mainland counterparts, with fish-like features such as gills for breathing, fin-like organs, and scales on their bodies. However, they still possessed the elegance of traditional pixies.

Without the need for many words, these Ocean Pixies courteously led Ji Chen into the city.

A human who could breathe underwater without gills and move freely in their domain was certainly not ordinary. Moreover, they weren’t blind; witnessing Ji Chen and his group forcefully breaking through the line of corrupted creatures filled them with hope.

Led to a spacious plaza at the top of the city, Ji Chen encountered an imposing-looking Ocean Pixie who exuded an air of authority. The Pixie was accompanied by a group of elegantly dressed Ocean Pixies.

Quickly discerning Ji Chen as their lord, the leader of the Ocean Pixies approached him directly and performed a refined Pixie-like gesture of greeting before speaking.

“I am Elwin, the chieftain of this Ocean Pixie tribe. Welcome to our realm.”

Upon hearing this, Ji Chen couldn't help but wear a somewhat peculiar expression on his face.

Elwin was puzzled. “Is there something wrong with my words or our customs?”

Ji Chen shook his head and smiled, “Sir Elwin, your earlier statement is remarkably similar to the first words I heard when I met Sir Augustus.” “Augustus? Have you met him?”

Ji Chen nodded without hesitation and said, “Yes, I learned of your existence from him. By the way, I am Ji Chen, the Lord of the Ocean Crown. I came from the main world. I have come here in search of clues about the demons.”

Upon hearing this, Elwin and many Ocean Pixie nobles displayed a pleasant surprise.

From the main world, searching for clues about the demons?

Doesn't that mean...

Elwin couldn't contain his excitement as he asked, “Lord Ji Chen, does the outside world already know about the impending demon invasion?”

Ji Chen glanced at him and gently shook his head amidst their expectant gazes, “It seems you are already aware of the demons' imminent return, but it's hard to let everyone know about such matters within a short timeframe.

“...You're right.”

Elwin reluctantly smiled, but a hint of disappointment lingered in his eyes.

“Then let's go inside and discuss it further..”

Chapter 662: Demonic Blood Pearl, Evacuation Operation!

Ji Chen and his group entered the hall with a multitude of Ocean Pixies.

As soon as they took their seats, Elwin couldn't contain his curiosity and asked, “Lord Ji Chen, you came from the main world. How did you discover that the demons were planning to invade again?”

If it weren't for the troubles they had faced with the contaminated and crazed marine creatures a hundred years ago, compounded by the appearance of numerous corrupted creatures in the past two years, they wouldn't have been able to detect even the slightest trace of the demons using their advantage of being able to delve deep into the ocean.

Otherwise, if people from the outside world had entered, it would probably have been regarded as a catastrophe that swept through the entire realm of the undead, without ever suspecting that it was the work of demons who had disappeared for hundreds of thousands of years.

Ji Chen had to once again briefly explain the situation he had learned from Anina's memories of the epic-tier Deep Sea Dragon Whale's bloodline, leaving Elwin and the Ocean Pixies looking very surprised.

They all displayed expressions of astonishment.

“So the powerful Deep Sea Dragon Whale sacrificed itself to prevent the demons from opening the dimensional portal?”

“That’s right.” Ji Chen nodded and, noticing that Elwin and the others seemed uneasy, he asked, “Have you encountered him?”

Upon hearing this, Elwin’s face became somewhat embarrassed, and his eyes were filled with emotions like self-blame and guilt. “We did find his remains once, but we thought it was just an accident and that he died unexpectedly. We never thought it was such a serious matter.”

“We always believed it was the doing of the undead, but it wasn’t until the past two years that we realized it was the work of demons. However, it’s already too late...”

Ji Chen was at a loss for words, not knowing what to say.

However, for those unfamiliar with demons, it was quite likely to mistake them for undead creatures. After all, hundreds of thousands of years were an exceedingly long span, long enough to erase the vast majority of historical traces.

Forget hundreds of thousands of years, even a thousand years would be enough to erase the existence of a race from memory. Demons had become a race that existed only in legends and ancient memories for most species.

“Lord Elwin, the purpose of my visit is to find reliable evidence of demon invasion to warn the outside races. You have been in this ocean for a long time. Do you have such evidence? For example, any information about how demons are contaminating the ocean and corrupting the marine creatures.” “Evidence?” Elwin realized the importance of this matter, and his expression became serious. “Of course, we have collected some demonic blood pearls from the deaths of corrupted creatures in our battles. These blood pearls can only be produced by malevolent entities and are the solid form of demon energy. They are bound to capture the attention of external races!”

Ji Chen’s eyes brightened, nodding in agreement. “That’s excellent. I entrust this to you, Your Excellency.”

Elwin waved his hand, saying, “This is what we should do. Once the demons invade again, whether it’s the ocean or the land, it will be shrouded in darkness, and living beings will suffer.

I’ll have our people retrieve them from the warehouse and send them all to you shortly.”

Elwin exchanged glances with the other Ocean Pixies, as if they had reached some consensus, and continued, “Besides this, there is one more thing I’d like to ask of you, Your Excellency.”

“Please, go on.”

“Please, when you leave with the blood pearls, take our Ocean Pixie clan with you.”

Ji Chen was slightly taken aback, surprised, but it also seemed somewhat expected.

Elwin sighed and said, "I believe Your Excellency has noticed that we have been trapped here for two years by the corrupted creatures. Our resources are nearly depleted, and when we must consider leaving, relying solely on our own strength, even if we manage to break through, we will undoubtedly suffer significant damage..."

Elwin didn't need to say it all, but his message was clear.

Ji Chen pondered for a moment and asked, "How many Ocean Pixies are there here?"

"Approximately eight thousand, with only three thousand warriors, while the rest are elderly, weak, women, and children."

Breaking through while being surrounded by tens of thousands of corrupted creatures would undoubtedly be an enormous challenge, and even if they succeeded, there might not be many left.

If he could ensure their safety while taking them with him, he didn't have any objections.

After a moment of contemplation, Ji Chen gave his answer.

"I can agree to that, but I can't guarantee that none of you will encounter any accidents."

Elwin's spirits lifted, and he exclaimed, "That's more than enough; we are prepared for casualties."

"In that case, please make your preparations to leave as soon as possible. Once we break through the encirclement and reach the surface, the Featherfolk clan will be waiting to receive us outside, which will reduce the pressure significantly."

The demon invasion is a grave matter. If we can gain even a little extra time now, it will provide more reaction and preparation time for other races."

Elwin nodded earnestly. "Lord Ji Chen, I understand the seriousness of the situation, and we will make our preparations as quickly as possible."

The entire Ocean Pixie city immediately became bustling with activity. At Ji Chen's suggestion, they only took a few essential items, prioritizing lightweight equipment.

The blood pearls collected by the Ocean Pixie clan were also delivered to his hands. Just as Elwin had mentioned, these blood pearls formed after the death of corrupted creatures were filled with an aura of evil and chaos. Ordinary beings would quickly fall into madness upon contact, and even higher-tier creatures would eventually become puppets of the demons after prolonged exposure..

Chapter 663: Demonic Blood Pearl, Evacuation Operation! (2)

The mere dispersion of demonic energy possessed such power, indicating how formidable the Dreadlord Balzarna, the mastermind behind it all, truly was.

Ji Chen speculated that the Dreadlord Balzarna must have power beyond the epic tier to have survived the several hundred thousand years of suppression.

Placing hundreds of Demonic Blood Pearls back into their special container, Ji Chen stowed them away in his backpack. His heart felt heavy as a big stone. The next step was much simpler: breaking through the encirclement of the corrupted creatures and leaving this semi-closed mystic realm.

One day later.

All the Ocean Pixies had gathered in the square, fully prepared.

Elwin, clad in armor and wielding a spear, approached Ji Chen with a solemn expression, saluting with folded hands. "Lord Ji Chen, we are ready."

Through Elwin's shoulder, Ji Chen saw all eight thousand Ocean Pixies looking at him closely, their eyes filled with anxiety, worry, and... hope.

He felt a slight sense of disappointment and chose to remain silent, simply nodding in response.

At the same time, the Ocean Crown champions and heroes lurking outside, upon seeing the assembled Ocean Pixies within the protective shield and their lord, quickly understood what was happening.

Herald saw this and spoke with certainty, "My lord wants us to protect their breakout!"

Benbo, who had previously lured away the corrupted creatures and returned, nodded. "It seems we also need to protect those Ocean Pixies."

Solidus crossed his arms, and his exaggerated muscles swelled in his chest. He smiled indifferently. "Now I can let loose and have a good fight. Since I've recovered my vitality, I haven't had a proper battle."

Diago, the Dragon Horn Catfish hero who surrendered as a defeated general from the Great Luminescent Sea, had a shimmering light in his eyes, indicating his inner unrest.

The Northern Continent's sea monster, the Kraken, couldn't contain its desire for battle any longer. It charged forward without waiting for orders, its eight thick tentacles sweeping through the air like giant windmills.

Several hundred corrupted creatures were sent flying like baseballs, and many of them lost their lives in the process.

As soon as they spotted the enemy, the tainted creatures around them erupted into action, charging forward with their teeth bared and claws at the ready, much like water splashing into a hot pan.

Seeing this, the other Ocean Crown heroes no longer hesitated and joined the battle with their respective armies.

Solidus charged forward like a raging bull, swinging his iron fists like heavy hammers. Corrupted creatures that touched him died instantly, and even the seawater seemed to be displaced.

Diago led the Dragon Horn Catfish, positioned in the rear, and brilliant lightning flashed in the dim sea. The lightning, traveling through the water, not only killed enemies but also created a strong paralyzing effect, helping the allied forces achieve better results.

This hero, who had once been an adversary but had now tempered himself, was contributing his strength to the Ocean Crown.

One of the two legendary heroes, Benbo, led a charge with Blue Dragon Blood Murlocs and Lobster Guardian Knights from the side, cutting through the enemy like a razor blade, closing in on the protective shield.

A large number of corrupted creatures were drawn away, causing their previously tight formation to thin out considerably. Seeing this opportunity, Ji Chen decisively said, "Remove the shield, we're going!"

Elwin immediately shouted, "Disable the shield and bring the shield's core!"

Soon, the shield that had been open for two full years disappeared from view without a sound. The malevolence of the outside corrupted creatures seemed to rush in all at once, and the eyes of many Ocean Pixie civilians revealed fear.

"Stay close to me, don't get separated."

They looked slightly astonished at Ji Chen, at his not-so-broad back, but they felt a sense of security.

After the shield disappeared, the presence of the living creatures seemed to have spread, and many corrupted creatures rushed forward with greedy and cruel eyes.

Their minds, completely tainted by the demonic energy, followed the most primitive thoughts of slaughter and consumption.

Ji Chen's expression remained unchanged. His right palm suddenly emitted a dazzling light, and a rapidly spinning giant vortex quickly formed in front of him, sucking in the approaching corrupted creatures one after another.

With a push of his right hand, Ji Chen's body slowly advanced, and the giant vortex also moved forward slowly.

Elwin's eyes widened, showing shock and horror, but he immediately reacted, "Follow closely behind Lord Ji Chen!"

Thousands of Ocean Pixies followed closely behind the Ocean Crown army, looking at the small but majestic figure in awe.

Under the protection of the vortex, Ji Chen and his group successfully broke through half of the distance. When the vortex disappeared, there was no need for further words. Ocean Pixie soldiers took up their weapons and formed a defensive line at the edge of the group, protecting the civilians as they retreated.

During this breakout, Benbo and his group were also making efforts on the other end, piercing through the enemy's formation.

The combined forces of the Ocean Crown and Ocean Pixies, totaling less than ten thousand troops, were like a grain of sand in comparison to the nearly one hundred thousand corrupted creatures. However, quantity did not always equate to strength. Several high-tier heroes from the Ocean Crown led the charge, creating gaps in the enemy's ranks.

If one looked closely, even though the corrupted creatures appeared to be numerous and had a significant numerical advantage, they were unable to halt the progress of the Ocean Crown's breakout..

Chapter 664: Demonic Blood Pearl, Evacuation Operation! (3)

Several tens of minutes later, the bloodshot-eyed Anina suddenly noticed an empty space in front of her and saw the allied heroes like Benbo and others. “We’ve broken through!!”

This statement lifted the spirits of many ocean pixies still fighting and hastened their pace.

Once all the ocean pixies had escaped the encirclement, Ji Chen didn’t hesitate for a moment. He activated the Dragon Twister Storm skill once again, creating a colossal whirlpool spanning kilometers behind them to block the pursuit.

“Take this opportunity to retreat! The corrupted creatures will catch up soon!”

Anina and the other heroes wasted no time and immediately led their forces following Ji Chen outwards. Elwin gritted his teeth and urged his fellow clan members to follow suit.

When they returned to the surface of the sea, Elwin looked back and felt a pang of sorrow.

Of those who had followed him, fewer than six thousand remained—meaning two thousand of their kin had fallen to the clutches of the corrupted creatures.

But there was no time for grief. Elwin approached Ji Chen and asked, “Lord Ji Chen, where should we go from here?”

Ji Chen gazed at the Featherfolk flying in from the distance and replied, “We’ll head to the Featherfolk’s Floating Mountain. It won’t be disturbed by the corrupted creatures.”

A group of a thousand Featherfolk swiftly arrived at the nearby location, led by Patheia, who observed the battered ocean pixie warriors and the Ocean Crown’s forces. She understood that they had just been through a brutal battle.

Without delay, she said, “Lord Ji Chen, you need to leave here quickly. The noses of those corrupted creatures are sharp, and they will catch up soon.”

Ji Chen made a quick decision. “You lead the Featherfolk warriors to cover our retreat.”

“Elwin, make sure the ocean pixie civilians get on the Leviathan Dragon, Heavy Armor Toothfish Riders, Lobster Guardian Knights, and other units for transportation. Otherwise, we’ll be moving too slowly.”

The ocean pixie civilians moved slowly, which hindered their rapid march.

Elwin nodded and quickly organized his people to board these carriers.

A little over ten minutes later, once all the ocean pixie civilians had successfully boarded, the group set off once more, heading towards the direction of the Floating Mountain.

However, in less than an hour’s time, a large number of corrupted creatures were already tracking them by the scent and aura left behind.

Patheia led a thousand Featherfolk who swooped down from the sky, continuously blocking the pursuing creatures with blades and arrows. The Sea Crystal Wyrms spewed beams of light and tore through their enemies with claws.

Occasionally, Featherfolk warriors were pulled into the sea by the corrupted creatures during their dives, instantly torn apart. Some corrupted creatures met their end in the midst of the arrow rain, their disarrayed kin devouring them.

After several hours of rushing and struggling, the main force successfully returned to the Floating Mountain group.

Using the Floating Water Domain, Ji Chen allowed them to ascend the Floating Mountain. The corrupted creatures that had chased them could only watch in frustration as they roared in vain.

“Finally, we’re safe...” Elwin looked down at the gathering of corrupted creatures below and breathed a heavy sigh of relief. Despite the hardships along the way, they had managed to successfully withdraw.

With a grateful tone, he said, “Lord Ji Chen, thank you for your assistance! You are our eternal friend!”

Ji Chen waved his hand dismissively. “You should also thank the Featherfolk clan. If it weren’t for them informing me, I wouldn’t have found you.” “Absolutely!”

Elwin nodded and looked at Patheia, who was standing nearby. He continued, “Patheia, thank you to your Featherfolk clan for coming to our aid. We are truly grateful!”

Patheia hesitated briefly and replied, “There’s no need for such formality. Our two clans have always had a good relationship, and I simply did what I could. Helping you out of danger is something I hoped to see.”

Elwin shook his head and sighed. “I used to hear rumors that you were extremely arrogant, looking down on everyone, and not considering others. Now, it seems that those were just baseless rumors. Patheia, you not only possess great power but also a humble heart. I believe you will reach even greater heights in the future.”

Patheia felt a bit embarrassed by his words and, for some reason, glanced quietly at Ji Chen, who was not paying her any attention. She couldn’t help but sigh softly to herself. Those rumors were indeed factual—she had merely been humbled by a greater power than her own fantasies..

Chapter 665: Flying Corrupted Creature, Balzarna

At this moment, Augustus received the news brought back by Ji Chen with the Ocean Pixies, hastily flying down from the upper floating mountain.

“Lord Alwin!”

“Lord Augustus!”

The two tribal chiefs who had been living in this hidden realm met once again after several years, and their conversation was filled with nostalgia.

Ji Chen did not participate in their conversation and instead came to the edge of the floating mountain.

After they had climbed the floating mountain, the corrupted creatures did not leave; instead, they gathered in increasing numbers. They emerged from the water, swimming from the distant sea like a horde of zombies, gradually covering the entire sea surface. In their crimson eyes, which were particularly conspicuous in the shadow of the floating mountain, there was greed and longing for flesh.

Solidus also came over and stretched his neck to take a look. He couldn't help but sneer.

"What do these corrupted creatures want? Could it be that they feel unsatisfied because they couldn't catch up earlier?"

Patheia, who had heard the commotion, also came to look, without any surprise in her eyes.

They had often been tracked by corrupted creatures on their outings to this place, but the sky was their domain, and those contaminated marine creatures couldn't even reach the lowest heights of the floating mountain, which were tens of meters high at the very least. So, the floating mountain was an absolutely safe place.

Although more of them had gathered today, it wasn't surprising considering that they had just fought their way back and attracted more corrupted creatures.

"Have you ever seen corrupted creatures with the ability to fly?"

Patheia hesitated for a moment, looking at Ji Chen and shaking her head. "We've only seen corrupted ocean and land creatures, and we've never seen any capable of flight."

Ji Chen rubbed his chin, his expression somewhat solemn. "Since the corruptive energy can affect marine and land creatures, why couldn't it affect flying creatures as well? But it's strange that you've never seen them in all this time."

Patheia's face changed slightly, seemingly realizing something was amiss. She whispered, "Lord Ji Chen, are you suggesting..."

Before she could say anything more, Anina suddenly pointed to the distance and exclaimed, "My lord, there seems to be something unusual in the sky!"

Everyone turned their gaze and saw a large expanse of ominous dark clouds approaching under the gloomy and dim sky.

Upon closer inspection, the black clouds were composed of flying creatures with crimson eyes, emitting an eerie black aura. Vultures, falcons, and various other birds formed a densely packed mass.

"It's probably that they didn't reveal their secret to you earlier, so they didn't need flying corrupted creatures to intervene. But now..."

Ji Chen shrugged and said, "Hurry, organize the warriors to prepare for the invasion."

Patheia nodded with a grave expression and quickly went to mobilize the Featherfolk warriors.

As if receiving a signal, the oceanic corrupted creatures gathered at the foot of the floating mountain, climbing on top of each other like a pyramid.

Clearly, these corrupted creatures were not merely gathering here but had received orders from the demons controlling them from behind. They aimed to ascend the floating mountain and bury all those who knew their secret—the Featherfolk, Ocean Pixies, and the Ocean Crown army—right here.

The flying corrupted creatures didn't seem to be in a hurry to launch an immediate attack. They circled in the distance as if waiting for the oceanic corrupted creatures below to land on the floating mountain.

Augustus watched these flying corrupted creatures, his expression filled with horror, and his body trembling.

A look of bewilderment, doubt, and unease appeared on his face as he muttered to himself, "How could this be... these corrupted creatures have hidden so deeply."

The reason they had been able to thrive in this hidden realm for hundreds, if not thousands, of years was the floating mountain suspended above the sea. This place was like a paradise, capable of warding off the covetous intentions of any land or sea creatures.

Even though the ocean beneath their feet was in chaos, infested with monsters, they could still sit securely on their fishing platform!

But at this moment, this paradise faced its most direct threat, and the natural advantage of flight that the Featherfolk possessed in this hidden realm was now non-existent.

Where should their Featherfolk tribe go from here?

In his heart, he felt a sense of darkness looming, with no glimmer of hope in sight.

Ji Chen walked over and, seeing Augustus still in shock, couldn't help but remind him, "Lord Augustus, you should send people to evacuate the civilians and guide them to safety. Otherwise, once the flying corrupted creatures launch an attack, the Featherfolk will suffer many casualties."

"You're right. I'll send people to evacuate the civilians right away."

Augustus snapped out of his daze, his face displaying complex emotions as he continued, "Lord Ji Chen, you've done a lot to investigate demon clues and risked many dangers for the safety of the main world. I shouldn't ask you to do more."

Augustus lowered his head, speaking in a pleading tone, "But this time, please, save our Featherfolk tribe!"

Elwin also bowed and implored, "We Ocean Pixies are the same."

Ji Chen fell silent for a moment, then nodded slowly. "I will do my best to ensure the safety of both your tribes."

"Thank you, thank you!" Augustus repeated twice, his expression filled with excitement. In his eyes, Ji Chen's promise was worth its weight in gold. Since Ji Chen had made such a commitment, the Featherfolk tribe could at least preserve a portion of their people, keeping the seeds for a possible resurgence..

Chapter 666: Flying Corrupted Creature, Balzarna

Elwin also felt much relieved. If they could survive this battle by some chance, their Ocean Pixie clan would definitely leave this realm and seek a new habitat in the main world, where they would undoubtedly be safer under the protection of an epic-tier hero.

More and more corrupted creatures gathered on the sea's surface, with the crazed ones climbing on top of their fellow beings, using their bodies as stepping stones.

Thousands of these corrupted beings piled up layer by layer, resembling a grotesque and chaotic mountain of flesh.

When the first four-armed corrupted creature hooked its claws onto the edge of the lowest floating mountain cliff and hoisted itself up, the group of circling flying corrupted creatures in the distance, like a swirling school of sardines, suddenly transformed from oval shapes into contorted triangles. The black mist surrounding them seemed to form a demonic maw, bringing with it a gust of malevolent wind.

"All units, attention!"

Three squads of a thousand Featherfolk warriors swiftly ascended, breaking through, while the remaining two thousand Ocean Pixie warriors armed themselves and established defensive lines on the lower floating islands.

Patheia watched the approaching enemies and said in a deep voice, "We're outnumbered, and we need to make use of the terrain of the floating mountain group to engage the enemy. Our task is to entangle the flying corrupted creatures, preventing them from attacking our allies fighting against the ocean corrupted creatures."

"Yes!" Numerous Featherfolk warriors nodded with resolute determination.

The Ocean Crown's troops were also prepared for battle. Although the Kraken didn't engage in the water, it used its massive body and tentacles to connect between two floating mountains, giving it a formidable appearance. Other hero units and units capable of terrestrial movement stood on the floating mountains, while those unable to walk on land fought within the suspended water area created by Jichen.

Soon, almost simultaneously, both the flying corrupted creatures and the ocean corrupted creatures launched their attacks.

Arrows rained down like locusts, as the Featherfolk sharpshooters and Lobster Nymph Spirit Archers killed and wounded hundreds of flying corrupted creatures, successfully drawing their hatred and inflicting casualties while taking advantage of the various-sized floating mountains.

Lances fell like iron rain, as the Blue Dragon Blood Murlocs and Ocean Pixies hurled iron javelins, forcefully pushing the ocean corrupted creatures off the floating mountains as they attempted to climb.

However, the "flesh mountain" they stacked was not limited to just one. Several other floating mountains were similarly stacked beneath them, and more creatures ascended from different directions.

Like a well-rehearsed maneuver, a type of caterpillar-like corrupted creature, after ascending, spat out thread-like strands of viscous substance towards neighboring floating mountains, constructing bridges between the two floating mountains. Other corrupted creatures climbed over these "bridges."

Many Ocean Pixie warriors and Ocean Crown troops found themselves surrounded due to this tactic. Under the command of several heroes, they orderly retreated to the suspended water area and returned to higher floating mountains.

Seeing this scene, Augustus couldn't help but shudder.

Whether it was the flying corrupted creatures or these creatures capable of spitting sticky substances like the caterpillars, it all indicated that the demons had already found a way to deal with their Featherfolk clan. If not for lichen's presence, they would likely have been caught off guard and met a devastating fate.

Thousands of corrupted creatures met their demise under a barrage of arrows, blades, and spells, but they were quickly replaced by more, as if all the ocean's corrupted creatures had converged here. Every inch of the sea surface was filled with malevolence, forming a continuous black mist.

Leaving aside the demon invasion, just the appearance of these corrupted creatures in the main world could cause a disaster no less severe than a sea-beast tide.

While the corrupted creatures were numerous, they were not to be underestimated, especially the epic-tier hero unit, the Kraken. Its killing power was astonishing when dealing with large groups of enemies. With a casual swing of its tentacles, it could easily crush dozens of creatures, and a sweep would send the corrupted creatures on the floating mountains flying, crashing into the sea, and turning into a pulp.

Watching this gigantic ocean behemoth, larger than a house, clearing its fellow creatures as if they were trash, even the less intelligent corrupted creatures were dumbfounded, subconsciously avoiding it.

Despite the impressive display of the corrupted creatures' numbers and momentum, their numerical advantage was not fully exploited due to the advantageous terrain of the floating islands.

Each floating mountain below had an Ocean Crown hero stationed on it. These high-tier heroes were either of the legacy or legendary tier, and they displayed terrifying killing and suppressing power on the relatively small floating mountains.

The sight of heads being shattered with a single punch and a single sword swing creating ten-meter-long sword beams that tore through a dozen enemies was common here.

Jichen observed the favorable battlefield situation and nodded to himself.

Now it depended on whether the demons had any tricks or hidden cards up their sleeves. If this was all they had, victory in this battle would undoubtedly belong to them.

The demon's invasion hub.

"Damn it, how can this human lord be so powerful? At this rate, it'll be difficult to keep them here even if we send all the corrupted creatures!"

"This human lord must be an outstanding hero among humans. Even at such a young age, he already possesses such a formidable army and high-tier heroes.. Given more time, he will undoubtedly become a significant threat to us demons!"

Chapter 667: Flying Corrupted Creature, Balzarna (3)

“This individual is terrifying, and he must not be allowed to live!”

As they watched the intense battle on the floating mountain within the light screen, the demon leaders and lords had various expressions and engaged in discussions.

One demon lord, with a single horn on his head and two wings on his back, spoke up.

“Lord Balzarna, I believe we need to intervene more to ensure that this human lord, along with those ocean pixies and featherfolk who know about our invasion, all die in this semi-sealed mystics realm!”

A seductive demoness leader, who had a sexy figure and long legs casually remarked.

“Hehe, indeed. Not only this human lord, but the sea dweller next to him must also perish.”

The other demons were momentarily puzzled and looked at the female sea dweller next to the human lord, who was singing loudly. Soon, they realized that this female sea dweller was a rare siren who excelled at controlling minds, a power quite similar to the seductive abilities of the succubus.

As the saying goes, ‘birds of a feather flock together,’ it’s no wonder they specifically mentioned killing her as well.

“Yes.”

Sitting in the first seat, Balzarna cleared his throat slightly, causing the discussions among the demons to cease. They waited respectfully for him to speak, even the seductive demoness had dropped her casual demeanor and showed a hint of reverence on her face.

This showed the high regard Balzarna held in their hearts.

This was the demon who, in the god war, led a million-strong demon army in a blitzkrieg, breaking through thirteen important cities of the orderly camp overnight, turning thousands of miles of land into a demon’s paradise, intimidating the depths of the chaotic abyss, and instilling fear in countless races.

Even among the five great demon lords, he could be considered one of the top in terms of strength!

After pondering for a moment, Balzarna spoke in a hoarse voice, “Our great plan to return to the main world must not be disrupted. Release Number 17. Clear out everyone except this human and the siren.”

Upon hearing this, many demons showed a hint of surprise on their faces at first, followed by a mix of excitement and cruelty.

The horned demon who initially spoke even said mockingly, “It seems that this human lord will soon become our ally, the protector of world peace, and turn into a killer of our own kind. Hehehe, I really look forward to it.”

The seductive succubus, who seemed thoroughly knowledgeable, had a glint of excitement in her eyes. Her fiery-red lips curved with interest as she spoke, “We’ve never captured a living siren

before. If we could capture one and study it thoroughly, perhaps it could enhance the power of our succubus clan...”

The Dreadlord, who had once intimidated the depths of the chaotic abyss, possessed not only his unfathomable strength but also highly advanced dark alchemical modification techniques. Tens of thousands of years ago, he had a secret army of alchemical abominations, comprised of captured warriors from various demon races, transformed into merciless killing machines.

As for this so-called Number 17, he was the last being captured by the demons during the final stages of the divine war, and also the last survivor to endure the modifications, he already had considerable power before, but after undergoing the rigorous and lengthy transformation, his strength had reached astonishing levels. Countless disobedient demons who had defied orders had been slain by him, earning him the gruesome title of the Blood Executioner of the Dreadlord.

Due to her human origin, he didn’t face severe rejection when passing through the world’s rule barriers, so he had been sent as an insurance policy in advance.

Regardless of the circumstances, as long as this executioner took action, the human lord would have no chance of escape. Eventually, he would be captured and transformed into a member of the modified army!

Oh, by the way, since this human lord was destined to become a part of the secret army, if he survived the modification process, his name would likely be changed to Number 18. Number 18... Hehehe, it coincidentally corresponds to the number of levels in the chaotic abyss, which is quite fitting..

Chapter 668: Palace-attired Elves and High Elven Priest,

No. 17

Unbeknownst to Ji Chen, who had already attracted attention, as he surveyed the battlefield, he suddenly noticed a dozen or so bizarre flying creatures with protruding growths on their heads hovering not far away. They leisurely drifted around the edge of the battlefield, in stark contrast to the other frenzied attacking flying creatures.

Without thinking, Ji Chen waved his right hand, and dozens of water arrows shot out from behind him, swiftly piercing through the battlefield, accurately killing them all.

Far away at the transit station, the demon commanders and lords were laughing heartily. When they saw a flash of azure light on the projection screen, followed by a sudden blackout, their faces immediately turned dark.

“Damn human lord, he actually dared to kill their scouting beasts that were peeking at the battlefield. He’s really asking for it!

Let’s see how he’ll endure the pain of the transformation when we catch him later!”

They cursed inwardly.

Balzarna’s face showed a hint of displeasure as he coldly snorted, “Send out another batch of scouting beasts. I want to see how Number 17 captures this human lord.”

“Yes!”

Meanwhile, in the Elven Empire, far on the Northern Continent, there stood a towering sky-reaching ancient tree in the core area of the capital.

This sacred tree had existed since tens of thousands of years ago, serving as the spiritual anchor for countless elves. It was also one of the symbols of the Elven Empire.

As long as this sacred tree remained standing, it symbolized the eternal prosperity and survival of the Elven race.

At the very top of this giant tree was a spacious open-air altar. It seemed like some kind of ritual had just taken place there, as the luminous patterns on the altar’s walls and ceiling gradually dimmed. The Elven High Priestess, dressed in loose priestly attire but unable to hide her voluptuous figure, descended gracefully from the altar.

Below the altar, a veiled elf, adorned in magnificent palace attire and wearing a crown, was already waiting. Although her face couldn’t be completely seen, her majestic golden eyes, revealed from under the veil, were enough to determine that she was a stunningly beautiful being, capable of making the heavens and earth pale in comparison.

“Still no response from the Goddess?”

The elf, holding a staff, shook his head gently. “Just like last time, we haven’t received any response from the Goddess or the other orderly deities. It’s as if our pleas have fallen into the void.”

“Is it impossible to send the message, or could there be another reason?”

“It’s hard to say, perhaps the Goddess is unwilling to send a divine message, or simply chooses to ignore us,” the Elven High Priestess replied after a brief pause.

“There’s also another possibility.”

“What could it be? Has the Goddess been preoccupied with something, unable to attend to our requests?”

The palace-attired elf responded, “The power of the Great Goddess is immeasurable, and her influence spreads across every inch of land. She is, without a doubt, the mightiest among all the orderly deities. It’s hard to fathom what could possibly trouble or restrain her.”

“I cannot say for sure.”

The Elven High Priestess spoke with a solemn tone, “However, the omens of the world’s energy tell me that extreme evil and foreboding are on the verge of emerging. Yet, I cannot investigate further; it seems that something is obstructing my vision.”

The palace-attired elf contemplated for a moment and then spoke, “Regardless, if the Goddess hasn’t sent a divine message, we must rely on ourselves. I will expedite our control over the northern continent’s territories, bringing more resources under our control to prepare for what may come.”

The Elven High Priestess nodded and then suddenly said, “Your performance during the birthday celebration ceremony not only impressed the Empire but also saved us decades of effort in further

controlling the vassal provinces. Your ingenious methods have earned praise from the usually contrary-minded senators and elders.”

The palace-attired elf, on the other hand, let out a disdainful snort. “Those thoughts were already present among those deviants. I simply seized the opportunity. As for the senators and elders, they only showered me with praise after reaping the benefits that satisfied them.”

The Elven Empire was not entirely united internally; it had fragmented into numerous factions based on different interests. Deceit, cunning, and intrigue were prevalent, far exceeding the expectations of outsiders.

The Elven High Priestess couldn’t help but smile, seemingly recalling something. “Oh, by the way, where did you get those materials for the clothing you gave me last time? Wearing them feels as soft and comfortable as a milk bath, almost like being naked. It’s truly remarkable! Do you have more? I’d like to make another priestly robe!”

The conversation shifted away from official matters, and the two elves became more relaxed.

Hearing this, the palace-attired elf rolled her eyes with a touch of irritation. “The material you’re talking about is called ‘Merfabric,’ and it was presented by the Ambassador to the Maple Principality. There were only two pieces given, and I already gave you one. Hmm... It seems to be a specialty of some Glory Lord’s domain.”

“Merfabric? I remember now. This material has been circulating quite widely among the senators and nobles lately. It’s likely being sold by that Glory Lord!” The Elven High Priestess exclaimed and instigated further, “Since that’s the case, why not have that Glory Lord sell more of it? You’re quite wealthy, and I’m sure you won’t run out of funds.”

The palace-attired elf pursed her lips and found herself tempted. Deep Sea Merfabric was indeed a rare treasure, and she also wanted to use it to create more clothing.

“This can be arranged. According to the reports from the Ambassador to the Maple Principality, this Glory Lord seems to have assisted us significantly in the Maple Principality. His strength might have already reached a legendary level. It would be a good idea to invite him to Silvermoon City under the pretext of rewarding him..”

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The Elven High Priestess was somewhat surprised and said, “It’s been less than a year since this Lord of Glory arrived, and he’s already reached a legendary tier?”

The Palace-attired Elf nodded slightly, her eyes shimmering with enthusiasm. “The growth rate of these Lords of Glory far exceeds our initial expectations. I also have a premonition that these Lords of Glory are somehow connected to the abnormal world energy, even to the gods.”

“This time, let’s start by investigating this Lord of Glory and see what makes them so unique.”

The battle on the Floating Mountain continued.

Ji Chen occasionally commanded the army to fill the breaches that had been breached and moved troops between the Floating Mountains.

With the joint defense of the Ocean Crown forces, Featherfolk, and Ocean Pixies, the momentum of the corrupted creatures' attack was like sinking into a quagmire, progressing extremely slowly. For every Floating Mountain they captured, thousands of corrupted creatures were sacrificed.

And they had only captured one-quarter of the Floating Mountains so far!

This was still a situation where they were trying to preserve their strength as much as possible without excessive competition. The higher they climbed, the greater their advantage, and the more difficult it was for the corrupted creatures.

At this moment, the army of corrupted creatures resembled a wounded beast, growing weaker with each step, moving slower, and reacting more sluggishly. They were slowly losing their lives to the archers' arrows.

Augustus and Elwin couldn't help but show a hint of joy.

"Augustus, as long as we hold off this wave of attacks, we'll find an opportunity to leave this realm and go to the main world. This place has become a breeding ground for corrupted creatures, and if we stay, we'll be devoured sooner or later," Elwin said with a heavy heart.

Augustus hesitated for a moment and then nodded. "You're right. I don't know when the demons will officially invade. Staying here is a dead end."

Seeing their proud Floating Mountain easily taken over by the corrupted creatures, he dismissed the idea of staying any longer. As for where to settle in the main world... he recalled the invitation that Ji Chen had mentioned earlier.

The momentum of the corrupted creatures' attack became even slower, and the initiative gradually returned to their hands, and the situation slowly improved.

At this moment, a figure appeared on the distant sea surface. It moved rapidly on the water, leaving no trace, and disappeared like a ghost when it approached.

At the same time, the Kraken, which had been happily using its tentacles to "whack-a-mole," suddenly froze and let out a cry.

"Master, there's an unusual spatial fluctuation! It's right near you!"

An alarm bell rang in Ji Chen's heart. He touched the Void Ring on his left hand's finger.

Spatial energy suddenly erupted, and a force pulled him into a rapidly forming spatial channel. In less than a breath's time, his entire being disappeared.

The next second, a blood-red sword light several meters long swept through the position where Ji Chen had just stood, even breaking apart the space itself into a shattered crack.

A figure shrouded in a black robe appeared on the Floating Mountain at some point, and a rusty longsword protruded from the robe, exuding a tide-like energy of space.

Several seconds later, Ji Chen appeared on the edge of another Floating Mountain, looking at the fractured space crack at the edge, his expression somewhat surprised.

The same ability as the Kraken, which is spatial translocation?

No, this should be short-range spatial jumping, focused on combat, rather than long-distance traversal between realms and worlds.

But this sword light was indeed incredibly fast. If it weren't for the Kraken's warning, he might have been injured by now.

Seeing the Lord being ambushed, several heroes immediately abandoned their current enemies and rushed to Ji Chen's side to protect him.

"Lord, are you okay!?"

Ji Chen shook his head to indicate that he was fine and turned his gaze to the figure in the black robe.

The Featherfolk warriors circling around saw an enemy appear in their territory, even attacking their allies. They immediately drew their bows, and dozens of enchanted arrows carrying enough force to pierce through gold and rock were shot toward the enemy.

However, the black-robed figure waved his longsword, cutting the arrows into pieces. The remaining force carried them into the sky, tearing apart more than a dozen Featherfolk warriors.

Feathers, blood, and flesh rained down from the sky, falling on the black robe and adding a glaring blood-red color.

Blown by the wind, the figure under the black robe also revealed his appearance.

It was a human face that seemed as cold as a machine, evil black patterns spreading on the face, the eyes occupied by the abyssal blackness, and visible black reptiles crawling in and out of the decaying skin. A broken horn on the forehead protruded abruptly as if forcibly implanted.

His body was also severely decayed, and what surprised Ji Chen was that one of his arms had withered to the size of a baby's, hanging like a dried twig, while the other hand holding the longsword was a demon's hand.

Looking down, a pair of legs seemed to have been forcibly severed from the pelvis and forcibly replaced with a pair of demon legs.

If he was not mistaken, these legs were remarkably similar to those of the Demon Slayer.

(Number 17]

[Race]: Alchemical Modified Human

[Level]: 69

[Tier]: Pseudo-Gold (Pseudo-Epic)

[Skills]: Omitted

[A human strongman captured by demons in the final stages of the god war hundreds of thousands of years ago, tortured, and then transformed into a killing machine through the evil alchemy of the Dreadlord Balzarna, who only obeys orders]

A human strongman transformed by the Dreadlord? Pseudo-Epic Tier?

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Ji Chen's pupils slightly constricted.

The overwhelming scent of blood and malevolence permeating from the air seemed to have stimulated the man known as Number 17. He expressionlessly lifted his rusty longsword and stepped into the void.

A malevolence even denser than ordinary demons, with a stench of blood, washed over them.

"Lord, be careful!"

Facing such an epic-tier figure, even with the pseudo prefix, they dared not take it lightly. That sword light from earlier, they had little confidence in being able to withstand it.

This was undoubtedly the most powerful enemy they had ever encountered in their history, well, excluding the Kraken, who had been personally subdued by the Lord.

Solidus saw this scene and immediately jumped over from a nearby Floating Mountain. "I'll help you!"

Anina, Herald, and Solidus formed a triangular formation, surrounding Number 17 in the middle, while Benbo lagged behind, and Diago and Alice flanked from the side.

Six heroes were now engaged in the siege against Number 17.

Number 17 looked at himself being surrounded on all sides, his face expressionless. He simply raised his rusty sword and swung it towards Solidus.

A dazzling blood-red sword light burst out from the tip of the sword.

Solidus' expression darkened, and he quickly evaded. This sword light contained powerful spatial force and had already transcended the sharpness of ordinary blades. Attempting to block it head-on would only result in being torn apart by the spatial force.

As if he had foreseen this scene, Number 17 moved like a ghost, taking advantage of the opening created by Solidus' evasion. His ultimate goal was clear: the human Lord.

However, before he could fully charge out, a dazzling red lightning shot toward his next step, forcing him to change his mind and abruptly stop. He looked towards Diago not far away.

The crystal horn on Diago's head emitted a few green sparks, and he wore a contemptuous smile.

He swung his sword light toward Solidus again, attempting to break through the encirclement, but was once again hindered by the lightning.

After two setbacks, Number 17 realized that unless he killed Diago, he would have a hard time breaking through the encirclement. A program-like instruction seemed to flash through his mind.

He quietly changed his attack strategy.

Cleverly deflecting the power of Herald's huge claws with his longsword, he immediately used a short-range space jump to appear in front of Diago, slashing down with his sword.

If this strike were to connect, Diago would instantly be covered by spatial energy, just like the dozen or so Featherfolk warriors, torn to pieces.

A trident covered in frost came straight at him, and Number 17 hesitated for a moment. He retracted his descending longsword, and his body twisted in a way that a normal human couldn't, evading the attack with ease and gracefully retreating.

This scene made Ji Chen's heart sink. The alchemical modification of this demon had turned this human into such a grotesque creature.

From the last entry in the information panel, it can be learned that this so-called Number 17 was an ancient human warrior captured at the end of the divine war hundreds of thousands of years ago. The fact that this malevolent modification technique could keep him alive through countless millennia is astonishing in itself.

Number 17 took a few steps back, and his sword seemed to have eyes. A slender sword beam shot out at a cunning angle and collided with Herald, who was closing in for another round of encirclement.

Puchi—

This tiny sword beam contained an irresistible force, causing one of Herald's arms, along with its huge claw, to be sent flying high, torn into shreds by the spatial energy.

As if breaking through a breach, while taking advantage of his severed arm, Number 17 once again closed in. He swung his longsword, pushing aside the other giant claw, and stabbed through the serpent tail from the reverse side.

A dull explosion echoed, and a grotesque hole burst open in Herald's lower body, with half of his serpent tail falling to the ground.

Roar!

This Abyss Naga hero had never been in such a sorry state before. With just two strikes, he was severely injured, howling in pain. If it weren't for Anina and Solidus coming to his rescue in time, he might have crossed the threshold of death.

Causing such injuries, Number 17's cold face showed no emotional fluctuation. He evaded the attacks of the former like a precise machine and once again distanced himself.

Herald was forced to temporarily withdraw from the battle due to his severe injuries. Like finding a breakthrough point, Number 17 used his spatial jumps to maneuver between several heroes. Despite the suppression from the differences in rank and level, the Ocean Crown side unexpectedly found themselves at a slight disadvantage.

With the loss of the Ocean Crown heroes' suppression, the corrupted creatures surged forward, pushing the defending forces back step by step. In just half an hour, they lost several crucial Floating Mountains once again.

Another wave of flying corrupted creatures joined the battlefield, instantly increasing the pressure on the Featherfolk tribe.

Patheia swung her longsword, consecutively slaying dozens of flying corrupted creatures. She watched the desperate battle below with a hint of worry in her eyes.

But at this moment, she had no other options but to fight fiercely to relieve the pressure on her allies.

In this moment, she keenly felt her own weakness..