

## **Ocean Lord 671**

### *Chapter 671: Battle Against Number 17, Lainekel*

In a world where alchemical modifications could elevate one to a pseudo-epic tier at level 69, much like Lu Bu confronting the Three Heroes, a lone individual dared to confront six heroes. They even managed to wound a legendary figure significantly, forcing that legendary figure to retreat from the battle.

This starkly illustrated the immense power gap between different tiers and higher-level suppression.

Alice's singing had minimal effect on this being known as Alchemical Reconstruction Number 17. According to her, Number 17 was no longer considered human or even an ordinary being. Its soul was nearly extinguished, leaving only a mechanical shell in operation.

Before things reached an irreparable point, Ji Chen decided to intervene.

Number 17 made a swift and deadly assault, driving through the remaining five heroes with his sword's radiance. After injuring Solidus, he didn't pursue further but instead, when the other heroes rushed to aid Solidus, he abruptly returned to the spatial realm.

Two seconds later, he reappeared not far from Ji Chen, his sword's edge aimed directly at him.

"My Lord"

Several heroes cried out in horror.

Thud—

A dull sound, like thunder, reverberated as the rusty longsword clashed against a semicircular golden shield. Ripples and folds resembling water waves surged intensely within the shield. Inside it, Ji Chen held a shimmering steel sword adorned with a golden gem, thrusting it like a venomous snake.

[Warblade]

[Draw the Earth as a Prison (Conjure the Shield, Resist a substantial amount of damage and powerful attacks [depending on the user's strength and condition])]

Naturally, Number 17 wouldn't be so easily harmed by this attack. Seeing that the first strike was ineffective, he swiftly withdrew.

However, this played into Ji Chen's hands. With her right hand gripping the Warblade and his left hand raised, a mass of seawater coalesced into a rope, binding Number 17.

The sword's radiance sliced through the rope soundlessly, just as Number 17 attempted to retreat once more. However, the shattered seawater overcame gravity and rose again, enveloping him like a cocoon.

His limbs were restrained, making it difficult even to swing his longsword.

Without hesitation, Number 17 activated his spatial jump ability, transporting himself to a miniature floating mountain a hundred meters away.

As soon as he landed, an invisible blue ripple spread rapidly, passing through his body like a ghost. Simultaneously, a pressure descended heavily on his shoulders, as if his body were filled with glue, causing his movements and strength to slow significantly.

Ji Chen wasted no time in unleashing his ultimate technique, invoking the power of his Ocean Realm.

### Tornado Storm

Suddenly, the sea surface erupted with massive water sprays, and amidst the churning water, a water tornado rapidly formed. In the blink of an eye, it reached hundreds of meters high, connecting the sea with the sky.

Countless enchanted creatures were swept into it, and in a harrowing chorus of screams, they were torn apart, reduced to bits of flesh.

Number 17, situated at the center of the water tornado, along with the miniature floating mountain beneath his feet, was covered by it. Under the immense suction, he lost his balance and was rapidly pulled into the swirling vortex.

Even the miniature floating mountain seemed to peel away layer by layer under the countless water blades.

Just when the other heroes thought that Number 17 was trapped and couldn't escape the water tornado, a dazzling red light suddenly flashed within the surging waters.

A gleaming blood-red sword light, tens of meters long, cleaved the water tornado directly, revealing his figure from within.

His black robe had already been torn to shreds, and his body was covered in long, narrow scars. Foul-smelling black blood oozed from these wounds, making him look even more grotesque, like a demon.

Even without speaking, the blood-red in his eyes emanated a palpable and intense aura of murderous intent.

With rolling veins and grains on his forehead like tree roots, the blood-red aura mixed with black mist spread from his skin's surface. In this moment, Number 17 seemed to truly unleash his full power.

Ji Chen remained expressionless. With a thought, three elemental water dragons emerged from his robe, roaring as they flew towards him.

[?Water Dragon Summoning (Summons three elemental water dragons with 50% of the user's strength, possessing autonomous combat capabilities)]

Three sword lights suddenly flew in, tearing two of the water dragons apart, turning them into a shower of water droplets.

Number 17's figure disappeared once again, only to reappear on the head of the one water dragon that had narrowly evaded him. His blade flashed, and the massive dragon head shattered.

Three elemental water dragons were eliminated in just over ten seconds.

Ji Chen didn't show surprise at this. He merely waved his right hand gently, and hundreds of water soldiers in the form of falcon-shaped beings swiftly condensed, moving like locusts toward the enemy.

As if possessing intelligence, the falcon-like water soldiers dodged the fierce sword light and, at the cost of losing dozens of their own, approached the enemy. With the magical power enhancing their aquatic talons, they were capable of tearing through metal.

Number 17 chose to evade the encirclement through spatial jumps, but within the Ocean Realm, his skill cooldowns were extended several times, making him no longer as agile as before.

After hundreds of falcon-like water soldiers were nearly all slaughtered, he bore several wounds that cut deep to the bone.

For the first time, a hint of emotions resembling those of an intelligent being appeared in Number 17's eyes.

Anger, disgust, fury...

Watching this scene, Ji Chen suddenly smiled, slowly raising his hand toward Number 17 and lightly flicking his palm.

Boom— An explosive surge of spatial energy erupted. In his fury, Number 17 attempted another spatial jump, but as soon as he appeared a few meters to Ji Chen's side, he found himself trapped within a water prison that had descended heavily, surrounded by a dozen hovering blades outside the prison..

*Chapter 672: Battle Against Number 17, Lainekeel (2)*

Splatter—

The sound of sharp weapons piercing flesh echoed incessantly as 17's body was impaled by blades, wedging between bone and flesh. After a brief delay, the blades suddenly burst open, splashing water droplets accompanied by a cloud of blood.

As Ji Chen contemplated delivering the finishing blow, 17's figure abruptly disappeared from the spot, only to reappear not far away.

Nonetheless, he appeared quite battered. His body was covered in wounds, some of them so deep that they exposed bone, and a dark, putrid blood seeped from these injuries. There wasn't a single spot on his body that remained undamaged.

In this brief clash with 17, Ji Chen ultimately gained the upper hand.

Within this domain of the sea, Ji Chen was the king. Even though 17's level was as high as 69, the suppression within the domain had dropped him to nearly level 60. At this level of strength, he was on par with Ji Chen's overall power.

Ji Chen possessed the power of the ocean, and in a direct confrontation, he was the nemesis of spatial abilities like teleportation and dimensional travel. One could liken the Ocean Lord to a spider weaving its web, and as long as the enemy was within his domain, it was difficult to escape his perception and pursuit.

Furthermore, he possessed various high-grade treasures: the Deep Sea Dragon Scale Robe, the Void Ring, the Sword of Warlords...

Each treasure constituted his strength, each one had the ability to turn the tide of battle.

Ji Chen lowered his gaze at 17, who could barely stand, relying on his sword to remain upright. A hint of pity flashed in his eyes.

In the end, he was originally a hero who fought for humanity and the Orderly faction, but he was captured by demons and brought to the chaotic abyss. After undergoing evil modifications, he became this ghastly figure.

Neither human nor demon, enduring the pain that neither humans nor demons could bear.

The pity in Ji Chen's eyes quickly turned into determination.

Since that was the case, he would grant this nameless human warrior release from the pain that had persisted for hundreds of thousands of years.

Later, he would slay tens of thousands of demons, offering tribute to this unnamed human hero.

The heroes of the Crown of the Ocean had surrounded them once more, and 17 no longer had any chance of escape or turning the tide. Ji Chen slowly raised the Sword of Warlords, as if he were aiming it at 17, but also at the demons lurking in the shadows.

"Rest in peace."

He softly uttered these words, about to swing the Sword of Warlords to release its sword energy.

But at this moment, 17, the half-demon with a human semblance, slowly raised his head. His eyes were no longer blood-red; within the pitch-black pupils, a glimmer of vitality appeared.

"You did well."

A hoarse voice echoed.

The surrounding heroes froze, looking at each other, thinking they had misheard. After exchanging astonished glances with their comrades, they realized something incredible.

This Alchemical Modified being called 17 had actually spoken!

Ji Chen furrowed his brows slightly and lowered the Sword of Warlords.

He scrutinized the situation once more and noticed that the information panel had undergone some changes.

[Number 17: Lainekel Kristiansen]

Struggling to prop himself up with his sword, Lainekel still had black blood trickling from his body. This action made the heroes of the Crown of the Ocean vigilant, their faces adopting a serious battle stance.

"Don't worry, he has been sent back by your Lord, and he probably won't come out for some time," Lainekel managed a weak smile but didn't make any unnecessary movements.

Ji Chen waved his hand and said, "No problem."

Hearing this, several heroes hesitated but eventually nodded and relaxed a bit, although their eyes remained fixed on Lainekel.

"How did you, a human, manage to have so many sea creatures under your command?" Lainekel glanced at Anina and the others.

Ji Chen didn't answer directly but instead asked, "Who is this 'he' you mentioned?"

"...It's the other me, created through demonic alchemy by Balzarna. It's the one you just saw, Number 17, like a killing machine."

Ji Chen was taken aback and inquired, "So, if I understand correctly, this half-human, half-demon body harbors two personalities? One is the mindless killing machine that follows orders, and the other retains its previous intelligence but has been suppressed and unable to surface?"

My recent attack temporarily pushed the killing personality back, allowing the benevolent one to emerge?"

Lainekel was astonished, his eyes filled with disbelief. He asked, "That's exactly it! How did you know that so clearly?"

Ji Chen rolled his eyes inwardly. This kind of plot had become so cliché in various movies, TV shows, and animations. It usually involved a once-good character captured and subjected to inhumane modifications by the antagonist, only to regain their benevolent personality after a severe beating from the protagonist.

Seeing this tired trope unfold before him was quite unexpected.

"I just guessed."

Observing Ji Chen's nonchalant response, Lainekel shook his head and sighed. "Never mind, it doesn't matter. I assume you must be aware of the impending demon invasion. You need to inform the orderly races in the main world so they can prepare for battle quickly."

As a alchemical-modified individual altered by Balzarna in the chaotic abyss for hundreds of thousands of years, Lainekel naturally knew that the demons had never given up their plans for invasion. They had been plotting and preparing for countless millennia, and their power had grown to terrifying proportions.

If the orderly races of the main world couldn't unite and defend against this invasion, it would likely result in a catastrophic world-ending disaster..

*Chapter 673: Battle Against Number 17, Lainekel (3)*

"No race can survive!"

Ji Chen nodded slightly. "You don't need to worry about that. I've obtained a batch of demonized creature-congealed Demonic Blood Pearls. After leaving here, I will deliver them to the orderly races."

“No, that won’t work,” Lainekel quickly shook his head. “The demons have prepared in advance. Those Demonic Blood Pearls will quickly dissipate once they leave this realm, and they won’t last long enough for you to cross the ocean and reach the land.

And I don’t believe that just a few pearls can convince the orderly races to set aside their conflicts and fully prepare for battle.”

Was there really such a thing?

Ji Chen furrowed his brow. It seemed that the demons weren’t afraid of them obtaining Demonic Blood Pearls by slaying demonized creatures. Besides having confidence in keeping them all trapped here, they had also employed such tactics.

“How can we deliver such a message then?”

Lainekel scratched his bald head in frustration as he contemplated. “What should we do, what should we do? Leaving aside the elves, even humans might not believe it themselves. If we ask them to come here and see for themselves after we leave, no, no, the demons aren’t fools; they will surely destroy the evidence in time...”

Just as Lainekel was deep in thought, Ji Chen suddenly spoke up.

“Lainekel, I have a good plan, but I need your help.”

Lainekel was taken aback. “Go ahead and tell me.”

“It’s you.”

Lainekel looked puzzled. “Me?”

Ji Chen nodded. “The Demonic Blood Pearls might not work, but your existence, having been transformed by the Dreadlord, appearing in the main world with this half-human, half-demon body, is enough to prove many things.”

Lainekel’s eyes lit up. “You’re right! I’m the best evidence!”

But then, his expression darkened suddenly as he asked, “Are you sure I won’t be killed on sight the moment we meet?”

Ji Chen pondered for a moment. “There’s a possibility.”

However, Lainekel hesitated for a moment, clenched his fists, and said, “Even if that’s the case, I accept it! I must get this message out; otherwise, my countless years of suffering would have been in vain, wouldn’t they?”

Ji Chen was filled with admiration. While Lainekel’s words sounded casual, his expression didn’t reveal any abnormality. However, Ji Chen could sense the agony and torment hidden beneath the surface.

Although he had never witnessed the demon alchemical transformation process firsthand, seeing Lainekel’s current condition made it clear that the process must have been excruciatingly painful.

Countless years... just thinking about it felt incredibly long.

Ji Chen wanted to say something, but he saw Lainekel suddenly tremble, his hand involuntarily picking up his longsword. “Damn it, how can it be so soon... Balzarna is already activating this body. Damn, there must be surveillance creatures nearby!”

Lainekel’s face contorted severely as if he were forcibly suppressing his instincts. His fists clenched, and his teeth were almost shattered. “I can’t hold on much longer. Even though I don’t know your name yet, you’ve reached the Above-Epic Tier at such a young age and have so many high-ranking heroes under your command. You must be extraordinary.

Please, right now, kill me and take my body to the mainland, to humans or elves, as long as it can prove that the demons are about to invade.”

Ji Chen was not one to hesitate. Seeing Lainekel struggling to control himself, he furrowed his brow and once again raised the Sword of Warlords, swinging it down heavily towards Lainekel.

A golden crescent moon-shaped sword qi suddenly shot out, carrying a deadly intent.

However, this body had been altered beyond recognition, and Lainekel couldn’t suppress himself completely. The blood-red color once again dominated his eyes, and he raised his longsword to block.

The longsword in his hand, after countless strikes, finally shattered under this blow.

Ji Chen didn’t hesitate. With his left hand, he prepared a second strike. A water blade, imbued with the power of the ocean, descended from the sky, silent and swift as a shadow.

Lainekel, who had regained his killing personality, didn’t have time to evade or use spatial jumps. He was stabbed straight through the heart.

His body stiffened suddenly, the light in his eyes slowly fading, and he collapsed to the ground, losing all signs of life.

Seeing this, Ji Chen breathed a sigh of relief. After a moment, as if he remembered something, he wondered, wait, why didn’t the system provide a kill confirmation prompt?

“Be careful; he’s not dead yet!”

Several heroes who had already let their guard down snapped back to attention upon hearing Ji Chen’s words.

Several pairs of eyes remained fixed on the seemingly lifeless Lainekel. However, to their surprise, he slowly rose from the ground, his expression somewhat bewildered.

Huh? I’m not dead yet?”

*Chapter 674: Lainekel Recovered His Mind*

The left chest was pierced, and one could even see through to the back.

Surprisingly, Lainekel’s heart was gone, yet he hadn’t died. This scene shocked everyone profoundly.

Lainekel was also stunned, slowly getting up from the ground. He looked down at the gaping hole in his left chest, his eyes filled with bewilderment.

Then, as if he remembered something, he mumbled, “I recall now. Balzarna implanted a demon’s heart in this body to enhance its strength.”

He pointed to the right side of his chest, where there were traces of flesh sewn back together.

While the human heart had been destroyed, the demon’s heart was still functioning, explaining the brief loss of life earlier.

Upon hearing this explanation, Ji Chen’s expression eased a bit. “But it seems you have regained your senses now?”

Lainekel also noticed this and looked at his own hands in confusion. “I seem to possess a strange power within me now, which helps me suppress the murderous personality. Even Balzarna couldn’t control it.”

Ji Chen recalled the events that had just occurred, pondered for a moment, and then summoned a manifestation of oceanic power in his hand. “Is it this power?”

Lainekel’s eyes brightened, nodding repeatedly. “Exactly, it’s this power! Vast and majestic like the ocean, yet gentle and comforting like a mother. It reminds me of a powerful ocean deity I once encountered, though they perished in the divine war...”

Feeling the faint aura of oceanic power emanating from his body, Ji Chen contemplated. If he wished, this oceanic power could turn into the most deadly poison, instantly shattering Lainekel.

This situation was quite similar to the one where he had helped Elisya regain her consciousness in the frozen wilderness. Oceanic power not only possessed immense destructive capability but also had some form of miraculous healing and purifying effect.

“This is the power of the ocean.”

“Oceanic power!?” Lainekel’s face showed astonishment. “No wonder even Balzarna couldn’t suppress it. Oceanic power is the prerequisite for creating ocean deities and igniting the divine fire!”

As a witness to the divine war that had taken place tens of thousands of years ago, Lainekel clearly knew more undisclosed facts and secrets.

Ji Chen became intrigued, but now wasn’t the time to inquire further. Since oceanic power had successfully suppressed the murderous personality, there was no need to worry about him suddenly going berserk.

“Anina, you and your team go assist the Featherfolk and Ocean Pixies in resisting the corrupted creatures. Be prepared to lead the troops in a retreat if necessary!”

The heroes nodded and rejoined the battle.

“Kraken!”

The giant octopus, previously busy “whacking moles” and “playing badminton,” paused for a moment.

“Kraken, what do you need me to do?”



“Prepare yourself; we’re getting ready to use spatial traversal to leave this secret realm!”

“Got it!”

The corrupted creatures seemed almost endless, and it was clear that they would exhaust their last ounce of strength. Furthermore, nobody knew if the demons had any more tricks up their sleeves. Continuing to fight here didn’t make much sense.

Since they already had this highly credible “evidence” from Lainekel, there was no reason to stay any longer.

“Sir Lainekel.”

Lainekel turned around, his ugly face showing a hint of confusion and bewilderment. Coupled with his bald head, it was quite a comical sight.

Putting aside his terrifying inhuman appearance due to the modifications, this ancient human powerhouse who had endured numerous trials and tribulations still maintained an optimistic and positive attitude. His spirit was not broken, nor had he succumbed to darkness. This made Ji Chen admire him.

“We’ll be leaving through Kraken’s spatial rift shortly, and we’ll undoubtedly face the most ferocious attacks from the corrupted creatures and demons. Please prepare to leave as well.”

Lainekel nodded. “That’s no problem. But can you lend me a weapon to kill a few corrupted creatures and alleviate some pressure on you guys? My sword was shattered by you earlier. It would be best if it’s a longsword.”

Ji Chen smiled and handed over the Sword of Warlords in his hand. “Of course, you can use this sword.”

Lainekel was taken aback. “Are you sure you want to lend me such a powerful and valuable sword?”

Ji Chen chuckled. “Why not? Just considering that you’ve endured the torment of the Dreadlord for tens of thousands of years and still maintain a sense of self, as well as your unwavering faith in humanity and order, that’s enough for me to admire.

A mere sword is nothing. Feel free to use it.”

Lainekel looked genuinely delighted and moved, as if his persistence had been recognized. His gaze towards Ji Chen softened as he accepted the sword.

He swung it a few times, creating a magnificent sword aura filled with sharpness and killing intent. “What a great sword! It’s much better than the one I used before!”

You’re so young, and your strength is exceptional. I wonder where you’ve found so many high-tier treasures. Could it be that you come from a noble family or clan?”

Ji Chen replied calmly, “Certainly not. I’m just an ordinary human lord.”

Lainekel wore an expression that clearly said, "I don't believe you." It was hard to imagine how an ordinary person could command the loyalty of so many high-tier heroes, even a kingdom or a major noble family would find it difficult to have so many high-tier heroes..

*Chapter 675: Lainekel Recovered His Mind (2)*

"Never mind." He shook his head. "When I led the mission earlier, I harmed your heroes and even caused casualties among the Featherfolk warriors. Although it wasn't my intention, I'll go and slay some corrupted creatures to make amends for this."

"No need to worry. You are highly valuable to us."

Lainekel nodded without saying much. He turned away, and his gaze gradually became sharper, as if he were emitting a sword aura from his eyes.

Over the past hundreds of thousands of years, he had been a shining star among many orderly races, with his people placing high hopes on him, believing that he had the potential to become an epic-tier hero.

However, he had been overly confident and reckless. At the time when the forces of evil were on the brink of collapse, he had embarked on a solo mission. Little did he know, he would encounter the Dreadlord, Balzarna, a being of the Five Demon Kings' level, whose power far surpassed the epic tier. Lainekel, then only at the peak of the legendary tier, was no match for Balzarna.

When he thought he was facing certain death in regret, Balzarna didn't kill him but instead took him captive, subjecting him to inhuman modifications in the depths of the Chaotic Abyss. The reason he could still maintain a fragment of his human consciousness after all these years was due to his strong desire to return to the mortal world.

He believed that he could regain his sanity and return as a human, and he owed it all to this human lord. If he had a chance to repay the favor in the future, he would surely take it.

Ji Chen looked at Lainekel, who had suddenly become motionless, wondering if something was wrong, and asked, "Sir, what's the matter?"

Lainekel's face contorted into a stiff smile. "It's nothing. I was just thinking about how when he sent me out, not only did I fail to complete the mission, but I also regained my sanity and turned against him. Balzarna must be seething with anger right now."

Ji Chen smiled and replied, "Well, let him seethe with anger. After all, we'll meet sooner or later in the future. For now, let's take back some of the suffering he caused you."

"You're absolutely right! Let those demon bastards see how we thwart their plans!"

Lainekel threw his head back and let out a hearty laugh, causing gusts of wind to swirl around him. His gaze was resolute.

Taking a step forward, he released a surge of spatial energy.

With a single step, he appeared among the corrupted creatures.

As the creatures saw a figure suddenly appear before them, they were taken aback. However, upon sensing the demonic aura emanating from him, they assumed he was an ally and moved aside, allowing him to pass.

Lainekel grinned, immediately wielding his Sword of Warlords. The sword's radiance bloomed like a mandala around him. As he moved forward, the enchanted blade left behind trails of blood, slicing through the advancing, corrupted creatures. Their bodies split into two, with the rear halves remaining in place, while the front halves continued to run forward, collapsing a few meters ahead due to their inertia.

Within a radius of dozens of meters, not a single corrupted creature remained standing. The putrid black blood tainted every inch of the land.

This single strike had directly taken the lives of over a thousand corrupted beings.

Sensing something, he looked ahead and saw a beholder slowly hovering in place. Lainekel fixed his gaze on its eye and suddenly let out a disdainful smile. He pointed his Sword of Warlords at it, and the tip of the sword lifted upward.

At the same time, as Balzarna observed Lainekel's mocking expression and provocation on the magic screen, his face darkened. Though he didn't say a word, his intense anger and shame were palpable.

The demon lords and overlords present remained silent, afraid to speak. It was understandable, as who wouldn't feel extreme anger and humiliation when their servant and assassin sent on a mission turned against them and even taunted and mocked them?

However, they were filled with confusion as well. Number 17, since its successful self-modification hundreds of thousands of years ago, had always followed orders like a killing machine, and such a situation had never arisen. Even Balzarna believed that the modification had been highly successful and sent it to this primary world's secret realm with confidence.

However, reality had slapped them in the face. Number 17 not only regained its consciousness but also suppressed the pressure imposed by Balzarna and proceeded to slay the corrupted creatures.

Just at the moment when the beholder on the scene was killed, they didn't witness what happened during the process, but they more or less guessed that it must be connected to this human lord.

This human lord not only had extraordinary power but also could completely suppress Number 17. Moreover, he possessed the ability to restore the consciousness of alchemical constructs!

Their hatred towards him grew stronger.

This youth would undoubtedly become their formidable enemy in the future!

After their anger subsided, they began to contemplate how to prevent this human lord from leaving this secret realm. In order to minimize the rejection by the world's rules, they had only sent Number 17, a high-level combatant. There were no other high-tier combatants they could afford to send to this secret realm.

In the magic screen, Number 17 was unabashedly slaughtering the corrupted creatures and, in collaboration with other heroes, forcing the demonic army to retreat step by step.

Clearly, it was impossible to kill him with just these corrupted creatures.

The demon lords and overlords sneakily glanced at Balzarna, who was seated at the forefront.

Balzarna appeared calm and spoke in an indifferent tone, saying, “Destroy this mystic realm.”

Their hearts quaked. They had secretly cultivated this mystic realm for thousands of years, investing substantial resources in contaminating and corrupting the marine creatures within it. It was intended to serve as a source of troops and a forward base for future invasions of the primary world’s oceans. Destroying it now would mean a colossal waste of effort and resources..

### *Chapter 676: Lainekeel Recovered His Mind (3)*

But upon careful consideration, it seemed there were no other options now.

Compared to the losses caused by the exposure of the plan, it was not a big deal to pay some price to destroy this mystic realm.

Only by destroying this mystic realm, and letting it perish in the void together with these humans, ocean pixies, and feathered people who know their secrets, could the plan remain undisclosed!

Many demon lords and leaders stood up together, bowing their heads and speaking respectfully, “Yes!”

Seeing the corrupted creatures being completely driven off the floating mountain, the situation was settled. Augustus and Elwin were overjoyed. “Great, we’ve finally driven these ghosts away. Just a moment ago, they almost broke through and attacked the civilian refuge on the floating mountain.”

When that semi-demonic, semi-human creature capable of spatial jumps restrained the heroes of the Ocean Crown, it was also the most perilous moment of this war. The corrupted creatures were on the verge of breaking into the civilian refuge on the floating mountain.

However, at that crucial moment, Lord Ji Chen made a swift and bold move. He handled the situation so effectively that it seemed like he had entered a domain where no one could challenge him. He even managed to sow discord among the enemy ranks, which ultimately set the stage for our victory in the battle.

What an incredibly powerful force!

Augustus and Elwin approached Ji Chen, exchanged a glance, and with the utmost respect, they saluted, “Lord Ji Chen, thank you for everything you’ve done. We will always remember your kindness.”

Ji Chen replied calmly, “I did what I could. Without the help of many ocean pixies and feathered warriors, it would have been difficult to defend the Ocean Crown.”

To be honest, without the feathered warriors to deal with the flying corrupted creatures and the magical projectile firepower of the ocean pixies against the flying corrupted creatures, it would have been quite challenging to repel the corrupted creatures.

Augustus and Elwin, hearing Ji Chen’s modesty and acknowledging their contributions, couldn’t help but admire him.

It wasn’t just admiration for his immense power but also for his noble character.

“Lord Augustus, Lord Elwin, please organize our people for evacuation as quickly as possible. I will make the Kraken tear open a spatial rift and take us out of this secret realm directly.”

“Please make it as fast as possible, and be lightly equipped. Ideally, we should be ready within half an hour.”

Augustus and Elwin were slightly surprised, “So urgent?”

Ji Chen said in a solemn tone, “I have a bad feeling that the demons may have further actions.”

Both of them sensed the gravity in his words and nodded immediately, “Alright, we will prepare right away.”

To be honest, they were somewhat afraid of the demons’ methods. First, it was the flying corrupted creatures, followed by the terrifying half-human, half-demonic creatures, and who knows what other horrors the demons might unleash in the future.

It was better to leave early.

Watching Augustus and Elwin hastily depart, Ji Chen glanced at the still gloomy sky. He noticed that the thunder serpents bursting from within the dark clouds had become more frequent, forming a web-like pattern across the sky.

In this windless and rainless environment, the frequent lightning bursts felt oppressive.

Lainekel jumped back from below the floating mountain through spatial jumping, reluctantly returning the Sword of Warlords that remained unblemished to Ji Chen. “Here, take back your sword.”

Ji Chen smiled and accepted it, casually placing it in his backpack. “After all, I destroyed your dual sword earlier. When we return to the main world, I’ll compensate you with a good sword.”

The reluctance on Lainekel’s face faded as he saw Ji Chen’s calm response. He felt somewhat embarrassed and said, “No need, it wasn’t your fault in the first place. If I have the chance, I’ll find a replacement myself.

A swordsman’s sword is second only to life itself. How can I let someone else find a replacement for it?”

“In that case, I won’t insist. By the way, Sir Lainekel, do you know if the demons have any other tricks in this mystic realm?”

Lainekel thought for a moment and pondered, “As far as I know, they shouldn’t have any more. Balzarna, in order to avoid triggering the world’s rejection, only released a limited amount of demonic pollution into the ocean and corrupted those creatures. Apart from me, there shouldn’t be any other high-level combatants.”

Even Lainekel, who was previously completely trusted by Balzarna, didn’t know, so it should be secure!

Ji Chen nodded in reassurance. That made things easier. They just had to wait for Augustus and Elwin to organize their people for evacuation, and then they could leave this place.

But at that moment, the Kraken suddenly emitted an urgent cry.

“Squawk!!! (Master, the spatial structure of this mystic realm has suddenly been attacked by some external force, leading to widespread collapse. It will soon plummet into the void and be annihilated completely!)”

Ji Chen’s expression changed drastically.

Damn it, a more dire outcome arrived far too soon!

*Chapter 677: The Mystic Realm Collapses, The Featherfolk Race*

The spatial structure had been disrupted by external forces, and there was no need to speculate—it was definitely the work of demons.

Ji Chen didn’t expect that the demons would actually be willing to use a realm that they had been managing for thousands of years, investing a significant amount of resources, to completely trap them. One could certainly not deny their determination.

Ignoring the demons’ murderous intent towards them, Ji Chen calmed himself down and spoke in a hurried tone.

“How much time is left before the realm completely collapses?”

“Squeak! (At most, there are only two hours left!)”

Although two hours were pressing, it didn’t mean there was no way to complete the evacuation. Augustus had already guided the civilians to gather together for refuge, and with people assembled, the final step of evacuation would be much easier.

As for the Ocean Pixies, not to mention, they had evacuated from their dwellings with minimal gear, ready to leave at any moment.

According to the speed at which the Kraken opened the spatial channel, they would only need half an hour to complete the evacuation!

At this point, Ji Chen felt somewhat reassured.

“Open the spatial channel now and get ready to leave.”

The Kraken nodded eagerly and raised its tentacle to draw, but there was no change in the air, just like an oar paddling through still water, and there was no sign of any transformation in the sky.

After a momentary pause, the Kraken realized something and cried out mournfully.

“Squeak!! (Master, something terrible is happening! The realm is now detaching from the main world and drifting towards the depths of the void. I can’t create a stable spatial channel between the two sides!)”

“An unstable spatial channel? What are the chances of success under the current circumstances?”

“With the current situation, one out of a hundred people might make it through, and that’s being optimistic.”

Ji Chen’s face darkened. What the heck? Was this a never-ending series of bad luck? One out of a hundred people making it through was no different from a death sentence.

Now, the realm was like a broken ship with a snapped anchor, being tossed about in a storm, and the surging seawater was pushing it towards the outside. Once it completely detached from the main world’s attachment, it would gradually collapse.

Everything within this realm would quickly disintegrate, becoming the most primitive energy and matter in the void.

Only epic-tier individuals above level seventy and a very few who could operate in the void races could briefly move around in the void. In other words, there was no one here who could survive exposure to the void.

The spatial fissures in the sky gradually became denser, forming a web-like pattern, resembling magnificent spiderwebs hanging in the sky.

Intermittent, eerie purple light seeped through the fissures, creating a visually striking but chilling scene that sent shivers down everyone’s spines.

No one wanted to venture into the void.

Ji Chen forced himself to remain calm and looked at the void ring on his left-hand finger.

This 7-star artifact ring, gifted to him by the elf Elin, not only allowed for short-distance spatial jumps but also possessed another powerful skill.

(Void Tunnel (Can create a brief, temporary void tunnel, passable by living creatures, with a 72-hour cooldown).]

Although it was unclear whether this could create a stable channel between a collapsing realm and the main world, Ji Chen had no other options at the moment, so he had to take the risk.

He immediately activated the power of the ring, and a black-purple energy, resembling spatial fissures, surged from the ring, forming a rotating three-dimensional vortex that spanned dozens of meters in width and height before him.

As the vortex’s rotation gradually slowed and stabilized, a trace of satisfaction appeared on Ji Chen’s hopeful face—it worked!

Without hesitation, he shouted, “Augustus, Elwin, quickly have your people enter the void tunnel!”

He could clearly sense that this void tunnel could only be maintained for a maximum of one and a half hours, making time extremely tight.

Augustus and Elwin, realizing the gravity of the situation, immediately began organizing their respective people to enter the void tunnel. The efficiency of entry and exit through the tunnel, which was a dozen meters wide and high, was not very high.

To expedite the process as much as possible, Ji Chen had the Sea Crystal Wyrms carry dozens of Ocean Pixies into the upper half of the tunnel’s entrance. He also handled the Ocean Crown army

like a baseball, tossing them directly into the tunnel. Although this approach might have seemed a bit hasty, there was no time to be overly cautious.

This operation significantly increased the success rate of passage.

In just an hour, more than half of the Ocean Pixies and Featherfolk were sent into the tunnel, and two-thirds of the Sea Crown Championship team also entered.

However, at this point, the spatial fragility of this realm had intensified. The “spiderwebs” in the sky had interconnected, forming a colossal web that spanned the heavens. The sky had plunged into complete darkness, with only the eerie purple light seeping through the fissures providing the only illumination for this world.

From within the light, a gentle breeze seemingly from the void began to blow, annihilating and assimilating everything it touched, transforming them into primal energy.

Ji Chen and his group witnessed the gradual collapse of this realm, which once contained an entire world.

Another twenty minutes passed, and except for Ji Chen and his companions, all the Ocean Pixies and Featherfolk had already entered the void tunnel.

Standing in front of the tunnel, Augustus and Elwin turned back to look at the realm that was heading towards its demise, as if they could hear its mournful cry.

In their eyes, a hint of reluctance and melancholy couldn't help but surface. They had been multiplying and thriving in this place for generations, and now, in their generation, they had finally reached the end.

But after a moment of reluctance, they turned their heads around, their eyes filled with anticipation for the new world..

*Chapter 678: The Mystic Realm Collapses, The Featherfolk Race (2)*

With a mutual glance, they stepped into the tunnel and disappeared into the swirling vortex.

Ji Chen took one last look at the soon-to-be extinguished realm and then moved on, leading the last few heroes of the Crown of the Ocean into the void tunnel.

Not long after they entered, the void tunnel slowly shrank and disappeared. Soon, the endless void energy finally broke through the last defense line, annihilating and assimilating everything inside the realm.

On a stretch of sea.

Watching the disappearance of this section of the void tunnel, everyone turned their gaze to their surroundings.

Back on the ocean once again, the territorial protection came into effect, allowing Ji Chen to instantly determine their location.

“We’re still in the southern waters of the Western Mid-Ocean, but closer to the mid-western region. It’s not too far from the Stormy Sea, about a four-day journey.”



After confirming their location, he found Augustus and Elwin, who were observing the appearance of the main world.

“Lord Augustus, Lord Elwin, what are your plans for the future?”

Elvin said, “I plan to lead my people to find a suitable sea area and establish a place to live and reproduce.”

As he spoke, Elvin’s face was filled with sadness.

Although they had successfully escaped, the Ocean Pixie tribe had suffered severe damage. More than 3,000 of their 7,000 members had died during the evacuation and escape, leaving them seriously weakened.

What was even more crucial was the scarcity of warriors, with only a small force of fewer than a thousand, making self-defense a major concern.

Seeing Elvin’s concern, Ji Chen smiled and said, “My territory is not too far from here. If you’re willing, you can choose a suitable place around there to settle down, and it will be easier for me to provide assistance.”

The Ocean Pixie chieftain was overjoyed and quickly said, “In that case, I won’t refuse your kind offer.”

He trusted and felt reassured by Ji Chen. From the series of events that had occurred earlier, he had come to know Ji Chen’s character and strength.

Ji Chen nodded and then turned to Augustus, asking, “What about you, Lord Augustus? Are you also looking to establish a new home like Lord Elwin?” Augustus hesitated for a moment, but it seemed he had made up his mind. He spoke in a deep voice, “Lord Ji Chen, I would like to lead my people to join your territory.”

Ji Chen was slightly surprised but then nodded with a smile, “You are very welcome to join us in the Crown of the Ocean. We always welcome any orderly and kind-hearted race.”

Augustus was relieved that Ji Chen had readily accepted his request. Ji Chen didn’t show any signs of anger or resentment due to his earlier refusal.

The experience of almost losing his tribe had made him realize that the Featherfolk tribe was not a particularly strong race. To have a better chance of survival in the main world and avoid becoming slaves or commodities, they needed to attach themselves to a stronger power.

“Lord Ji Chen, could you tell us about the Crown of the Ocean?”

Ji Chen smiled and said, “Of course, let’s talk about it on the way.”

“Ding- A Featherfolk tribe (5,000 people) has joined your territory.”

“Ding- Featherfolk Hero: Patheia (Legacy Tier) has joined your ranks.”

“Ding- A 6th-tier Featherfolk Warrior Army (6th tier, i-star, 1,500 people) has joined your ranks.”

Apart from their expertise in flying, the Featherfolk race also possessed exceptional building construction skills, which enabled them to construct magnificent and beautiful high-altitude structures on the floating mountain. This aspect was reflected in their information panel.

[Featherfolk]

[Skills]: Construction Art (Greatly increases construction speed, significantly improves quality, reduces building material consumption by 20%)

Lord Statue (Able to build a special structure: Lord Statue, increasing territory attractiveness and popularity)

At this moment, the Crown of the Ocean was currently under construction, with the magnificent architectural wonder, the Heraklion Temple. The addition of the Featherfolk would accelerate the construction speed and save a substantial amount of resources for the next batch of objectives.

At the same time, Patheia, the Featherfolk hero who had previously offended Ji Chen, also chose to follow her father and swear allegiance to him.

As a Legacy Tier hero, Patheia was not as weak as she had initially thought in the main world. After going through a series of setbacks and battles, her temperament seemed to have settled down, and her strength had barely reached the expected level.

The Crown of the Ocean had gained another Legacy Tier hero!

After four days of continuous travel, Ji Chen and his group finally returned to the Crown of the Ocean.

The Featherfolk tribe was settled on the mountain peak in the northeast of the main island, which used to be a dragon's nest. There was enough space and a water source, and the high altitude suited the living environment of the Featherfolk

Elwin and his people settled in the underwater forest to the east of the New Moon Islands, where the White-scaled Merfolk had once lived. It was not far from the Crown of the Ocean, had good environmental conditions, and the nearby sea creatures had been cleared out, making it a suitable settlement.

Solidus also accompanied them back to the Crown of the Ocean to rest for a while.

After returning to the territory, Ji Chen stayed briefly and then, with Lainekeel and Patheia, boarded the Sea Crystal Wurm and set off towards the Northern Continent.

The news of the demon invasion had to be spread as quickly as possible, and the Elven Empire was the most suitable medium for dissemination.

Hundreds of thousands of years ago, the Elven race was part of the lawful camp, serving as the main force against demons and the forces of evil.

Countless elves perished in the few decades of the divine war, and if there was one race that harbored deep hatred for demons, it would be the elves.

The Elven Empire was immensely influential. If they believed in the demon invasion, they could use their influence to rally other lawful races to discuss and prepare for the fight against the demons.

This was the most effective method Ji Chen could imagine.

Before that, he had no intention of revealing this news.

According to Lainekel's information, demons had likely secretly informed those races that were once part of the evil camp, waiting for them to rise up when the invasion occurred. Revealing this news abruptly could alert the demons prematurely and lead to an early invasion.

Everything needed to be handled discreetly.

After a day and a night, Ji Chen, standing on the Sea Crystal Wurm, could already see the bustling coastal city in the distance.

"Sir Lainekel, are you going with me, or will you wait here?" Ji Chen asked

Lainekel looked at his half-human, half-demon body and thought for a moment before saying, "I'll wait here. Otherwise, with my current appearance, I feel like I'll cause panic as soon as I enter."

As he said this, Lainekel's face seemed somewhat gloomy. Clearly, despite having arrived in his own race's city and being eager to return to human civilization, he didn't dare approach because of his current appearance.

Ji Chen understood this emotion and reassured him, saying, "Once everything becomes clear, people will surely accept you."

Lainekel nodded with a smile. "I hope so."

Leaving behind a hundred Sea Crystal Wurm guards to prevent any unexpected incidents, Ji Chen took the remaining Sea Crystal Wyrms and flew towards the land.

Storing the troops and entering Maple Harbor.

As soon as Ji Chen and the others entered the harbor, they attracted the attention of many indigenous residents and players.

The reason was none other than Patheia, who was following behind him.

The Featherfolk race was extremely rare on the mainland, and now there was one here who appeared extraordinary, like a celestial being.

Many players were immediately excited, and in the eyes of some malicious natives, a greedy glint flashed. Some even approached, inquiring subtly about potential trades.

Ji Chen's face stayed icy as he glared at them with cold eyes.

A single glance from him stopped the locals in their tracks, sending shivers down their spines and making fear visible on their faces, causing them to hesitate from getting any closer.

They made their way to the Elven Embassy.

The Elven guards at the gate saw Ji Chen approaching and immediately greeted him respectfully, ushering him inside.

In the familiar reception hall.

“Lord Ji Chen, what brings you here today?” a familiar voice sounded from outside the door. Miligas walked in confidently but paused for a moment when he saw Patheia standing behind the sofa. “Featherfolk?”

However, seeing Ji Chen’s serious expression and sensing something amiss, he put away his smile and took a seat across from them.

A few minutes later.

In the reception hall, Miligas uttered words of disbelief.

“What? A demon invasion!?”

*Chapter 679: Going to the Elven Capital*

The elven ambassador, known for his refined demeanor in the Maple Principality, suddenly stood up from the sofa, his face filled with shock, abandoning all decorum.

Incredulously, he repeated, “Are you saying this is true?”

Ji Chen nodded solemnly and replied, “I discovered this in a semi-sealed mystic realm in the southern Pacific Ocean. You should know that I have a deep-sea dragon whale hero in my ranks, and she gained knowledge from the bloodline memories there.

I assure you, there’s no falsehood in what I’m saying. If possible, please convey this message to the Elven Queen.”

Miligas looked at Ji Chen with seriousness, devoid of any playful expression, and rubbed his nose in frustration before sitting back on the sofa.

“Your Excellency, I don’t mean to doubt you, but the gravity of this matter is beyond ordinary. Without sufficient evidence, I’m afraid...”

“What if I have irrefutable evidence?” Ji Chen interjected.

Miligas appeared skeptical. “Do you really have it?”

He didn’t doubt Ji Chen, but the situation was simply too unbelievable, to the point where no one would readily believe it. Demons had been sealed by the gods of order in the depths of chaos. If demons were truly invading again, why hadn’t the Mother Goddess and other orderly deities sent divine warnings?

Moreover, just over a decade ago, the Mother Goddess had issued an oracle to remind them of their responsibility as orderly races to combat evil races.

The Mother Goddess and other orderly deities were still present, so how could demons find an opportunity?

Ji Chen wasn’t surprised by Miligas’s reaction, as he himself had doubts until he confirmed the demon invasion.

After all, the reappearance of demons, a race that had disappeared for hundreds of thousands of years and was considered taboo by some, sounded absurd.

“While I was searching for evidence in that semi-sealed mystic realm, we were surrounded by a large number of demonized creatures. The Dreadlord Balzarna even sent an alchemical-reconstructed being to kill all witnesses. In the end, they even attempted to destroy the mystic realm to annihilate us in the void.”

Ji Chen paused and continued, “I unintentionally awakened the consciousness of the alchemical-reconstructed being, who was once a powerful human. He is now waiting just outside Maple Harbor.”

Seeing that Ji Chen didn’t appear to be lying, Miligas hesitated for a moment and said, “Then please... no, please take me to see him in person.”

Ji Chen agreed readily, “Time is of the essence; let’s depart immediately.”

Miligas nodded, and a carriage was arranged promptly. They set off for Maple Harbor.

However, as they entered Maple Harbor, they witnessed squads of heavily armed elven soldiers rushing through the streets.

“What’s happening? Why are so many soldiers mobilized?” Miligas inquired, pulling back the curtain of the carriage.

An elven warrior guarding the outside shook his head and said, “We’re not sure for now. Let me find out.”

The elven warrior quickly stopped a passing squad of soldiers. These soldiers, upon seeing that they were being halted by an elf, didn’t dare to be neglectful. They noticed the direction pointed towards a well-guarded elven carriage and showed even greater respect.

“Our lord has some questions for you,” the squad leader hastily nodded. “It’s my honor to assist our lord in any way.”

The elven warrior didn’t say anything and signaled for him to follow.

Under the guidance of the elven warrior, the squad leader approached the carriage.

The curtain was lifted from inside, revealing an elegant elven face.

The squad leader’s expression changed; this elf... was the ambassador of the Silvermoon Dynasty to the Maple Principality. How could such a prominent figure be here in Maple Harbor?

But what surprised him even more was that beside this highest-ranking elf in the entire Maple Principality, there was a human sitting.

Who was this person? How could they be sharing a carriage with the elven ambassador?

“What’s happening? Why are so many of you mobilized?” Miligas asked calmly.

The squad leader hurriedly replied, “There’s been a humanoid monster near the port area that has already injured several people and poses a threat to Maple Harbor.”

“Your Excellency, it’s best for you to stay away from the port for now. I heard that the creature is quite powerful, and I’m afraid it might harm you.”

“No need to worry. What does this humanoid monster look like?” Miligas waved his hand.

“It seems to have undergone body modifications, like a fusion of a human with some kind of creature. It’s accompanied by some powerful wyverns...”

“That must be the alchemical-reconstructed being I mentioned earlier.”

Ji Chen was somewhat puzzled. Wasn’t Lainekel supposed to stay outside Maple Harbor? How did he come close and get into a conflict with the Maple soldiers?

Miligas hesitated for a moment and then said, “There must be some misunderstanding. Let’s go there now and try to resolve the conflict.”

“You lead the way immediately.”

“Yes!” The squad leader saluted and began to lead the way.

The carriage advanced along the cobblestone road, making a clattering sound, but the ride inside remained smooth. The excellent craftsmanship and the use of shock-absorbing runes kept the carriage stable.

They soon arrived at a dock in the harbor, where they saw a squadron of Sea Crystal Wyverns circling nearby and Lainekel standing on the dock..

#### *Chapter 680: Going to the Elven Capital (2)*

At this moment, Lainekel was surrounded by a group of players, numbering about a dozen.

They were attacking him, and he was retaliating, though it seemed more like self-defense.

These players were only around level thirty or forty, while Lainekel, despite not having any weapons in hand, effortlessly blocked their attacks with just one hand. He wanted to leave but was entangled by these reckless players. He didn’t want to hurt them, and that held him back.

“Come on, guys! We’ll catch this humanoid monster soon, and then we’ll sell him at the slave market for a hefty sum!”

“This creature looks like some evil race. We’re definitely right to catch it! With so many indigenous soldiers helping us, we shouldn’t be afraid of anything!”

Watching these strangely confident individuals who were clearly much weaker than him, Lainekel felt frustrated. Unable to bear it any longer, he finally spoke up.

“If you keep this up, I’ll make you regret it.”

These players were surprised but even more excited. “Wow, it can speak! That makes it even more valuable!”

Lainekel, at the end of his patience, was about to exert some force to make them understand what semi-epic tier power meant when a solemn voice intervened.

“If you don’t want to die, stop.”

The leader of this small group of players instinctively wanted to argue but turned around and was immediately drenched in cold sweat. A bunch of elves were glaring at them, and beside the lead elf stood someone who looked like a player.

In the Maple Principality, elves were the last beings anyone wanted to provoke.

The leader hastily shouted, “Everyone, stop!”

Hearing their leader, the players hesitated and eventually came to a halt.

The leader approached quickly, wearing a flattering expression. “Esteemed Elf

Officer, could it be that this creature is your slave? We saw it on the sea surface and thought it was some invading monster.”

Miligas didn’t respond immediately but glanced at Ji Chen. Seeing no objection from him, he pursed his lips and said, “You, step aside for now.”

The lead player was puzzled by the sequence of events. How come an elf officer seemed to be more interested in a player’s reaction?

With a mind filled with confusion and questions, he complied.

“Brothers, let’s hold off for now.”

The players moved to the side, their eyes fixed on the creature, trying to figure out the connection between it, the elf, and the player.

Lainekel experienced some guilt and self-blame. He knew that if he hadn’t been so curious about human society and hadn’t ventured out to explore it, he wouldn’t have been caught.

Ji Chen smiled and nodded at Lainekel, then turned to Miligas, speaking in a low voice.

“The matter regarding the demon is significant. I believe we should temporarily detain all witnesses here to prevent any information leakage.”

Miligas didn’t hesitate and immediately nodded.

He hadn’t fully believed Ji Chen’s story until he saw Lainekel with his own eyes.

Others might not know, but he had seen demons in ancient texts and spell records. The demons’ limbs and appearance bore a striking resemblance to Lainekel’s arms and legs. Moreover, that unique aura was the most obvious indicator.

Demons were indeed on the brink of invading once more.

“Convey my orders! Detain everyone here for now!”

“All those detained will receive compensation in the form of precious resources from our Elven Embassy. Please cooperate with us!”

Elves were known for their dominance, and when they said someone would be detained, they meant it. However, Miligas wasn’t foolish and knew he needed to use something to appease the others.

Sure enough, when those players who had initially considered resisting heard the second sentence, they accepted it happily.

After all, they had nothing better to do, and being detained for a while would grant them valuable resources. This deal was a win-win situation!

Apart from the players, the Maple soldiers who had come to guard were also taken away and detained by the elven warriors. Though they had some grievances, they realized they had stumbled upon something significant and could only begrudgingly accept their fate.

Lainekel boarded the carriage, and the wheels began to turn once more as they headed towards Maple City.

“This is the person I mentioned, the witness who can prove the demon invasion.” Ji Chen spoke.

Miligas widened his eyes, gazing at Lainekel nearby with a sense of disbelief.

“So, what you said was true. This is truly incredible.”

“Sir Lainekel, I wonder how did you end up like this?”

Lainekel forced a smile on his stiff face. “It’s a long story. During the final stages of the Divine War, I was captured by the Dreadlord Balzama and forcibly transformed like this. I served as his executioner for hundreds of thousands of years... If it weren’t for Lord Ji Chen’s intervention, I’d still be his accomplice now.”

“The Divine War?!” Miligas was shocked. He had never imagined that this half-human, half-demon being had been captured during the Divine War hundreds of thousands of years ago. It meant that Lainekel had lived for hundreds of thousands of years, far longer than elves and even dragons.

Miligas couldn’t help but feel a sense of admiration. Maintaining one’s sanity for hundreds of thousands of years while serving under the Dreadlord Balzama was no small feat, and it set Lainekel apart from ordinary beings.

Elves respected strength, and with the knowledge about Lainekel, Miligas displayed a newfound sense of respect.

Ji Chen redirected the conversation towards the matter at hand. “Now that we are acquainted, we should consider delivering this crucial information to Her Majesty, the Queen.”

“Indeed, this matter must be brought to Her Majesty’s attention. Only when she believes in it can we quickly gather other orderly races to discuss this issue together.”

This time, Miligas didn’t hesitate or delay. Like Ji Chen, he knew that this was not a matter that could be resolved by one person or one race.

He said, “Coincidentally, a few days ago, important news came from the capital. Her Majesty wishes to personally meet with you, Lord Ji Chen. We can take this opportunity to report this news to her.”



Ji Chen paused for a moment and agreed wholeheartedly, “That’s great. When do we depart?”

“Today in the afternoon, there will be an alchemical airship heading back to the capital, and it’s on our way.”

While Ji Chen and the others discussed their journey to the Elven capital, in the player chat channels, discussions were abuzz about the recent events at the port.

“Did you hear? The elves seem to have captured some players, even the soldiers from the Maple Kingdom have been detained!”

“That’s impressive! They even arrested soldiers from the Maple Principality? What did they do?”

“As far as I know, it seems they saw something they shouldn’t have seen. The detention is temporary, and there will be compensation in the form of precious resources.”

“Are there any of our comrades at the scene? Come forward and share some insights!”

Soon, players claiming to have been captured began to speak up.

“As for this matter, I can only say that those who know would understand. Those who don’t, won’t get it no matter how much I explain. After all...”

“Cut the nonsense and get to the point!”

“We genuinely dare not speak about it. If we do, we won’t get that compensation in precious resources. It’s a loss... But I did see a player with the Elven Ambassador, someone called Ji Chen or something...”

“Being on such good terms with the Elven Ambassador, they must be someone important.”

The name Ji Chen didn’t create much of a stir in the chat channels. Most players only recognized the title of “Islander” and had no idea who Ji Chen was. Those who did know were a handful of guild leaders who had been in the war between the Kingdom of Lienhardt and the Kingdom of Bass.

When they saw this name appear in the chat channel, they couldn’t help but pause. Was Ji Chen in the Maple Principality now?

These guild leaders had a shared understanding: wherever Ji Chen was, something significant would happen soon.

Could it be that something was about to occur in the Maple Principality, and it seemed to be related to the elves?

With their keen senses, some had already started dispatching people to gather more information, even sending agents to investigate in the Maple Principality..