

Ocean Lord 701

Chapter 701: Meeting (2)

Another faction was Dragon Island, consisting of dragons aligned with the orderly camp.

Leading them was a towering dragon woman who, aside from the horns on her head, appeared entirely human.

Her power was remarkable, reaching level 68 in legend, just shy of the pinnacle at level 69.

Sensing Ji Chen scrutinizing her, the dragon woman frowned and gave him a fierce glare, her eyes burning like flames.

He raised an eyebrow, thinking she was quite bold.

Ignoring her, Ji Chen strode to the independent seat next to the central seat, sitting beside the elf Elin, amidst the astonished gazes of many representatives.

Before anyone else could speak, the dragon woman spoke up.

“Why can this human sit in that seat? Does he have the qualifications?”

It was worth noting that Elin, a highly skilled and powerful individual who had just returned, was sitting in the same row. She had achieved epic-tier strength in the Maple Empire on the Northern Continent.

However, this person appeared good-looking at most and seemed quite ordinary in all respects.

How could this representative from that human kingdom dare to behave so boldly?

On the Lienhardt seat, Monica, seeing Ji Chen becoming the target of criticism, clenched her fists, her face showing some worry.

Under the scrutiny of many eyes, Ji Chen’s calm demeanor actually earned him some admiration from the representatives of the human kingdom, but more were watching with amusement.

At this moment, Elin, who had been silent all along, finally spoke, saying lightly, “I believe Lord Ji Chen has the qualifications to sit with me.”

Upon hearing this, the representatives present suddenly widened their eyes.

Huh!?

What’s going on?

The dragon woman showed a hint of incredulity, but looking at Elin’s expression, she quickly realized something and closed her mouth immediately.

The Elf Queen, Laphia, said slowly, “Lord Ji Chen is an epic-tier powerhouse and the first to discover the demon’s intent to invade. I also believe he has the qualifications to sit here.”

Now their eyes widened even more, are you kidding me? A young epic-tier powerhouse? What did he eat to grow to gain such power?

As attitudes gradually changed, the gaze towards Ji Chen was no longer disdainful but rather mixed with respect and awe.

The principle of strength being respected was well exemplified at this moment.

Queen Laphia glanced at the quiet assembly and said solemnly, "The Elf Empire has invited you all here this time to discuss the matter of the demon invasion. Feel free to speak your minds."

Soon, a representative from the human kingdom spoke up, "Your Majesty Laphia, is the matter of the demon invasion true?"

As soon as these words were spoken, many representatives nodded involuntarily, as this was exactly what they wanted to ask.

If it weren't for the Elf Empire's personal invitation, they would have thought it was just nonsense. How could the demons imprisoned in the depths of chaos escape under the gaze of the orderly gods?

Isn't this ridiculous?

Laphia affirmed with unquestionable certainty, "Of course, it's true."

As she spoke, the crystal projection in the center of the hall displayed a scene, which was the record of Ji Chen leading the team to explore the Wood Elf's mystic realm.

The perspective in the projection was like that of an elf soldier, recording everything from entering the realm, seeing the desolate land, the burnt villages, the withered vegetation, to the horrifying blood sacrifice array and mountains of corpses.

The sight of the pile of dead Wood Elf bodies caused a commotion in the hall.

The perspective quickly advanced, finding the sole survivor among the Wood Elves, Cindia, and then continued searching, discovering more blood sacrifice array corpses and finally the core of the blood sacrifice array.

The projection ended quickly, leaving behind a silent hall. After a moment, it seemed that everyone had finally recovered from the shocking scene.

All those in attendance were part of the organized faction. While they often experienced friction among themselves and had observed the savage actions of certain races, they had never before witnessed the sacrifice of tens of thousands of lives on such a scale.

Everyone could imagine that once those demons invaded comprehensively, it wouldn't just have been the Wood Elves who suffered. Every race and kingdom would have been involved, and countless lives would have been lost.

No one wants to see the desolate land in that picture appear in their own kingdom.

Queen Laphia said, "Lord Ji Chen was the first to discover the demon's intent to invade, and it was he who came all the way from the southern seas to inform me of this matter."

All eyes in the room once again focused on Ji Chen as he slowly stood up.

He stood tall like a pine tree, with outstanding temperament.

Under the gaze of dozens or even hundreds of pairs of eyes, he remained calm and composed, with a peaceful heart.

If he were still on Earth, facing the gaze of so many different races, he would surely feel somewhat uneasy and anxious. But having experienced so much in this world and with his increasing strength, his state of mind had also elevated, showing no signs of anxiety.

He calmly began to recount his observations of the demons within the semi-sealed mystic realm in the southern seas, as well as the demon intelligence known to the city of Lienhardt.

As each piece of information was revealed, the understanding and impressions of the various forces and races towards the demons gradually became clearer.

The Five Demon Lords... Balzarna... Corruption... Demonized creatures...

Ji Chen looked at their suddenly enlightened expressions and shook his head quietly.

If Laineke hadn't provided him with information, he likely wouldn't have known anything about the demons.

Chapter 702: Meeting (3)

This situation, it's all about sharing knowledge.

Thankfully, Laineke was saved back then. With his extensive experience in the Abyss of Chaos for hundreds of thousands of years, it's safe to say that Laineke knows more about demons than anyone else in this world.

Perhaps he knew even more than some demons would.

This included, but was not limited to, the composition of demon troops, their combat methods, characteristics, and breeding directions.

As the saying goes, "Know yourself and know your enemy, and you will win every battle." It wasn't an exaggeration to say that with this information, the odds of victory for the orderly faction in the subsequent wars increased by at least 20%.

However, aside from Laphia and Elin among the attendees, the expressions of the other representatives grew increasingly peculiar as they listened.

Why are you so knowledgeable about demons? You seem to know all their weaknesses like the back of your hand. It's almost as if you've lived among demons before.

Even the demons' vulnerabilities have been laid bare!

Monica, sitting in her seat, looked at Ji Chen talking eloquently, her demeanor confident and imposing. She couldn't help but sparkle with admiration in her eyes. This appearance made Sebastian, who was sitting beside her, shake his head.

He realized his sister was hopelessly in love.

Ji Chen had an attitude that was admired by many representatives. He truly had unlimited potential. Some representatives had already begun to consider whether to send their own offspring, who were excellent in appearance and behavior, to see if they could win over this young powerhouse.

And those non-human races couldn't help but sigh that another brilliant talent had emerged among the human race.

After Ji Chen finished speaking, he calmly sat down, while everyone was still trying to digest this information.

After a moment, Laphia, who already knew this information, spoke in an excited tone, "I propose that all countries and races should mobilize for war as soon as possible. The demon invasion is imminent. Only by uniting as we did hundreds of thousands of years ago can we defeat the forces of evil once again."

The representative of the Mountain Giants was the first to react, saying in a deep voice, "The Mountain Giants can mobilize at any time."

"The Markus Empire is also ready for mobilization." The representative of the burly man at the central seat said vigorously.

"The fairy race also agrees." The charming voice of the fairy race representative rang out.

Seeing that both the Mountain Giants and the Markus Empire had responded, and the truth of the demon invasion had been confirmed, representatives of other races and kingdoms no longer hesitated, unanimously agreeing to the call.

Soon, only the representative of Dragon Island had not yet made a statement.

The Dragon Maiden crossed her arms, glanced at the calm and composed Ji Chen, then swept her gaze over the others in their seats, took a deep breath, and said, "Since it's true, and those evil things are going to come back, then... the Dragon Island will also respond to the call."

After her words fell silent for a moment, someone led the applause, which quickly turned into a chorus, celebrating this historic moment.

Ji Chen nodded slightly. Although only the forces of the Northern Continent had reached a consensus for now, it was still a big step towards forming a united front against the demons. So, everything he had done before was not in vain.

The meeting dispersed.

Just as Ji Chen walked out of the gate, Monica and Sebastian approached.

"Wow, Lord Ji Chen, you were incredible during your speech!" Monica exclaimed enthusiastically. "Especially when that Dragon Maiden with the long horns questioned you, and then Queen Elin and Queen Laphia defended you. It was really impressive!"

Ji Chen smiled. The scene just now was a classic example of showing off and getting slapped in the face. But perhaps because of his current state of mind, he didn't feel anything special about it.

Putting away his smile, he spoke with a serious tone.

“You must take this seriously. Go back and make comprehensive preparations under the command of Duke Julius. I’ve fought the demons before and know how terrifying they can be. The danger they bring far exceeds your imagination.”

Sebastian solemnly replied, “I will inform His Grace of everything we have seen and heard on this trip. We will definitely be vigilant and fully prepared for battle.”

“I will also assist my brother and father in resisting the demons and protecting the people of the duchy,” Monica said with some concern, “but Lord Ji Chen, your territory is on the front line of the demon invasion...”

Ji Chen smiled confidently, “Do you lack confidence in me?”

“Of course not!” Monica hastened to reply, “I’m just worried...”

Monica’s worries were none other than Ji Chen’s own well-being. The Crown of the Ocean, with its excellent geographical location in the early to middle stages, had now become the first target to be attacked, just like a reef standing in the sea, destined to be hit first before the tsunami comes.

If it’s weak, it will be crushed; if it’s tough enough, it will remain unscathed.

However, the location where the Ocean Crown resided was also the best terrain for him and the Ocean Crown’s army and heroes to display their prowess.

However, the problem lay in the fact that the demons were powerful. Just the faction led by the Dreadlord Balzarna alone had millions of demons. Even with over ten thousand troops in the Crown of the Ocean, it would be difficult to fight them.

Ji Chen’s eyes sparkled with determination. It appeared that the pivotal breakthrough had to occur within the Elven Empire. With some support, there might just be a chance...

“Human!”

A shout came from afar, and Ji Chen looked up to see the Dragon Maiden from the Dragon Island walking towards them, her arms crossed.

Looking at the human in front of her, Serena hesitated a bit, but still spoke in a deep voice, “I was rude to you earlier and offended you. I apologize to you here.”

Ji Chen was somewhat surprised, but still replied, “It’s nothing.”

Serena looked at Ji Chen with some suspicion. Seeing that he didn’t seem to mind much, she continued, “I speak very directly. We on the Dragon Island respect the strong and only befriend the strong. You can ask me to do something that doesn’t violate my principles as an apology, and then we can put this matter behind us.”

Ji Chen looked at Serena, who was speaking so casually, and shook his head with a smile.

“I haven’t taken it to heart, Lady Dragon Maiden...”

“I’m Serena.”

“Oh, Lady Serena, I’m not that narrow-minded. But there’s something I’d like

to discuss with you and Dragon Island.”

Serena hesitated. “What is it?”

“Well, it’s about engaging your services...”

Chapter 703: Dragon Island and Gloria

The position of Dragon Island was located northwest of the Elven Empire, suspended in the outer sea beyond the Northern Continent.

Its power was composed of orderly fraction dragons, such as the Red Dragon lineage, Blue Dragon lineage, Gold Dragon lineage, White Dragon lineage, and several other dragon lineages, all possessing order and wisdom. As for Green Dragons, Black Dragons, and other chaotic neutral dragon lineages, they were more often the type of dragons that burn cities and plunder treasures in legendary stories, and these dragon lineages were not under the jurisdiction of Dragon Island.

However, what truly astonished everyone was the dragons’ explosive conduct on Dragon Island, a stark departure from the majestic and formidable image typically associated with dragons.

It all started a thousand years ago.

When the contemporary Dragon Emperor took office a thousand years ago, the first difficult problem he faced was how to feed the hundreds of dragons on Dragon Island. The appetite of dragons was extraordinary; they could easily devour ten cows in one meal, and with a hundred dragons, that was a thousand cows per meal. The excrement piled up into mountains!

Dragons were also wealthy; their long lifespans allowed them to accumulate a considerable amount of wealth. If they were to use this wealth to purchase food, it could support their daily meals. However, dragons considered wealth as important as life itself. Making them give away their own gold coins from their nests was more agonizing than killing them!

If they didn’t spend this money, the dragons on Dragon Island would starve, and their hearts would scatter.

But if they did spend this money, their hearts would still scatter.

Faced with this century-old problem, the contemporary Dragon Emperor fully utilized his subjective initiative and proposed a new idea based on assessing the world’s commercial needs.

Since our dragons had long lifespans and formidable strength, crushing most of the inferior races, why not use our power to make money ourselves?

At this point, a young dragon suggested, “Does His Majesty mean for us to plunder human cities?”

The Dragon Emperor replied, “Your perspective is too narrow. What era are we living in? Still resorting to these traditional methods of making money?”

Having done these unethical things too often, those sand-sculpting human warriors would go mad, each one wanting to be a dragon-slaying hero. The bodies would pile up on the beaches of Dragon Island!

If they intended to take action, let’s approach it with a wider perspective.

Thus, a plan that was seen by many dragons as great, revolutionary, and comprehensive was launched.

Under the proclamation of the Dragon Emperor, Dragon Island introduced a range of services including but not limited to armed guards, armed escorts, dragon knight contracts, mutual defense treaties, and one-time hiring agreements.

Basically, if you pay them, they'll act on your behalf.

When Ji Chen discovered the approach of Dragon Island, he almost dropped his jaw in shock. However, upon further consideration, even though this world still witnessed frequent wars and ongoing disputes among nations and races, it's no longer the era when dragons reigned supreme thousands or tens of thousands of years ago.

Humans, gnomes, and elves had developed means to threaten dragons, albeit at a considerable cost, and it was not impossible to resist attacks from evil dragons.

As time went on, the living conditions of the dragon race gradually deteriorated. Without a stable and reliable source of wealth, as they looked at their small treasuries that hadn't changed in thousands of years, they suddenly felt itchy.

So, the introduction of this plan by Dragon Island was understandable — like hell it was!

Ji Chen seriously suspected that the current Dragon Emperor might be some sort of time traveler, to have come up with all these things.

With the implementation of this plan, the dragons had something to do during the long years. It satisfied their desires for fighting and killing, while also bringing in heaps of gold every day, without worrying about those mad dragon-slaying heroes bothering them.

—In the end, we're just hired help; if you have any problems, take them up with our employer; it's not our business.

—What? You can't handle our employer? Well then, my friend, maybe you should consider taking a look at the revenge services provided by Dragon Island. For just fifteen million gold coins, we can deploy a whole dragon fleet to eliminate all your troubles and enemies with dragon flames and claws!

—Of course, all food expenses, accommodation expenses, possible medical expenses incurred during the process, will be borne by you!

That's about it.

Anyway, it was rather magical.

In any case, throughout the last millennium, whenever conflicts erupted among different kingdoms and races on the continent, they would more or less enlist dragons for warfare.

—Since the other side hired dragons, wouldn't I be at a disadvantage if I didn't hire any?

This is a peculiar commercial system based on the strategic deterrence of dragons.

As a result, the dragons on Dragon Island enjoyed the most prosperous period of their lives, scaring people away with their claws and teeth every day, and earning a lot of shiny gold with just a little effort. Isn't it great?

Naturally, if a dragon were to spot dragons on the opposing side as well, they would need to carefully assess the situation beforehand and decide whether to engage. Otherwise, if they were to inadvertently find themselves battling against their own kin, such as distant relatives, it wouldn't bode well for familial harmony among the dragons.

But to be fair, dragons still understood the importance of commercial credit. When there were no dragons on the other side, they would work very diligently. Therefore, they had maintained a good reputation all along.

Dragon Island officially boasted hundreds of dragons, with at least four hundred fully grown dragons possessing combat capabilities. Each one's strength was equivalent to that of a rare-tier hero unit. Together, they formed an extremely powerful force, sufficient to have turned the tide of a large-scale battle.

If Ji Chen could recruit assistance to resist demon attacks on the frontline of the Crown of the Ocean, perhaps he could delay the demons until all orderly forces were fully mobilized and ready to join the war, and then support the Crown of the Ocean on the frontline..

Chapter 704: Dragon Island and Gloria (2)

Sure enough, upon hearing this, Serena hesitated for a moment.

"Are you looking to hire the dragons from Dragon Island?"

"That's right."

"Do you have a purpose for hiring us? Since you are already at the Epic Tier, so there shouldn't be any foolish individuals daring to provoke you, right?"

"There are."

"Who?"

"Demons."

Serena paused for a moment, and Ji Chen continued, "To be frank, my territory is located in the center of the Western Mid-Ocean, which is the frontline of the demon army's attack led by the Dreadlord Balzama.

Serena quickly realized. "I see, so you're quite unlucky. Even if you can withstand it, your territory won't, and it will probably be crushed like grass." Ji Chen twitched his mouth. This dragon maiden was certainly straightforward. Looking at Ji Chen's silent response, Serena seemed to realize that what she had just said wasn't quite right. She coughed lightly and said, "I understand. Since there's a business opportunity, there's no reason for us not to take it." "I wonder how many dragons you want to hire? We offer services ranging from three dragons, five dragons, seven dragons, to even a whole squadron of dragons, at reasonable prices, guaranteed to satisfy you..."

“I want to hire all the dragons from your Dragon Island.”

“...What!?” The legendary-tier dragon maiden widened her eyes, her expression changing. “Do you know how many dragons we have on Dragon Island?”

“At present, there are a total of four hundred and fifty-eight registered. Judging from last year’s average hiring price, each dragon requires an average of eight hundred and eighty thousand gold coins, and this is only for medium to low-intensity combat.

Moreover, time is limited. If it’s a battle against demons, which pose a great threat to life, doubling or even tripling the price is normal!

Are you sure you have that many gold coins?”

Ji Chen didn’t say anything, but his indifferent expression indicated his confidence.

He did have quite a bit of gold coins, with millions in his backpack and several billion temporarily stored with Lienhardt, but it was obvious that it wouldn’t be enough to hire all the dragons from Dragon Island.

However, he had something that Dragon Island absolutely couldn’t refuse.

In Serena’s puzzled gaze, Ji Chen took out a map and displayed it in front of her.

It had only been a second, but Serena still managed to take in the words on the map.

—Gloria Map.

After a brief moment of thought, her face suddenly lit up, exclaiming,

“Gloria...”

Ji Chen quickly covered her mouth with his hand, looked around, and said, “If the secret gets out, it’s no longer a secret.”

Serena’s face flushed slightly, nodding quickly and whispering, “Lord Ji Chen, do you actually have the map of Gloria, the ancient elven capital? Is it real?” “Of course it’s real. Is this enough to pay for hiring?”

“Of course it’s enough!”

The reputation of the ancient elven capital Gloria was very famous. The previous generation’s elven queen had even launched a grand search operation to find this city buried in the dust of history.

According to ancient records, Gloria contained immeasurable wealth, with various weapons alone enough to arm a million-strong army, not to mention the invaluable lost technologies.

And the key to opening this city was currently in Ji Chen’s hands.

Serena’s excitement showed on her face, “It’s definitely enough, and there’s still a lot left. But, Lord Ji Chen, aren’t you afraid that the elves will come after you for trouble if you use this as the hiring fee?”

Ji Chen's face darkened. "What are you thinking? How could I possibly give the entire city to you guys?"

The wealth contained in the entire Gloria was immeasurable, and hiring the entire Dragon Island to serve him for a hundred years would be a breeze.

The Gloria map provided such a significant fortune, yet he couldn't bypass the Elven Empire to get it. In the past, he might have had the patience and confidence to slowly uncover it, piece by piece, and eventually gather the seven treasury key fragments to secure its most valuable treasure for himself.

But now Ji Chen didn't have much time left. The demons might break through the barrier of rules tomorrow or the day after, launching a full-scale invasion, and extending their claws to the Crown of the Ocean.

Time was the most scarce resource now.

Ji Chen needed to quickly convert the capital in his hands into resources to enhance the power of the Crown of the Ocean, making more preparations for the impending invasion.

"I will discuss this matter with Queen Laphia and Lady Elin, and together with them, we will find Gloria using this map and exchange it for a batch of resources. Part of these resources will serve as your hiring fee."

Serena nodded in realization. "That sounds reasonable. I think the elves shouldn't refuse your proposal."

Ji Chen said, "In that case, please return to Dragon Island as soon as possible, inform the Dragon Emperor about this matter, and dispatch the hired dragons to the Crown of the Ocean as soon as possible."

"Of course, as long as there is enough reward, I believe my compatriots won't refuse such a generous employer."

Serena quickly set off on her return journey, and Ji Chen watched her board the carriage and gradually disappear at the end of the street, then turned and walked towards the Ancient Tree of Life.

Next, it was time to deal with the elves.

Back at the Ancient Tree of Life, Ji Chen and the others met Queen Laphia, who had changed out of her gorgeous court dress into portable palace attire, and Elin, who was still wearing her mage robe.

Ji Chen told them about the Gloria map.

The contemporary Elven Queen, whose strength was unfathomable, stood up from her chair in surprise, "Are you telling the truth? Do you have the map of Gloria?"

Even Elin couldn't help but show a surprised look, leaning over with curiosity.

Ji Chen took out the map and spread it out on the table, saying in a casual tone, "I happened to obtain this map by chance. Now, with the mobilization against the demon invasion, I think we can use it to find this city and invest its resources into the war to increase our chances of success."

Laphia and Elin didn't inquire about how Ji Chen specifically obtained the map, nor did they ask why he hadn't taken it out earlier.

They didn't want to undermine the tacit understanding and relationship between the two parties.

Laphia nodded. "If we can obtain resources from Gloria, the Empire's mobilization speed will increase significantly. It's a pity that we haven't gathered all the treasury key fragments..."

"I have three here."

Seeing the three scattered metal fragments on the table, Laphia and Elin couldn't help but glance at each other, their expressions changing.

Not only did he obtain the map, but he also already had three treasury key fragments?

Given more time, wouldn't he be able to obtain all the key fragments except for the two in the hands of their elven clan?

Ji Chen said calmly, "Give me some more time, and I can find the one in the possession of the dwarves and the remaining lost treasury key fragment, and I will present them along with this map to you. But I have a condition." Laphia and Elin exchanged a glance as if confirming something. Laphia said, "Sir Ji Chen, please go ahead."

"I want a portion of the resources as compensation, including those in Gloria City and in the treasury."

Having provided the map and the other treasury key fragments besides the two held by the elves, he naturally had this right.

It was more like a bargain for the elves. If it weren't for the fact that there was no time left to search, he wouldn't have taken such a big loss.

Although finding the treasury key would take some time, the resources in Gloria City would be enough for him to pay the hiring fee for the dragons of Dragon Island.

After just a brief consideration, Laphia agreed.

"I agree. Since you've brought the map and three treasury key fragments, you have the right to receive a portion of the resources and wealth.

Such an attitude was for the strong. If it were anyone else proposing such conditions, it would undoubtedly be like holding a tiger's whisker.

Ji Chen wasn't concerned that Laphia and Elin would desire or become hostile. Strength was a significant factor, and until they entertained different thoughts, they would need to think about the severe repercussions of upsetting him.

At least, the elven fleet didn't need to worry about setting sail in the Western Mid-Ocean.

In terms of distributing benefits, they negotiated faster than imagined..

Chapter 705: A Million Spirit Crystals

After some bargaining, both sides finally settled on the final plan.

The elves would be responsible for locating Gloria and excavating resources. Thirty percent of the profits would go to Ji Chen.

But this was just for Gloria City. As for the treasury within the city, its distribution would depend on the number of treasury key fragments. With at least three fragments in his possession, Ji Chen would have control over at least thirty percent of the treasury.

Ji Chen was quite satisfied with this outcome. All he had to do was provide the map and key fragments, and he could sit back and enjoy a substantial income. It was quite comfortable for him.

“It seems we’ve reached a consensus,” Laphia said with a hint of relief on her face. The issue of Gloria, which had troubled the Elven Empire for generations, unexpectedly took a new turn at this unexpected moment.

Although thirty percent of the profits were distributed, it was still a successful transaction.

Apart from the resources, what she valued most about Gloria were the racial origins of the elves contained within, as well as the various elven technologies and secrets that might offer solutions to the elves’ reproduction issues.

As for whether she thought she was making a profit or not, that was subjective.

Another task had reached its intended goal, and Ji Chen’s mood had improved, but there was still one thing left to do.

“Sigh.”

Both Laphia and Elin looked at Ji Chen, who sighed heavily. Laphia asked somewhat puzzled, “Lord Ji Chen, we reached an agreement so quickly. Why do you seem unhappy?”

Elin seemed to sense something and said slowly, “Could it be because of the demons?”

Worry creased Ji Chen’s face as he nodded. “Exactly. The demon invasion worries me greatly. My territory is located on the front lines of the demon army’s attack led by the Dreadlord Balzarna. Once they launch a full-scale assault, the Ocean Crown will undoubtedly be the first target.”

Elin nodded. After escaping, she stayed in the Ocean Crown for a few days and knew firsthand how dire the situation was with the demon invasion.

“At this moment, the Ocean Crown needs resources for development and preparation the most. But it’s hard to obtain a large amount of resources from Gloria or any other source in a short time. We might be powerless against the demon army’s attack.”

Ji Chen didn’t stop there; he continued, “Once the Ocean Crown falls, there may be no territory or force in the Western Mid-Ocean capable of resisting the attack. By then, the Northern Continent will be in grave danger...”

Having been empress for hundreds of years, Laphia quickly understood Ji Chen’s meaning. He was seeking assistance!

Upon further reflection, it made sense.

The Dreadlord Balzarna's attack from the sea direction aimed to quickly conquer all the territories, forces, and races on the sea and provide a springboard for the subsequent demon army to attack the Northern Continent directly.

As Ji Chen had said, the Northern Continent would be bypassed entirely, directly threatened by the demon attack.

No one wanted their own territory to face direct threats. What they wanted most was to keep the war contained in the Eastern and Western Continents and the Mid-Ocean, to prevent their territories from being affected by the flames of war.

So, if the Crown of the Ocean could block the Dreadlord Balzarna in the central sea area of the middle ocean, it would give them more time to prepare and minimize losses.

In just a few seconds, Laphia understood the interests involved.

Her eyebrows relaxed, and she smiled.

"Lord Ji Chen, I believe we have another deal to make."

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

Central tent.

The Dreadlord sat in the first seat, suppressing the anger in his heart, and said, "Can someone tell me why the news about our imminent return to the main world is spreading everywhere?"

The demon lords on both sides had various expressions, some angry, some expressionless, some embarrassed, but none dared to respond to the question.

"Sostho, didn't I ask you to inform our allies to intercept the airship carrying that human lord?"

The demon lord called Sostho was singled out, and suddenly looked fearful, saying, "Lord Balzarna, I have already informed the evil orcs to ambush on the route that the airship must pass, and dispatched five squadrons of aerial fighters, but they... seem to have been completely wiped out."

Sostho cursed the stupid evil orcs in his heart. Tens of thousands of years ago, evil orcs were considered one of the leading races in the evil fraction, but now they couldn't even stop an airship!

Shameful!

Indeed, not only elves and humans, but even the former allies of the evil fraction have become weak.

Balzarna fell silent. It seemed that he could only blame the incompetent evil orcs, but he didn't expect that even the Exile Mystic Realm couldn't kill that human lord, letting him leave safely with the ocean pixies and the featherfolk, and he didn't expect that the human lord would head straight to the elven empire, making it impossible for them to mobilize forces in time to intercept, relying only on those useless evil orcs.

It was a miscalculation.

A demon commander spoke up.

“Lord Balzarna, according to our investigation, the reason why the forces of order reached a consensus so quickly is because they discovered traces of summoning evil servants from the Undead Lord.”

“I remember Maldonis only chose secluded mystic realms to act, and after the sacrifice, he would also let the demon hunters seal the entrance.. How could it be discovered from the outside?”

Chapter 706: A Million Spirit Crystals (2)

“This... brings us to number 17, whose legs were transplanted from a Demon Slayer, possessing the power to open portals.”

Balzarna’s face darkened, realizing it was that traitor’s doing!

Who could have imagined that after diligently serving for hundreds of thousands of years, without any abnormal alchemical modifications, number 17 would suddenly regain consciousness.

However, it’s too late for that now. Not only had number 17 regained consciousness, but he had also exposed many secrets of the demons. Now it was not just a matter of dealing with a traitor; it was about dealing with the mess he had caused, which could bring immense pressure from other demon lords and even attract the attention of supreme deities.

If they couldn’t swiftly break through the rule barriers and achieve strategic objectives before their mobilization was complete, even a demon lord like him would face severe criticism.

With a tone that brooks no refusal, he said, “Regarding the composition of our demon forces, our combat methods, characteristics of our forces, and the direction of their cultivation, almost everything has been exposed. The situation is no longer as favorable for us! According to information from our main world allies, the various orderly forces in the Northern Continent have reached a consensus and are about to mobilize comprehensively.

We need to break through the rule barriers as quickly as possible, launch the war before they complete their mobilization, and achieve our strategic objectives at the fastest pace.”

Balzarna seemed to have thought of something, his tone becoming darker, “Besides, that human lord’s territory is located in the central region of the Western Mid-Ocean. I want to crush it into powder at the first opportunity for attack, to avenge our grievances!”

“Yes!”

On the other side, Ji Chen left the Ancient Tree of Life, feeling quite pleased.

As he had expected, even if they really had to fight, the elves did not want the flames of war to spread to their homeland. At this time, he threw out the Ocean Crown to block the attack on the front line, successfully persuading Laphia to make a substantial investment.

This included a large amount of resources to be paid in installments. The initial payment alone was a million units of spirit crystals, much more than he had earned before, enough to greatly strengthen the forces once again.

Next, Laphia would send a well-trained elven army of five thousand troops to assist in defending the Ocean Crown against the demons. The command would be jointly controlled by him and the appointed commander, to prevent him from deliberately sending the elves to their deaths.

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Ji Chen had no objections to this. It was a good thing to have another well-trained elven army to help defend.

In addition, Laphia also gave him several runes unique to the elves, such as enchanting techniques for arrows, which could enhance the power and range of alchemical cannons, and rune inscription techniques, which was a nice addition.

Anyway, Ji Chen was quite satisfied. He had gained so much without spending a penny. What more could he ask for?

This trip to the Northern Continent had already achieved the goals set at the time. Not only did they inform the world about the demon invasion and mobilize the orderly forces of the Northern Continent, but they also received assistance. This journey could be considered a success.

However, before leaving, he still needed to find that merchant from the Southern Continent, Ari.

Just now, Laphia told him that they had already obtained information about Ari. After leaving the Maple Principality, Ari did not stop but instead boarded a ship to the Silvermoon Holy City.

But he encountered a maritime disaster on the way, although he did not lose his life, he lost all his wealth, and most of his servants died.

According to the investigation, Ari is now in a coastal city on the eastern border of the Elven Empire.

Before returning to his territory, Ji Chen first flew to this city on a Sea Crystal Wurm. With the pass given by Laphia in advance, the noble elves of this city soon led him to a restaurant, where he found Ari serving tea.

When this well-dressed merchant Ari saw Ji Chen, tears welled up in his eyes and flowed uncontrollably.

“Lord Ji Chen! What are you doing here!?”

Ji Chen looked at him, noting the signs of his struggles in society, and shook his head.

“Sir Ari, didn’t you say you were heading to Silvermoon City? Why are you lingering here?”

Ah? Lord Ji Chen, how did you know?” Ari looked surprised at first, but then glanced at the nearby elven nobles and quickly understood that they had investigated his background.

Ari set down the plate in his hand and wiped away the tears from his eyes. “The elves said I didn’t have a permit and that I wasn’t a merchant, so they wouldn’t allow me to enter the inland. I could only stay here temporarily, earning my passage fees by serving tea and water...”

Ji Chen couldn’t help but sigh. “But why do you insist on going to the Silvermoon City?”

"I..." Ari hesitated for a moment but still replied, "I am actually a prince of the Kingdom of Ugisai. Lord, you are aware of the situation in the Southern Continent. My homeland is facing the threat of the expanding desert, with oases shrinking.

So, I came to the Elven Empire to find a way to halt the desert's expansion. Who knew I would encounter a shipwreck on the way..."

Ji Chen wasn't particularly surprised; he had sensed that Ari's identity was unusual from the beginning.

He didn't ask further and simply said, "Sir Ari, there is something more urgent than the desert expansion now, something that concerns the safety of the entire Southern Continent."

Ari saw the seriousness on Ji Chen's face and was taken aback.

"What is it?"

"I need you to immediately follow the route along the southern sea and return to the Southern Continent. Inform your homeland and other desert nations that demons are about to invade. Their first target of invasion will be the Southern Continent."

"Demons? I've heard some elves mentioning it while I was serving dishes these days..."

"In simple terms, they are an extremely evil race that caused a war tens of thousands of years ago, leading to the devastation of the entire world..."

According to the intelligence we've received, the demons' first invasion target is the Southern Continent, where they plan to establish their foothold."

Ari's face paled. Although he only heard rumors and didn't fully understand demons, he could sense the seriousness in Ji Chen's tone, which made him nervous.

"Then, why aren't the Elven Empire and other human kingdoms and orderly races providing support?"

"We need time to mobilize soldiers and gather resources. It's difficult to provide immediate support, so you need to hurry back to remind them and ensure they are prepared in advance."

To Ari, the distinction between halting the desert's expansion and the threat of demons was clear.

He immediately asked, "Alright! When do we leave?"

"As soon as you're ready to depart."

"Then please wait for me a moment!!"

Ari nodded and, under the bewildered gazes of the others, removed his waiter uniform and rushed into the kitchen. Soon, he emerged with three or four humans, who looked confused and held utensils such as ladles and dishwashing gloves in their hands.

“It’s urgent... Lord Ji Chen, these are my servants. Can I take them with us?”

Ji Chen nodded slightly, wasting no time. He led them out of the restaurant, boarded the Sea Crystal Wyrm, and soared into the sky. They first returned to the Silvermoon City, where they joined forces with the elven army, before boarding a ship bound for the Crown of the Ocean.

They traveled downstream along the river connecting the ocean with the Silvermoon City and eventually reached the sea in the heart of the ocean, heading towards the Crown of the Ocean.

Accompanying them were twelve elven warships, tasked not only with transporting soldiers but also with establishing a trade route between the Crown of the Ocean and the Maple Forest Kingdom, continuously delivering resources to the New Moon Islands.

The war between the Crown of the Ocean and the demons had already begun at this moment. Whoever could mobilize and prepare faster would gain an advantage in the subsequent war.

On their journey back, Ji Chen opened the communication channel and informed all the players about the demon invasion..

Chapter 707: All Tier 6 Players

In fact, players were quite well-informed. When representatives from various countries gathered towards the Elven Silvermoon Holy City, they had already pieced together the clues through various channels and methods and roughly figured out the situation.

But compared to Ji Chen, who was at the center of the events, what they knew was still not the most comprehensive.

Ji Chen opened the forum and began writing the latest post after several months.

“Dear players, I am the Islander, also known as Ji Chen. Some people already know my identity, but some still do not, but that doesn’t matter much anymore.

In a journey to the southern seas of the Western-Mid Ocean a month ago, I inadvertently discovered demons in a semi-enclosed sea area...”

The post recorded the actions from the discovery of the demonic invasion, returning to the territory, going to the Northern Continent by airship, arriving at the Elven Silvermoon Holy City, persuading Laphia to convene various kingdoms and forces, and a series of actions similar to those discussed at the meeting, reflecting the results of the events truthfully.

“...it can be said that the demonic invasion has become a fact. Please do not treat this evil race with any luck or contempt. They once started a war tens of thousands of years ago, causing devastation to this world, with only one in ten surviving. Their brutality far exceeds our imagination. Once we let our guard down, the consequences will be like the Wood Elves, who became sacrifices.

During this time, everyone must develop their strength as much as possible and be adequately prepared for the impending anti-aggression war.

Finally, I wish you all the best of luck in battle!”

After finishing the post, Ji Chen sent it out.

At the same time, tens of thousands of players suddenly received a reminder in the background. They put down their work and clicked curiously, only to find that it was a post notification from the Islander.

It had been several months since the Islander last posted.

At that time, countless players were still exploring this world, especially players in the Western-Mid Ocean region, who were still confused about this world. The Islander posted a series of survival and strategy guides, greatly assisting these players who had no survival experience and did not know how to manage their territories, helping them through the initial difficult times.

This was when the Islander gained his initial reputation.

Therefore, even though he had not posted for several months, many people still added the Islander to their notification list, paying attention to whether he would post anything valuable again.

As the players clicked on it, they were surprised to see the post title “Regarding the Demon Invasion”, and when they read the first line of the post content, they were even more shocked.

What the heck! The Islander is Ji Chen?

The Islander’s identity was mostly known in chat rooms, forums, and around the Maple Principality, while Ji Chen’s identity was spread among players in Lienhardt, the Bass Kingdom, and other regions along the northwest coast of the Central Ocean. These two identities were essentially separate and unrelated.

But they both had one thing in common—extremely powerful strength.

The former had high prestige and demonstrated strong power in multiple events and activities. The latter was hunted by numerous bounty players during the early stages of the two-country war and repeatedly defeated the Bass Kingdom, demonstrating his strength with solid achievements.

Many players had compared the Islander and Ji Chen, speculating who would win if they faced each other. This topic had sparked quite a debate, but Ji Chen was too busy with things at the time to notice.

And now, telling them that the two were the same person?

Was this some kind of joke?

But the players were soon drawn in by the following content. After reading the post, everyone’s expressions changed compared to before.

Solemn, bewildered, panicked, fearful...

“Demon invasion? You mean that evil race from the God War tens of thousands of years ago?”

“How come I remember demons being suppressed in the Abyss of Chaos? How can they come out again? Where are the orderly gods? Help us!”

“Damn it, I knew there was something unusual about the bustling activity in front of the Elven Silvermoon Holy City a few days ago. Gathering so many orderly races, it turns out they were discussing this matter. I feel like this world is doomed.”

“I knew this damn world wouldn’t stay peaceful for long... From now on, I’m going all out to buy resources and strengthen my military power!”

Through the exchange and communication of information among players, the authenticity of the content in Ji Chen’s post was quickly confirmed, and they immediately began to prepare for war.

Exactly how strong are the players?

This was a difficult question to fully comprehend. Perhaps only the beings who brought players into this world could fully understand.

However, Ji Chen knew that players were a tremendous force that could be leveraged.

After months, approaching a year of development, the strength of players had increased manifold. Now, most players’ units were around Tier Four, with some particularly strong ones even possessing Tier Five units, numbering in the hundreds to thousands.

Initially, it appeared that players’ strength couldn’t compare to that of demons. After all, even the demon-infected servants had Tier Four strengths while demons themselves were Tier Five, not to mention other evil races like the evil orcs.

However, this data definitely ignored the sheer number of players.

Initially, one billion players entered this world. After some time, it’s estimated that roughly five hundred million remained, not counting the conservative estimate of two hundred and fifty million lord players who lost their territories.

Chapter 708: All Tier 6 Players (2)

Each player was assigned a thousand units of troops, totaling an astonishing two and a half billion units altogether?

Who could argue that this isn’t a force with the potential to make a significant impact on the world?

And this estimate is likely on the low end. In times of dire need, like during a demon Invasion, this loosely organized force would rally together and unleash even greater power than expected.

The decision to share this information was driven by this belief and optimism.

At the end of the post, Ji Chen also put forward his own suggestion.

“Based on my encounter with evil orcs who attacked me unprovoked while sending news to the Elven Silvermoon City, I have reason to believe that the demons have secretly notified the evil alliances of the ancient war of gods tens of thousands of years ago, including evil orcs, gnomes, goblins, trolls, and other evil races, to launch a war simultaneously with the demon invasion.

Therefore, I propose that, considering your own strength, everyone can participate in the extermination plans issued by various orderly forces and races, clear out the lurking evil races in advance, and eliminate hidden dangers for the upcoming war.”

During a prior meeting, H Chen put forward this idea, which was unanimously accepted by all the organized forces present.

The wicked orcs were forced into the desolate mountains, dungeon-dwelling races were subdued in the depths of the underground realm, and trolls were pushed towards the distant northern regions. These areas were scattered among different organized forces and positioned close to the frontlines. Allowing them to stir trouble during the demon invasion or when the rear was unprotected would result in dire consequences.

So it was better to act first, kill them all first, and then concentrate their forces to deal with the demons.

On this day, when the orderly forces were preparing to gather troops to attack the evil races, they suddenly found a bunch of glory lords coming, saying they wanted to help deal with those evil races.

Based on their stereotypical impressions, they initially thought of rejecting them, but upon closer inspection, it seemed that these glory lords’ strength wasn’t weak at all?

Although their tier was not as high as their main forces, each person had at least a military unit of a thousand troops, and among them were many units of several thousand troops or even tens of thousands.

Their hearts were suddenly shocked.

When did these glory lords become so much stronger!?

The elf’s ship speed was very fast. Through unique plant cultivation techniques that created streamlined hulls and inscribed runic technologies, the ship was very light, sailing more than thirty percent faster than ordinary steel warships. In just two days, it traveled downstream from Silvermoon City to the river mouth and then spent another two days crossing the vast ocean to reach the New Moon Islands.

Ji Chen’s return was warmly welcomed by the residents of the Crown of the Ocean. They had already learned about the impending demon invasion, but not one of them proposed to leave. Instead, they vowed to defend their hard-won homeland to the death.

The morale was extremely high, causing even the supporting elven army to take notice.

Ji Chen first instructed Wilus, who arrived first, to provide living quarters for the elven army and settle them in, and then opened the military talent tree.

Currently, the main tier distribution of the Crown of the Ocean’s troops is between Tier Five and Tier Six. Apart from the Sea Crystal Wurm, Heavy Armor Toothfish Knights, Lobster Nymph Spirit Archers, and Leviathan Dragon, which are the four Tier Six units, the rest are all Tier Five units.

The one million units of spirit crystals obtained from Queen Laphia of the Elves this time will mainly strengthen the Tier Five units.

According to the convention, the recruitment quotas accumulated over these days were used up.

A total of four weeks' worth of recruitment times were saved.

Crab Guardians (1540—2100)

Naga Guardians (2510—3070)

Blue Dragon Blood Murlocs (2510—3070)

Dragon Horn Catfish (1400—1960)

Sea Crystal Wyrms (150—350)

Heavy Armor Toothfish Knights (50—250)

Lobster Nymph Spirit Archers (100—400)

Leviathan Dragons (60—300)

The recruitment of these eight units consumed a total of 3.108 million units of rare resources and 20,000 units of spirit crystals.

After fixing the BUG in Kawan's recruitment and advancement of units, Ji Chen opened the military talent tree and quickly determined the strengthened units. "Consuming 220,000 units of spirit crystals, Dragon Horn Catfish (Tier Five, 4 stars) — Dragon Horn Beast (Tier Six, 5 stars).

"Consuming 180,000 units of spirit crystals, Naga Guardians (Tier Five, 3 stars)

— Naga Iron Colossus (Tier Six, 4 stars)."

Both enhancements directly promoted Tier Five units to Tier Six, skipping a major tier.

The enhanced Dragon Horn Catfish transformed into the Dragon Horn Beast. Its original fish-headed humanoid form evolved towards a more beast-like direction, with its hands and feet transformed into four three-clawed dragon claws, suspended with red lightning underneath, its body elongated, its fish tail turned into a dragon tail, and its head became angular, somewhat resembling the appearance of an eastern dragon.

The Naga Iron Colossus seemed to evolve towards enhanced defensive capabilities. Its scales were woven together in orderly rows, like an airtight armor, yet despite its heavy body, it evolved a pair of large fleshy wings, evidently possessing the ability to fly.

Not to mention anything else, just the appearance became extremely outstanding, a figure that one dare not provoke at first glance.

Skipping a major tier, the combat power increased by tens of times, even demons could easily be killed.

Ji Chen nodded in satisfaction, the expenditure of 400,000 units of spirit crystals was worth it!

Besides these two units, there was one more unit that needed to be upgraded.

He casually flipped to the interface of the Blue Dragon Blood Murloc.

[Blue Dragon Blood Murloc]

[To advance to Tier Six, 8 stars, it requires 350,000 units of spirit crystals and 10,000 units of dragon blood]

[Detected the presence of Ocean Dragon blood. Recommended advancement direction: Ocean Blood Dragon]

Previously, he stumbled upon an Ocean Dragon nest and collected two hundred Ocean Dragons, with over ten thousand units of dragon blood. It was just enough to use for the enhancement of the Blue Dragon Blood Murloc.

Without hesitation, Ji Chen immediately started the advancement.

“Consuming 350,000 units of spirit crystals, 10,000 units of Ocean Dragon blood, Blue Dragon Blood Murloc (Tier Five, 9 stars) – Ocean Blood Dragon (Tier Six, 8 stars).”

More than three thousand Blue Dragon Blood Murlocs were enveloped in beams of light, their bodies gradually expanding, undergoing a tremendous transformation, emitting a strong dragon’s might.

Successfully advancing to Tier Six units, originally just like muddy fish-men, after multiple advancements and enhancements, they finally evolved into dragon descendants, completely possessing the appearance of dragons.

What appeared in front of him were Western dragons, about ten meters long with wings on their backs. They resembled Ocean Dragons but were more majestic, with orderly dragon scales and veins of blue blood flowing like branches and leaves under their scales, beautiful like artwork.

Watching this unit grow to this level all the way, Ji Chen couldn’t help but feel emotional. He had managed to pull a garbage unit that no player had faith in up to Tier Six level, the contrast before and after was so stark that even its mother wouldn’t recognize it.

The ocean Blood Dragon once again became the most powerful unit in the Ocean Crown, surpassing the Dragon Hom Fish-Beast and creating a significant gap with the Sea Crystal Wyrms.

A total of 750,000 units of spirit crystals were spent to enhance three Tier Five units to Tier Six.

Except for the Crab Guards, all other main units reached Tier Six, completing the formation of combat power!

Ji Chen looked at this magnificent new army in front of him, feeling satisfied.

“Take to the skies!”

Three thousand-strong squads of Ocean Blood Dragons, three thousand-strong squads of Naga Iron Colossus, and two thousand-strong squads of Dragon Hom Fish-Beasts immediately flapped their wings, driving the lightning under their claws, and soared into the sky one after another. For a moment, the entire Ocean Crown was filled with their flying figures, roaring incessantly, and the majestic dragon’s might permeated the entire sky. The newly stationed elven army looked up at this scene, exchanging looks of astonishment.

In this human territory, there were so many high-tier units!

With such a dense roar, the avian race thought there was an enemy attack, so they flew over in flocks.

The elves were even more surprised. There were still so many avian races here? How did this human lord manage to subdue so many races?

Although they didn't understand this, they felt much more confident in facing the demons.

Chapter 709: Legendary Siren, Construction of Engineering Equipment

After roughly a month had passed, there had been significant progress in the various projects of the Crown of the Ocean.

The 7-star building, Hero Fountain, had long been completed. It covered the entire territory with a BUFF that increased the chance of hero births. In just half a month, the Crown of the Ocean had already produced two hero units. Although they were only of white common-tier, it was enough to demonstrate the power of this building.

The wonder building, Heraklion Temple, had made considerable progress, reaching about 60% completion. The main structure had slowly taken shape. This was a temple building towering tens of meters high, occupying tens of thousands of square meters of land. Though not yet fully completed, its grandeur was already evident.

As for the spell tower mounted on the giant turtle's back, its outline was already visible. The spiral tower-like structure stood atop the island-like turtle shell, surrounded by a large number of arrow towers, spell towers, cannons, and even barracks accommodating troops. This mobile strategic platform, akin to an aircraft carrier, would become an important means of defense against demon invasions in the future.

The first batch of rare resources, totaling five million units, purchased by Lienhardt using funds from the Bass Kingdom treasury, had already been delivered. During this time, the Crown of the Ocean had sold specialty goods, totaling one million six hundred thousand units of rare resources. Among them, three hundred thousand units were wine, with the rest being fluorescent mushrooms, ores, and other products.

This total income of 6.6 million units of rare resources was enough to replenish the resources consumed in the previous round of recruiting troops. Although it was not enough to upgrade Anina, who had absorbed the dragon whale bloodline, to epic-tier, it could allow Alice to advance from the legacy level to the legendary level.

Ji Chen took out the epic-tier potential template of the Siren hero Theresa obtained from the 7-star instance: Battle of Panas.

Originally, he had planned to find another Siren at some point in time and use this template to add another hero of epic-tier potential to the Crown of the Ocean. But now, as the crisis approached, there was no time to spare, and he directly applied it to Alice.

Summoning Alice over, he informed her of the matter.

"Thank you for your kindness, my lord!"

Alice's expression was quite excited. Previously, she witnessed her colleagues advance to higher tiers. Although she showed no outward signs, she couldn't help but feel anxious inside.

Ji Chen nodded, his mind moved slightly, and the template took effect directly.

“Ding~ The epic-tier potential template of Siren hero Theresa has been used. The potential of Siren hero Alice has been raised to the epic tier.”

Perhaps it was because the potential template of Theresa, the former ruler of a marine kingdom, had been used, but Alice now exuded a few more degrees of majesty and nobility as an upper-class person. Coupled with her already stunning appearance, she seemed like a divine maiden from the sacred and inviolable heavens.

The constraints on the potential ceiling had been lifted, and the advancement conditions for Alice on the military talent tree had also changed simultaneously.

[Siren Hero Alice (Red-Legacy Tier —»Orange-Legendary Tier) requires 2.5 million units of rare resources]

Previously, it required a daunting 4.5 million units of rare resources, but now it only required 2.5 million units, a direct reduction of 2 million. However, this amount of resources that had once been daunting was now easily obtainable.

Without hesitation, Ji Chen immediately advanced Alice.

“Consuming 2.5 million units of rare resources, Siren Hero Alice (Legacy Tier) advances to the Legendary Tier.”

The beam of light gradually disappeared, revealing Alice’s figure.

A powerful aura belonging to a legendary-tier powerhouse spread throughout the Crown of the Ocean like the ebb and flow of the tide.

The fourth legendary-tier hero of the Crown of the Ocean was born.

As if in response, powerful auras emanated from various places in the Crown of the Ocean.

Epic tier... Legendary tier... Legacy tier... Like colorful rays of light, they competed to illuminate this small territory.

The elven soldiers and merchants stationed here, who had recently witnessed the spectacle of ten thousand dragons flying, were utterly astonished by the immense power emanating from all directions.

Under this powerful aura, every soul felt shaken and moved.

In the underground lizardman world, as if sensing the commotion on the surface, Thotmudo, who was engrossed in studying alchemical apparatus, looked up at the ceiling of the workshop.

He muttered quietly, “This lad, why do all his heroes grow so fast? Could this also be the blessing of the gods?”

The apprentice craftsmen nearby raised their heads in confusion. “Sir Thotmudo, what are you talking about?”

Thotmudo furrowed his brow, glaring with bulging eyes and berating, “Continue forging your weapons! After all this time, you still haven’t mastered the intermediate forging techniques of the dwarves. I’ve lived for so many years, but I’ve never seen apprentices with such poor talent like you!

The demons are about to attack, when will you be able to forge weapons and equipment comparable to those produced by Black Iron Fortress!?”

These apprentices from various races, who were much taller than dwarves, immediately cowered like ostriches, shrinking their necks. They continued to hammer the sword blanks on the anvil, one after another.

The crisp sound of hammering echoed throughout the workshop.

Seeing this, Thotmudo’s expression softened somewhat. Although these apprentices were not as talented, they were diligent and could still be taught.

If given a few more years, he could definitely train a group of craftsmen capable of forging high-quality weapons and equipment. With these weapons and equipment, he could exchange for a large amount of resources to nurture the rapid development of the Crown of the Ocean. However, the demon invasion interrupted his plans and thoughts.

Chapter 710: Legendary Siren, Construction of Engineering Equipment (2)

“Now might be the time to forge some high-level equipment for that lad, to help him safely navigate through this crisis,” the legendary dwarf craftsman resolved quietly.

“Figure out how to forge it yourselves, and tell your lord that I have matters to attend to and not to disturb me!”

With that, Thotmudo left without another word, leaving the apprentices bewildered.

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With the demons closing in, everything needed to be expedited.

On the second day of Ji Chen’s return, a series of construction projects were promptly announced, including but not limited to the construction of coastal walls, coastal defense structures, anti-aircraft installations, and underground refuge tunnels. He aimed to fortify the entire territory like a hedgehog, armed to the teeth.

However, besides basic resources, these projects required a plethora of complex auxiliary materials, which would have to be procured through the merchants.

On the day the projects were announced, Ji Chen convened the merchants who were staying on the island.

Port Shipmasters’ Guild.

In a room designated for meetings, the disheveled Lein was escorted in by a maid. Several merchants, who had come from places like Lienhardt and the Maple Principality for trade or transit, were already waiting inside.

An overweight merchant familiar with him greeted Lein as he entered.

“Sir Lein, were you also invited by Ji Chen?”

“Yes, I was informed as soon as I disembarked.” Lein glanced around. “What could Lord Ji Chen possibly want with us?”

The stout merchant pondered, “It’s probably related to the demon invasion.” Demon invasion?

As an informed merchant, he had long heard about the impending return of those fiends sealed in the depths of the abyss.

“Sigh, ever since this news came out, business has been tough,” the stout merchant lamented.

Lein nodded knowingly. Ever since the news spread from the Elven Empire, the most sensitive aspect had been the prices of various commodities on the continent, all skyrocketing. Businesses that used to yield decent profits were now impossible to conduct. So, he had come to the New Moon Islands again to try his luck and see if he could find some goods that were still profitable.

But it seemed he wasn’t the only one with that idea. The number of merchants he saw here was several times more than the last time he visited, and many of them were big traders!

The invasion was imminent, but it didn’t seem to hinder their business dealings before it happened.

“I hope this trip yields some goods. It’d be a waste otherwise,” Lein thought to himself, only to hear the stout merchant suddenly exclaim, “Ji Chen is here!”

Lienhardt snapped to attention and turned to see Ji Chen entering the room, exuding an imposing aura like a vast ocean.

“Lord Ji Chen, good day!”

The merchants in the room promptly approached, respectfully bowing as they greeted him. Lein also dared not be negligent and quickly bowed as well.

Ever since Ji Chen attended the meeting of various orderly factions in the Elven Silvermoon Holy City, his reputation had spread along with the news of the demon invasion. Countless natives only now realized that this Lord of Glory, who had arrived in this world less than a year ago, had already reached the Epic tier in strength.

What exactly did Epic tier signify?

It was like overturning mountains and seas with a mere flip of the hand.

Even kingdom-level powers didn’t possess Epic tier strength; only those deeply rooted, millennium-old major powers could possibly have it.

For example, the once-prosperous Elven Empire openly boasted two Epic tier powerhouses, and the Dragon Island armed to the teeth also had two.

This perfectly illustrated the value of the Epic tier.

Epic tier experts also had their own areas of expertise. For instance, the contemporary Elven Empress was renowned for her unparalleled archery skills. The arrows she fired contained the rule of unerring accuracy. The only time she displayed her power was when she personally led the army to subdue the Polar Trolls. With a single arrow, she killed the Troll Chieftain, leading to the rapid dispersal of the Troll tribe and an effortless victory in the war.

On Dragon Island, there was a Dragon Elder whose age had reached tens of thousands of years. With a single punch, he could shatter a small hill, and in his true dragon form, a breath could scorch mountains and boil seas.

And this young Glory Lord, who was so young as to be extreme, was probably proficient in the field of the ocean and water.

— This information was laid out on the table for all major powerful beings on the second day of Ji Chen's appearance at the meeting.

However, what troubled these powerful beings was that there was little information about him. This Glory Lord seemed to rarely take action in front of outsiders, and most who had seen him act had already perished. Currently, the only known ability was the power to stir up giant waves. The domain of the Ocean Crown, his territory, boasted a high-end army no less inferior to kingdom-level powers.

But what gave them some relief was that the position of the Ocean Crown happened to lie on the path of attack by the demon army led by the Dreadlord Balzarna. It was thought that Ji Chen, whose strength leaned towards the ocean and water, could delay the demon army along this route, allowing them time to prepare.

Clearing his mind, Lein quickly said, "Lord Ji Chen, good day."

He would have to show even more respect to Ji Chen after learning he was an epic-tier powerhouse.

Ji Chen remained composed, but he glanced at Lienhardt, recognizing him. "Sir Lein, did you just disembark?"

Lienhardt nodded hastily. "Yes, as soon as I got off the ship, the port staff told me about your invitation to all the merchants, so I didn't even have time to change my clothes."

"No matter, I invited you all here this time because I need your help."

Seeing the attention of the other merchants drawn to them, Ji Chen didn't beat around the bush. "You should have heard about the impending demon invasion."

The merchants nodded. "We are already aware."

"Very well, I'll get straight to the point. The Ocean Crown and the position of the New Moon Islands are right on the path of the demon army led by the Dreadlord Balzarna. This means this area will face a direct assault from the demon army.

To buy more time for the various orderly factions of the Northern Continent, I will initiate a series of construction projects to defend against the demon invasion. However, time is of the essence, and we need your help with materials."

Upon hearing this, the merchants' eyes lit up, eager to seize the lucrative business opportunity.

Ji Chen glanced at the merchants, each with a different expression, and continued, "If you have any questions, feel free to ask."

Soon, a merchant raised his hand. "Lord Ji Chen, may we handle all the construction materials?"

“Yes, that’s correct. I plan to build a sturdy and tall ring-shaped island wall. In addition to requiring a large quantity of stone, we also need to construct arrow towers, artillery platforms, and other facilities, as well as the energy cores and special materials needed for weaponry. All of these will be entrusted to you.”

The merchant’s face brightened at this, indicating he might be involved in businesses related to energy cores.

After answering several questions, Ji Chen thought to delegate further inquiries to Wilus, but he noticed that a merchant named Lein raised his hand. After some consideration, he decided to answer the last question.

“Sir Lein, what would you like to ask?”

Lein, pleasantly surprised by the attention, said, “Lord Ji Chen, besides these, do you need architectural blueprints? I’ve previously acquired a batch of blueprints for offensive defense structures like arrow towers.”

Ji Chen raised an eyebrow. “Certainly, as long as the quality is good, I’ll take as many as you have.”

Using architectural blueprints was a quicker method compared to direct construction. The time required using blueprints was only a fraction, even as little as one hundredth, of regular construction time. For the Ocean Crown, which needed time the most, this was a good choice.

With a positive response, Lien’s spirits soared. Indeed, this place was a goldmine for him, and he quickly sold off what he had to offer.

Ji Chen entrusted this matter to the arriving Wilus; he had more important tasks to attend to.