

Ocean Lord 71

Chapter 71: Set Off!

Departure day arrived.

The central stone plaza of the territory was filled with gathered people.

Jichen stood before the gates of the Lord's Manor, his expression displaying a serious demeanor.

"Wilus, while I'm away, I trust you to manage the territory diligently and ensure no mistakes occur."

Wilus, standing before him, promptly saluted. "Yes, I will do everything in my power."

"The Fishman Rangers will remain under your command during this period. However, their usage should be limited to safeguarding the territory and its resources."

"Additionally, continue overseeing the cultivation of sea rice. I hope to return and witness vast fields of flourishing rice."

Wilus saluted once more, his anxiety evident in his response.

Jichen nodded, shifting his gaze towards Anina by his side.

According to their prior agreement, she would be responsible for protecting the territory in his absence.

"Anina, I entrust this task to you."

"You can count on me!" Anina affirmed, gripping her massive sword and patting her chest with confidence. Yet, a tinge of disappointment crossed her expression. "But when will you return?"

"Within a maximum of twenty days."

"Really?"

"Absolutely. Once our mission is accomplished, we shall promptly make our way back."

Jichen offered her an assuring smile.

Without hesitation, he turned and led the remaining troops towards the southern beach, embarking on their journey.

Last night, the pirates had already repaired the New Moon and sailed it to the nearby sea.

Sparrow, accompanied by a group of pirates, was waiting on the beach with several small boats for transportation.

They boarded the small boats and rowed towards the approaching New Moon.

As the large ship drew nearer, his excitement grew.

Despite being mentally prepared, he couldn't contain his exhilaration at this moment.

Finally, they could leave the island and venture into the vast ocean!

Although he made time every day to check the chat channel and secretly observe the various silly comments from netizens, it was through their words that he learned about many fascinating things outside.

The outside world...

It made him eager to experience it firsthand.

Different races, seductive and fair-skinned elven sisters, dwarves with a love for drinking, slender and graceful elven beauties, unkempt dwarves, and elven girls who loved to call others "Oni-chan" obediently.

The human cities on the mainland, bustling ports, and bustling markets all seemed incredibly captivating in the descriptions of other players.

Certainly, that was to be expected. Apart from the kobolds, there were hardly five hundred humans on the archipelago.

The majority of them are native locals.

The territory is also vacant and sparsely populated, with few buildings and no signs of prosperity.

In this context, Alice, with her exceptional beauty and submissive nature, was the only source of comfort.

Therefore, he felt like a curious country boy yearning for the bustling metropolis.

He desired to explore the world beyond.

As the small boat approached the side of the New Moon, Jichen successfully boarded the ship.

The shallow water Murlocs and Naga Warriors leaped onto the deck, just as they did during the previous raid.

On the other hand, the sea pixies spread their wings and gracefully flew onto the ship.

The New Moon had been completely repaired, featuring a pristine deck, intact hull, towering mast, and formidable ram.

This was his very first ship!

Henceforth, he would rely on it to navigate the vast seas.

Jichen looked up at the mast, furrowing his brow.

"Is the sail still adorned with the skull? It might attract unwanted attention from official ships."

An adjacent pirate immediately scratched his head and responded, "My Lord, we have already replaced the sail with a conventional one. We only hoist the skull sail before engaging in raids. Otherwise, we sail with plain ones."

“We are well-versed in these matters. We assure you that even if they pass us by, they won’t suspect us of being pirates.”

Jichen:”...”

That’s what you call professionalism.

Well then, since that’s the case, he had no concerns.

The ship’s provisions and freshwater had been replenished over the past few days, ensuring enough sustenance for everyone on board for two months at sea.

Everything was prepared.

“Set sail! Depart!”

With the given command, the sails of the New Moon slowly descended under the pirates’ control.

The sea breeze blew, filling the sails and gently propelling the ship forward.

Jichen stood at the ship’s railing, waving goodbye to the residents and Anina on the beach.

The New Moon gradually departed from the chain of islands, heading towards the depths of the ocean.

He watched as the contours of the islands gradually disappeared from view.

A tinge of reluctance flickered in his heart.

But it was quickly replaced by the allure of the new and wondrous marine scenery.

Apart from the clouds dotting the azure sky, the surroundings were filled with the boundless sea.

Fish leaped, and whales gracefully swam.

The waves in the open ocean were much more tumultuous than near the islands.

Even the New Moon, a sizable three-masted sailing ship, constantly swayed and rocked amidst the surging waves.

Even as a first-time seafarer, Jichen couldn’t help but grip the railing to stabilize himself.

This also made him start to worry about the treacherous sea conditions at the edge of the Stormy Seas as Raymond and the pirates had mentioned.

He had heard that not only were there continuous torrential rains but also fearsome waves.

As he observed the surrounding scenery, Jichen’s initial excitement gradually subsided.

He took out the magic map and began orienting himself.

According to the map and the arrow’s guidance, the clue to his special main class lay in the southwestern sea area of the New Moon Islands.

At the maximum sailing speed of a three-masted ship, it would take about two days to reach the destination.

Not too short, yet not too long.

It would give him ample time to experience a proper sea voyage.

The Stormy Seas was neither large nor small. It only took half a day to reach the edge of the sea from the New Moon Islands.

Soon enough, in the afternoon of the departure day, the New Moon sailed through the wind and waves, arriving at the edge of the Stormy Seas.

“So, this is what you all described as extremely treacherous sea conditions?”

Jichen looked around at the calm and serene sea surface, along with the peaceful blue sky and white clouds within his line of sight.

Not only was there no storm but there wasn’t even a single drop of rain.

Jichen furrowed his brow and questioned the pirates.

“This can’t be possible. When we entered earlier, it was all strong winds, storms, and raging waves. But now, it’s like this...”

The pirates on the ship stared in disbelief, their doubts deepening.

Where did those towering waves go?

And what about the cloudy sky?

Where did they disappear to?

Jichen observed the pirates, and they didn’t seem to be lying. He frowned.

Raymond also mentioned their encounter with severe sea conditions when they entered the Stormy Seas. Moreover, both the New Moon and the Elizabeth had sustained varying degrees of damage.

This couldn’t be fabricated.

It seemed that they weren’t lying.

But why hadn’t he experienced it now?

Jichen pondered for a moment, unable to find an explanation.

Since he couldn’t figure it out, he decided to attribute it to quantum mechanics.

After all, it was a good thing that they could venture out unscathed.

With this in mind, he pointed southwest and commanded, “Full speed ahead!”

New Moon Islands.

Anina sat on the beach, hugging her legs and gazing absently at the distant sea.

Since the ships departed, she had felt a sense of emptiness in her heart.

It was as if she had returned to being alone.

Why was that?

She had lived alone before.

Chasing fish to obtain food, seeking out deserted islands to sleep, secretly observing humans underwater, and lying on the beach sunbathing—all by herself.

She had already grown accustomed to a solitary life.

But why did she now feel an unprecedented sense of loneliness?

Anina absentmindedly held her chest, unable to comprehend it..

Chapter 72: Tidal Palace

The New Moon safely left the stormy waters behind and sailed at full speed towards its destination as indicated by the magical map.

After the initial excitement of the voyage wore off, Jichen started to feel a bit bored. The sailing process wasn't as thrilling and eventful as he had imagined. Most of the time, the surroundings consisted of the vast and monotonous sea, lacking anything interesting.

Moreover, it seemed that the southwestern region beyond the Stormy Seas was not a busy route, as they hadn't encountered any other ships throughout the day.

However, there was no shortage of marine life, with whales, dolphins, and schools of fish being a common sight. There were also some sea creatures, but they didn't show much interest in the New Moon, a large ship.

Time slowly passed by, and two days later, the New Moon approached its destination. Suddenly, a dense white fog emerged on the sea, gradually increasing in thickness to the point where visibility was reduced to almost zero.

The surroundings became eerily quiet, with only the sound of the ship's bow cutting through the water breaking the silence.

It seemed that this place had a magnetic field or some kind of energy that greatly hindered the Crown of Omniscience's detection capabilities. Their detection range was now limited to a hundred meters in all directions.

"My Lord, should we continue further into this place? It feels quite eerie with the dense fog," Sparrow said with a hint of unease, observing the thick mist surrounding them.

Jichen looked at the magic map in his hand, which was radiating a blue glow that grew brighter as they approached their destination.

It seemed they were not far away now.

His expression remained calm as he spoke firmly, "No need to worry, continue moving at a slow pace."

His resolute tone injected the pirates with a renewed sense of confidence.

The ship pressed forward into the fog.

Half an hour later, the fog gradually dissipated, revealing the surroundings.

Ahead, a piece of land came into view.

Within the mist, a massive palace made of blue stones stood in the center.

A brick road lined with dozens of tall stone columns extended from the palace gate all the way to the bow of the New Moon as if the two were precisely aligned as if planned in advance.

It seemed they had arrived at the right place.

“Pirates, stay on the ship and remain vigilant. The rest of you, follow me down,” Jichen declared loudly, then turned to Sparrow, the captain.

“Sparrow, protect the ship and make sure to wait for my return from inside.”

Sparrow nodded solemnly. “Understood.”

With his instructions given, Jichen wasted no time and disembarked from the landing boat, with the Murlocs pushing it onto the land.

Under the protection of the troops, they walked along the brick road towards the palace.

The towering blue stone columns on both sides, reaching a height of twenty to thirty meters, were engraved with powerful and peculiar marine creatures, vividly depicting their awe-inspiring presence.

Walking through the middle path felt like progressing under their watchful gaze, causing his heart to beat faster.

The closer they got to the palace, the more they could feel its grandeur and magnificence.

The city walls stood tall, adorned with exquisite carvings, pavilions, towers, and connecting corridors.

Under the backdrop of the faint white mist, it appeared as if a divine palace had materialized before them.

It was awe-inspiring.

As they approached the main gate of the palace, a shadow on all fours came into sight, seemingly aware of the arrival of intruders and breaking through the mist.

About fifty sea lion-like creatures with sharp-toothed flippers were aggressively charging towards them.

[Tidal Beasts]

[Race]: Tidal Sea Tribe

[Tier]: Second Tier, 8 stars

Bloodthirsty Fangs (blue skill, sharp fangs with powerful penetrating and biting force)

Robust Physique (green skill, possessing strong muscles and bones, increased movement speed in water)

[Guardian beasts protecting the palace, instinctively repelling all intruders)

“Attack!”

There was nothing more to say.

The special main occupation should be inside this palace, and these Tidal Beasts were the gatekeepers with hostile intentions.

The only option was to fight their way in.

The Murlocs swiftly launched a wave of tridents, killing dozens of them.

The Naga Warriors engaged in bloody battles with the remaining Tidal Beasts.

With their strength, dealing with a group of second-tier, 8-star monsters were relatively easy.

After about ten minutes, silence once again enveloped the surroundings.

“Ding- You have achieved a glorious victory. You have gained 3800 experience points...”

Walking through the blood and remnants scattered across the ground, they arrived at the entrance of the palace.

The stone gate stood at least thirty meters high, adorned with intricate and complex patterns and designs.

Standing before it, they felt as small as ants.

As they pondered the meaning behind these patterns and designs, the stone gate suddenly creaked and let out a rough friction sound, automatically opening to reveal a path leading inside.

Jichen was momentarily taken aback.

But without hesitation, he promptly signaled the troops to enter.

Beyond the gate was a long corridor, shrouded in dense white mist.

Towering walls lined both sides, with no visible points for climbing.

Once all the troops had entered the corridor, the door slammed shut with a resounding thud.

Coupled with the pervasive mist and the eerily silent atmosphere, it resembled a scene from a horror film.

To say that there was no anxiety would be a lie.

“Damn, this is quite nerve-wracking...”

Jichen took a deep breath before continuing further into the depths.

Although the setting was eerie, no monsters suddenly appeared out of nowhere.

After advancing several hundred meters, they encountered another stone gate. Beyond the gate was a closed circular outdoor plaza, surrounded by walls reaching dozens of meters high.

It was empty inside, devoid of any traces of monsters.

They swiftly made their way inside.

Aside from the entrance they came through, there were three other stone gates, resembling an arena without spectator seats.

The stone gates served as the passages for releasing enemies.

Similarly, once they entered, the stone door behind them slowly closed.

Then, a mechanical voice suddenly resounded.

“Unknown challenger, welcome to the Tidal Palace.”

“I am an unconscious remnant of the Tidal Lord, left behind to guide those who come here seeking the inheritance of the Tidal Lord class.”

“Since you have arrived here, it means you have defeated the guardian Tidal Beasts and obtained the initial qualification to challenge.”

“The Tidal Lord is an extremely powerful maritime class, possessing formidable strength and the ability to effortlessly manipulate tidal forces to tear apart enemies.”

“But the challenger must complete all the challenges to have a chance of obtaining the inheritance.”

“Furthermore, even if the challenger fails to obtain the inheritance in the end, rare treasures will be bestowed based on the challenge’s outcome.”

“So, unknown challenger, are you prepared?”

The mechanical voice echoed throughout the outdoor plaza.

Jichen’s heart began to burn with anticipation.

He had left his territory and spent so much time to come here for the sole purpose of obtaining this unique maritime class.

Moreover, the Tidal Lord sounded like a tremendously powerful class.

As for the need to challenge in order to obtain the inheritance, Jichen was mentally prepared.

After all, opportunities don’t just fall from the sky... except for when fishing, perhaps.

Without hesitation, Jichen rallied his troops and declared aloud, “I am prepared.”

After a brief pause, the mechanical voice resounded once again.

“First Trial: Tide of Tidal Beasts. First wave, Second Tier 8-star, Quantity: 100.”

As soon as the words fell, apart from the door they entered from, the other three stone doors slowly rose.

A large group of finned and four-limbed creatures with sharp fangs and claws rushed out from within.

They were none other than the Tidal Beasts encountered at the palace entrance.

However, while there were only about fifty guarding the entrance, there were now a hundred here, doubling the difficulty of defeating them..

Chapter 73: A Strange Challenge

“Everyone, fall back and form a defensive line with our backs against the stone doors.”

“Naga warriors, stay outside, and the shallow water Murlocs will fill the gaps.”

“Alice and the sea pixies, release your spells upon my command.”

The troops orderly retreated to their designated positions, forming a semi-circular formation with their backs against the stone doors.

This way, they could evenly distribute the pressure from all directions.

However, the first wave of enemies wasn't numerous, and their strength was average, so dealing with them was not a problem.

With a few swift throws from the shallow water Murlocs, more than half of the enemies were taken down.

There was no need for the sea pixies to even intervene.

Soon, all one hundred Tidal Beasts in the first wave were slain.

Meanwhile, their own casualties were negligible.

“Congratulations! You have achieved a glorious victory... You have gained 4600 experience points...”

Since the main class wouldn't level up if not promoted, even if the experience bar was full, it would stay at level 10. So, there was no need to worry about accidental leveling up.

The mechanical voice soon resounded once again.

“Second wave, Second Tier 8-star, Quantity: 200.”

Wow, the second wave's quantity had doubled directly.

Two hundred Second Tier 8-star Tidal Beasts would be enough to eliminate over 70% of players in the outside world.

But here, it was only the second wave of the first trial.

Truly befitting of a challenge for a special class, it was indeed extraordinary.

Jichen's anticipation for the Tidal Lord class grew stronger in his heart.

The more difficult the challenge, the more valuable the rewards, right?

The stone doors rose.

Once again, Tidal Beasts in the form of sea lions appeared.

This time, it took them a bit more time to deal with them.

However, they still had plenty of leeway and suffered no significant damage.

Any minor injuries to the troops quickly healed under the effect of the Lord's talents.

Without giving them much time to rest, the emotionless mechanical voice resounded once more.

As if it were an unyielding program.

The difficulty level escalated once again.

“Third wave, Second Tier 9-star, Quantity: 300.”

From Second Tier 8-star to Second Tier 9-star.

Although it was only a one-star increase in the tier, their strength had significantly improved, and their numbers had increased by 100.

Without granting them much time for contemplation, the Tidal Beasts surged forth once again.

The roar of the Naga Warrior resounded.

Boom—

The last three Tide Beasts were blasted into pieces by the Sea pixies.

The seventh wave was over.

The open-air square was filled with the corpses of Tide Beasts, spreading out in a fan shape from the defensive line, covering the ground densely, and the smell of blood permeated the air.

This wave consisted of a total of 500 Tier 3, 2-star Tide Beasts.

The attack intensity was much higher than the previous waves.

Not only was the number increase, but the bodies of the Tide Beasts became tougher, and their attack power became stronger.

A pair of ferocious fangs resembling mammoth tusks were already capable of breaking through the Naga Warrior’s scale armor defense.

Many Naga Warriors, caught off guard, were pierced with two bloody holes in their bodies.

However, there were no serious injuries or deaths, so the situation was still manageable.

Quietly, Jichen nodded his head.

It seemed that in the next wave, he would have Alice intervene a bit and control the situation.

Otherwise, if the Naga Warrior sustained too much damage, the defensive line could easily collapse in the subsequent waves.

Just as he was waiting for the prompt for the next wave, a different mechanical voice sounded.

“Congratulations, challenger, for successfully passing the first challenge, the Tidal Beast Tide.”

“As a reward, you will be given a rare 2-star treasure after the challenge is completed.”

Jichen couldn’t help but laugh. They were so generous?

Treasures couldn’t be obtained casually; each treasure had its own use.

Like the Raging Blood Bead, also a 2-star treasure, it could become a decisive factor in balancing the situation at critical moments.

The reward for this challenge was indeed generous.

Generous to the point of being somewhat unreal.

After obtaining the Tide Lord's career inheritance, Jichen planned to attempt the challenge again in order to acquire more treasures.

The second challenge was called "Race Against Time". The objective was to locate and destroy three crystal towers in the Tidal Palace: one to the east, one to the west, and one to the north.

Each crystal tower was protected by a group of Tidal Beasts. Moreover, once a crystal tower was destroyed, an even stronger group of Tidal Beasts would appear, putting a time constraint on the challenger.

The task was to destroy all three crystal towers before being overwhelmed by the Tidal Beasts and return to the starting point.

Jichen found this challenge perplexing. Why was finding and destroying the crystal towers a part of the class inheritance challenge? It seemed unusual and raised questions about the design of the challenge.

Although he was filled with doubts, Jichen had no choice but to follow the instructions given by the mechanical voice.

The other three stone doors opened once again, revealing the paths leading to the crystal towers located to the west, east, and north. It shouldn't be too difficult to find them by following the roads and directions.

Jichen led his army and entered through the door on the west side, proceeding in a clockwise order.

Behind the stone door was a complex structure of pavilions and towers, resembling the grandeur of the Palace of Qin.

The sight was overwhelming, but fortunately, there was a spacious main road. According to the mechanical voice, if he followed it to the end, he would find the crystal.

Without wasting any time, Jichen swiftly ran along the road.

After running for about two to three kilometers, he came across an open space with a crystal tower standing tall. The faint light emanating from the crystal dispelled the surrounding mist.

Around the crystal tower, there were three to four hundred serpent-like creatures wielding terrifying sickles – the Tide Serpents.

[Tidal Serpent]

[Race]: Tide Sea Clan

[Level]: 13

[Tier]: Tier 3, 3 Stars

[Skills]: Death Coiling (blue skill, constricting enemies with its body)

Toxic Injection (blue skill, injecting venom upon biting to induce paralysis)

Magic Resistance Scales (blue skill, reducing spell damage by 30%)

[Military Characteristic]: Crystal Guardian (does not leave the vicinity of the crystal tower)

[Tidal Serpents guarding the crystal towers in the Tidal Palace, instinctively repelling all intruders]

Tier 3, 3 Stars, level 13.

They were stronger than the Tidal Beasts encountered in the previous challenge.

But they could be defeated!

Sensing the presence of unfamiliar intruders, the Tidal Serpents raised their sturdy serpent bodies and writhed in preparation.

The hissing of the serpent-like creatures echoed, their cold and cruel vertical pupils giving them a menacing appearance. The enormous sickles they held seemed capable of slicing through rocks.

“Found intruders...kill...”

The snake-like language emerged slowly from their mouths, sounding harsh and raspy.

Rustle...

In an instant, the entire group of serpent creatures moved, the eerie sound of their bodies slithering against the floor sending shivers down one's spine.

Jichen showed no signs of weakness.

With a wave of his hand, the army positioned themselves strategically against a nearby structure, utilizing the walls for defense.

On the frontlines, the Naga warriors, with their snake tails, engaged in combat against their distant relatives who seemed generations apart.

Their formidable bone blades proved to be lethal tools for slaughter.

With a swift swing, the sickles in the snake creatures' hands shattered.

Although there was only a two-tier difference in their rankings, the overall combat prowess of the Naga warriors far surpassed that of the serpent creatures.

However, there were only 34 Naga warriors, while there were several hundred snake creatures.

They were surrounded by a large group of enemies.

Swish...

The sea pixies unleashed a barrage of water arrows from their staves.

Despite the snake creatures' scales providing some resistance against magic, the explosive water arrows inflicted considerable damage upon them.

Their scales were damaged, and their bodies were covered in wounds.

More importantly, the spells from the sea pixies provided cover and disruption.

Taking advantage of this opening, the Naga warriors and the shallow sea Murlocs went into a frenzy, causing massive casualties.

Tridents flew across the battlefield, their sharp tips severing numerous snake heads.

These three units coordinated with each other – one serving as a shield, one as ranged support, and one as magical reinforcement.

Their combined combat strength far exceeded their individual capabilities.

Although the snake creatures outnumbered them, they were unable to break through the defense line of the Naga warriors.

Instead, they fell victim to the explosions of water arrows and the sharpness of the tridents.

However, many Naga warriors were bitten by the snake creatures' venomous fangs, and their gruesome wounds quickly turned purple.

Their slashing movements became less agile.

Sensing this, Jichen urged the sea pixies and Alice to unleash their full firepower.

They needed to eliminate the serpent horde as quickly as possible to avoid wasting time..

Chapter 74: Abnormality

Under the coordination of the three units, the battle quickly approached its end.

“Ding- You have achieved a glorious victory... You have gained 9,600 experience points...”

Jichen looked at the shimmering crystal tower on the empty ground.

According to the instructions from the mechanical voice, destroying this crystal tower would complete one-third of the second stage's objective.

After a brief hesitation, he waved his hand, instructing the Shallow Sea Murlocs to throw projectiles at the crystal atop the tower.

Crack...

After a crisp sound, the tower trembled slightly.

Cracks appeared on the top crystal, quickly dimming its once radiant light.

At the same time, the entire Tidal Palace trembled slightly, as if something had been unleashed, filled with malicious intent for slaughter.

Jichen's heart sank.

This should be what the mechanical voice had mentioned: after destroying the tower, a powerful horde of Tidal beasts would pursue them.

But he didn't expect it to happen so quickly.

They weren't even given a moment to rest!

With no time to spare for further thoughts, he led the army to sprint towards the next crystal tower.

They ran madly all the way.

Just as they arrived at the open space near the northern crystal tower, they heard terrifying and desperate howls coming from the direction of the western crystal tower. The relentless sound continued.

It was a terrifying and bone-chilling sound as if a horde of savage beasts were roaring together.

“It seems we need to pick up the pace.”

He took a deep breath and looked at the crystal tower in front of him.

Just like the previous one, it was guarded by four to five hundred Tidal Serpents.

They awakened from their slumber.

As soon as they saw Jichen, they immediately let out a deafening roar.

Upon hearing this commotion, the sounds from the western crystal tower quickly ceased, indicating that they had been alerted to their presence and were swiftly approaching.

Time was running out.

Without hesitation, Jichen urgently spoke.

“Alice, control all the Serpents. Sea Pixies, clear the entrance passage.¹¹

“Naga warriors, cover the shallow sea murlocs as they directly destroy the crystal tower!”

Since they had already been detected, there was no need to hide any longer.

The mechanical voice only stated the need to destroy the crystal tower; it didn’t specify that they had to eliminate the guarding tidal beasts.

As long as they followed the procedure, this approach would also allow them to pass the level.

Alice’s singing voice quickly filled the air.

Sea pixies shot out water arrows, swiftly clearing a path.

Naga warriors led the way, protecting the shallow sea murlocs as they reached the maximum firing range of their tridents and destroyed the crystal atop the tower.

The second crystal tower was successfully destroyed!

Before the pursuing horde of tidal beasts arrived, they left the area and headed towards the last crystal tower on the eastern side of the open square.

Three minutes after Jichen and his team left the northern crystal tower,

A group of three thousand Tidal Beasts, with an impressive rank of Tier-3 with S-Star, arrived late.

Upon seeing the bewildered faces of the serpents and the destroyed crystal tower,

They let out a piercing and furious roar.

For a moment, the entire Tidal Palace resonated with their voices.

Under the command of a monstrous leader, they dashed towards the last crystal tower.

One side sought to destroy the crystal tower and quickly return to the open square.

The other side aimed to prevent the crystal tower from being destroyed.

The pursuit unfolded in a frenzied chase.

Jichen quickly caught sight of the crystal tower on the eastern side.

As long as they destroyed this final tower and safely returned to the open square, the second challenge would be considered complete,

It followed the same pattern.

Alice took control, Naga warriors cleared the way, and the shallow sea murlocs destroyed the tower.

The entire process took less than two minutes.

However, even so, just as they were about to destroy the crystal tower and make their way back to the open square along the main road,

The horde of Tidal Beasts chasing them was less than a minute away.

When Jichen saw the number and rank of the Tidal Beasts, his eyelids twitched.

Like a horde of zombies, they densely filled the road ahead, rushing towards them like a tsunami.

Without hesitation, Jichen led his army to run.

Finally, when they were just fifty meters away from the destination, they entered the open square, and the massive stone door closed with a resounding thud, blocking the Tidal Beasts outside.

The Tidal Beasts frantically attacked the stone door, causing it to reverberate.

But the patterns on the door suddenly lit up, emitting a faint green glow.

No matter how the Tidal Beasts attacked, they couldn't make the slightest dent.

"Phew-"

Jichen leaned on his knees, breathing heavily.

His heart was still pounding.

They had come dangerously close to being caught by the beast horde.

With such a massive and powerful group of Tidal Beasts chasing them, the outcome would have been dismemberment.

Not even a single piece of bone would have been left.

The difficulty of the second challenge was simply outrageous.

It was so high that it could no longer be considered a test because very few players could survive under such circumstances.

First of all, each crystal tower was guarded by four to five hundred Tidal Serpents, all of them at the level of Tier 3 with 2-Star. Dealing with them was no easy task.

The biggest challenge was that once a crystal tower was destroyed,

A tidal horde of up to several thousand Tidal Beasts, all at the level of Tier 3 with 8-star, relentlessly chased after you.

Their speed was unbelievably fast.

If Jichen hadn't had Alice take control first and cleverly destroyed the crystal tower,

I'm afraid they would have been caught by the Tidal Serpents while killing the Tidal Serpents guarding the second crystal tower.

From triggering the beast horde by destroying the first crystal tower to attacking the second crystal tower, there were not even fifteen minutes in between.

And to clear the Tidal Serpents, it would have taken at least half an hour or more.

So it was said that the difficulty was beyond imagination.

It was simply impossible for a human to accomplish.

Jichen even began to doubt if the Tidal Lord did not want anyone to obtain the inheritance of the class.

He looked up.

At some point, a taller and grander crystal tower had risen in the middle of the open square.

The crystal at the top radiated a brilliant light, almost dispelling the fog throughout the entire palace.

Even from a considerable distance, one could sense the terrifying energy contained within the crystal.

"Congratulations on successfully completing the Race Against Time, the second challenge.¹¹

"Next is the third and final challenge."¹

"All you need to do is destroy the crystal tower at the center of the square to complete all the challenges and obtain the class inheritance of the Tidal Lord."

Now, there was only one step remaining.

Once this crystal tower was destroyed, the powerful and unique class would be within reach.

Although troop-based combat was the mainstream for players,

Who wouldn't want to possess the power to move mountains and change the course of nature?

He would no longer be just a commander hiding behind the troops, but someone who became a powerful force himself.

However, Jichen did not make a move.

He just looked at the towering crystal tower with a complex expression.

It was as if he was speaking to a being.

“No need to conceal yourself. You must be conscious, right?”

Alice looked at Jichen with some astonishment, not understanding why he would say such words.

There was no response.

But Jichen didn't question it further. Instead, he continued with a light expression.

“The first challenge, as a test for class inheritance, still falls within the normal range. But the second challenge is rather puzzling. Destroying the crystal towers? And once they're destroyed, there are so many tidal beasts chasing after us. According to normal circumstances, the chances of success are almost zero. If it weren't for Alice, we would have been torn to shreds by now. Tell me, which challenger could pass such a test? Rather than calling it a test, it's more like a death sentence. This stage is filled with abnormalities, and we have to destroy the crystal tower in the center. If I actually destroy it, the energy contained within will likely destroy this place immediately. Did I get everything right?”

As he finished speaking, there was silence.

For a long time.

Then, a voice resounded once again.

But This time, it wasn't the emotionless mechanical voice. It was a hoarse voice filled with wickedness.

Chapter 75: Pulled off a Great Performance

“Hehe, so you've actually detected my presence? Human, I must admit, I've underestimated you.”

A peculiar and sinister black figure materialized in the air, surrounded by a dense shroud of black mist.

Within the mist, a pair of blood-red eyes gleamed.

They exuded malevolence, chaos, brutality, and an intense malevolence.

At first glance, it was evident that this being was far from ordinary.

It instilled a deep sense of repulsion, making one yearn to vanquish it instantly.

Jichen responded with a faint smile, “Your design for this level is truly flawed, it's apparent to anyone.”

This statement immediately caught the mysterious black figure off guard.

Ignoring its reaction, Jichen continued speaking with an air of ease.

“Allow me to speculate on why you would create such a poorly constructed level.”

“If this place is known as the Tidal Palace, then it would be reasonable to assume that the Tidal Beasts serve as its guardians.”

“However, in a deserted palace devoid of inhabitants and valuable treasures, what could possibly warrant their guardianship? That’s the first point of skepticism.”

“Those three crystal towers must possess some sort of mechanism. By destroying them, it triggers the central crystal tower. Moreover, you alone have appeared thus far. This raises the second point of doubt.”

“Therefore, I dare to speculate that both the crystal towers and the Tidal Beasts are employed to guard or, dare I say, imprison you.”

“I suppose my assumption isn’t far off, wouldn’t you agree, Mr. Red-Eyes?”

As his words subsided,

Without warning,

The black mist swiftly surged towards Jichen.

Yet, in the blink of an eye, numerous luminous chains with a faint green hue materialized in mid-air, firmly restraining the malevolent entity.

One end of the chains snaked through the black mist, while the other end connected to various parts of the palace.

The deep green chains emitted a sizzling sound within the black mist, reminiscent of red-hot tongs being plunged into cold water.

“Ah ah ah! Curse that Tidal Lord! Trapping me in here for millennia! If I ever break free, I will make him my eternal servant!”

“Weak human, you came here seeking great power, didn’t you?”

“Now I offer you a chance. Destroy this crystal tower and aid my escape, and I will transform you into my loyal servant.”

“At that moment, you will possess power rivaling that of a deity, far surpassing the class inheritance granted to you by the Tidal Lord, countless times stronger!”

Jichen stared at the black mist as if it were a fool.

“You have been imprisoned here for countless years, with no hope of escape.”

“And now you claim to offer immense power?”

“Who are you trying to deceive?”

Moreover, there’s a possibility that it will simply eliminate him upon being freed.

Becoming its servant or any such thing holds no interest for him.

Observing Jichen’s silence, the black mist continued with its tempting words.

“Perhaps, after millennia, no one has heard of my name. I was once the dominant ruler of the Blood-Eye Sea Clan, and the entire Western Ocean trembled beneath my shadow.”

“If it weren’t for the Tidal Lord’s treachery in trapping me here, I would have already conquered the entire ocean, standing on par with the deities.”

“As long as you assist in my liberation and grant me freedom, the entire Western Ocean will be yours to rule, surpassing the dominion of countless beings.”

Jichen felt somewhat powerless to retort.

Isn’t this just another scam, akin to those claiming to be Qin Shi Huang, asking for money?

This creature from the Blood-Eye Sea Clan couldn’t even come up with something more imaginative to deceive others.

At the very least, it should have presented a more appealing image.

With this ghastly appearance, its ill intentions are evident.

Seeing Jichen’s indifference and even a hint of mockery, the black mist finally realized it was being played and thrashed in anger against the seal, only to be scorched by the chains.

“Damn human, once I break free, I will imprison your soul, making you beg for death!”

Jichen wore an indifferent expression and even went as far as to clean his ears. He wasn’t afraid, but did he come here for nothing?

After all the fighting, he still hadn’t obtained the promised special main class. It was truly disappointing.

Just as he sighed and contemplated how to leave this wretched place, a deep voice suddenly echoed.

“So, you’re still trying to escape, the audacity of a thief. Fortunately, the Tidal Lord left me with this consciousness to deal with the current situation.”

Upon hearing this voice, the black mist trembled slightly and immediately began to hysterically protest.

“Tidal Lord, you bastard! Release me now!”

“I only killed a few thousand of your underlings, isn’t millennia of imprisonment enough compensation?”

Unfortunately, this voice, seemingly emanating from the distant heavens, appeared unwilling to listen to its pleas.

“Hmph, demons truly can’t be trusted. In that case, I will completely seal you within the Tidal Palace, exiling it to the Void, where you will endure endless eons of imprisonment in the boundless darkness.”

“Let that serve as a lesson to you... Huh? Why is there a human here?”

In the vast emptiness, it felt as though a pair of eyes were observing them.

Jichen’s expression finally turned serious.

This profound voice should be the true consciousness left behind by the Tidal Lord, while the black mist was an imposter.

He took out the magical map from his backpack and presented it.

“I am Jichen. I have come from afar following the guidance of this map, seeking to obtain the inheritance of the Tide Lord’s class.”

As if recognizing the map in his hand, the deep voice suddenly comprehended.

“So, it’s the magical map crafted by the true Tidal Lord. No wonder you found your way here.”

“Let me think... according to his intentions, as long as you follow the magical map and pass certain trials, you can obtain the class’s inheritance.”

“However, due to the passage of time, the imposed trial procedures have malfunctioned, allowing this demon to take advantage and nearly destroy the crystal tower.”

“But the true Tidal Lord had already anticipated this possibility. Even if the crystal tower was destroyed, the seal would still remain, as the tower was merely a facade.”

Upon hearing these words, the black mist instantly lost its composure and erupted in curses.

“You bastard! Weren’t you supposed to release the seal by destroying the crystal tower? You tricked me! I’ll—”

“Hmph, and what if I deceived you?” sneered the lingering consciousness of the Tidal Lord. “Does it really matter? It’s all going according to plan. I always enjoy putting on a good show.”

Having said that, it paid no further attention to the wildly cursing black mist.

Addressing Jichen, it continued, “Human, although you didn’t pass the true class inheritance trial, the fact that you were able to deal with so many Tidal Beasts and see through this demon’s plan is enough to demonstrate your exceptional strength and wisdom.”

“I believe that even if the true Tidal Lord were here, he would agree to grant you his inheritance directly.”

“So, are you willing to accept the Tide Lord’s inheritance?”

Jichen’s face lit up with immense joy.

It was a feeling of regaining what was lost.

Just a moment ago, he thought this place was nothing but a prison with no rewards. But now, he was being told that he could directly obtain the class inheritance.

It was like going from a dead end to a clear path, a sudden burst of brightness after the darkness!

Without any hesitation, Jichen firmly replied, "I am willing to accept."

"Good! In fact, this central crystal tower is the key to obtaining the inheritance."

"Now, I will assist you in the class inheritance."

The crystal tower trembled slightly.

A dazzling light emitted from the top of the tower, enveloping Jichen..

Chapter 76: Tidal Lord Inheritance

Within the dazzling light, a gentle yet powerful energy flowed into him.

It felt like a foot massage, a mix of pain and pleasure.

Words couldn't adequately describe it.

But soon, only pain remained.

The energy filled every corner of his body, like an overinflated balloon on the verge of bursting.

"Damn, that's enough... Too much... Can't hold it... Going to explode."

Jichen endured the pain.

Though the energy was gentle, it continued to pour into him unwaveringly.

He even had the illusion of being inflated like a big-bellied person.

Time passed as if it were an eternity.

Once the incoming energy reached a critical point, the overly abundant energy began to transform his body inch by inch.

Starting from each individual molecule.

In a trance, he seemed to have X-ray vision into his own body, witnessing every cell being remodeled, becoming stronger and more vibrant.

He rejoiced, he exulted.

His heart thumped incessantly, louder and more powerful than a drum, as if shaking the earth and air.

"Damn, is this the Emperor's Engine?"

Before he could even start to complain, a slightly damp sensation followed.

That was... the scent of the sea?

It was then that he remembered he was accepting the inheritance of the Tidal Lord.

The sensation of bodily expansion gradually faded, replaced by a feeling of being drawn into a vortex.

A cool touch, fading vision, as if sinking into the depths of a pitch-black sea.

But what surprised him was that there was no trace of panic in his heart. Instead, he felt a comforting sense of being back home.

It was incredibly strange.

After an unknown period of time, he heard a voice in his ears.

“Ding ~ You have successfully changed your class to Tidal Lord and have mastered many class skills.”

“Ding ~ Your Lord’s Talent has evolved. Sea’s Blessing I has been upgraded to Sea’s Blessing II, and more effects have been unlocked.”

After some time, Ji Chen slowly opened his eyes.

With his feet firmly planted on the ground, the square and the crystal tower were still in front of him, but he was no longer the same person.

Clenching his fists and feeling the power contained in his body, the corners of his mouth curled up slightly.

So, the inheritance of a special class was so powerful?

He sensed that his strength had increased more than tenfold.

His entire body was filled with endless strength.

Now, he felt that he could easily kill a Tidal Beast with a single punch.

However, the Tidal Lord was not a physical damage class...

It was unclear whether the advancement in class also triggered the evolution of the Lord’s talent, but he had successfully upgraded his talent from I to 11. Presumably, there would be additional bonuses and effects.

However, before he could open his personal interface to confirm, the deep voice spoke again, with a hint of surprise.

“You have successfully changed your class as Tidal Lord. This class is not as simple as ordinary people think. It has great potential.”

“Moreover, your body seems to...”

It was as if he had gotten to the point where he was afraid of something. Tidal Lord’s mind did not continue on this topic.

“Other than that, since you’ve already obtained the inheritance, you’ll be considered to have passed the test. You’ll receive a core of the Tidal Sea Spirit’s military recruitment camp.”

As he spoke, a crystal clear core flew out from somewhere in the Tidal Palace and floated in front of him.

Ji Chen didn't hesitate. He nodded and put it into his backpack.

If there was an advantage to be gained, he would seize it without hesitation.

Seeing that he had accepted the core as if he had completed the important task of 10,000 years, the Tidal Master's mind heaved a heavy sigh of relief.

"Since you have completed the inheritance, you can leave now. Next, I will clean up the mess here."

"Let me out! You damn Tidal Lord!"

"You're already dead and you still want to drag me down? What a despicable person you are!"

In reality, the black mist continued to hurl insults incessantly, but both Jichen and the consciousness left by the Tidal Lord ignored it.

Before Ji Chen could say anything else, his vision blurred.

In the next moment, he and all the troops appeared on the brick road outside the Tidal Palace.

The palace doors were tightly shut.

After taking one last deep look, he was stunned.

He led the army toward the New Moon.

On the shore, Sparrow was slightly anxious.

When he saw Ji Chen emerge from the mist, his face lit up with joy and he quickly walked up to him.

"My lord, you're back!"

Ji Chen nodded in a good mood." Okay, let's get on the boat. We'll leave this place."

"Yes, sir!"

The sails fell and pushed the ship forward.

The New Moon gradually left.

Ji Chen suddenly felt something.

He took out the magic map from his backpack.

As soon as the map appeared in his hand, it scattered into dust and disappeared into the air.

"The outline of the Tidal Palace gradually disappeared into the fog," he thought to himself." This place will probably disappear forever."

As the ship left the sea, the fog gradually dissipated.

The sky brightened once again, and the bright sunlight shone down. The surrounding sea area opened up again.

The relaxing sea view was revealed again.

However, Ji Chen was not in the mood to enjoy the scenery. He hurried back to his room in the cabin.

He opened his personal interface and checked his current attributes.

[Name: Ji Chen]

[Level: 10 (25%/100%)]

[Identity: Ocean Lord]

[Main Class: Tidal Lord (Current Class Tier: Red Legacy Tier)]

[Sub-profession: Fisherman (Beginner)] 158/500]

[Class Skill: Tide Control (red skill, able to control waves and water, mana consumption depends on the amount and distance)]

Massive Wave (Red) Skill-Consumes a large amount of mana to create a terrifying wave, dealing physical and magic damage to enemies at the same time.

Water Equipment (Red skill, can condense water into any form of weapon, damage depends on mana released)

Tidal Force (Purple skill, increases magic damage and mana regeneration speed by 100% when in or near the ocean)

Tidal Halo (Purple skill, increases 30% Magic Resistance of user and nearby troops)

[Lord's Talent]: Favor of the Sea II (Purple Talent,... the effects are broad in concept, the current confirmed effects are: (D Easier access to blessings from the ocean, ? Increased stamina and recovery speed of troops under your command near the ocean by 80%, @ Ability to move freely and swiftly in water, with a 99% reduction in oxygen consumption and a 95% reduction in water pressure)

[Territory Name: Crown of the Ocean]

[Territory Level: Level 2 Village]

[Military recruitment camp]: Odd

[Item: Odd]

The main class of the red legacy tier!

There were also three red skills and two purple skills!

Jichen was instantly shocked.

This surpassed Anina by a great margin.

There was an additional enhancement to the Lord's Talent.

In essence, it meant the ability to move effortlessly in the sea without any hindrance.

From a certain perspective, this enhancement held immense significance.

The limitation of human exploration in the ocean was primarily due to surface-level and shallow-water factors.

Apart from sea monsters, the limited oxygen supply and water pressure prevented deep dives.

However, with his current Lord's Talent, the need for oxygen was greatly reduced, and he possessed formidable resistance to water pressure.

He could swim freely in the water, just like a fish.

This meant he could venture into the ocean at will, searching for sunken ships brimming with treasures and exploring lost underwater ruins.

What a remarkable update this was!

With a contented smile, Jichen closed the panel, suddenly recalling the bonus troop recruitment core he had obtained earlier.

What was its name? Tidal Sea Spirit...

Could it be those extremely ugly Tide Beasts?

Chapter 77: Tidal Sea Spirit

He quickly took it out from his backpack and examined it carefully.

Inside the glass sphere, there was a blue shadow, resembling that of a specter.

This puzzled Jichen to some extent.

He opened the troop panel to take a closer look.

[Tidal Sea Spirit]

[Race: Sea Spirit]

[Level: 10]

[Tier: 4,1 star (special)]

Spirit Body (Purple Skill, Immune to Physical Damage)

[Military characteristic: Possession (Able to possess the ship and replace 90% of the manpower to operate the ship, but after possession, the damage will be shared with the ship.)]

Weakened (After leaving the attached ship, enter a Weakened state, unable to attach again for a short period of time)

[A mystical creature nurtured by the Tidal Lord]

It was a Tier 41-star, with only one purple skill.

But upon closer inspection, the effect of the first troop characteristic was simply astonishing!

According to the standards of the New Moon, it required at least 150 individuals to fully utilize all its functions.

In other words, with the embodiment of the Tidal Spirit, only fifteen individuals would be needed to operate it.

This significantly reduced the manpower required!

What an unexpected delight!

Considering that the current pirate crew on the New Moon consisted of only sixty-six individuals, they couldn't even use half of its functionalities.

In addition to the reduced manpower requirement, he thought of other potential uses.

If it could be attached to his own ship, could the Tidal Sea Spirit still attach itself to the enemy's ship?

This thought stirred Ji Chen.

During a battle at sea, imagine the confusion the enemy would experience when suddenly realizing their ship is no longer under their control. How bewildering would that be?

As long as he had a sufficient number of Tidal Spirits.

He could even assemble an unmanned fleet that would roam the seas.

A cameo appearance as a ghost ship wouldn't be out of the question either.

He couldn't wait to open the recruitment interface and see how many Tidal Spirits he could recruit in a week.

[Sea Spirit Vortex]

[Tier: 4,1 star]

[Type of soldier recruited: Tidal sea spirit (tier 4,1 star)]

[Number of recruits per week: 1]

[Current Recruit Count: 1]

[Recruitment cost: 500 units of crystals]

One per week, 500 units of crystals for each?

Crystal again...

Hero Altar, Mystic Realm Crystal, Alice's Military Talent Tree.

And now, adding the incredible Tide Spirit unit to the mix.

It seemed that he had to find as many crystal resources as possible before returning to his territory.

However, Jichen had little knowledge about acquiring crystals.

As a highly valuable resource, crystals were considered rare and precious, whether in the possession of the native inhabitants or players.

Most of the time, they were traded for other equally rare resources, and they rarely appeared on the market.

Even if they were available on the market, the prices would be exorbitant.

With his current assets, he probably couldn't even afford to purchase 200 units of crystal.

Although he had a lot of Mithril in his hands, it was all used to upgrade Alice's military technology tree.

If he used it to exchange for crystals, wouldn't he be robbing Peter to pay Paul?

Moreover, he needed tens of thousands of crystals.

He could only go to the forum to see if there was any news about the crystal.

Ji Chen opened the forum and searched for the keyword "crystal".

In a flash, tens of thousands of posts appeared.

"The uses of crystal resources..."

"I discovered a crystal vein less than 500 meters from my territory..."

"The value of one unit of crystal..."

"Shocking! A mysterious gateway appeared near the Silver Islands and inside it..."

One post's title quickly caught his attention.

Silver Islands, the Mystic Real

These two words piqued his interest.

Raymond had mentioned the Silver Islands as a bustling Island nearest to his territory.

It was known for its bustling trade routes and commercial prosperity.

In his plans, he intended to visit the Silver Islands during his sea voyage to experience the grandeur of the world.

And now, there was a mystery occurring near the Silver Islands?

This news heightened his curiosity, and he clicked on the post to read it carefully.

Although the title seemed clickbait, the content inside struck him profoundly.

"This morning, there was a rumor that fishermen from the Silver Islands found a mystic realm gate and picked up a few crystals after passing through it. Therefore, they determined that the mystic realm might produce high-level resources like crystals."

"However, the local Alliance officials quickly refuted this news. Simultaneously, they dispatched a fleet to block off the affected sea area and prohibited anyone from entering. Their actions were contradictory and raised suspicions."

"Some individuals attempted to reach the sea area, but they were all intercepted by the Alliance officials."

"However, there were witnesses who claimed that the Alliance officials rescued a boatload of injured individuals from the affected sea area. It is highly likely that they

had already entered the mystic realm but faced retaliation from the native inhabitants.”

Looking at the updated information in the thread, Ji Chen’s heart gradually moved.

According to various information, the Silver Islands might produce crystal resources.

If that was the case, then he had even more reason to go.

He looked at the nautical chart.

From the current sea area to the Silver Islands, the New Moon would only need a little more than two days at full speed. There was still plenty of time.

When they received the news that the secret plane had opened, the players nearby would definitely swarm over.

Once the number of players increased, the local Alliance’s official fleet might not be able to keep everyone outside.

That way, he would have an opportunity to enter the mystic realm.

At this thought.

Ji Chen didn’t hesitate any longer and quickly gave the order to the pirates.

“Raise the sail and head for the Silver Islands at full speed!”

“Yes, sir!”

The three sails were raised, and the sea breeze was blowing.

The New Moon was advancing at full speed toward the Silver Islands.

The White Sand Princess, which had been sailing on the Western Ocean for several days, finally saw land.

“Phew, I’m finally back.” Raymond leaned against the railing and looked at the bustling port in the distance. He heaved a heavy sigh of relief.

The White Sand Princess had been moving at full speed since leaving the Storm Sea a few days ago, heading for the port where the headquarters of the Chamber of Commerce was located.

Although they encountered some trouble along the way, they returned safely.

It was strange.

Before leaving the Island, Raymond was worried that the storm at the edge of the Stormy Sea would damage the ship again.

However, unexpectedly, it was calm when they passed through.

“Could it be because of His Excellency Ji Chen’s blessing?” he muttered to himself.

But the next moment, he shook his head and denied this wild idea.

The state of the sea was unpredictable. How could it be affected by a casual blessing?

Otherwise, as long as he received a blessing, the entire voyage would be so calm and there would be no need to worry about the risks of the sea.

With Sir Ji Chen's blessing, he would probably become a guest of honor for all the merchants in the Mid-Earth Ocean.

Even if he offered 1,000 gold coins, it was still worth it!

Chapter 78: The Conflict

Under the guidance of the tugboat, the White Sands Princess gradually approached the harbor.

Raymond called upon the dock laborers and sailors to begin unloading the cargo from the ship's hold.

Although two out of the three ships were lost during this long-distance voyage, long-distance trade always entails high risks and high rewards.

Moreover, Raymond had chosen the longest and most perilous route, spanning across the Eastern Continent.

Due to the extensive distance, the profit margin for transporting cargo had reached an astonishing level.

Even with only the remaining ship's cargo, it could fully compensate for the losses of the other two ships and even make a substantial profit.

However, in addition to bringing back the cargo, Raymond also brought back something more valuable.

Three types of specialties, the Stormy Seas region, and the archipelago arranged in a crescent shape. These were the things of greater value than mere cargo!

After securely storing the cargo in the warehouse, Raymond couldn't wait to sell them and hurriedly returned to the headquarters of the Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce in the city.

Using his authority to call for an emergency meeting, he summoned the other members of the Chamber of Commerce.

A day later.

All the members of the Chamber of Commerce who could make it back in time gathered in the conference room of the Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce's headquarters.

"Fatty Ray, what's the urgent matter that made you summon all of us? I still have a lucrative deal worth thousands of gold coins to attend to!"

"Yeah, this right to call for an emergency meeting can only be used once a year by each member, and it's not to be used unless it's a critical moment. I had to abandon all my business and rush here."

"Could it be because of these things?"

The other members quickly noticed that there were three things on the table in the meeting room. There were a few pieces of wood with beautiful patterns, a pile of green coffee beans, and a few golden basses.

With the keen business sense of merchants, they quickly realized that these things had extremely high commercial value.

He looked at the members who were questioning him.

As the members began questioning Raymond, he remained calm and pressed his hands to signal for silence.

Instead of immediately answering their questions, he pointed to these specialties.

“The Jungle Purple Bloodwood, with its exquisite patterns and durable texture, can be used to create furniture or jewelry. Nobles won’t hesitate to pay for it.”

“The Golden Bass, known for its excellent taste and appealing appearance, with the right publicity, can make many nobles open their wallets.”

“The Premium Coffee Beans, when matured, possess powerful mana-restoring effects, and long-term consumption can even increase mana capacity.”

As the members listened to his description, their eyes turned envious.

If they could get their hands on the supply of these items, they would make a hefty profit.

Especially these coffee beans which would definitely attract a high demand from spellcasters!

Seeing them like this, Raymond secretly laughed.

The Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce was just a loose business organization.

When there was no common enemy, there would be competition between the members.

Now that he was in the limelight in front of so many members, he was secretly pleased.

“Where did you get these things? Could it be a specialty of the Eastern Continent?”

“I think so. I heard that you went to the East-West Continent and have never seen these things in the Western Continent.”

With a few words, all the members nodded in agreement.

The entire Mid-Earth Ocean separated the Eastern and Western Continents.

As long as they could transport the goods over, the profits they earned were enough to match the profits of ten ordinary sea routes.

However, not only did they have to face extremely terrible sea conditions, but they might also encounter pirates, deep-sea beasts, and other dangers.

The rate of accidents was excessively high.

Except for a few adventurous traders who were willing to take the risk for potential lucrative gains, not many individuals were inclined to embark on such perilous journeys.

Although they grasped the profit potential, they remained uncertain as to why they had been gathered together.

“Are you gathering us here just to show off?” one member exclaimed.

“I see, you want us to join you and venture on this route together? Although the potential profits are high, the risks are equally substantial. Out of the three ships that set out, only one returned!” another member remarked.

“That’s right! If luck had been worse, we might have lost an entire ship and incurred significant compensation costs!” added a third member.

Raymond calmly responded, “What if I told you that we can acquire such goods within a ten-day voyage without the need to travel to the Eastern Continent?” “Wait, did you say a ten-day voyage?” the members were once again taken aback.

Raymond continued in a composed manner.

“On my way back from the Eastern Continent, I was targeted by the Black Skeleton Pirates.”

“However, you might not have expected that when two of the three ships sank and I barely escaped death, I decided to let the White Sand Princess sail into the stormy waters to take refuge.”

“Stormy Sea Area!?”

This time, all the members were really dumbfounded, and there was some disbelief in their eyes.

Who in the Mid-Earth Ocean didn’t know about the notorious reputation of the Stormy Sea?

There were countless adventurers who entered, but there was no news of them after they left.

For ocean merchants like them, it was a taboo existence.

And Raymond said that he had entered the Stormy Waters. Since he had returned safely, didn’t that mean...

Seeing their expressions, Raymond’s lips curled up.

“I successfully came out of the Stormy Sea.”

“And you will never imagine that there are no storms in the Stormy Sea Area. There is even a beautiful archipelago with rich products! These things were all given by the lord of that archipelago.”

“This is the reason why I gathered everyone here today.”

“Through my communication, the lord of that archipelago agreed to trade with our Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce and build a stable sea route.”

The members recovered from their shock and began to think about the pros and cons.

But after thinking about it, it was still a profit.

“In that case, I agree.”

“I agree too!”

But suddenly, a discordant voice was heard.

“How strong is that lord? How many guards are there?”

Raymond frowned and turned his head. It was a member named Gassani whom he didn’t get along with.

He thought for a moment and shook his head.

“I don’t know the specifics, but I’ve only seen two types of soldiers. One is a Tier 2 3-star, and the other is a Tier 2 5-star. There are probably less than a hundred of them. As for the others, I don’t know.”

“But to be able to seize a Black Skeleton pirate ship and make all the pirates on it submit to him, he must be quite strong.”

However, Gassani didn’t share the same sentiment. He said to the other members, “I have a different idea. Setting aside the selling prices of these goods, even if we make a few thousand or tens of thousands of gold coins in profit per shipment, it’s still too slow in terms of earning money.”

“But if we can occupy that archipelago, we will control the production of these goods, which means the cost of acquiring them will be almost zero. That’s when the profit margins truly expand.”

“As long as we deploy our most elite merchant convoy for protection, launch a covert assault, killing that lord shouldn’t be too difficult,” a wicked gleam flickered in Gassani’s eyes..

Chapter 79: Conspiracy, Tidal Force

Upon hearing this, the other members were tempted.

Raymond also had a flicker of interest in his mind.

As a merchant, he knew very well that the profit would increase several-fold with this plan.

However, when he thought of Jichen, he hesitated deeply.

He had a feeling that the man was not as simple as he seemed on the surface.

Seeing many members swayed by the idea, Gassani narrowed his eyes and took out a map.

Pointing to the location of the Stormy Sea on the map, he said, “Look, the Stormy Sea is not far from the busiest shipping routes. If we can occupy that archipelago, develop it further, and then open it to the outside world...”

“Soon enough, that archipelago will become another Silver Islands. Even if we only charge anchorage fees for passing ships, we’ll be swimming in wealth.”

“It’s much easier than working hard as merchants to make money.”

With these words, the other members were completely captivated by Gassani’s description.

Their eyes were filled with the beautiful picture he painted.

“I think it’s feasible!”

“I agree too!”

Seeing that most members were in agreement, Gassani looked at Raymond and smiled, “Everyone is on board, what about you?”

However, Raymond shook his head slowly and firmly said, “I disagree.”

“That lord is no ordinary person. Such actions will only provoke him, and then we’ll have no chance of obtaining these three specialties.”

“And isn’t our Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce established for fair trade? That would go against our ideals. At that time, no one would be willing to continue doing business with us!”

“Money can be earned, but once you lose your reputation, it’s hard to get it back.”

“But don’t forget, as merchants, we prioritize profit,” Gassani sneered. “As long as there’s enough profit, what principles can’t be violated?”

“Moreover, we will secretly seize control of that archipelago, and others will only know it was our Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce, ah, no, it was you, Raymond, who first discovered the archipelago. No one will know the truth behind it all.”

In the end, the emergency meeting of the Hanseatic League adjourned without consensus.

This was because Raymond strongly disagreed with Gassani’s suggestion.

At the same time, he also felt that these members of the Chamber of Commerce who only saw benefits were extremely stupid and short-sighted.

He wondered if he had made the wrong decision to join the Chamber of Commerce.

Late at night.

Raymond brought a few guards back to his residence.

Suddenly, dozens of men in black appeared on both sides of the road.

He quickly killed a few guards of the merchant group.

He then knocked out the terrified Raymond and tied him up.

Then, a luxuriously dressed person walked out of the darkness.

If Raymond was still awake, he would definitely recognize him.

This was Gassani, who had proposed to invade the islands during the emergency meeting.

At this moment, he looked at Raymond, who was in a gunnysack, and his face was filled with the smugness of success.

“Hmph, if I allow you to go and spread the news, our plan won’t be executed smoothly,” Gassani scoffed with contempt. “Only those who are bold and daring can savor the most lucrative slice of the cake.”

With a dismissive tone, he gave instructions to his loyal subordinate who stood nearby.

“Tonight, discreetly seize control of the White Sands Princess ship without drawing any attention,” he commanded.

“The sailors should carry on as usual, unloading and loading cargo. In a couple of days, we’ll set sail for the Stormy Seas and locate that island.”

“Yes!” his loyal subordinate replied obediently.

Unbeknownst to Ji Chen, events were unfolding without his knowledge. At that moment, he was aboard the New Moon ship, en route to the Silver Islands. He was testing various abilities of his Tidal Lord class.

Since inheriting the Tidal Lord legacy, it felt natural for him to harness and manipulate the power of tides and water.

As he lifted his right hand, the seawater surrounding the ship levitated and gently rotated around his palm, taking on different forms at his command: water shields, water spears, water arrows...

Water, known for its fluidity and gentleness, manifested itself as a formidable defense. A water shield, formed by harnessing the essence of water, had the potential to significantly reduce the impact of projectiles like arrows and bolts.

Water could also be an embodiment of unyielding strength.

After infusing mana into the water spears and water arrows, there were no noticeable changes in their appearance. However, internally, they had become harder than metal itself.

The sharp tips could easily tear through flesh and destroy objects. As long as there was water present and mana remained, he possessed an endless supply of weapons. He could even conjure hundreds or even thousands of water spears, just like that man standing on the lamppost, smashing his enemies to death.

But this was only one of the abilities of the Tidal Lord.

Ji Chen glanced at a group of low-level fish-like monsters passing by not far away, and an idea sparked in his mind.

He began to manipulate the seawater.

The mana within his body rapidly depleted like flowing water. On the surface of the sea, an inconspicuous ripple emerged. With each infusion of mana, the ripple grew into a mighty wave, reaching a height of over ten meters and spanning dozens of meters in width.

At astonishing speed, the colossal wave crashed into the group of fish-like monsters.

Boom!

A thunderous sound reverberated as if a mountain had descended upon them.

Countless fish-like monsters were instantly flattened and swept beneath the waves.

This was the most direct application of tidal power.

Simple, brutal, relying on sheer force rather than finesse.

Regardless of the enemy, under the surging wave, only devastation awaited.

He felt a significant portion of his mana being drained, leaving him with a slight sense of emptiness. Nevertheless, he was filled with excitement.

Spell intensity and mana capacity were directly linked to one's level. At his current level of 10, he could only manifest a wave of this size, reaching over ten meters in height.

However, as his level increased, it was not inconceivable to generate terrifying waves stretching tens of meters high and spanning several nautical miles.

At that time.

He alone could destroy a fleet.

How terrifying!

The pirates on the New Moon were dumbfounded by this scene.

Their eyes had turned from pure reverence to fanaticism and worship.

Wasn't the power that could control the waves a god-like existence?

Even if he wasn't a god, he was still a candidate.

At this moment, they had already determined that Ji Chen was the cause of the storm in the Stormy Seas.

That must be the manifestation of the lord's will, rushing to stop outsiders from entering.

Otherwise, why would there be a storm when they entered but not when they left?

It was no wonder that after sailing for so many days, there was not even heavy rain. The journey was smooth.

If this had happened before, there would have been a severe storm every three days and a hurricane every seven days.

Undoubtedly, it must be because of the presence of the Lord on the ship!

In an instant, Ji Chen's image in their minds elevated infinitely.

Of course, Ji Chen himself was unaware of their thoughts.

He continued to explore various ways to harness the power of tides.

In addition to the simple wave attacks, he developed some other applications.

For example, using the waves to accelerate the speed of the ship.

By continuously generating waves at the stern, the waves could propel the ship forward, increasing its speed by at least forty percent.

It was as if the ship had gained an additional propeller at the stern, swiftly pushing it forward.

Unfortunately, the mana consumption was quite high in this method. In less than half an hour, his entire mana would be depleted.

However, as his level continued to increase, his mana pool would gradually become more abundant, allowing him to sustain such operations for longer periods of time..

Chapter 80: News of the Crystal

After two days of sailing in the open sea, the New Moon sailed gradually into a bustling area.

The number of ships around them suddenly increased.

However, most of them were two-masted sailing ships, with very few three-masted ships.

The majority of the ships were merchant vessels, with a few serving as escort ships.

When conducting long-distance trade, some merchants would hire merchant ships for added security. And among them, the wealthier ones might directly hire an escort vessel for the entire journey, similar to a private security company on land.

Of course, there were also instances where the escort ship would seize the merchant ship it was supposed to protect. In the vast sea, order was at its lowest, and violence and brutality were the dominant themes.

During the turbulent Age of Exploration, the saying “Today I rob you, tomorrow you kill me” reflected the harsh reality of the seas. In this lawless realm, acts of piracy and vengeance were all too common, epitomizing the brutal nature of the era.

The New Moon merged with the established trade route and sailed for another half-day.

Finally, they spotted a cluster of islands in their sight.

Ships came and went, buildings stood tall, and the islands were bustling with people.

To put it simply, it exuded an air of civilization.

Soon, an official inspection ship from the local alliance rapidly approached, requesting permission to board and conduct an inspection.

After a brief inspection, the officials hurriedly departed. Besides some exceptionally powerful “sailors” on board, there was nothing else to be found. Little did they know that hidden just a few meters beneath the water’s surface were hundreds of fierce and monstrous beast warriors. However, whether it was a figment of lichen’s imagination or not, he couldn’t help but notice the peculiar looks in the eyes of the inspection personnel.

Without dwelling on it, Jichen immediately ordered the pirates to steer the ship towards the bustling White Harbor, located on the largest island of the Silver Archipelago.

Being unfamiliar with the place, he knew that the most prosperous area would likely provide the best opportunity to gather information.

During the journey, he noticed something remarkable at the ports of various islands. In addition to the usual docks and taverns, imposing shore-based artillery batteries stood tall, with thick cannons protruding from their embrasures. These fortifications symbolized the authority and defense capabilities of the rulers of the Silver Archipelago.

Underneath the cannons, all ships were regarded equally.

Jichen's island-based territory also had a high demand for such shore-based defensive artillery. This got him thinking about acquiring a few cannons to construct defensive emplacements on his own island. With this added capability, the New Moon Archipelago would have the means to resist potential enemies during his maritime expeditions.

Guided by the pilot boat, the New Moon gradually entered the harbor. Whether they were natives or players present in the area, all eyes turned to observe the arrival, paying their silent respects.

Compared to the other single-masted and double-masted ships in the harbor, the New Moon, a three-masted ship, stood out as remarkably large, almost reaching the level of a warship. As the onlookers whispered among themselves, speculating which prominent merchant guild the ship belonged to, an incredibly peculiar man descended from the gangplank.

Accompanied by a large group of robust soldiers, it was clear that he was also a player. Clad in relatively plain clothing, slightly disheveled hair, and an excited expression on his face, he appeared to be an unsophisticated rustic. However, what surprised everyone was his strikingly exceptional appearance. His eyes radiated a restrained brilliance, exuding an indescribable sense of nobility.

The contradictory combination of his appearance created a strong sense of dissonance. This piqued the curiosity of many players. One bearded veteran, with a look of curiosity on his face, approached with a few companions. Observing Jichen's hurried demeanor, it seemed as though he had arrived from somewhere else. The bearded man seemed to have an inkling and enthusiastically spoke up.

"Brother, did you hear that a mythical realm gate has appeared here and rushed over?"

"Fortunately, you arrived on a three-masted ship just in time for the excitement! Under the pressure from the Alliance officials of the Silver Islands, they have announced that they will open the mythical realm gate to everyone tomorrow morning. Then, you can bring your troops inside."

"Oh? Is that so?" Jichen responded with slight surprise.

It seemed that the mythical realm was extraordinary. Several days had passed, and the Alliance officials here had not fully explored it yet. Clearly, there was something challenging inside that compelled them to open the realm.

However, it worked out well for him. It saved him the trouble of sneaking in secretly.

"I heard that the realm produces high-level resources like crystals," the bearded man continued.

"That's right." As the topic turned to crystals, the bearded man's eyes gleamed with enthusiasm. "In the past few days, the Alliance officials here have retrieved several ships of crystals. There must be a considerable amount of crystals inside the realm."

"If we can obtain a batch of crystals from there, we'll be rich."

Jichen shook his head, "The realm must be very dangerous, even the Alliance officials find it challenging. Otherwise, they wouldn't open it so generously." "You're right, brother." The bearded man regained some clarity and nodded in agreement. "That's why I've been in contact with other players these days, planning to enter the realm together. Strength in numbers, you know." "Brother, I see that you're alone. How about joining us and exploring together for safety?"

"Sorry, I'm more accustomed to acting alone." Jichen smiled and shook his head.

"I see..." The bearded man appeared somewhat disappointed.

Then, as if remembering something, he added, "The location of the realm gate is on the sea surface, so you need a ship to reach it. If you want to enter the realm, you'll need to reserve a ship to take you there. Alternatively, I can give you a lift on my way."

He pointed to a medium-sized single-masted sailboat in the distance, a proud expression on his face.

That medium-sized single-masted sailboat was something he had obtained after completing several quests for the native people, making him part of the group with a ship among players.

Jichen smiled lightly, "I have my own ship."

"Oh, so you've already hired a ship. My apologies for the assumption," the bearded man responded.

"No, I mean I have my own ship." Jichen calmly pointed to the New Moon anchored at the pier.

The bearded man was instantly dumbfounded, his face filled with disbelief. "Brother, are you saying... this three-masted ship is yours?"

"That's right. Is there a problem?"

Definitely, there was a problem, and it was a big one!

The bearded man and his companions mentally ridiculed the situation. Having such a large ship, this guy couldn't be from the countryside. He must be a rich man!

Seeing their astonished expressions, Jichen smiled faintly.

Being cool was his nature that would always follow him.

He bid them farewell casually and walked towards the city district with the pirates.

In the Silver Islands, including the main islands like Silver Island and the surrounding waters, killing was prohibited. Anyone who violated this rule would be hunted down and wanted by the

Alliance officials governing the area. Therefore, the island was relatively safe, and he only brought around twenty pirates with him.

The rest remained on the ship as guards.

Alice, Sparrow, and other troops also stayed on the ship, ready for orders.

The mythical realm gate would only open tomorrow morning.

He thought for a moment and decided to take this opportunity to explore the island.

He also wanted to see if there were any territories that were lacking and worth acquiring.

Besides searching for crystals, he had intentions of making some purchases on this trip.

Compared to the bustling Silver Islands, the foundation of the New Moon Archipelago was still weak, lacking many things.

To build a prosperous and civilized society, they needed to obtain necessary resources from the outside world..