

Ocean Lord 781

Chapter 781: Twelve Shura Skeletons

In the southeast of the Undersea Continent, on the northern coast of the eastern South Continent.

Ji Chen rode on a Sea Crystal Wurm, descending in altitude, passing through the clouds to catch a glimpse of a cluster of islands.

According to previous perceptions, the Storm Authority was near this cluster of islands. However, although the distance had shortened, the perception had become increasingly vague. To obtain a more accurate location, they needed to continue approaching the islands, perhaps even entering them.

The islands appeared unremarkable, covered in trees, with silver streams cascading down cliffs. Seagulls lazily flew overhead, returning to their nests on the cliffs to nurture their young. Near the islands, whales occasionally breached the surface, knocking off barnacles attached to their bodies.

At first glance, it seemed like a peaceful and vibrant scene, completely unrelated to the traps set by demons.

But the more serene it looked, the more uneasy Ji Chen felt.

This cluster of islands wasn't far from the South Continent, and it was only separated by a sea from the territory occupied by the Undead Lord Legion. Yet, it still preserved such a paradisiacal setting?

Ji Chen had witnessed the devastation caused by the Dreadlord Balzarna in the southern seas, where life had vanished, leaving behind a dead zone stretching for miles.

He could even sense a hint of conspiracy in the air.

However, he didn't worry too much.

The unknown was the most threatening. If a conspiracy was exposed as such, with precautions in place, its effectiveness would be halved at least.

Furthermore, he had made plenty of preparations before coming, enough to contend with the Undead Lord.

With this in mind, Ji Chen urged the Sea Crystal Wurm to slowly approach the islands.

In a dark corner of the islands, a pair of eyes filled with evil and cruelty silently looked up, gazing in the direction Ji Chen was flying from, excitement flashing through them, enough to make souls tremble.

The human lord had finally arrived!

Just as they gazed with eager anticipation as the human lord was about to enter the range of the islands, he suddenly stopped, halting right on the edge of the trap they had set.

Maldonis and the others began to discuss.

"Has he found out?"

"Impossible, no one else knows about this except us!"

“He’s cautious, realizing something’s wrong with this cluster of islands. I said we shouldn’t set the trap so close...”

“He’s hesitating, we need to do something to lure him in.”

Soon, Maldonis and the others reached a decision, releasing the scent of the bait.

Ji Chen looked towards the center of the islands, sensing a sudden strong fluctuation. A barely perceptible smile tugged at the corner of his mouth.

It seemed like this was indeed a trap. The Undead Lord became so anxious when he saw Ji Chen hesitating that he continued to throw out bait.

Confirming that the Storm Authority and the Undead Lord were indeed on these islands, Ji Chen became even more relaxed. As long as he wasn’t rushed, it meant the Undead Lord was.

Taking his time, Ji Chen circled the cluster of islands on the Sea Crystal Wurm, slowly exploring. Despite the Undead Lord’s disguised concealment, he still noticed some suspicious areas.

On the islands of the archipelago, there seemed to be some ancient relics peeking out from the dense jungle canopy. The entire archipelago resembled a chessboard, with these islands and their strange relics arranged like pieces according to some as yet unclear pattern.

As he looked, Ji Chen suddenly had a moment of insight.

Could it be... a formation?

“The bait has been released, why is he still hesitating?”

“The bait isn’t enough, he must have discovered something!”

“He seems to be observing... he’s making a move!!” One of the Maldonis suddenly screamed.

Without warning, Ji Chen waved his hand, and thousands of tons of seawater condensed into a giant sword, crashing down with tremendous force on the relics on the edge of an island near the archipelago.

Boom! A sky-shaking roar accompanied by a cloud of dust erupted as the relics collapsed.

Suddenly, a huge blood-red shield appeared in the sky above the previously serene blue islands. A crack resembling a spider web appeared at one corner of the shield, clearly indicating the direction of the destroyed relics.

And now, there was no trace of the peace and tranquility seen just moments ago on the archipelago. The islands were barren, covered in layers of stacked skeletons, forming mountains of bones. The soil was black-red, as if nurtured by blood and flesh for thousands of years, emitting a putrid odor.

Even just looking at it, one could feel the extreme evil and ominousness emanating from it.

Seeing this, Ji Chen did not hesitate. One after another, giant swords fell, destroying the relics scattered across the islands, serving as bases for the formation. With a sound like shattering glass, the blood-red shield shattered.

“Damn it, how did he find out!? There must be a traitor among us!”

“Impossible, we are all Maldonis, we would not betray ourselves!”

“He already knows our plan, don’t wait any longer, kill him directly and seize the power!”

Suddenly, large black clouds rose from the islands, and within the easily flesh-corroding black mist appeared twelve giant armored skeletons.

These giant skeletons exuded a terrifying evil aura. As soon as they appeared, the temperature around them seemed to drop significantly, and the air was filled with a thick, oppressive atmosphere.

Legendary-tier Shura Skeletons, level 69.

To ensure the success of this ambush plan, Maldonis had summoned twelve legendary-tier Shura Skeletons under his command, all for the purpose of keeping Ji Chen trapped on these islands..

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The Shura Skeletons emerged, floating on the sea surface amidst the black mist, surrounding Ji Chen in the middle. Once he made any movement, they would launch frenzied attacks.

Ji Chen looked on with indifference, saying, "Relying solely on these rotten skeletons to trap me? Seems you underestimate me too much."

"Hehehe, rest assured, this time I will personally meet you." A column of black mist, thick as smoke, rose into the sky, accompanied by a twisted, abyssal screech. Ordinary beings hearing such a sound would fall into madness, becoming soulless creatures.

Unfazed, Ji Chen watched the undead lord manifest from the black mist, casting a contemptuous gaze.

Compared to the alchemical modifications and the massive physique of Balzarna, the undead lord appeared like a dwarf-like aberration. Standing barely a meter and three, his entire body shriveled like an old lamp drained of oil. Yet, the eerie blue-purple flames burning in his eye sockets were incredibly sinister, hinting at the madness and... greed of non-human entities.

Seeing the unabashed greed in his eyes, Ji Chen suddenly smiled.

"It seems you, or should I say, you all, covet my power."

The undead lord, seeing that Ji Chen showed no intention of leaving, dropped the pretense. He didn't care if his schemes were exposed; he was supremely confident in his power.

"Of course, your power is the opportunity for us to ascend to godhood. How could we let you leave here alive?"

The undead lord, as if confident that Ji Chen was in his grasp, didn't rush to act. He chuckled, "Human, being able to kill that fool Balzarna and discern my array, I admit you have some strength, but such meager power is useless before us.

You will ultimately be devoured by us, and your power will be ours."

"Us?" Ji Chen's face showed some interest. "Could it be as rumored, that you are not a solitary existence but a twisted monster formed from dozens of decaying souls?"

"You must have heard this from that alchemical-modified person Balzarna." The undead lord chuckled a few times. "But it's not a monster, but a more perfect evolutionary form."

Evolutionary form?

This term resembled the discussions about 'man-rape' among the Sea Heirs.

The undead lord seemed unwilling to dwell on this topic. His tone turned cold, "Words are futile. When you are devoured by us, you will understand everything."

As soon as he finished speaking, the twelve Shura Skeletons simultaneously moved, lifting various giant weapons and rushing in, shrouded in black mist.

Ji Chen remained calm, shaking his head. "Do you think I know your trap and would walk into it alone?"

"Kraken, Herald, deal with them."

"Lady Serena, Sir Samuel, Sir Isaiah, I need you to engage the other enemies, creating opportunities for me to slay the undead lord."

"No problem! Leave it to us. You just focus on dealing with the undead lord."

A loud voice rang out. Samuel and Serena suddenly leaped out of the sea, meeting three of the Shura Skeletons without warning.

From the sky came the sound of trotting hooves. A strange beast, wrapped in black scales, descended from the void, engulfing the sky with a black flame, trapping four of the Shura Skeletons.

Isaiah disdainfully said, "Restraint? You underestimate me. I could easily deal with all these skeletal frames alone."

As he spoke, he spat out hellfire, driving back two approaching Shura Skeletons, burning gaping holes into their seemingly sturdy armor.

Dealing with legendary-tier opponents with epic-tier power was quite easy, at least for Isaiah, who had already reached the pinnacle of epic-tier. It only required giving him enough time, and he could easily deal with the four Shura Skeletons.

Following closely behind the two deep sea dragon whale powerhouses, several legendary heroes from the Ocean Crown also joined the fray. Herald and Benbo each faced off against one Shura Skeleton, while Alice assisted with her singing.

The colossal body of Kraken emerged from the sea, wielding his tree-trunk-like tentacles to attack three Shura Skeletons, keeping them away from Ji Chen.

In just a dozen breaths of time, the twelve Shura skeletons that had surrounded him were distracted.

A noticeable look of astonishment appeared on the face of the Undead Lord. It seemed that he wasn't psychologically prepared for these sudden enemies, or perhaps he hadn't anticipated that Ji Chen would bring so many helpers along.

Damn it. Could it be that this human, tempted by authority, actually had the time to return to his territory and bring back the legendary tier heroes who were left behind?

If he wasn't confident that his subordinates who knew the plan were loyal to him, the Undead Lord would almost suspect that there were traitors among them, leaking all the information.

However, he had never imagined that these pieces of information were exposed by a ghost ship with the authority of foresight.

Ji Chen looked at the Shura skeletons being restrained and the gloomy-faced Undead Lord and said with a smile.

"It seems we can have a one-on-one duel now."

"Hmph, even so, you can't escape death," said the Undead Lord coldly. The black mist rolled, his body quickly expanded, and in the blink of an eye, he swelled into a giant over ten meters tall, with countless distorted and struggling faces crowded on his body, some showing fear, some showing terror, and some showing pain.

These were all strong individuals swallowed by the Undead Lord. Their shattered souls were forever bound within this body, experiencing endless torment.

This was both a twisted and perverted display of power.

If Ji Chen were to be swallowed, he would become one of those faces.

The Undead Lord stomped his feet fiercely, flying toward Ji Chen like a cannonball. Under his feet, the ground was covered with spider-web-like cracks and pits. The surrounding pile of bones scattered like they were hit by a Category 12 hurricane, splattering into the air like powder.

Who—

The Undead Lord clenched his huge bone fist, and a spiral vortex beyond the speed of sound formed at the tip of his fist, bringing up a long, radiating spatial crack. The shockwave from the impact was even louder than a ship's whistle.

This one blow was enough to directly destroy an epic-tier opponent head-on.

Ji Chen's expression slightly changed, his body suddenly disappeared from where he stood, appearing in the air thousands of meters away. Although he dodged it, the residual explosive fist wind still made his skin feel a bit sore.

Boom—The Undead Lord's fist smashed into a hill on the island, actually shattering it into pieces. The flying debris of rocks and soil even rose tens of meters into the air.

From this one strike, it was easy to see that the Undead Lord's strength was much higher than that of the Dreadlord, with a gap even though both were above epic level.

Ji Chen's expression became serious as he unhesitatingly threw a scroll from his backpack towards the still unsettled hill.

[Forbidden Spell Scroll: Thunder Prison]

[Grade]: 7 Stars

[Effect]: Upon use, invokes the Forbidden Spell: Thunder Prison, turning the area within a radius of five hundred meters into a zone of life imprisonment.

Forbidden spells could only be cast by epic-tier powerhouses, but they weren't something that could be used casually. Considerable time was needed for preparation, and the consumption of one's own magical power was also extremely terrifying.

One misstep could drain one's magical power and harm oneself.

However, driven by the scroll, a powerful forbidden spell quickly took shape in a short amount of time.

Thick dark clouds gathered in the sky in just a few breaths, and thunderbolts as thick as buckets fell with a deafening roar, piercing through the dense dust and crashing down heavily.

One thunderbolt after another fell continuously, shattering everything on the island, and the piled-up corpses were no exception.

This scene made Isaiah, who was barely holding off a few Shura skeletons, turn his head in surprise and say, "When did this guy still have a hidden forbidden spell? But unfortunately, forbidden spells can't kill those above epic tier..."

In fact, Ji Chen didn't expect to rely solely on this long forbidden spell scroll to deal with the Undead Lord. It was more of a test.

The dark clouds dispersed, and the thunder ceased.

The dust gradually settled, revealing the figure of the Undead Lord.

When he saw the scars left by the thunder strikes on the twisted faces covering his body, his eyes narrowed.

It seemed that even someone as strong as the Undead Lord, who was above epic tier, was not immune to attacks from epic-tier spells.

Chapter 783: Mid-Tier Forty-Eighth Authorities

"The forbidden spell scroll?"

The Undead Lord, or rather the accumulated experience and knowledge of countless years from tens of thousands of Maldonis, with eyes as sharp as daggers, instantly recognized what it was.

"But that's useless against me!"

The visible wounds on his body healed rapidly at a rate visible to the naked eye, completely restored within a dozen breaths.

The Undead Lord straightened his body, a cold smirk containing mockery gradually forming at the corners of his mouth. "No matter what power you unleash, when you step into this archipelago today, ultimately, you cannot escape the fate of death."

"Your orderly fraction cannot save this place, demons will eventually dominate this world, because He chose us!"

Ji Chen remained expressionless, just staring indifferently at this evil humanoid monster.

"You talk too much."

The Undead Lord grinned, suddenly exerting force with his feet, transforming into a ghostly black shadow. His massive fist carried the weight of ten thousand pounds of force, causing even the air to tremble with its impact, forming a negative pressure zone with great suction force.

The sky seemed to wail, and the seawater rose tens of meters into the air.

The Undead Lord, seeing a human without any intention to dodge, revealed a smirk of joy.

If the human utilized the teleportation ability from before to evade his attack, there wouldn't be a good method of pursuit as long as he didn't reveal his full strength.

But if he wanted to block this seemingly ordinary, yet terrifying punch with a human body, it would undoubtedly be an overestimation and seeking death!

This similar punch had once, tens of thousands of years ago during their soul exchange, annihilated hundreds of demon heroes who dared to rebel and seize the position of the Undead Lord.

Leaving no bones behind!

"Human, die!"

Watching Ji Chen getting closer, the Undead Lord roared lowly, as if he could already see this human being crushed into powder under his fist.

"Your power, is mine—"

However, before he finished speaking, a force carrying terrifying kinetic energy slammed heavily onto his head from the side. At the moment of contact, the bursting force, like a syringe, injected into his body in an instant, wreaking havoc like a mad bull inside him.

Surprised by the sudden and overwhelming agony that felt like it pierced his very being, the Undead Lord's mind went blank for a split second. His previously straight fist also veered slightly off course, and with great momentum, it shot sideways with a swift whoosh, still carrying its full force, slamming into the sea and sending up a towering pillar of water tens of meters high.

Observing a few strands of hair gently descending before him, Ji Chen stayed composed. He lifted his hand, and the Demon Slayer, dislodged by the Undead Lord, swiftly returned to his grasp with a soft swish, emitting a subtle blue glow.

Among them contained endless surging energy, roaring seawater.

Boom—

The sea surface suddenly swelled into a large bulge, and the Undead Lord leaped out from it, heavily landing on the island. His head had a pit, deep enough to reveal bones, and his arm on the side showed a strange twisted angle, indicating that it had already been broken.

However, as if feeling no pain at all, the undead lord's eyes sparkled with excitement as he looked at the Demon Slayer in Ji Chen's hand. A strange flush appeared on his face.

"That's the weapon and power that killed Balzarna? This aura, stronger and more magnificent than mine, must be the power of the gods!!"

The undead lord's expression was excited, bordering on madness, which even caused Ji Chen to furrow his brow.

The power of the ocean belonged to the orderly fraction, just like the Storm Authority, it was poison to demons. Logically, even if a demon obtained the power of the ocean, they would be unable to use it.

He didn't quite understand why the undead lord was so eager.

It appeared that the Undead Lord's intentions weren't solely focused on seizing the powers of the Orderly fraction, but there were deeper motives at play.

Before thoughts could be fully collected, another disturbance occurred.

The Undead Lord's body suddenly became shrouded in an intensely thick mist, accompanied by an extremely malevolent energy emanating. The surrounding already contaminated land quickly took on a peculiar dusk-like gray hue.

The ghastly white bones rapidly aged and decayed like snow encountering scorching sun, with tiny black spots appearing and swiftly spreading into large patches of decay, rotting away and dissolving into foul-smelling water merging with the equally putrid soil.

Everything nearby, whether corpses, soil, deadwood, or stones, seemed to undergo centuries of decay and deterioration in mere moments, reaching a horrifying extreme.

Even the air was saturated with a potent decay, emitting a foul odor that made one feel as if their body was succumbing to decay, engulfed in gloom.

Ji Chen's pupils suddenly contracted, promptly using the power of the sea to drive it away.

This... a power?

The Undead Lord's previously injured body rebounded like rubber, and its twisted, broken arm was reconnected in a grotesque manner.

It twisted its neck, emitting a creaking sound, and upon seeing Ji Chen's astonished expression, a sinister smile once again appeared on its face.

"Human, just because you possess divine power doesn't mean I don't. This is the Corrosion Authority, one of the forty-eight mid-tier authorities, which is no less potent than yours."

Ji Chen narrowed his eyes slightly.

Mid-level deities wielded the mid-tier forty-eight powers, which were stronger than the one hundred and eight lesser powers held by lower deities.

The Corrosion Authority, among the mid-tier authorities, was neither high nor low, ranking thirtieth, governing decay and capable of causing rapid deterioration in substances in a short period..

Chapter 784: Mid-Tier Forty-Eighth Authorities (2)

For living beings, having contact with the power of decay could lead to a swift deterioration, robbing them of decades of life within mere seconds, or even consuming millennia of life in an instant, an immensely dreadful prospect.

Those swiftly decaying corpses served as the most poignant illustration.

In terms of hierarchical strength, the power of the ocean also fell within the category of mid-tier authorities. However, its wielded power wasn't as specialized and focused as the authorities, resembling more of a comprehensive force. It encompassed control over water, tides, tsunamis, and various other aspects within the domain of the ocean's powers.

If encountering an authority specializing in a particular domain, then it's highly probable that the power of the ocean would struggle to seize the initiative.

In summary, the strength of the ocean's power ranked somewhere in the middle among authorities, varying depending on the opponents faced, and didn't differ significantly from the Corrosion Authority.

Regarding which one was superior and which one was inferior, there still wasn't a definitive answer.

It turned out that the Undead Lord's confidence stemmed from this, as his power above the epic tier, combined with the augmentation from the Corrosion Authority, left him with few rivals in this world where the deities had yet to appear.

Unless facing another entity also above the epic tier, wielding an authority as formidable as the Corrosion Authority, only then would they be deemed worthy opponents.

With his thoughts sorted, Ji Chen's expression grew even calmer.

The Undead Lord, however, was perplexed. Why was this human able to remain so composed upon witnessing its formidable Corrosion Authority? Shouldn't he be alarmed, even terrified, upon realizing that it possessed such immense power?

After all, he was an above epic tier, holding the upper hand in raw power.

From this calm and composed countenance, it perceived not fear, but rather contempt, even disdain.

Gradually, its expression darkened, as countless millennia of relentless, echoing words reverberated in its mind, fueling a frenzy of negative emotions, causing the flames in its eyes to flicker violently.

Countless Maldonis had not only brought enlightenment but also ensnared their souls in a state of perpetual accumulation, entanglement, and fusion.

It felt like being forcibly bound together with all Twin Trees, merging into a single entity, yet still holding onto feelings of resentment and intolerance towards each other.

It could no longer distinguish whether all its past thoughts belonged to itself or to the other Maldonis.

The burden on its soul had become unbearable, its visage contorted in utter agony, as the Undead Lord squeezed out a sentence from between clenched teeth.

"Human, you shall perish!"

A vast expanse of tangible gray energy emanated from it, spreading in all directions from its center. Everything it touched swiftly decayed, even two nearby Shura Skeletons disregarded the attacks from Herald and the others, fleeing in panic to a safe distance.

They knew all too well that their Lord wouldn't differentiate between friend and foe when unleashing its might.

Everything within its range, living or dead, except for itself, would turn into a land more desolate than after a demon's rampage. Even the most resilient Abyssal Crawler couldn't survive within it.

As the billowing mist, suffused with a strong aura of decay, rushed forth, Ji Chen swung the Demon Slayer. A burst of deep blue oceanic power surged forth like a shield connecting heaven and earth, resisting the encroachment of decay.

"It's futile; the Corrosion Authority is even stronger than you imagine," the Undead Lord gloated, as with a wave of its hand, another large swath of mist surged forth, seemingly suppressing the oceanic power.

A circle of blue ripples, like singularities bursting, suddenly expanded, and the power of the domain joined the standoff between the azure light and the mist as a weight.

With the help of the blue ripples, the decaying mist slowly receded.

The Undead Lord first showed a slight astonishment, then burst into rage.

"You have a domain!?"

Having seen all enemies who encountered Ji Chen's ocean domain perish, the appearance of this domain in the battle shocked the Undead Lord.

In battles, revealing one's trump cards was inevitable.

When the two sides were relatively evenly matched, and Ji Chen and the Undead Lord were in the process of showing their strengths, the first one to reveal their ultimate move would end up losing.

And neither side could bear the consequences of failure.

This fight demanded putting forth maximum effort to come out on top in the end.

The Undead Lord decided to personally take action. Although the domain suppressed him to some extent, as a transcendent being above the epic tier, this suppression and influence were not significant.

Between each punch and kick, rich decay energy was carried, as if at his fingertips. This adept use indicated that the Undead Lord had mastered the Corrosion Authority to a considerable extent, integrating it seamlessly into combat.

While Ji Chen's control of time was relatively short, his profession and mastery of oceanic power were highly compatible. With the support of the legendary weapon, the Demon Slayer, each strike carried not only the power of the ocean but also the weight of thousands of tons. It barely managed to block a punch capable of pulverizing mountains.

The Demon Slayer carried numerous attack effects, with its inherent weight ignoring defense, compensating for the tier difference between Ji Chen and the Undead Lord.

Sometimes, it summoned divine thunderstorms, sweeping waves, and condensed water weapons, causing quite a bit of trouble for the Undead Lord.

In terms of sheer brute force, Ji Chen was definitely no match for the Undead Lord. However, in terms of flashy skills, variety, and coordination, Ji Chen had the upper hand!

The Undead Lord swung his massive fists wildly, but each punch was just barely blocked by the trident. Despite having a slight advantage, it was difficult to translate it into enough achievements under the constant barrage of techniques.

This was one of the most troublesome opponents it had encountered in tens of thousands of years, with oceanic power not inferior to the power of decay, and the trident, a divine weapon, possessing recovery capabilities that were not weaker and perhaps even stronger than its own...

Many unforeseen factors contributed to the current stalemate.

He found it difficult to seize victory in a short time!

The Undead Lord hammered down the Demon Slayer with his fist once again, then chose to quickly retreat hundreds of meters instead of pressing forward, observing the situation of his demonic skeletons.

At some point, out of the twelve demonic skeletons, only eight remained. Several were lying in pieces on the island, their damaged bones indicating that they had exhausted all means but still couldn't avoid the outcome of death.

Observing this, Ji Chen also withdrew the Demon Slayer. After a quick evaluation of the situation, he noticed Isaiah employing his immense strength to face off against four legendary-tier demonic skeletons directly. He had already defeated two of them, leaving the remaining pair teetering on the brink of collapse.

Before long, Isaiah would be able to defeat them and join the battle between Ji Chen and the Undead Lord.

Samuel and Serena had also taken down one each and were entangled with one each, while Herald and Bcnbo were also engaged in fierce combat, faintly gaining the upper hand, at least ensuring that these two were restrained.

The Kraken, with its astonishing recovery ability, no longer sought swift kills but instead entangled three demonic skeletons firmly.

Outside the battlefield between Ji Chen and the Undead Lord, the balance was slowly shifting.

Now, all they needed to do was to continue delaying until their allies were free to join, and victory would inevitably be on their side.

With this thought in mind, Ji Chen calmed his thoughts, firmly controlling the trembling hand clutching the Demon Slayer, even as blood trickled from his torn palm. He summoned all his strength and launched a proactive assault on the Undead Lord.

The Undead Lord was both surprised and furious, hastily defending himself but feeling increasingly anxious.

He was well aware that if things continued like this, their side would be the one worn down.

Even he would feel distressed at the simultaneous loss of twelve legendary-tier Shura skeletons.

There was only one option left.

The Undead Lord's eyes turned fierce, and after forcefully pushing back Ji Chen, he retreated to a kilometer away, initiating soul communication...

A pillar of black mist condensed and soared into the sky, piercing through the clouds and heading straight for a certain location.

Boom—

In this world, the hearts of all living beings were heavily struck. An extreme aura of evil emanated from the endless void, pressing down on the entire sea area like the nine layers of hell.

Within the pierced void of the dark clouds, a vague, pitch-black silhouette slowly descended.

However, upon contact with the ground, a colorful barrier suddenly appeared. Despite this, the dark figure, in a bewildering manner, transformed into wisps of black mist, passing through the barrier, before condensing once more.

The moment it took shape again.

The world lost its color, plunging into endless darkness.

Everyone present struggled to breathe, their powers raging out of control.

Their vision completely occupied by the indiscernible figure of darkness, they heard the screams of countless eerie and evil creatures in agony and struggle. A chilling wind of evil swept from the indescribable depths of the world, freezing both body and soul.

As Ji Chen witnessed the freezing that caused such dramatic changes in the world without any words or actions, his pupils contracted to their utmost.

A thought emerged in his mind.

Is this.... a god of darkness?

Chapter 785: Demon-slaying? God-slaying!

Since the dark figure descended, the entire world fell into a silence as oppressive as death. The arrogant Undead Lord, now kneeling on the ground like the lowliest servant, spoke with reverence and even flattery to the supreme being.

“Great God of Decay, your most faithful servant, Maldonis, humbly welcomes your arrival!”

The dark figure glanced over—though lacking the apparent organs of eyes, it seemed as if otherworldly eyes focused on the Undead Lord.

It was as if wailing demons from the depths of hell and the murmurs of gods spreading fear and death in the void echoed in the air.

“Maldonis, why have you summoned me to the primary realm? Did I not say that only in dire times, where life and death hang in the balance, should this opportunity be used?”

The Undead Lord, full of fear, lifted his head slightly but still dared not meet the gaze of the God of Decay, tremblingly replied.

“Great God of Decay, if not for dire circumstances, I would not dare to trouble you to expend energy to descend in avatar form. There is indeed an important matter that requires your attention.”

The Undead Lord shifted his gaze hatefully to Ji Chen, floating in the air, and continued, “This human is the Glory Lord who arrived in this world a year ago, a unique figure in this realm.

He has disrupted our demonic plans and affairs several times before, especially by slaying the Dreadlord Balzarna not long ago, causing significant damage to our strategic plans in the Western-Mid Ocean Region. He has become a great threat to us. I intended to devise a plan to kill him, but he has already been secretly aided by orderly deities, granting him some power...

To better fulfill your commands and the grand plans of our esteemed lords, and to thwart the sinister schemes of those hypocritical orderly deities, I had no choice but to request your presence...”

Ji Chen’s eyebrows twitched slightly, feeling disgusted by his flowery speech.

The Undead Lord admitted it upfront, but the latter part about the orderly deities secretly aiding him, and better fulfilling commands, sounded like shifting blame and finding excuses.

Who could have imagined that this seemingly crazy demon lord would end up being such a submissive creature?

But Ji Chen also became secretly vigilant. He had heard of this deity’s name.

The God of Decay, a mid-tier divine being, possessed the nineteenth-tier Decay Authority, governing decay and rot. His power could cause material to decay and rot at an extremely rapid rate, surpassing even the Corrosion Authority.

In the ancient divine wars tens of thousands of years ago, he had joined forces with other dark deities to hunt down more than five orderly deities, making him a well-known figure among dark deities.

Upon hearing the Undead Lord’s words, the God of Decay indeed turned his gaze to Ji Chen, the individual who concerned him the most. This mere human was aided by orderly deities?

But how could that be?

Those hypocritical and arrogant orderly deities had long been entangled and suppressed by them, the dark deities, and were barely able to protect themselves. How could they spare the energy to break through the rules and help a human who had only been in this world for a year?

The world’s rules repelled not only them but had rejected anything beyond the epic tier, including all deities, thousands of years ago. The dark deities had also known this in advance, which was why they had expended great effort to research methods to penetrate the barrier.

Upon hearing Marldonis’s words, the God of Decay became somewhat intrigued by Ji Chen. If it was indeed the intervention of orderly deities, he wouldn’t mind granting death.

A mere mortal? He cared not. But a mortal favored by the orderly deities? That piqued his interest.

The Decay God’s avatar looked at Ji Chen as one might glance at a passing ant, showing casual indifference, yet effortlessly exerting a chilling pressure reminiscent of descending into the depths of hell.

Under the threat of imminent death, the power of the ocean surged to its maximum, and the ocean domain expanded to its fullest extent.

Ji Chen's face flushed red, gritting his teeth as he endured, his bones creaking under the strain.

Gods were of a different level, even if just an avatar, they possessed immeasurable power far beyond mortals.

"Oh? Is this the power of the ocean?" the Decay Lord exclaimed in surprise.

As a dark deity who had burned with divine fire for millions of years, his knowledge was vast, and feeling this familiar power aroused his curiosity.

Memories slowly resurfaced.

The original owner of this power—the God of the Ocean from the orderly divine lineage, a revered deity among gods, was one of the targets they pursued during the divine war.

Although hundreds of thousands of years had passed, he still vividly remembered the God of the Ocean. Despite being just a mid-tier god, he had withstood the combined onslaught of him and five other dark deities, three of whom were also mid-tier gods, resisting their siege for five full days with the help of the ocean environment and unique ocean power.

It was the resilient resistance of the ocean god that allowed several continent-tier armies of humans and elves to retreat from that battle, dealing significant blows to demons and orcs in subsequent battles.

In the end, they had to pay a considerable price to slay the ocean god and extinguish his divine fire, annihilating his deity status in the process, preventing him from resurrecting through faith or other means.

However, at that time, they hadn't paid much attention to the issue of the power of the ocean. They hadn't expected that after hundreds of thousands of years, it would fall into the hands of a lowly human.

Perhaps it was the orderly deities who intervened secretly, helping him gain this power..

Chapter 786: Demon-slaying? God-slaying! (2)

The evil thoughts within him quickly grew.

The God of Decay intensified the pressure of his presence. Since that's the case, he would complete the unfinished business today and thoroughly destroy this power!

Ji Chen's face tightened, feeling the sudden surge of pressure, he didn't hesitate to bring out the assets he had on hand.

[Ring of Mithril], [Charged Ring], [Deep Sea Dragon Scale Robe], [Royal Griffin Knight Emblem]
...

The treasures Ji Chen acquired early on boosted his strength in different ways, but their abilities were quite limited. When faced with the overwhelming force of the God of Decay's avatar, they couldn't hold up and ended up exploding, leaving behind nothing but useless powder.

Only the Void Ring and the Abyssal Trident (Demon Slayer), high-level equipment, remained resilient, stubbornly resisting.

The God of Decay, seeing that his oppressive force couldn't immediately overwhelm Ji Chen, frowned.

He hesitated for a moment.

He wasn't descending in his original form but as a specially cultivated avatar.

Its power was less than one-thousandth of its original self, which allowed it to briefly manifest in the main realm.

If he excessively used his power and exposed himself, he risked being repelled again by the reactive barrier of rules.

After weighing his options, he decided to increase the intensity, to kill this human in its infancy and prevent further growth.

If it took just one year to reach the Epic Tier, wouldn't he ascend to godhood in a thousand years?

"Insect, give up resistance. In my presence, you have no chance of escape."

The God of Decay spoke to Ji Chen for the first time, his words dripping with sarcasm.

The difference between gods and mortals was immense. Even for powerful beings like the Five Demon Lords, who were among the top-tier Epic beings, compared to a god, even a lower-ranking one, they were as insignificant as rabbits. And beings of the Epic Tier were merely like insects, easily squashed without much effort.

Power equated to authority, and for beings who failed to understand this principle, they were overwhelmed and defeated.

However, this human before him, despite possessing the power of the ocean, only had a fraction of it. The complete version of the ocean's power ranked among the top in the Mid-Tier abilities.

As for Marldonis, the Corrosion Authority in his hands was also just a fragmented version, greatly diminished in potency. Otherwise, he wouldn't have allowed a potentially dangerous force, capable of threatening him, to be wielded by a non-divine entity.

Ji Chen remained indifferent to his words, echoing his previous sentiment towards the undead demon lord.

"You talk too much."

"Lowly insect, feel the wrath of the gods!"

The sky filled with gray particles. First, the dark clouds turned gray-white, then quickly dissipated. Everything around turned gray-white as if the world had become monochrome.

The gray particles domineeringly turned everything around them into shades of gray, effortlessly dispelling the power neglected by the Corrosion Authority.

The latter retreated like a hand that had touched hot oil, although it resisted reluctantly, it could only shrink back into the body of the Undead Lord. The power gap between them was too great. One was

ranked thirty in the mid-tier, and the other was ranked nineteen in the mid-tier. One was incomplete, and the other was complete.

The deity unleashed his inherent authority, its power unimaginable.

Ji Chen stared tightly at the gray mist gathering like a swarm of locusts, shaking his head gently.

“I told you, you talk too much.”

His weaponless left hand rose at some point, emitting a dazzling purple light and a terrifying burst of energy.

The God of Decay stared at the purple light, stunned, then suddenly exclaimed.

“Thunder Authority!?”

This human still possessed a second type of authority?

His body trembled involuntarily, even his main body at the boundary shivered in fear.

The Thunder Authority ranked seventh among the mid-tier forty-eight authorities, governing thunder. But in terms of destructive power alone, it easily ranked among the top five. More importantly, the Thunder Authority was primarily about destruction, which posed significant harm to dark deities like them.

The Undead Lord below was already stunned. This human actually possessed a second authority? And it was the Thunder Authority, ranked in the top ten!?

Damn it, no wonder he dared to come even knowing about the trap. So that was it!

The lightning in his hand gradually spread, casting Ji Chen’s face in a colder light, his gaze devoid of joy or sorrow.

With a thought, thousands of thunderbolts erupted from his palm, flashing like spring thunder across the sky. The gray-white particles only blocked them for a moment before being overwhelmed like an avalanche.

The scent of destruction spread, driving away the decaying power.

The avatar of the God of Decay struggled amidst countless thunderbolts, unable to escape, or perhaps not even considering escape, because he knew he couldn’t escape under the Thunder Authority.

“Insect, I’ll remember you!”

All he could do was leave behind a hateful remark before his avatar was shattered by the thunder, dissipating into a cloud of ash.

Ji Chen remained expressionless, then turned to the now stupefied Undead Lord.

“You’re next.”

The Undead Lord trembled and, without looking back, fled into the distance.

“Shura Skeletons, stop them!”

The remaining Shura Skeletons, reluctant but compelled by the command, began to move involuntarily.

From the moment they became subordinates of the Undead Lord, their bodies and souls no longer belonged to themselves, merely puppets manipulated by others.

Ji Chen didn't even bother to look at them, casually unleashing several bolts of lightning that sent them crashing heavily to the ground, enveloped in thunderous light.

Then, he chased after the fleeing Undead Lord.

It was better to pursue the remaining to hunt down this desperate foe.

If not now, then when would he slay the Undead Lord?

To lure Ji Chen into the trap, the Undead Lord specifically chose this archipelago, surrounded on three sides by vast oceans, with a considerable distance to the southern mainland.

Yet, this not-so-long stretch of sea became his biggest obstacle to escape at this moment.

The faint sound of thunder flashing from behind seemed like a death knell, terrifying Maldonis. At this moment, he had long abandoned any thoughts of turning back to resist.

If even the avatar of the God of Decay was shattered, what effective resistance could he offer?

But the ocean was Ji Chen's domain. He quickly caught up and decisively drowned the fleeing Undead Lord in thunder.

He adhered to the idea of strike while the iron is hot.

Thunder continued to burst forth, one after another, the sky flickering incessantly. Though there was no downpour, the thunder roared continuously.

It wasn't until the system prompt of killing the Undead Lord sounded in his ears that Ji Chen stopped.

"Ding- You have slain the Undead Lord: Maldonis (Above Epic), level up (67- 68)."

Ji Chen was slightly stunned and checked his records.

"Ding- You have slain the avatar of the God of Decay, level up (64—67)-" Killing the avatar of the God of Decay raised his level by three, while killing the Undead Lord raised it by two, not as much as when he killed the Dreadlord before. However, considering the increasing difficulty of leveling up at higher levels, this was understandable..

Chapter 787: Three Authorities

Ji Chen hadn't expected that the bait used by the Undead Lord was actually a rather high-ranking authority — the Storm Authority. Lost in the God War tens of thousands of years ago, it had long been forgotten by mortals, yet it fell into the hands of the Undead Lord.

It seemed that the Undead Lord had ulterior motives, secretly keeping this fact from the Dark Gods. Otherwise, given the cunning and malevolence of the Dark Gods, they would never place a complete Mid-tier authority in the hands of a being considered a servant like the Undead Lord.

What the Undead Lord wielded was merely a fragmented version of the Decay Authority, posing little threat to the gods.

However, all this was no longer important. With the Storm Authority included, Ji Chen now possessed three authority-like abilities!

Ranked nineteenth, the Storm Authority.

Ranked seventh, the Thunder Authority.

And approximately ranked around thirtieth, but with the complete version ranked among the top, the power of the Ocean.

Three powers, which even when scrutinized closely, were not regarded as weak Mid-tier abilities, were all possessed by a human who was still only at the Epic level!

If others were to find out, it would surely shock them.

Even some Mid-tier gods only had one Mid-tier authority.

Harmonized under the influence of the Ocean, the Thunder and Storm Authorities each occupied a corner, not interfering with each other, living in harmony.

It wasn't uncommon for multiple authorities to be controlled simultaneously.

Those mythical legends left behind in the main world, immortalized by minstrels, and famous individual deities with millions of followers, all possessed multiple authorities and powers.

For example, among the gods of the Order, within the Sky God lineage, the Chief God, who had once wiped out dozens of Dark Gods and was revered by billions of believers, the Lord of Light, controlled authorities such as Radiance, Purification, and Holy Flames, serving as the leader of the Orderly Gods.

The control of authorities represented the recognition of the host by the authority, the level of control, and the strength of the host. It could be said that the more authorities one controlled, the higher the combat power.

Ji Chen slowly restrained the terrifying storms swirling around him, and the lightning-like gaze gradually became restrained, but there was a slight change in his whole person.

The righteousness of the Thunder, the grandeur of the Storm, and the vastness of the Ocean's power, the influences brought about by these three authorities blended together, giving Ji Chen a mysterious aura.

It made people unable to help but feel an impulse to bow down and pay homage as if they had seen a walking deity in the world.

It was unfathomable.

Ji Chen shifted his attention to the suspended gray-white light cluster.

This should be the fragmented version of the Corrosion Authority controlled by the Undead Lord, which had remained motionless since losing its host.

He pondered how to deal with this authority.

In terms of lawful evil nature, the Corrosion Authority, unlike the Decay Authority or the Seven Sins Authority, was not as inherently evil; it could only be considered a neutral-type authority, with no significant influence on the morality of the host. However, it was not very compatible with orderly authorities.

If he didn't have authorities like the Thunder Authority, it might be a good choice to control the Corrosion Authority.

But with authorities like the Thunder and Storm Authorities, which were undoubtedly Orderly Authorities, it was naturally impossible to sacrifice the essential for the secondary.

Therefore, this fragmented Corrosion Authority could only be handed over to the hero of the Crown of the Ocean. Ji Chen quickly determined the candidate in his mind.

After the complete destruction of the Undead Lord's body and soul, the Shura Skeletons linked to its life force began to disintegrate one by one, self-destructing and falling into the pile of corpses on the islands, indistinguishable from each other.

These executioners who had followed Maldonis into battles for thousands of years, who had slaughtered countless kin and other races, had come to their end.

Previously, the exclusive dominion over life, meticulously crafted to solidify Maldonis' complete authority over the Undead Legion, had transformed into a chance to vanquish the Demon Legion.

At the same time, in the Southern Continent, a large number of commanders, senior officers, and special legion commanders under the Undead Warlord's command watched helplessly as their vitality rapidly dwindled away. Their bodies melted like ice cream, turning into clusters of putrid flesh.

The sudden deaths of a large number of high-ranking, middle, and lower tier officers caused the massive Undead Legion to fall into chaos, losing command and order. Amidst the boundless panic and chaos, the inherent evil and chaos within the demons erupted. Many demon legions launched riots, wielding their blades against their allies.

Of course, Ji Chen knew about this several days later.

When the hero of the Ocean Crown and other strong individuals like Isaiah saw the Shura Skeletons collapse without being attacked, they all showed signs of joy. This undoubtedly meant that the Undead Warlord was dead.

Exchanging glances, they followed Ji Chen's pursuit of the Undead Warlord's direction, where it seemed a terrifying storm was brewing.

As they sped across the sea, they quickly spotted a figure standing on the surface of the water.

"My Lord!"

Ji Chen turned around to see Herald and Samuel rushing over.

He asked proactively, "How's the situation over there?"

“Those remaining Shura Skeletons just disintegrated on their own.” Alice’s eyes sparkled with excitement. “My Lord, did you slay the Undead Warlord?”

Ji Chen nodded slightly, ready to point out where the Undead Warlord had met his end, but then realized abruptly that it had been obliterated by the relentless thunderstorm, completely uprooting any trace of it..

Chapter 788: Three Authorities (2)

He only nodded slightly.

“I have personally slain the Undead Lord, so I have defeated two of the Five Demon Lords.”

Samuel’s expression changed slightly. If killing the Dreadlord earlier could be attributed to some luck, then killing the Undead Lord was undoubtedly a display of strength.

With epic-tier power, he consecutively defeated two beings above the epic tier and even one of them who controlled an authority.

What was even more frightening was that he even used the Thunder Authority to defeat a clone of the Decay God, marking an extraordinary feat!

That was a god, even just defeating one clone was considered something unbelievable!

Ji Chen was such a terrifying existence...

On the side, Serena was experiencing strange emotions.

If one could reconcile with such a mighty and unparalleled existence like Ji Chen, it would certainly produce offspring with boundless potential!

Sensing Serena’s strange gaze, Ji Chen coughed lightly and said, “The Undead Lord is dead, and its control over the Corrosion Authority has also been lost. The Corrosion Authority ranks thirtieth among authorities. Although it’s only a fragmented version, it still possesses formidable power.

However, I already possess multiple authorities, and they are incompatible with it, so...” Ji Chen paused, looking towards the Kraken, “I have decided to bestow it upon the Kraken.”

“Squeak? Squeak! (Thank you for your grace, my lord! I will definitely obey all your commands in the future!)”

The Kraken excitedly cried out.

He had just witnessed the power of the Corrosion Authority. It was a power that all creatures dreamt of, even more terrifying than a plague!

Other heroes were momentarily stunned, but then they understood and had no objections.

Although the Kraken was a bit silly, it was an epic-tier sea monster, ranking at the top of the ocean’s hierarchy. It had also made significant contributions along the way, making it eligible to receive such power.

Ji Chen's choice to bestow it upon the Kraken was also well thought out. Legendary-tier heroes eligible to inherit authorities, Herald and Benbo, were both melee fighters, with one excelling in close combat and the other in breath attacks, neither of which aligned with the effects of the Corrosion Authority.

The Kraken, on the other hand, had excellent bloodlines and powerful physical attack capabilities but was lacking in ranged damage, especially against flying enemies.

The Corrosion Authority attacked in the form of mist, which could compensate for the Kraken's shortcomings, making it the perfect match.

With a gentle wave of his hand, the Corrosion Authority flew over and instantly merged into the body of the Kraken.

"Step back a bit, lest you accidentally get hurt when it controls the Corrosion Authority," Ji Chen instructed, and the heroes nodded, retreating a considerable distance.

As soon as the Corrosion Authority entered its body, the Kraken began to struggle, its thick tentacles wildly slamming against the sea surface as if it could alleviate its pain.

In just a dozen seconds or so, its skin, covered in slippery mucus, seemed to age a hundredfold, becoming uneven and filled with ugly wrinkles. But then, in the next dozen seconds, it returned to its original state.

This cycle continued without interruption, consistently swinging back and forth between rejuvenation and aging.

Watching the Kraken continuously groaning in pain, Ji Chen felt puzzled. Was it so painful to control an authority?

He remembered receiving the Thunder Authority and the Storm Authority successively, but it only took him more than ten minutes to successfully control them, and the process was neither painful nor difficult, more like a smooth transition.

Isaiah watched the Kraken thrashing on the sea surface, still wearing his proud and disdainful expression, but there was a hint of envy deep in his eyes.

That was an authority!

Even if it was only a fragmented version, it was still an authority, the most top-notch power in the world, the power wielded by deities.

This silly octopus actually received such a blessing. It was truly fortunate!

It turned its eyes to Ji Chen, who was focused on the octopus.

This human was willing to bestow an authority like this to a subordinate, indicating that he was not a selfish person. Now that he had also gained control of multiple powerful authorities, his future achievements would certainly be considerable. Perhaps he could even ascend to godhood in hundreds or thousands of years.

If he were to help out a bit now, maybe in the future, when Ji Chen becomes a god, Ji Chen might help him reach a higher height.

Isaiah's brain quickly spun, considering the details and benefits therein.

The process of controlling the Corrosion Authority continued for several hours until sunset. Only then did the Kraken stop its painful struggles. Its murky copper bell-like eyes gradually cleared, and its pupils turned gray as if smeared with dye.

Its body didn't change much, but its entire being emitted an unprecedentedly powerful aura, spreading out like a newborn sun, exuding a vast tidal force.

It gave them the illusion that the Kraken had once again ascended.

"Squeak squeak—!! (My lord, I have successfully controlled the Corrosion Authority, and I also feel that I'm not far from becoming an above epic tier!)"

Ji Chen smiled faintly. Controlling an authority to a certain extent could help elevate one's tier. But for the Kraken, already at the epic tier, the chance to reach the tier above epic through this opportunity was also significant.

Otherwise, according to the normal rate of advancement, it would take at least hundreds or even thousands of years to have even a slight chance.

Above the epic tier lied the pinnacle imagined by countless beings.

And he, who had newly gained control of the Thunder Authority and the Storm Authority, naturally benefited greatly from it.

[Ji Chen]

[Level]: 69 [Level Cap: 89]

[Identity]: Lord of the Ocean

[Main Profession]: Ocean Dominator (Current Tier: Above Epic)

[Skills]: Ocean Domain (Colored skill, can deploy an ocean domain with a radius of 1500 meters, reducing enemy attributes by 0-90% within the domain, the effect depends on the strength difference between allies and enemies, reducing physical and magical damage by 75%, reducing mana consumption by 75%; the domain can absorb nearby water sources, forming a floating water domain in the air; (New) storms can be stirred up and thunder can be summoned within the domain)

[Lord Talent]: Favor of the Sea IV (Red Talent,... with a relatively broad concept; current explicit effects are: ? Easier access to gifts from the sea, <2> When troops are near the sea, their stamina and recovery speed increase by 80%, @ Ability to move freely and swiftly in water, reducing oxygen consumption by 99% and water pressure by 95%), @ Blessed by the sea, immune to any fatal, cursed, tracking effects, and skills within the marine environment, with a chance of resurrection (only once)

? (New) By infusing the Thunder Authority and Storm Authority into the power of the ocean, he gained even greater strength.

Special Abilities: (D Master of Thunder (You have complete control over the Thunder Authority, making all thunder and lightning in the world ineffective against you, thunder becomes your plaything)

<2> Lord of Storms (You have complete control over the Storm Authority, able to summon world-ending storms within the ocean's range, causing ubiquitous attacks on enemies; wind and rain are extensions of your arms, you are the storm)

With only one step difference between reaching level 69 and level 70, his tier transitioned from epic to above epic.

The Lord's Talent upgraded once again, gaining a new ability.

The Ocean Domain evolved.

Two special abilities appeared on the panel, representing the effects of the Thunder Authority and Storm Authority.

Each one was a significant boost, with the power above epic implying that he had truly reached the pinnacle of this world, becoming a presence of top-tier power.

How many entities exist above the epic tier in the main world?

It was unknown. They were extremely rare, with only the Elven Empire known for sure to possess beings above epic tier. The Markus Empire of humans might also have such powerful individuals, but there was no other relevant information available.

In this regard, the Crown of the Ocean, with its cutting-edge power, stood on equal footing with formidable forces like the Elven Empire.

Ji Chen, full of vigor, looked around at the numerous heroes, waved his hand grandly, and laughed.

"Let's bring back news of slaying the Undead Demon King. This should severely strike the remaining three demon kings."

"Next, we will turn defense into offense and actively attack the remaining three demon kings!"

"Yes!"

Chapter 789: Becoming a God?

In a serene and breathtaking aerial palace.

"The Undead Lord got slain!? Is this for real?"

"Based on the urgent report, this is highly probable. Lord Ji Chen in a cluster of islands near the southeastern part of the Mid-Ocean adjacent to the Southern Continent, has slain one of the five Demon Lords, the Undead Lord, Maldonis.

According to the report from Commander Yasen of the Fifth Fleet in the Mid-Ocean, there was a massive uprising within the Undead Legion under the Undead Lord. It's preliminarily judged that many high and low rankings officers suddenly died, and it's speculated that the Undead Lord himself had a life contract-like connection with these demons who suddenly perished.

So when the Undead Lord died, they perished along with him, leading to a massive revolt of demon soldiers." Herli recounted breathlessly.

Laphia slowly exhaled, her eyes still showing remnants of shock from the explosive news.

She couldn't understand.

Killing the Dreadlord before was one thing, indicating inadequate strength and perhaps luck, but the Undead Lord was much stronger than the former Demon Lord.

Were beings above the Epic Tier so easily dealt with?

Then wouldn't she be just another easy prey for Ji Chen?

Herli exclaimed, "What kind of creature is this little guy? In such a short span of time, he single-handedly defeated two Demon Lords above the Epic Tier. Does he intend to eradicate all Demon Lords?"

"It's not entirely impossible if that's his intention," Laphia said solemnly. "Although the Undead Lord ranks third, his strength is comparable to that of the Void Lord, who ranks first. It's highly probable he possessed the power of authority. If I were to fight him, I would only have a slight advantage based on theoretical data."

Herli chuckled, covering her mouth. "If you were to fight that little monster, who do you think would win?"

Laphia gave her a glare. "Do you really wish for us to be at odds with him?"

"I can't bear that responsibility." Herli quickly grabbed her arm. "I just have a feeling that perhaps someday, the Elf Empire will stand against him."

"...Is this the prophecy of the High Priestess of the Elf Empire?"

"It's not necessarily an inevitable future, but one of countless possibilities based on trends." Herli shook her head, with a hint of unease on her face. "I hope that day never comes, it would bring us great trouble, even... catastrophe."

Laphia furrowed her brows slightly, never before had she seen her closest friend like this.

Herli controlled a part of the "foresight" authority, becoming the High Priestess of the Empire with this power, predicting the unknown entities that would threaten the elves in the future.

Over the centuries, she had helped the Empire solve many problems, so her words carried a lot of weight in Laphia's heart.

But Ji Chen seemed to have no reason to stand against them, or rather, there was no need for the Elf Empire to antagonize a young powerhouse with boundless potential.

Herli suddenly raised an eyebrow and smiled. "Don't worry, even though that's the case, humans have a saying, 'Man proposes, God disposes.' We won't be so foolish as to pick a fight with that little monster. It's not in our best interest.

Besides, no matter how strong that little monster is, Laphia, you're not someone to be trifled with either. As the youngest Epic Tier in the history of the Elf Empire, possessing multiple authorities and the blessing of the Mother Goddess, you are also one of the top-ranking powerhouses."

People only knew that every Elf Queen was of the Epic Tier, but not many knew the specific strength of Laphia, because there were not many things that required her to leave the Silver Moon Holy City, let alone to personally take action.

Staying unknown was always the best strategy.

Laphia just smiled, then spoke seriously, “Since Ji Chen has slain the Undead Lord, causing the Undead Legion to collapse into a riot, then we can completely seize the initiative, launching an attack on the Southern Continent without any hesitation.

Start organizing the various elven legions, and mobilize the fleet to send our warriors to that land covered in yellow sand. Since the situation in the Eastern and Western Continents is not optimistic, we’ll use the Southern Continent as a breakthrough point and fiercely stab the demons from behind!”

Laphia walked to the window, overlooking the Silvermoon City through the window, saying, “I also have a feeling that this war will end faster than I imagined, and this world will return to its original state more quickly.

Then this world will enter a new era faster, perhaps those top creatures who can touch the boundaries of the divine realm will appear one after another, climbing towards the supreme divine ladder together.

And at that time, new gods will be born, old gods will fall, perhaps it will be a peaceful era of hundreds of thousands of years, or it may be an unprecedented chaotic era.”

Herli pursed her lips, placed her hand on her chest, and bowed. “We will always follow you until our elves fulfill the long-standing wish of millions of years.” Laphia turned around, and nodded, “Go, go to the Crown of the Ocean to express our goodwill to him, and try to bring him into our camp.”

Herli blinked. “What is your intention?”

“He’s relatively new to this world, so it’s about time to share some of its most profound secrets with him and see if he can lend a hand in its salvation.”

Herli pondered. “I will convey this message, but I cannot guarantee that he will join..”

Chapter 790: Becoming a God?(2)

Laphia waved her hand. “He’ll be interested, just tell him I know how to ascend to godhood.”

The news of the Undead Lord’s death quickly spread to every corner of the Mid Ocean, with countless people cheering the setback of the demons, while many pondered how exactly he was killed.

However, the source of the news, Ji Chen, only revealed that the Undead Lord was dead, but remained tight-lipped about the battle process.

Power like Authority was incredibly powerful, especially when it was kept a secret.

Just like the God of Decay and the Undead Lord, they never anticipated Ji Chen possessing the Thunder Authority, catching them off guard. This illustrated the power of hidden cards.

Let outsiders speculate.

After defeating the Undead Lord, Ji Chen quietly disappeared amidst the cheers and celebrations of the heroes upon returning to the Alliance Fleet after announcing the news.

He returned with the army to the Crown of the Ocean.

The battlefield in the Southern Continent no longer needed him much; it mainly consisted of deserts and wastelands, not where he could make the most impact. He only needed to return periodically for supplies of fresh water.

Once the Druids of the Elven Landing Forces cultivated the special plants that could convert seawater into freshwater, he didn't even need to worry about such issues anymore and could focus his attention on other Demon Lords, such as the Decay Lord, who currently occupies the Modo Strait.

Even the avatar of the so-called God of Decay was defeated by him, so how powerful was this Decay Lord?

Ji Chen gained much from this journey.

Firstly, he ascended from Epic Tier to Above-Epic Tier, a terrifyingly rapid promotion speed that would astonish anyone who heard about it.

Even more terrifyingly, he acquired two new Authorities, both ranking in the top twenty, elevating his combat prowess to a frightening level. Ji Chen himself couldn't fathom how powerful he could become when going all out now.

He no longer regarded Epic Tier opponents with much concern; the only ones qualified to battle him were those also Above-Epic Tier and wielding Authorities.

Kraken obtained a fragmented version of the Corrosion Authority, taking an important step towards the Above-Epic Tier. Several heroes of the Crown of the Ocean gained a wealth of experience in this battle, growing in levels not much slower than Ji Chen.

Like Alice, who relied on the power of her song, now reaching level 64, and the slightly slower Patheia reaching level 60.

The speed of this advancement could truly be described as "leaping by the day."

The only regret was that no resources were gained during the process of slaying two Demon Lords; instead, there were significant losses in the defense battle against the Dreadlord.

When Ji Chen returned to the Crown of the Ocean, whether it was the residents repairing the city defenses or the soldiers on patrol, they all put down their work and cheered loudly for the return of their lord.

He was their great and revered lord!

With his own strength, he defeated Demon Lords and annihilated millions of Demon legions!

A fervent atmosphere permeated, with cheers echoing everywhere. Even the passing merchants couldn't help but be swept up in this atmosphere.

And at this moment, the wheels of fate began to turn, the long-stalled wheel finally started rolling.

“Ding- Your tier has reached Above-Epic and you have acquired Authorities. The people’s support for the Crown of the Ocean has risen to 100 points, reaching the upper limit, initiating the process of condensing divine fire.” “Ding- Currently, the level of faith collected is [103,561 points], allowing more intelligent beings to call upon your name. By becoming their belief, you can propel the process of igniting the divine fire.”

“Ding- Currently, you possess three types of Authority: Ocean Power, Thunder Authority, and Storm Authority. You may choose one of them to lay the foundation for your deity type.”

“Please choose.”

Upon hearing the system prompts, Ji Chen clenched his fists in excitement.

Finally!

So, to achieve 100 points of public support, the prerequisite was to ascend to the Above-Epic Tier and possess Authority!

And what’s paved by the 100 points of public support was the celestial ladder to becoming a deity!

This was unexpected yet somehow anticipated.

It was easy to understand that the level of faith collected could drive the condensation of divine fire. This number should represent the beings who believed in him, the vast majority of whom were residents of the Crown of the Ocean.

This number should only include the most fanatical believers, as otherwise, even considering the humans, slaves, lizardfolk, and luminescent sea tribes of the Crown of the Ocean combined, they wouldn’t reach a million.

The next prompt was to choose the deity type.

The most convenient way for mortals to become deities was through acquiring Authority, which corresponded to the deity type based on that Authority.

For example, if Thunder Authority was chosen, then the deity type condensed would be the God of Thunder, while Storm Authority would lead to the God of Storms.

Should he choose the Thunder Authority?

Thunder Authority was ranked seventh among the mid-tier Authorities, with tremendous destructive power. Opting for the path to become the God of Thunder would indeed be a good choice.

With the force of ten thousand lightning in his hand, and thunder roaring.

Although Storm Authority ranks nineteenth, its characteristics were extremely compatible with Ji Chen’s profession. If he could become the God of Storms, his combat power within the ocean would escalate to a terrifying level.

With a wave of his hand, he could transform into a storm, sweeping away everything.

Ji Chen pondered, slowly considering his options.

He didn't choose Thunder Authority or Storm Authority.

Instead, he chose Ocean Power.

Ocean Power was one of the Authority types Ji Chen obtained relatively early on, but because he only acquired a portion of it, he struggled greatly when battling the Undead Demon King.

But this couldn't conceal its potential.

Ocean Power could encompass everything and hold infinite possibilities.

It was also the power he was most proficient in, the one he wielded most skillfully.

The ocean contained storms and thunder, as well as more power and a broader mind, with unfathomable depths.

He believed that Ocean Power was the best path for him to become a deity.

With this thought, Ji Chen silently prayed in his heart.

"Ding- You have chosen Ocean Power as your deity type."

"You have embarked on the path to divinity as part of the Ocean God lineage."

A mysterious and inexplicable force, originating from an unknown place beyond the sky, entered his body.

Changes began to occur.

From all over the Crown of the Ocean, specks of faith power passed through buildings, forests, and rock layers, converging into his body.

Ji Chen's body began to change.

Skin, organs, flesh, cells...

Evolution towards greater strength, precision, and higher levels.

When the evolution ends, the mortal body will transform into a divine one.

He would reach above the high heavens.

Suddenly, a gaze was drawn to a faint but determined flicker of light from the mortal world.

Was that... one of the seeds 'He' had unintentionally scattered earlier?

With just a slight focus, 'His' sight pierced through endless voids and atmospheres, spanning countless distances to see that shimmering seed.

At that moment.

'He' was slightly enlightened.

So, it was this special seed. It was unexpected that it had grown so quickly in such a short time. Indeed, it exceeded expectations.

The power of the three Authority types.

Above the epic.

The beginning of deity condensation.

Not bad.

Any achievement that would astound the world in the eyes of outsiders could only garner a “not bad” in the presence of this being.

‘He’ “shook” his head.

But it’s not enough. “They” are too many. Relying solely on “Him” cannot ensure the safety of this plane through crises. “He” needs stronger assistance.

Since this special seed has caught His attention, He will offer more help to let it grow faster.

The towering power surpassing all silently descended.

Just as Ji Chen finished selecting his deity type, he suddenly raised his head.

His eyes flickered with surprise.

He seemed to sense the presence of other strands of ocean power.

If he could gather the scattered ocean powers back, then the deity based on it would only become stronger. When the ocean power is complete, its power will be no less than that of Thunder Authority.

Lost momentarily after defeating the Undead Lord and unsure of what to do next, Ji Chen found his next goal.

With determined eyes, he looked at one of the nearest strands of ocean power.

That was... the Sea of Death..