

Ocean Lord 791

Chapter 791: Divine Power Crystal, Divine Power Troop

The Lord of the Waves, whom he had once defeated, came from the Sea of Death north of the Stormy Sea.

According to Thotmudo, the Sea of Death was not a desolate area, but rather teeming with diverse creatures, with some ocean warlords similar to the Lord of the Waves also occupying it.

Thinking of this, Ji Chen became quite interested.

In the past, when he was just a legendary-tier figure, the Sea of Death was a dangerous place for him. After all, even a failed loser like the Lord of the Waves, who managed to reach a legendary tier, escaped that place. So, the powerful ocean warlords inside must be at least epic-tier.

Epic-tier beings were still quite rare and powerful.

But now, Ji Chen's strength has increased by more than a hundredfold compared to before. Just relying on the power above epic is enough to suppress a region.

However, the giant turtle once said that he was cursed for touching an artifact of the ocean deity—Ocean God's Shrine. Considering the situation, perhaps this surge of ocean power was in this artifact.

With a clear goal in mind, and sensing that the nearest surge of ocean power was right across from his doorstep, Ji Chen quickly prepared to set out.

Naturally, the giant turtle had to come along. As a mobile strategic base, its fierce firepower, troop-carrying capacity, and comfort were all indispensable for the journey.

Are you worried about getting rushed by a massive force like this knocking at your door? In gaming terms, it's like a sudden base assault.

After several hours of submersion, the giant turtle stopped at the entrance to the Sea of Death.

Emerging to the surface...

A breathtaking scene unfolded before everyone's eyes.

The vast sea in front suddenly showed huge faults, and billions of gallons of seawater turned ninety degrees and rushed straight down into the endless abyss like the mouth of a giant beast, with no bottom in sight.

Looking straight ahead, thousands of kilometers before the fault, a towering black curtain stood like a wall, piercing through heaven and earth.

This scene seemed to be at the end of the world.

"This is the entrance to the Sea of Death. The abyss and the black curtain are remnants of the divine battle."

The giant turtle said solemnly, “The abyss and the black curtain created a closed space, giving birth to an environment completely different from the outside world... Anyway, you’ll know once you go in.”

Ji Chen was intrigued by these words and no longer hesitated. He took out the map of the entrance to the Sea of Death.

This map was not an ordinary map but a guide.

The map emitted a faint light.

Swish—

The seawater floated up and condensed into a huge, wide water bridge above the fault, and a gap slowly opened in the black curtain on the other side.

“Let’s go in.”

The giant turtle nodded, paddling its limbs along the water bridge and diving into the black curtain.

Ji Chen felt the space being overturned, and darkness occupied his vision. His body seemed to pass through a membrane.

The next moment, they seemed to be transported to another place.

The sky here was as chaotic as the dimness, with no sunlight penetrating. Dimness was the theme of this place.

The blue-purple sea, scattered islands like chess pieces, and barren islands with only strange rocks eroded by sea winds, without a trace of vegetation, greeted them.

The sea surface was so calm that not even a wave was half-raised. Only the giant turtle paddling its limbs caused ripples to spread out in concentric circles as if some force was suppressing the entire world.

Silence, desolation, oppression—this was Ji Chen’s first impression of this place.

“This is how it is here, unlike the lively outside world. Food is scarce, land is limited, and the creatures living here fight each other. Chaos is the only theme here,” the giant turtle said. “Lord of the Waves, Victor, accidentally obtained that map, which allowed him to leave here and go to the outside world. Without the map’s guidance, even epic-tier beings would be unable to pass through the black curtain and the abyss.”

Ji Chen nodded understandingly. No wonder there were still creatures living in this ghostly place—it turned out they were trapped here.

It was like the elves in the Vale, a mystic realm in the ancient battlefield of the divine war. They had been trapped in that icy wilderness for tens of thousands of years. If it weren’t for Ji Chen going in and bringing them out, they would probably have had to wait for another tens of thousands of years.

“No time to lose. Giant turtle, take me to that artifact of the ocean deity.”

“That artifact is deep inside. Along the way, we will pass through the control zones of many ocean warlords. Be prepared for battle.”

“No problem, I can handle it myself,” Ji Chen said nonchalantly, shaking his head.

The giant turtle didn’t say anything either and began paddling its claws towards the depths of the Sea of Death.

It knew Ji Chen’s strength. With power above epic and the authority of the elements, even in the Sea of Death, where the law of the jungle was taken to the extreme, he had no opponents.

The resources here were simply too scarce. The creatures fought to the death, but in the end, they could only obtain meager resources. The powerful gradually lost strength, while the weak lacked resources for growth.

The overall strength had been declining over the millennia.

The deeper they went into the Sea of Death, the more they could feel its desolation. Everything they saw was filled with decay and decline. But what surprised Ji Chen was that this place seemed to produce some things that the outside world didn’t have.

On an island roughly the size of the giant turtle’s shell, amidst the rugged and broken rocks, stood strange plants that resembled dragon blood trees.

With trunks as sturdy as rocks and branches extending upwards like veins, the densely packed gray-white branches intertwined to form a thorn-like crown..

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However, what grew on the branches were not fruits, but crystals emitting orange light, with roots-like blood vessels inside the crystals.

[Divine Power Tree]

[Special plants nurtured by scattered divine power accumulation]

[Divine Power Crystal]

[Type]: Resource

[Level]: 6

Special crystals nurtured by the divine blood tree, possessing unique energy. Level 6 resource!?

To upgrade troops to Tier 6 and heroes to Legendary Tier, he would usually need Level 5 crystal shards.

But this thing called Divine Power Crystal was actually a level 6 resource! There were hundreds of such trees on this island alone, and the Divine Power Crystals on the trees add up to at least thousands of units!

Wasn’t this world supposed to be very barren?

At this moment, the giant turtle spoke.

“These Divine Power Crystals are the product of the scattered divine power here. They are indeed rare resources, but they also contain the curse of the ocean. For ordinary creatures, they are no different from poison.” Ji Chen had a sudden realization, and as he connected the dots, excitement surged within him.

The Divine Power Crystals were poison to other creatures, but they were nothing to him.

He possessed the power of the ocean, equivalent to having the “antidote”.

He plucked a Divine Power Crystal from the tree, and as soon as his palm touched the surface of the crystal, he could feel a special substance, like a snake, rushing into his flesh along his arm, seemingly wanting to deeply root itself in his body.

However, the substance was dissolved the moment it entered his skin.

At this moment, a prompt sounded in his ear.

“New substance detected: Divine Power Crystal, special troop growth line unlocked in the Military Talent Tree: Divine Power Troop Line.” Ji Chen was stunned for a moment and opened the Military Talent Tree. The tree diagram, obscured by mist, revealed a brand new page, displaying a new tree diagram named Divine Power Troop.

[Divine Power Troop]

[Troops in this line will possess divine power, and all attributes will be multiplied]

[Consuming Divine Power Crystals can transform troops into Divine Power Troops]

[Sea Crystal Wurm (Tier 6, 3 stars): Consuming 250 units of Divine Power Crystals can transform one Sea Crystal Wurm into Divine Power Sea Crystal Wurm (Tier 6, 9 stars)]

[Naga Iron Colossus (Tier 6, 4 stars): Consuming 275 units of Divine Power Crystals can transform one Naga Iron Colossus into Divine Power Naga Iron Colossus (Tier 6, 9 stars)]

Troops with divine power?

Just arrived in the Sea of Death, and it brings him such a surprise?

Ji Chen didn't hesitate.

“Collect all these Divine Power Crystals for me!”

With a command, the heroes on the back of the sea crown turtle immediately began to collect the Divine Power Crystals on the divine power trees, gradually piling up a small mountain on the empty ground.

As for the so-called divine curse?

They weren't afraid at all. Ji Chen had already released the power of the ocean, preventing the curse contained in the crystals from causing any harm to them.

Just like fruit trees, some Divine Power Trees bore many crystals, while others bore fewer. Some trees could yield more than a dozen, while others could yield hundreds, and the sizes varied.

This made Ji Chen ponder.

Soon enough, all the Divine Power Crystals on the island were collected and piled up, radiating a sparkling orange light that was incredibly eye-catching. If this were placed outside, it might be mistaken for a pile of orange gemstones.

Without hesitation, Ji Chen waved his hand, and every single Divine Power Crystal was swiftly collected into his bag.

“Ding- You have obtained five thousand units of Divine Power Crystals.” Five thousand units seemed like a lot, but transforming one Sea Crystal Wyrms would require two hundred and fifty units, and with five thousand five hundred units at most, he could only transform twenty Sea Crystal Wyrms. Transforming all Sea Crystal Wyrms would require nearly three hundred thousand units of Divine Power Crystals!

Forming this Divine Power Troop wasn’t easy.

After pondering for a moment, Ji Chen asked the giant turtle, “Do you know the rules for Divine Power Trees to produce Divine Power Crystals?”

The giant turtle shook its head, “The creatures in the Sea of Death barely have time to stay away from the Divine Power Trees, so how could they study the rules for producing Divine Power Crystals?”

Ji Chen’s expression froze for a moment as if realizing the truth.

But these Divine Power Trees seem to be a specialty of the Sea of Death. If he were to collect all the Divine Power Crystals and still couldn’t transform the troops into Divine Power Troops, wouldn’t that be a waste?

If these Divine Power Trees took too long to produce Divine Power Crystals, with too low sustainability and too little yield, it would greatly limit the potential of the Divine Power Troop.

“My Lord, why not conduct experiments here?” Alice suggested.

From the differences in size and quantity of the born Divine Power Crystals, the Divine Power Trees did bear some resemblance to fruit trees. The problem lay in what nourishment the Divine Power Trees require.

Ji Chen nodded slightly. First, he tried the seawater of the Sea of Death and normal freshwater, but the Divine Power Tree showed no response.

Looking at the rocky texture of the trunk, he stroked his chin. This thing shouldn’t be nurtured by normal substances; it’s probably something else.

Could it be divine power?

But that’s something he couldn’t obtain.

With a spirit of experimentation, Ji Chen tried various resources one by one.

Wood, stone, and the like naturally had no effect.

However, when he threw a few units of crystals, mithril, and adamantium next to the Divine Power Tree, which had been silent and unresponsive, the crown of the tree suddenly swayed. The gray-

white roots pulled the crystals into the soil, and the crystals shrank visibly at the speed of ice cubes, turning into liquid and being absorbed into the trunk.

A small thumb-sized divine power crystal quickly grew on the branches.

As it slowly absorbed, its size also gradually increased until the crystals, mithril, and adamantium were completely absorbed, and the thumb-sized divine power crystal became the size of an index finger.

Ji Chen's eyes were filled with uncontrollable joy.

So, Divine Power Trees could absorb rare resources as nourishment for nurturing divine power crystals!

If crystals and precious metals like mithril could do this, then what about even more advanced spirit crystals?

Eager to test this idea, Ji Chen took out ten units of spirit crystals and threw them all onto the tangled roots of the Divine Power Tree.

As if sensing a more delicious nourishment, several roots of the Divine Power Tree moved, pulling the prey back to the cave to feed the young like a mother beast.

The roots half-buried the spirit crystals into the soil and began to absorb them with a gurgling sound. More divine power crystals emerged from the branches, absorbing energy and growing larger.

However, compared to crystals and mithril, the speed of absorbing spirit crystals was much slower.

Another key point was gained from the experiment: the speed at which the Divine Power Tree absorbed resources was limited, which would affect its ability to nurture divine power crystals.

But this was undoubtedly good news. At least the speed of nurturing divine power crystals was not so slow as to be unacceptable. As long as the number of Divine Power Trees increased and there were sufficient resources for nourishment, they could continuously produce divine power crystals.

Now the only concern was whether the Divine Power Tree could be transplanted to the Crown of the Sea.

When asked about it, the giant turtle still shook its head.

All living beings kept a respectful distance from the Divine Power Tree, so how could they even think about transplanting it?

Were they courting death?

Only Ji Chen, who possessed the power of the ocean and was fearless of ocean curses, dared to entertain such thoughts.

Ji Chen decided to personally conduct an experiment. He instructed a dozen or so Naga Iron Colossus to dig up the soil around a Divine Power Tree. Then, he had them connect a dozen or so Ocean Blood Dragons to the trunk of the Divine Power Tree with ropes and exert force together.

In reality, the Divine Power Tree was not as heavy as its rocky appearance suggested. The dozen or so Ocean Blood Dragons easily lifted it up. Under Ji Chen's command, they transported it onto the back of the giant turtle and temporarily planted it in an open space.

Ji Chen nodded slightly.

“Very good, everyone is in motion. Let’s quickly transport these hundreds of Divine Power Trees onto the turtle’s back!”

“Yes!”

If any living creature from the Sea of Death were to witness this scene, they would surely be shocked.

The Divine Power Tree, regarded as ominous and cursed, was actually being transported by a group of outsiders onto a giant turtle the size of an island as if they were moving treasures.

Even without mentioning anything else, just the hundreds of Divine Power Trees temporarily planted on the turtle’s shell were enough to keep them at a respectful distance.

This was like carrying a bunch of explosives!

Touch it and you die!

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With the giant turtle’s shell, accommodating these hundreds of divine trees was a breeze.

Aside from the towering towers, magical spires, barracks, and other buildings, Ji Chen estimated that he could transplant tens of thousands more onto the turtle’s shell, provided there were enough divine trees available for transplantation.

Ji Chen even had a bold idea: to surround the New Moon Islands with these divine trees, utilizing their curse-inducing properties to form a natural barrier.

He couldn’t wait to see who would dare invade the Crown of the Ocean with such a terrifying curse-laden circle of trees in place!

About five hundred divine trees were transplanted one by one. The once neatly arranged island now bore numerous holes left by the dug-up trees, making it look as unsightly as pockmarks on a face.

Ji Chen gazed at the sizable grove of divine trees on the turtle’s back, nodding with satisfaction.

With a sweep of his hand, he declared, “Let’s continue onward!”

Feeling almost no change in the weight on its back, the giant turtle started to move upon hearing Ji Chen’s command. After turning around, it began to swim deeper into the Sea of Death.

However, the further they ventured, the more something felt amiss.

The silent sea surface rippled slightly, surrounded by utter silence with no sign of any living creatures.

“It’s too quiet,” the giant turtle rumbled. “We’ve passed through several marine warlords’ territories, but we haven’t even encountered a patrol, which doesn’t make sense.

In the past, they were very territorial. Once they detected other warlords' troops crossing their borders, they would send out large numbers of troops to counterattack, often resulting in thousands of casualties. So why is it so peaceful now?"

Ji Chen furrowed his brow slightly. Indeed, the journey had been too quiet. They hadn't encountered even a single living marine creature.

Could something have happened?

At that moment, Patheia, who had been scouting the sky, swiftly descended. As she approached the ground, her pure white wings suddenly spread out behind her, countering the impact of her descent. With a graceful twist, she landed smoothly.

Ji Chen's eyes showed a hint of appreciation.

"Not bad, very skillful."

Upon hearing his words, Patheia, who had already become a qualified warrior after experiencing numerous battles since leaving the Floating Island, blushed at once.

"It's... it's all thanks to your guidance, My Lord!"

Seeing Patheia, who had instantly shed her image as a resolute female warrior and was blushing profusely, Ji Chen couldn't help but smile.

"I can't teach you to fly without wings... Right, did you find anything?"

Turning to business, Patheia regained her composure and said seriously, "Just now, I spotted what seems to be two armies fighting in the northwest direction."

"Fighting?"

"It looks like there's quite a number on both sides, probably totaling four or five thousand."

Ji Chen nodded and didn't hesitate.

"Giant turtle, let's head northwest."

"Understood."

The massive "island" immediately changed direction, moving faster than before.

Soon, everyone saw the two armies fighting. One was composed of shrimp people, while the other consisted of crab people.

They seemed unaware of an approaching "island" and remained focused on their adversaries ahead.

"For the glory of our lord, kill the enemy!!"

"Hail Lord Marxsan!!"

The two armies, guided by different beliefs, continued to charge forward under the command of their respective leaders.

It wasn't until the "island" grew larger and clearer that they realized something was amiss.

“Look, what the heck is that!?”

Boom!

The giant turtle’s massive body rose up, causing a deluge of seawater to cascade down.

Thousands of marine troops were thrown off balance, staggering and looking extremely terrified.

It wasn’t an island but a gigantic turtle with no end in sight!

At that moment, a figure leaped from the turtle’s back. As it was about to hit the sea surface, its speed slowed down as if losing gravity, landing on the water like a falling leaf.

There was no trace of disturbance in the water, not even a splash.

This astonished them.

What kind of power was this?

Ji Chen scanned the marine troops, who had stopped fighting under the intimidation of the giant turtle, and walked over to them.

He said calmly, “Bring out your leaders.”

Realizing that this was an extraordinary individual, the leaders of the two armies quickly emerged from their ranks and approached him, showing reverence and awe.

“Sir, may I ask what brings you here?” the shrimp person leader asked respectfully.

Ji Chen surveyed the shrimp and crab leaders, noticing the reverence and awe in their eyes, but their expressions suggested that they were not seeing humans for the first time.

Could it be that there were other humans in the Sea of Death?

Curiosity arose in his mind as he inquired, “Are there humans here in the Sea of Death?”

Upon hearing this, the shrimp leader and crab leader quickly realized that Ji Chen was from the outside world. The shrimp leader hurriedly replied, “Sir, every year, some humans, elves, and other races from the outside world accidentally enter the Sea of Death, so we aren’t too surprised to see you.”

The shrimp leader quickly added, “Most of those humans and elves who have strayed into our territory have gathered on a group of islands to the north of this sea. They have established their own settlements... It’s not far from the Ocean God’s Shrine. If there are any disturbances there, it’s likely to affect them too.”

Ocean God’s Shrine?

Ji Chen squinted his eyes. It sounded like what the giant turtle had mentioned, the name of the artifact left behind by the Ocean God..

Chapter 794: Hometown Island, Old Duke and Little Gavin

(2)

“Tell me more about the Ocean God’s Shrine.”

The shrimp leader and the crab leader looked at each other, and the latter spoke up, “This isn’t a secret... Two months ago, there was a violent disturbance at the Ocean God’s Shrine, as if some divine object was born. The lords from various regions rushed with their armies to contend for it, leaving only a small number of soldiers behind...”

Everyone suddenly realized that the reason they hadn’t seen the armies of the lords along the way was because of this.

As for the birth of a divine object, Ji Chen quickly thought of whether this was the power of the ocean.

Ji Chen asked the two marine leaders a few more questions. Until he couldn’t get any useful information, Ji Chen quickly returned to the giant turtle and headed towards the Ocean God’s Shrine and the settlements of humans, elves, and other races that had mistakenly entered this area.

Watching the island-like giant turtle gradually drifting away, leaving behind two bewildered marine leaders and two marine armies looking at each other in confusion.

Their eyes were full of confusion.

Disturbed by this diversion, they didn’t know whether to continue fighting or to cease fire.

The power of the ocean was originally intact, but in the battle of the ancient ice field tens of thousands of years ago, its host deity was besieged by several dark deities, splitting into several forces and residing in various divine weapons.

Several divine weapons were taken away by the orderly deities who arrived later, and for various reasons, they were scattered all over the middle of the ocean.

Among them, the most powerful divine weapon, the Ocean God’s Shrine, was used to suppress and repair the severely damaged and chaotic sea area due to the battle of the gods.

To prevent anyone from coveting it, the orderly deity responsible for supervising the operation of the Ocean God’s Shrine, before leaving, triggered another power of the Ocean God’s Shrine — a curse.

Such a curse successfully kept the covetous away for hundreds of thousands of years, but as time passed and the unattended Ocean God’s Shrine gradually lost stability, the residual divine power leaked out, giving birth to byproducts like the Divine Power Tree.

In recent years, it has become increasingly unstable, with every disturbance attracting the attention of the entire sea area...

This was the information provided by the shrimp leader and the crab leader. Its authenticity is difficult to determine, but Ji Chen is inclined to believe it because it aligns with what he already knows.

At that time, among the divine weapons, one of them was a trident, which was left in that icy and desolate ice field, allowing him to obtain it inadvertently and gain a touch of the power of the ocean.

Only the power of the ocean, which is of the same origin, can lift the curse it imposes.

The closer they got to the location of the Ocean God's Shrine, the clearer their perception became. The power of the ocean within their bodies seemed to be calling out, urging them to quickly integrate the power that belonged to them into one.

The Sea of Death didn't seem very large on the main world map, but from the inside, it's several times larger.

Ji Chen speculated that this was because during the battle of the gods, the dispersed divine power disrupted the spatial rules nearby, causing the phenomenon of spatial overlap, making this area as large as half of the southern sea area, extending thousands of miles.

As they continued northward, they gradually began to see traces of some marine races on the road, all seemingly heading towards the Ocean God's Shrine. These marine races had all heard of the disturbances that occurred there.

Curses are terrifying, but danger and opportunity coexist.

That's a divine artifact!

Since so many powerful lords from the Sea of Death had gone there, there must be something good. With a hopeful mentality, they went to see if they could pick up some leftovers.

However, as they were on their way, they suddenly saw a huge giant turtle carrying dense towers passing by not far away. Its limbs required dozens of people to embrace, its head was bigger than a house, and the airflow from its nose stirred up water splashes several meters high.

Around it, there were thousands of powerful armies flying in the air.

They were stunned and dumbfounded.

It wasn't until the giant turtle disappeared in the distance that they snapped back to their senses and felt hesitant.

With such a giant turtle around, what's the point of going there?

Along the way, the lords and armies they encountered all kept their distance.

The Sea of Death was a place full of barbarism and chaos. Killing didn't need any reason, and if one's strength was inferior, they would naturally become prey. They all feared that if the giant turtle didn't like them, it would crush them with one foot.

Fortunately, the journey went smoothly, and Ji Chen soon saw the settlements of humans, elves, and other races.

On this undulating island, stood buildings with distinctive racial characteristics. Although most of the materials were rocks, from the architectural style, it was easy to distinguish where humans lived and where elves lived.

Most of the humans used stone to build, while the elves carved exquisite patterns on the rocks, sculpting decorative sculptures. The dwarves and gnomes carved caves into the mountains.

However, whether it was humans, elves, or dwarves, when they saw the giant turtle, they all showed expressions of fear.

Because the giant turtle was squatting squarely on the edge of the island, with thousands of powerful armies circling around it, glaring at them.

Ji Chen, accompanied by heroes, stepped onto the island. The discerning humans and elves hurriedly ran up, bowing and saluting with the most respectful tone and demeanor.

“Sir, welcome to Hometown Island.”

Ji Chen raised an eyebrow.

“Hometown Island?”

A male elf who looked like the leader smiled bitterly. “Yes, the humans, elves, dwarves, and various other races living here all inadvertently came here but couldn’t return. They named it Hometown Island because they yearn for their hometowns..”

Chapter 795: Hometown Island, Old Duke and Little Gavin (3)

Ji Chen nodded slightly. “That’s quite apt.”

The other human leader cautiously asked, “Forgive me for being presumptuous, but may I inquire, sir, what brings you to Hometown Island?”

There are scarce resources and treasures here, and the crops can barely sustain us, so...”

“I’m here for the Ocean God’s Shrine.”

The human leader’s face lit up with understanding, and he breathed a sigh of relief, saying, “I see, the Ocean God’s Shrine lies about thirty miles to the east of Hometown Island, underwater. You can go straight there.”

During this time, all the ocean lords of the Sea of Death were drawn by that artifact, so it’s not surprising that they were attracted here, but it’s the first time so many armies have mistakenly entered.

Out of curiosity, someone asked, “Sir, I don’t think I’ve ever heard your name mentioned in the Sea of Death...”

“I came here voluntarily from the outside.” Ji Chen said lightly.

The humans, elves, and dwarves present were all stunned.

What a joke. Once you come to the Sea of Death, you can’t leave, and they’ve never heard of anyone willingly coming here in so many years.

Ji Chen didn’t explain much, just said meaningfully, “If there was a chance for you to leave here, what price would you be willing to pay?”

The human leader hesitated for a moment and said without hesitation, “Besides my life and freedom, everything else can be offered as a price.”

The elf leader looked at Ji Chen with suspicion and hesitation and said, “I’m willing to give up everything I have, just to leave this cursed place.”

Ji Chen smiled and didn’t say anything more, turning around and returning to the back of the giant turtle, which slowly retreated into the sea and left.

Not far behind the humans and elves, an old and a young dwarf stood on a rock, watching the giant turtle gradually disappear from sight.

“Grandpa Duke,” the young dwarf suddenly raised his head, his eyes shining with innocence, “If we had such a big turtle, could we leave here? What is the world outside like?”

The scruffy old dwarf with white whiskers smiled kindly, “Perhaps, but Grandpa has been here for half a lifetime and doesn’t know what the outside world has become.”

Little Gavin pouted, his face full of curiosity, “I heard those pointy-eared and human beings say that the outside world has a blue sky, white clouds, a bright sun, and mountains covered with flowers and forests full of birds. I really want to see it with my own eyes!”

Old Duke looked at the eyes full of longing of little Gavin, and for a moment, he couldn’t find the words to say. He also longed for that azure sky.

But he couldn’t be sure if those enemies outside were still looking for him.

And even if the enemies were no longer seeking him, what could he do? His people had already been killed by that infernal demon, and even if he were to leave, he would only be alone.

Rather than continue to suffer, it would be better to stay here until his life ends.

But the only thing he couldn’t bear was what would happen to little Gavin after he died?

He didn’t think those humans and elves would kindly raise a little dwarf!

Old Duke’s thoughts collided in his mind, and his eyes gradually showed a hint of confusion.

As if sensing his emotions, little Gavin tightly held Old Duke’s rough but powerful hand, his eyes earnestly serious.

“Grandpa Duke, Gavin will always be with you.”

Old Duke’s heart trembled fiercely, he forced out a smile and held little Gavin’s small hand with his own, the confusion in his eyes gradually fading, replaced by determination.

“Grandpa will always be with you, and will definitely let you see the blue sky and those white clouds..”

Chapter 796: Chaos Battle

****Deep Sea****

The vast sea basin, originally empty, was now crowded with all sorts of marine creatures. Hundreds of lords from the Sea of Death had gathered here, each with their own army stationed.

They eyed each other warily, on guard against the enemy.

Some lords, feeling their strength insufficient, formed temporary alliances for mutual protection, while others, powerful and disdainful, claimed their own territories.

But their attention, without exception, was focused on a bronze gate embedded in the seabed cliffs in the distance, engraved with mysterious and intricate patterns.

Their eyes were filled with desire, greed, and heavy caution.

It was a relic left behind by the gods—the Ocean God’s Shrine, possessing boundless power, yet cursed with the decay of life. Although it had existed in the Sea of Death for who knows how long, no sea creatures had dared to approach it.

But not long ago, the Ocean God’s Shrine suddenly showed signs of activity, and a voice as majestic as a god’s resounded in their minds simultaneously.

“Through the test, gain the shrine.”

They did not doubt, because the energy required to directly produce a voice in the mind was something no lord could achieve; only an artifact possessed such power!

If they could, as the voice said, pass the test and obtain the Ocean God’s Shrine, then unifying the entire Sea of Death would be within reach.

No sea creature could resist such temptation.

In an instant, hundreds of lords of the Sea of Death, shocked but without hesitation, brought all their armies, intending to seize this divine object.

As one after another prominent sea lord arrived, the Ocean God’s Shrine seemed to sense their presence, and the bronze gate that had not changed for countless years slowly opened inward.

But as if there were an invisible membrane on the threshold, keeping the seawater out, the door revealed a whirlpool of countless stars inside.

Clearly, it was no ordinary space within.

Their hearts gradually heated up, but they did not move, instead vigilantly watching the other lords.

The atmosphere grew increasingly tense, as no lord dared to enter first.

Sometimes, humans prioritize possessions over their own well-being, often to their own detriment. This was applicable even in the Sea of Death. Soon, a bold lord suddenly rushed toward the door with his army.

This was like lighting the fuse of a powder keg; the entire sea basin exploded instantly. Many lords’ eyes turned red, and they subconsciously reached out to stop him from entering, as if letting him enter first would increase their chances of obtaining the shrine.

At first, the irritable lords fought among themselves. Some lords who had remained rational wanted to control the situation, but they were soon affected by the increasingly chaotic scene.

Whether those armies were intentionally engaged in combat or not, a potent spell veered off course and hit a nearby army led by a hesitant lord, immediately injuring hundreds of marine soldiers.

The eyes of this lord turned red instantly.

Damn it, he hadn’t even made a move, and these bastards dared to attack him!?

“Men, let’s take them down!!”

With a command, his army, unable to contain their anger any longer, surged out and joined the melee without hesitation.

One by one, lords joined the melee, and tens of thousands of marine soldiers fought each other.

When Ji Chen arrived here riding on a giant turtle, what he saw was an extremely tragic scene.

The sea was filled with a shocking number of marine corpses, and the smooth sea basin was pockmarked by spells, with several underwater mountains collapsed around.

It was evident that a fierce large-scale melee had taken place.

And even now, some armies were still fighting, each one so bloodthirsty that they didn't even notice Ji Chen and his group's arrival.

"My lord, these lords and armies should have started fighting because the door opened, causing conflicts due to the order of entry..."

Alice pointed to the distant cliff, where the bronze gate, completely open, emitted a vortex of starlight.

Ji Chen nodded slightly. Obviously, some lords had already entered, but he wasn't in a hurry at all.

Only the possessor of the power of the ocean could control the Ocean God's Shrine. Without the power of the ocean, it was impossible to control even a bit. In other words, these lords were just tagging along.

Seeing fewer and fewer soldiers fighting, those lords gradually began to wake up, regretting bitterly as their hearts almost burst with remorse.

They regretted why they had suddenly joined the melee earlier, allowing other lords to slip in.

At this moment, they noticed that at some point, a massive and incomparable giant turtle was quietly lurking on the seabed, surrounded by thousands of powerful armies—Naga Iron Colossus, Ocean Dragons, Leviathans, Heavy Armor Lobster Archers...

All were glaring at them with bated breath.

Inside the transparent dome on the turtle's back, stood towering spell towers and spell cannons, with engraved spell patterns glowing layer by layer...

Their faces suddenly changed.

They quickly made way.

"Your Excellency, please come in."

Their armies also instantly woke up, each one becoming very obedient, even disregarding the enemies who were fighting fiercely just now, all bowing down to show respect.

In the Death Sea, strength alone may not suffice; one must also possess the wisdom to act appropriately. If the powerful were displeased, eliminating them was as straightforward as crushing a worm.

Ji Chen was also surprised by their rapid and unified actions. He showed no reaction, waving his hand indifferently.

They allowed the turtle and the army to pass directly over them.

In the three-dimensional ocean, being swum over from above was a disgrace, but this only applied when both sides were evenly matched, or when the opponent was weaker.

If the opponent's strength far exceeded theirs, it became a sign of respecting the stronger.

As the huge and heavy body of the turtle slowly swam overhead, casting a large shadow, their hearts pounded incessantly, their faces showing some fear.

If this lump of mass were to come crashing down now, they would probably be squashed into a pulp.

Fortunately, the turtle just leisurely swam by, disappearing into the bronze gate with the surrounding powerful army.

As if silenced by the pressure, it took them a while to recover, sighing in relief, each with a lingering look of fear on their faces.

But suddenly, they realized something.

There was a freaking human standing on the turtle's back!

After entering the bronze gate, Ji Chen and his companions found themselves in a strange space, almost like a hidden realm.

The sea was above, and the sky below.

The entire space had flipped upside down.

It felt like there was no gravity here, allowing them to swim in the sky as if they were in the sea, gliding through the clouds above, gazing up at the suspended sea water with a sense of wonder.

Here, the rules of space seemed completely different from the outside world.

Looking around, there were no traces of the other ocean lords who had entered, leaving them unsure if they had gone their separate ways or were lurking in the sea above, waiting to strike.

Ji Chen didn't pay much attention, simply closing his eyes to sense the location of the ocean power.

Without wasting time, they set off immediately.

The space wasn't large, and after traversing the undulating layers of the "white ocean" for several minutes, they came upon a peculiar area.

It was as if a canopy was inverted above, keeping the clouds outside, while within the canopy, a majestic blue palace hung upside down at the intersection of sky and sea.

The shimmering seawater reflected the palace, along with the floating clouds below, creating a beautiful yet somewhat awe-inspiring sight, incredibly eye-catching.

As the turtle slowly passed through this invisible canopy, the surrounding space suddenly changed, rotating 180 degrees, and simultaneously gravity returned swiftly, causing a sudden sense of falling.

Thud—

The turtle plunged directly into the sea, creating waves over a hundred meters high. Even the accompanying army struggled to adapt to this sudden change in space, nearly falling into the sea.

At the moment of the space's rotation, Ji Chen controlled his body and quickly surveyed his surroundings as he regained his composure.

In this area, which seemed either normal or twisted compared to the rest of the space, stood only them and the magnificent palace, exuding a grand and imposing aura.

Without hesitation, Ji Chen slowly reached out his hand.

As the aura of the ocean power emanated, they seemed to be drawn to each other like magnets.

Swish—

The massive palace, no less impressive in size than the turtle itself, soared into the air, gradually shrinking in flight until it became a miniature model, floating in the palm of Ji Chen's hand.

The moment Ji Chen appeared here, the artifact had already sensed the familiar power, returning like a swallow to its nest.

Feeling the familiar and harmonious sensation emanating from the artifact named Ocean Palace, Ji Chen couldn't help but curve his lips into a smile.

This journey had been too smooth, so smooth that it made him feel that acquiring power and treasures in the past had been much more difficult.

Suddenly, several dozen troops entered this area from outside, looking disheveled from the instantaneous reversal of space, each struggling to regain their composure after falling into the sea.

They spotted Ji Chen and the miniature palace floating above his palm.

Their eyes immediately turned red.

They roared.

"He's got the goddamn Shrine, kill him!"

"The Shrine belongs to us, hand it over now!"

Ji Chen glanced at them indifferently, saying calmly, "If you want it, come and get it."

Seemingly provoked by Ji Chen's indifferent attitude, these lords immediately commanded their troops to attack. Although they saw several powerful troops on Ji Chen's side, they had over a dozen lords and over a hundred thousand troops.

A dozen against one—surely they could win?

But they quickly realized the folly of this thought.

Suddenly, the turtle's back erupted with terrifying energy fluctuations, followed by a barrage of intensive spells soaring into the sky and crashing down like meteors, blasting them into disarray.

The army, consisting of thousands, was commanded by several heroes who effortlessly mowed through their enemies. Even the least skilled among them belonged to the legacy tier, while most were legendary, and a few even attained epic status.

It was like being struck down with a crushing blow.

Where on earth had this army come from!?

Chapter 797: Ocean God Shrine

Watching as the army and the Kraken effortlessly controlled the situation, Ji Chen focused his attention on the Ocean God's Shrine, closing his eyes and gradually releasing his spirit.

As his spiritual tentacles touched, his consciousness was sucked into a vortex.

In a trance, a familiar feeling arose in his heart, an experience he had encountered when he touched the Trident in the icy wilderness.

A highly familiar power emanated from the depths of the vortex, faintly calling out like a child crying for its mother. Ji Chen sensed it, releasing the ocean's power from his body generously.

Feeling the familiar aura, the child's cries ceased quickly, merging joyfully with him, expressing decades of grievances and loneliness.

It seemed to blame why it hadn't been found earlier.

Perhaps evolving rudimentary intelligence, the Ocean God's Shrine retained some memories of the divine battle.

In that river of memories, he saw frozen frames.

Hundreds of thousands of years ago, the Ocean God was besieged while protecting the orderly legion's retreat. Ultimately, he fell, exhausting his strength, and his oceanic power divided into four parts.

One part turned into the Trident and remained at the place of the fall.

One part was taken away by the Ocean Goddess to appease the ocean's riot caused by the Ocean God's fall.

One part fled autonomously to a location in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

One part was sealed within the shrine and brought by the orderly gods to the Sea of Death to suppress and repair the damaged space and rules.

This meant that now, there were only three strands of oceanic power left, with two already in Ji Chen's hands.

This absorption and fusion were not as painful and arduous as the first time he absorbed the Trident's oceanic power.

It was like having experience after the initial development and encounter.

The path had been opened, and obstacles had been removed.

Therefore, it was smooth sailing all the way.

Ji Chen felt his consciousness enveloped in warm water, constantly absorbing power. Waves of overflowing energy flowed through his body, breaking through all blockages.

His soul couldn't help but emit a comfortable moan.

At the same time, the believers at the Ocean God's Shrine seemed to sense something, all looking towards the sky with infinite fervor.

Their “deity” was becoming more and more powerful!

A plump elf in a robe who had just stepped off the ship couldn't help but turn to the side, a hint of surprise and doubt in the green eyes under the brim of her hat.

Here, she unexpectedly felt waves of faith emanating from some residents of the Ocean Crown. Subconsciously, she thought it was the believers of that sect praying.

It was strange because this was the Ocean Crown. There shouldn't be any sect that could spread faith here. Moreover, the elves wouldn't allow the Light Church to spread teachings on their territory, let alone this being their headquarters.

But then, she suddenly froze.

A possible guess dawned on her—could the faith of these residents be directed towards him!?

The power of faith could only be absorbed by a deity in the process of igniting divinity and becoming a god. This meant...

Sea of Death.

The momentum around Ji Chen gradually subsided, and he slowly opened his blue eyes, exhaling a sigh of relief.

Alice and other heroes approached, their faces full of respect.

They could clearly feel that Lord Ji had become even more powerful, like an unfathomable ocean, impossible to see through.

“Lord, we have already repelled most of the attackers who actively targeted us, but there are still some we did not pursue in order to protect you.”

Ji Chen nodded slightly. “No worries, I will take care of them.”

With that, the miniature shrine reappeared in Ji Chen's palm once again. This was the appearance of the Ocean God's Shrine, the central control hub of this special artifact.

With a thought, the entire space suddenly trembled. Those ocean lords still present here immediately felt an irresistible force, pushing them out of this space and sending them outside the bronze gate.

The Ocean God's Shrine was not a purely offensive weapon like the Demon Slayer, but a special spatial artifact.

(Ocean God's Shrine]

[Grade]: Divine Artifact (sealed state, unlock all effects and skills when obtaining the position of the Ocean God)

[Effects]: ?Mystic Realm Evolution (contains a miniature mystic realm inside, capable of accommodating living creatures)

<2) (Sealed, unknown)

[Skills]: ?Shrine Suppression (drives the shrine with supreme ocean power, forcibly suppressing living beings within a certain range)

? (Sealed, unknown)

[Special]: This weapon can only be used by the owner of the ocean power.

[Potential]: The Ocean God's Shrine can be transformed into a divine country seed, and resources can be spent to evolve it into a divine country.

[Crafted by the last generation of the Ocean God using countless ocean treasures and materials, refined over tens of thousands of years, this spatial artifact of the mystic realm type possesses immeasurable evolutionary potential.]

At this point, Ji Chen's power had not yet truly reached the level of a deity, especially since he had not fully collected all the ocean powers, resulting in most of the shrine's effects and skills being in a sealed state. However, the power he displayed at this moment was still astonishing.

Especially the Mystic Realm Evolution. This could be deduced from the special space they were in. This place was the miniature mystic realm inside the Ocean God's Shrine, proving its value by its ability to accommodate living creatures.

In simpler terms, this was like an extra-large backpack, capable of holding a large amount of supplies, food, and so on, solving the logistical issues of the entire army in one go.

On a larger scale, if the army was placed here in advance and released at certain moments, such as suddenly releasing them behind enemy lines, it would be a fatal blow!

Even if epic-tier forces were suddenly surrounded by a large number of sixth or even seventh-tier troops, they would feel extremely troubled.

Digging deeper, this meant...

But what surprised Ji Chen even more was the potential line. The fact that the Ocean God's Shrine could also be used as a divine country seed.

A divine country was the exclusive property of a deity!

Even a deity must expend immeasurable energy and resources to cultivate a divine country seed, and then invest further resources comparable to nurturing the seed in order to build their own divine country.

The Ocean God's Shrine can serve as a seed, paving a smooth path for him to build his divine country after becoming a deity in the future.

This is not just making a fortune; it's making so much that one doesn't even recognize it anymore!

Ji Chen made an effort to restrain his almost cracking smile, waving his hand confidently.

"Let's go!"

In the basin.

More than forty surviving ocean lords remained here, staring tightly at the bronze gate.

Their faces were filled with various expressions.

Just a moment ago, they were desperately searching for that artifact, only to be abruptly thrown out by an irresistible force.

Amidst the shock, there was also puzzlement.

Could it be that another lord had already obtained the artifact?

Therefore, they did not leave but stayed here, waiting for this lord to come out before launching a collective attack, continuing the struggle.

That was a divine artifact!

No matter what, they had to strive for it. If things didn't seem right later, they could always flee.

As for the risks involved? These lords, whose eyes were blinded by greed, had long actively pushed them to the back of their minds.

These ocean lords remained outside, eagerly watching the vortex inside the door, ready to attack at any moment.

The vortex flickered slightly.

The next moment, a massive object suddenly appeared outside the portal. They instinctively wanted to command their armies to launch an attack, but when they saw clearly what it was, they all froze in shock.

Fear crept into their eyes.

It's such a huge turtle head!

Chapter 798: More Divine Power Trees!

The sea clan lords present all sucked in a cold breath simultaneously.

This turtle was just too massive, resembling an island in size. The spell towers erected on its back and the arrow towers equipped with alchemical machinery emitted a lethal sense of danger.

Surrounded by watchful armies, the aura they exuded made their hearts skip a beat.

Soon, some lords recognized this giant turtle.

A sea salamander-shaped sea clan lord exclaimed in disbelief, "Isn't this the giant turtle that belongs to Victor, the Lord of the Waves? How could it appear here? Could it be that he obtained the artifact!?"

Victor's territory was adjacent to his own, and just a few months ago, he had joined forces with several other lords to expel him and divide his territory.

Without a territory, it was impossible to acquire resources, let alone muster such a powerful army or build so many spell towers.

He had once thought that Victor, who had been expelled, was long dead. But unexpectedly, the giant turtle, which had always been by his side, appeared outside this divine shrine.

The sea salamander lord raised his head to look up, and his six round white eyes tried to find Victor, but instead, they saw a figure they had never expected.

A human!?

The ocean belonged to the sea clans, a fact that had remained unchanged for hundreds of thousands of years.

Although humans and other races appeared to occupy the majority of islands and land on the surface of the sea, they only had access to a tiny fraction of the ocean's resources. The core and primary resources were all hidden beneath the rolling waves.

Even the ocean gods of the Ocean Divine Lineage, who resided in the high heavens, were mostly born of the sea clans, or at least had some connection to them.

Only the sea clans, who were born, grew up, lived, and died in the ocean, could glimpse and reap the most precious resources of the sea.

The most fundamental of these resources, the layers of seawater, acted as a barrier, making it difficult for other races to stay for too long.

For hundreds of thousands of years after the Divine War, the sea clans, despite suffering great trauma, were still protected by the ocean, facing no external crises and continuing to thrive at a steady pace.

Their distribution and power were extremely scattered, with no signs of unification.

On the mainland, for hundreds of thousands of years, one fallen kingdom after another was destroyed by rising resistance forces. These resistance forces would change their names and establish new kingdoms on the ruins of the old ones, only to gradually decline after one or two hundred years and be destroyed again by newly emerged resistance forces.

This cycle continued endlessly, shaping the course of history.

As the saying goes, when a country is invincible abroad, it is doomed to perish at home.

Hundreds of thousands of years ago, the sea clans suffered a sudden blow from the invading demon army during the Divine War, causing their once glorious oceanic kingdoms to be almost completely destroyed.

Now, they seemed to understand the method of resistance — as long as they did not have an oceanic kingdom, they could not be destroyed.

In the present Mid Ocean, there were only scattered sea clan tribes and settlements, but not even a regional oceanic kingdom.

At this moment, the appearance of a human in this deep sea brought them a shock comparable to seeing a god.

Especially when it seemed that he had obtained the artifact that belonged to them.

“How could there be a human here? Could it be from that island?”

“Damn it, I said I wanted to kill those humans and elves. Now look, a human has obtained the divine object that belongs to our sea clan!”

“We can't let him leave here alive. Kill him and seize the artifact!”

For these sea clan lords who were accustomed to ruling and dominating, the sight of someone from a different race made them all restless, their eyes filled with killing intent.

Although this turtle was enormous, the sea salamander lord had fought with it when he expelled Victor.

The voices of agreement gradually increased, seemingly giving him more courage.

Maintaining a calm demeanor, he coldly addressed Ji Chen.

“Human, this divine artifact belongs to our oceanic race. Surrender the Ocean God’s Shrine, and we may let you leave!”

Ji Chen looked at the somewhat legendary and flabby salamander speaking to him in such a manner. He almost wanted to laugh at the audacity but couldn’t be bothered with playing along with such a pretense.

Raising his right hand, a miniature shrine appeared on the palm of his hand. The bronze gate behind him instantly disintegrated, turning into a stream of blue light that flowed into the shrine, leaving a door-shaped depression on the rock wall.

The moment the miniature shrine appeared, the eyes of all the oceanic lords present suddenly lit up with intense desire, as if the ocean itself was about to boil over with their burning greed and longing.

They wished nothing more than to possess it.

The Ocean God’s Shrine!

A divine artifact left behind by the gods!

At this moment, they were completely consumed by madness.

But before they could do anything, ripples visible to the naked eye suddenly spread out from the miniature model. In an instant, these oceanic lords felt as if a mountain had been pressed down upon them, immobilizing them at the bottom of the sea, rendering them unable to even move a finger.

Their eyes cleared instantly, replaced by expressions of fear.

[?Ocean God’s Suppression (Using the supreme power of the ocean, the Ocean God’s Shrine forcefully suppresses living beings within a certain range)]

Ji Chen looked at the prostrate oceanic lords with satisfaction and nodded.

The Ocean God’s Shrine skill was somewhat similar to the Ocean Domain, both creating a domain to suppress enemies. However, the former’s effect was more brutal and domineering, capable of forcibly subduing enemies..

Chapter 799: More Divine Power Trees! (2)

In front of him, this group of oceanic lords, at the lowest tier, had absolutely no opportunity to showcase their power. They were utterly powerless, akin to pigs awaiting slaughter in a pen.

“Lord, have mercy!!”

“Please forgive our previous disrespect, whoever possesses the divine artifact shall have it. Since you have obtained it, we will no longer covet it!”

“Forgive me, Lord, I will serve you as my master in the future!”

In a matter of seconds, these oceanic lords swiftly transitioned from arrogance to pleading for mercy, displaying a remarkable level of adaptability and skill in changing their demeanor.

But Ji Chen had no intention of killing them either. It would be too wasteful to directly kill this considerable force.

Perhaps it could develop into a trump card, and one can never have too many of those.

Amidst the nervous gaze of the many oceanic lords, Ji Chen pondered for a moment, his expression indifferent.

Then, calmly and unhurriedly, he said, “I’ll give you a chance. In the future, if I need it, you must come and support me unconditionally.”

They hesitated for a moment, their expressions reluctant, but soon some lords immediately agreed.

“I am willing, as long as you give the order, I will definitely mobilize the army to support you!!”

Ji Chen smiled as if satisfied. “Very well, then you shall start the initiation of the contract.”

The lord was suddenly at a loss. He had just wanted to cope for a while and disappear when it was safe, but why did he have to sign a contract now?

But since the words had been spoken, refusing again might cause big problems. It was not a wise choice to provoke this human.

He could only nod with a mournful face.

Ji Chen didn’t play any tricks with this contract. It was simply what he said: they would only need to support him once when necessary.

This type of contract was not like the master-servant contract signed with Luo Yang and others. It was a verbal contract, and although it was only verbal, it was protected and maintained by the rules of the world.

Violation could result in stagnation in one’s power at best and a decline in strength at worst.

No one would violate such contracts that would bestow severe consequences regardless of their tiers.

The oceanic lord who was the first lucky one soon finished signing the verbal contract, and Ji Chen released him.

The oceanic lord, with a depressed expression, bowed to him and then left this sad place with his army without hesitation.

The divine artifact was not obtained, but someone had freeloaded a chance to mobilize their forces. What a loss!

Seeing Ji Chen keeping his promise, other lords also reluctantly signed contracts and left with a heart full of grievances.

More than fifty oceanic lords present, almost the strongest group in the Sea of Death, without exception, offered a chance to mobilize their forces.

This force was considerable, stronger than the reinforcements against Balzarna's Dragon Island and Deep Sea Dragon Whale. Although the quantity might be insufficient, the quality was not low.

Just the Legendary tier alone accounted for more than half.

These oceanic lords, in the extremely harsh environment of the Sea of Death, where resources were extremely scarce, and where they had to survive amidst the pressure of intrigue and killing, had tempered an extremely tenacious strength.

According to the giant turtle, the reason for this was the severe resource depletion over the past ten millennia, resulting in extreme barrenness in the area. Ten thousand years ago, the sea lords in the Sea of Death were much stronger, with many in the legendary tiers and even epic tiers were as common as everyday occurrences.

It was a pity that they were all trapped in this narrow Sea of Death. Otherwise, the entire Mid-Ocean might have undergone a thorough reshuffle.

As the last sea lord left with a complex expression, Ji Chen had collected a total of fifty-five contracts from the sea lords, turning them into a powerful card.

This trip went smoothly. Ji Chen returned to the surface without hesitation, searching for more divine power trees.

After obtaining the Ocean God's Shrine, the second goal was to find enough divine power trees.

The appearance of divine power trees seemed to have no pattern, and the underwater sea races rarely came to the surface. Most of the time, they live in the sea, so they don't know which islands had a large number of divine power trees.

The divine power tree forest they encountered before was already the largest they found along the way. The others were just scattered with a few trees. So far, they had found less than a thousand trees, far from the ten thousand they needed.

After some thought, Ji Chen decided to return to Hometown Island. There were many terrestrial races there, and they should be familiar with the islands for resource collection.

The humans and elves on Hometown Island were quite surprised when they returned for the second time, especially considering their attempt to seize the Ocean God's Shrine.

However, they still maintained a respectful demeanor outwardly.

Both the sea races and Ji Chen were entities they couldn't afford to provoke, and they had to tread carefully.

When Ji Chen expressed his intention to return, they were also very surprised.

After all, divine power trees carried curses. Would they dare to approach them instead of avoiding them?

Wasn't this the calmness of a strong individual?

“Lord, when we sailed through the Sea of Death to collect resources, we did find many islands with divine power trees, but most of them only had a dozen or so,” the human leader shook his head. “And in most cases, we avoided them, not daring to approach them. We also don’t know if there are more divine power trees on some larger islands.”

The elf leader nodded. “The growth of divine power trees has no pattern as if it were the will of the gods themselves... But we have encountered the largest forest of divine power trees, with about a thousand trees, and quite a few divine power crystals.”

Ji Chen didn’t hesitate and immediately said, “Tell me the exact location, and I’ll exchange resources for it.”

The elf leader’s face lit up. Was there such a good deal? He was already prepared to provide the information for free.

He quickly responded, “It’s on a small group of islands about one hundred and fifty to one hundred and sixty miles west of Hometown Island.”

Ji Chen nodded slightly, waved his hand, and suddenly a mountain-like pile of resources appeared on the ground, including the most urgently needed food, textiles, freshwater, as well as some rare resources and weapon equipment.

Among them were even some food seeds, which were the most desired items for them.

The elves couldn’t contain their excitement, openly displaying their joy. With so many supplies, their days ahead would be much better, especially with those seeds. Using natural elf spells, they could maximize the survival rate and continuously obtain seeds to form a virtuous cycle.

Seeing the elves receiving so many resources, the human leader couldn’t sit still either and quickly revealed the information he knew about the divine power trees.

“Lord, we once encountered an island with many divine power trees...”

Seeing the humans trying to compete for business, the elf leader also became anxious and revealed everything he knew without reservation, hoping to gain more resources.

Later on, not only humans and elves but even other races with relatively smaller populations on Hometown Island joined in.

Although the number of divine power trees in each location wasn’t large, apart from the thousands mentioned by the elves initially, most had only a dozen or so. However, there were also quite a few with around a hundred.

Many a little makes a mickle.

When the data was added up, it amounted to about four to five thousand trees, in addition to the approximately six thousand from before.

Ji Chen dispatched teams of a hundred people each to the coordinates provided by Hometown Island to transport the divine power trees.

Thus, the races on Hometown Island could see formidable troops helping with ropes, carrying mature and immature divine power trees, and transplanting them onto the back of the giant turtle.

The giant turtle's face contorted as it watched the divine power trees being sent onto its back, feeling somewhat constipated.

Having been previously cursed, it now had so many cursed trees planted on its back. Although protected by the power of the ocean, it still felt uneasy.

With four thousand trees remaining until the goal of ten thousand was reached, Ji Chen pondered where to find this remaining portion.

Walking from amidst the humans and elves on Hometown Island were an elderly and a young dwarf.

Ji Chen glanced at them, a hint of surprise flashing in his eyes.

That scruffy old dwarf turned out to be an epic-tier powerhouse?

Chapter 800: Dwarf in Black Iron Fortress

City Hall.

"Where is your lord? I need to find Ji Chen to discuss matters. Tell him that guests from the Elven Empire have come to visit."

The municipal staff spoke in a plain yet polite tone, repeating the same template response as before without any difference in their demeanor.

"Your request, esteemed elf, has been relayed to City Hall, and I have also informed Lord Wilus of this matter. Please be patient and await our notification."

Listening to this repetitive response, identical to the previous inquiries, Herli clenched her teeth in frustration. However, she dared not erupt in anger and could only leave in a huff.

Several days ago, she had come to the Crown of the Ocean from the Elven Empire at the behest of Queen Laphia, disguised as an elven merchant, to meet the young lord of the Crown of the Ocean, known for his exceptional strength.

In her expectations, she would receive a warm welcome upon her arrival and be received by Ji Chen's side as an honored guest.

But in reality, far from receiving a warm welcome, she had been turned away multiple times at City Hall. The humans' responses were either to wait patiently or to go back and wait for a notification. However, she couldn't reveal her identity and could only swallow this humiliation with tears.

She would remember this grudge!

Herli was the High Priestess of the Elven Empire and a close friend of the Elven Queen. Yet, she was treated in such a manner in a small territory.

When she finally met Ji Chen, she would have some choice words for the humans!

Returning to the temporary residence at the inn, Herli locked the door of her guest room and revealed her true elven form. She collapsed onto the relatively soft bed, her mind emptying momentarily.

But then, as if remembering something, she sat up and retrieved a spatial treasure, pouring out the coins inside onto the bed.

“One gold coin, two gold coins... only three gold coins left!?”

Herli gingerly picked up the coins with her fair fingers, realizing the significance of these seemingly insignificant pieces of metal. Her beautiful face gradually displayed a mix of shock and despair.

Nine gold coins – barely enough to survive for a week here!

In the Elven Empire, she was the lofty High Priestess, born into a noble priestly family, never having to worry about money, nor understanding the significance of wealth.

This led to her leaving the empire without even considering taking some money with her, only relying on the small amount of coins she had stored in the spatial treasure.

If she could have met Ji Chen upon arrival, those remaining coins could have covered the cost of her return ticket.

But now, not only had she not met the main person, but she had spent most of her time here cooped up in this cramped room, eating the poorest quality food to save money.

If Ji Chen didn't come to see her soon, she would starve to death here!

With a mournful expression, Herli put the coins back into the spatial treasure, already considering some unconventional means to survive.

It was said that there was an elven tribe settled in the Crown of the Ocean. If things got really bad, she could go to these fellow elves and try to garner some sympathy, perhaps mooch off them for food and drink?

Hometown Island.

Seeing the old and young dwarves who emerged from between humans and elves, both the humans and elves were surprised. The human leader couldn't help but exclaim in astonishment.

“Old Duke, why are you here? Quickly go back. You shouldn't offend the noble.”

The elven leader also advised, “Please return quickly. The noble is searching for the Divine Power Tree.”

Judging by the tone of the two leaders, this old dwarf seemed to hold some sway among both humans and elves.

The old dwarf known as Old Duke shook his head, holding the hand of the young dwarf, his face seemingly hesitant.

Ji Chen gestured for them to stop their persuasion. “Who is this dwarf?”

The human leader hurriedly spoke up.

“Milord, we all call him Old Duke. He’s the one who has lived on Hometown Island the longest. Before any of us arrived here, Old Duke was already living here.”

“Old Duke’s forging skills are quite good. Usually, we gather metal from outside and he would forge them into various tools, farming implements, and weapons. Everyone respects him.”

“The little dwarf is named Gavin. He’s the child of a dwarf couple who got lost in the Sea of Death a few years ago. However, they were killed by sea beasts during a voyage, and Old Duke adopted little Gavin left behind.”

The human leader paused, showing a hint of confusion. “Usually, Old Duke stays in his workshop. I don’t know why he’s come out today. I hope this hasn’t offended you, and we’ll persuade him.”

Ji Chen waved his hand indifferently, his expression slightly changing. It seemed that these humans and elves were unaware of the dwarf’s strength.

“No worries, I’ll ask personally.”

The human and elf leaders glanced at each other. “Yes!”

Ji Chen walked over with his hands behind his back. Little Gavin hid behind Old Duke, looking somewhat frightened. “Grandpa, this human seems scary...”

Old Duke patted his head, comforting him. “It’s okay, Grandpa will protect you.”

Hearing what the little dwarf said, Ji Chen couldn’t help but smile wryly, turning his head to ask.

“Alice, do I look scary?”

Alice blinked her big eyes, looking at Ji Chen’s fair and smooth skin, his well-defined features emitting an aura of authority rather than anger, and gently shook her head.

“Milord, you’re not scary at all..”