

Ocean Lord 821

Chapter 821: Authority Allocation

That human actually won?

The five dark gods actually lost?

Even though they were just five incarnations of the gods, the scene of Ji Chen standing tall in the world still made them feel incredibly horrified.

The Lord of Decay was already consumed by fear, his mind swirling with confusion, unwillingness, and disbelief at the present circumstances.

How could a human defeat five god-possessed incarnations?

It was like the first god war tens of thousands of years ago when the God of the Ocean fought against several dark gods, and the current situation was so similar.

But this human had accomplished the feat of fighting five on his own. How amazing.

Not only were the five god incarnations he painstakingly crafted completely wiped out but his carefully designed traps were also shattered.

Infinite resentment surged in his heart.

Why could this human possess three authorities and rival the gods?

It should be noted that he had been in this world for less than two years, whereas he had struggled to survive in the chaotic abyss, a hellish place, for thousands of years before he reached this state today.

It took him a thousand years to grow from a humble lesser demon to a bottom-tier demon, then another thousand years to gradually establish himself, followed by another thousand years to rise from a bottom-tier demon to a high-tier demon.

Finally, it took him twice as long as before to achieve his current position as a demon king.

He had endured inhuman torture and suffering, and experienced countless bloody battles and vicious conspiracies, just to get to where he was now.

But despite all that, he didn't even have one authority, not even one!

The twisted mind of the Lord of Decay became even more twisted at this moment, wishing to kill Ji Chen with his own hands.

However, when he inadvertently met Ji Chen's eyes, which were filled with a hint of killing intent, he suddenly sobered up.

His hands and feet turned cold.

The anger, resentment, and frustration that filled his heart dissipated like a deflated balloon in an instant, and then he fled without looking back.

But before he could escape far, one thunderbolt after another struck him down, annihilating his body and soul together into ashes.

The Lord of Decay among the five demon kings was dead!

Other demons finally collapsed at this sight, fleeing in all directions, and the Ocean Crown Legion once again entered the scene, slaughtering these demons who had completely lost their will to fight.

Ji Chen just watched indifferently, without intervening, focusing his attention on the five orbs floating not far away, remnants left behind after the defeat of the five incarnations of the gods.

He beckoned them over, each floating in front of him.

The five orbs were of different colors, each emitting different fluctuations, some faintly murmuring words, some burning flames inside, and some had no prominent features at all.

Ji Chen concentrated, carefully sensing it, and soon a look of realization dawned in his eyes.

These were all incomplete authorities, more accurately, they were part of the authorities of the five god-possessed incarnations.

The five god incarnations were specially made to contain a part of the power of the gods, which naturally included the power of authority.

Perhaps it was because Ji Chen's combined power of three authorities was too powerful, the instant eruption of power far exceeded their imagination, causing the five dark gods to be destroyed before they could withdraw from the god incarnations, leaving behind some of their power.

These five orbs were respectively a part of the Decay Authority, Inferno Authority, Sinister Tongue Authority, Fury Authority, and Gigantic Force Authority.

After Ji Chen figured it out, he couldn't help but feel a bit of surprise.

Even if the authorities were incomplete, they were still authorities, the most top-tier power in the world, second only to complete authorities.

More importantly, these were taken from the dark gods, so their authority was no longer complete, resulting in a significant decrease in their power.

This might be good news for the orderly gods.

As for how to deal with these five incomplete authorities, he didn't intend to occupy them himself. Honestly, he looked down on these somewhat evil and dark types of authorities.

Whether it was the authority of the ocean, thunder, or storm, they were either orderly powers or natural forces. The cost of absorbing these incomplete versions was too great, and the power that could be obtained was too little.

Obviously, the cost-effectiveness was higher for Alice and the others.

After a moment of contemplation, he gradually began to consider.

The Inferno Authority could spray flames that burned both the body and soul, which would greatly enhance Benbo's power when mixed with dragon breath.

The Sinister Tongue Authority could enchant the mind with evil language, and manipulate the body, and it was a power that was extremely compatible with Anina.

The Gigantic Force Authority could crush enemies with pure strength, primitive, direct, simple, and violent, extremely suitable for Anina's positioning.

The Fury Authority could disturb the formation of enemies by using the emotions deep within every living being, invisible and intangible, suitable for Herald's straightforward style.

Soon, four authorities had found their owners. As for the last one, the Decay Authority, Ji Chen hesitated a bit, unsure who to give it to among the heroes.

Kraken already had the Decay Authority, and he hadn't fully mastered it yet. Having another Decay Authority would just be icing on the cake, not very meaningful, and none of the other heroes were particularly compatible with this authority.

After thinking for a moment, Ji Chen decided to temporarily set it aside for preservation.

The battle below quickly ended, and the demons who had lost their will to fight were soon slaughtered, adding another achievement to the Crown of the Ocean.

He called the heroes over one by one and bestowed the authorities upon them. The rewarded heroes were all overjoyed, but they accepted them without any hesitation.

Their primary desire, standing behind the unquestionably loyal lord, was to elevate their own power, ensuring they kept pace with the lord, as none wished to lag behind their allies or adversaries.

Chapter 822: Authority Allocation (2)

Among them, Ji Chen was most looking forward to Alice and the Authority of the Sinister Tongue. The compatibility between the two was exceptionally high, and he was curious about how Alice's abilities would evolve after mastering the Sinister Tongue Authority.

Could one control the bodies and souls of living beings with just a word spoken? However, the Sinister Tongue Authority was called "Sinister" for a reason. Being able to control it smoothly without losing one's mind, and even transforming the dark aspect of the "Sinister tongue" into the orderly aspect of the "holy language," depended on Alice's own willpower and strength.

Numerous armies and heroes returned to the back of the giant turtle, slowly disappearing beneath the rolling waves, leaving behind a chaotic mess at the headquarters of the decayed legion.

Two days later, many demon generals and commanders from the current line returned to the Mordor Strait. What they saw was a land that looked like it had been struck by meteorites. The human buildings, although damaged, had been preserved due to demand, but only the foundations remained, along with some debris. The towering demon war structures had completely disappeared, leaving behind only craters.

The supreme commander of the decayed legion, the Decay Lord, was nowhere to be found.

At this time, news came from the orderly camp that their master, the Decay Lord, had been slain, and the slayer was none other than Ji Chen, who had a record of slaying two demon lords!

Once again, the world trembled.

No one had expected that Ji Chen, who was thought to have been staying in his territory all this time, would quietly leave the New Moon Islands and go to the Mordor Strait in the western continent, where he casually slew another demon lord!

How did he do it?

Are demon lords so easy to kill?

As many questions lingered in the minds of the natives and players, they began to form a stereotypical impression of Ji Chen.

– Demon Lord Slayer.

Out of five demon lords, Ji Chen had killed three, almost wiping out an entire family.

Yet, they couldn't help but be excited. Every time Ji Chen slew a demon lord, it represented a tremendous victory. With the loss of the ruling Decay Lord, the decayed legion was leaderless, and the situation in the western continent would soon see a turning point.

And the balance between order and evil would once again tip.

But the impact of Ji Chen's actions this time went beyond that. Not only did he slay the Decay Lord, but he also defeated five godly incarnations, dealing significant damage to the dark spirits of the five godly incarnations.

Losing authority, especially when unable to retract it in time, dealt them a heavy blow. As their core power, any damage to authority would significantly weaken their overall power.

Facing ordinary creatures might not matter much, but when facing divine enemies of the same level, such damage could create a significant gap.

Such a gap gradually began to have some impact on the second divine war between the orderly and dark spirits.

In a vast divine realm that was as large as a small world.

Radiant and gentle light enveloped everything, and the air was filled with sacred prayers. The noble and supreme goddess sat on a divine throne formed by light.

"Tinsley, how's the battle going?"

"Under the goddess's crown, the situation is gradually improving. Recently, I don't know why, but the intensity of the dark spirits' attacks on the divine realm has decreased significantly."

The demigod follower Tinsley bowed her head respectfully and reported.

The light goddess, with her face veiled in light gauze, expressed slight surprise.

"Oh? Could it be that they see my divine realm as too difficult to conquer, so they've redirected their strength to attack other divine realms?"

Tinsley shook her head. "I've reached out to other divine realms, but they haven't noticed any escalation in the attacks. It seems the dark spirits are still focused on entangling us, just as they were

before. However, the intensity of attacks on certain individual divine realms has noticeably decreased.

“I speculate that this may be related to the main world. Perhaps you can listen to the prayers of the believers in the main world to learn some information.”

Although the dark spirits used chaotic energy to block the transmission of divine oracles to the orderly divine realm, they could still unilaterally receive prayers from some believers using the power of faith.

The light goddess slightly closed her eyes to perceive. Suddenly, a hint of astonishment flashed through her originally calm eyes, followed by a curve at the corner of her mouth.

“Interesting.”

What did she hear?

Another demon lord nurtured by the dark gods was slain, and once again, it was by that human.

She had noticed the human named Ji Chen long ago when the three sub-sects under the Light Church were exposed for betraying the Orderly Divine Lineage and joining hands with the demons. Ji Chen had exposed the betrayal of the three sub-sects.

Through fragmentary information brought by the prayers of her followers, she became aware of the existence of this human.

Then, gradually, she learned of his series of feats, first slaying the Dreadlord, then the Undead Lord. Impressive achievements.

And now, in such a short span of time, he had slain the Decay Lord.

To possess the power to slay demon lords at such a young age was truly remarkable.

If the Light Goddess knew that Ji Chen had also taken down five Divine Descendents, she might be even more astonished.

The Light Goddess contemplated the current situation in the main world. Three out of the five demon lords were already gone, and the tide of their attack would soon show signs of ebbing. They might even soon find themselves at a disadvantage.

Their plan to exterminate the Orderly Divine Lineage by invading the main world and slaughtering its followers would gradually crumble. During this period, with the counterattack of the Orderly Divine Lineage, the evil races that believed in the dark gods would also suffer heavy losses.

With the deaths of their followers and the weakening of their faith, it would be the dark gods who had to worry about the decline of their power.

This was a rare opportunity, a perfect moment for their counterattack!

Seeing the changes in the goddess's expression from the corner of her eye, Tinsley didn't understand but dared not ask, merely bowing her head in wait.

“Tinsley.”

“Here.”

“Tell the other divine realms that our time for counterattack is imminent.”

“...Yes!”

Not only did the Light Goddess learn about the events in the main world through the prayers of her followers, but also, within each of the divine realms of the Orderly Divine Lineage, each orderly god more or less knew about the situation in the main world and the radiant figure of Ji Chen shining brightly during this period.

The name Ji Chen gradually entered the sight of both the orderly gods and the dark gods.

Some gods were astonished, some were intrigued, and some held expectations.

But there were also gods who felt disgust, hatred, anger, wishing to obliterate his divine soul entirely, such as the Decay God who had suffered a major setback not long ago, among other dark gods.

Among the orderly gods, the Elven Mother Goddess, one of the most powerful deities, couldn't help but laugh lightly upon hearing this news.

Her laughter was a hundred times more melodious than the most beautiful music in the world as if imbued with the power of life itself. Within her divine realm, flowers suddenly bloomed everywhere, and lush green grass spread from the vine-draped divine throne to the farthest reaches.

“This human has indeed surpassed my expectations a bit.”

With snow-white delicate feet treading on the verdant grass, the Elven Mother Goddess stood up, shaking her head with a smile.

From being a mere mortal in the main world to touching the boundary of divinity and embarking on the path to godhood, this human had taken less than two years.

Two years, to a deity, was no more than a short nap, yet it had brought him to his current state.

Even with her assistance, this would have been impossible.

Or rather, it would have been impossible for him to grow at this pace according to expectations.

This human, unable to be detected or predicted even by [the authority of foresight], was like delving into a quagmire, with no glimpse of the foreseeable future.

She was the most powerful of the orderly gods, yet even she couldn't see through him. There was only one answer.

That was, there was a force of higher dimensionality interfering and obstructing all gazes directed towards this human.

The Elven Mother Goddess gazed thoughtfully at the sky, her vision seemingly penetrating her divine realm and reaching into the depths of the void.

This force was probably closely related to those who helped the dark gods break their seal, deliberately causing this divine war.

Perhaps through this human, she could unravel it all.

Chapter 823: Authority Control Progress, Another Divine Power Troop

On their journey back, the giant turtle emitted powerful bursts of energy one after another.

“Herald (Level 63) has mastered the [Wrath Authority], currently at 11% mastery.”

“Benbo (Level 61) has mastered the [Inferno Authority], currently at 14% mastery.”

“Anina (Level 62) has mastered the [Giant Strength Authority], currently at 15% mastery.”

These three legendary heroes gradually mastered the incomplete authorities bestowed upon them by Ji Chen.

Their mastery progress ranged from 11% to 15%, greatly enhancing their strength. They advanced several levels, transitioning from their fifties to the sixties.

Their combat prowess increased several times over.

Previously, Kraken had acquired a significant portion of the Decay Authority, reaching 18% mastery. This raised Kraken’s level to an impressive 65.

Ji Chen had high expectations for the combination of Alice and the [Sinister Tongue Authority].

“Anina (Level 67) has mastered the [Sinister Tongue Authority], currently at 25% mastery.”

With a mastery progress of 21%, Anina surpassed other heroes at Level 67, almost reaching the legendary level cap of 69. Excluding Thotmudo, Theod, and Isaiah, she became the most powerful hero unit of the Ocean Crown.

A quarter mastery of the Sinister Tongue Authority meant a significant setback for the Sinister God, even a substantial blow to its vitality.

If Ji Chen’s confrontation with the avatars of the dark gods was their initial clash, then the descent of these five avatars marked their second encounter. Once more, Ji Chen emerged triumphant!

Nora, the Starlight God who had silently observed the proceedings, experienced the most intense emotional fluctuations.

In her eyes, it was inconceivable for mortals to defeat five avatars containing dark gods. Seeing Ji Chen not only stand his ground but also display an eager demeanor was bewildering.

In her view, the idea of defeating five avatars, each harboring dark gods, with mere mortal strength was unfathomable.

However, when Ji Chen struggled to withstand the attacks of various authorities and was injured by the Mighty Strength God’s punch into the sea, Nora thought it was over.

If Ji Chen were defeated, she feared she wouldn’t be able to escape.

But just when despair set in, Ji Chen emerged again, unleashing three different intermediate authorities in succession, all ranking within the top twenty.

Even the Ocean Authority surpassed the formidable Thunder Authority.

The entire divine realm was stunned.

What kind of family possessed so many powerful authorities?

When these three authorities combined to unleash astonishing combat power, cleanly defeating the five avatars, the entire divine realm erupted in excitement.

Whether they were companions or had vested interests, they were all thrilled to see the orderly faction thoroughly defeat the dark gods, especially when they observed that some authorities remained intact.

The integrity of authorities directly impacted their strength, even if 99% of the authorities were far from complete.

The varying degrees of authority loss among the five dark gods were what significantly affected the second divine war between darkness and order in the void.

If the higher orderly gods were perceptive enough, they should have noticed this to some extent.

However, the potential of this human was truly terrifying. Even before becoming a god, he had already mastered three powerful authorities. Once he truly ascended to godhood, he would likely become a pillar of order among the gods.

“He would probably skip past the Lesser God tier and become an Intermediate God, right?” Nora thought to herself.

Suddenly, she felt that being chased to the main world this time didn’t seem like such a bad thing. Without this happening, she wouldn’t have encountered Ji Chen.

Since Ji Chen had such boundless potential and was likely to become a powerful Intermediate God, why not establish a good relationship with him before he truly ascended to godhood, and learn how to cozy up to him while he was still not yet a god?

Well, gods weren’t without feelings or desires. Even among gods, interpersonal relationships mattered.

Despite her status as a serious Starlight God, she held a low position among the Orderly Gods due to being a mere Lesser God with unremarkable powers and limited combat strength.

Therefore, having a reliable pillar to lean on was crucial, at least to avoid being used as cannon fodder at certain times.

Nora quickly figured all this out and didn’t rush to gain the power of belief. She approached Ji Chen and whispered, “Human... Lord Ji Chen, is there anything I can help you with?”

Ji Chen paused, looking at Nora’s smiling face, even detecting a hint of flattery, feeling somewhat puzzled.

“For now, there’s nothing. You can rest assured. The Dark Gods are unaware of your presence in the Ocean Crown. You can safely recover from your injuries.”

Nora quickly shook her head. “I’m not referring to that. With you here, I’m not worried about my safety.

Besides, since tens of thousands of years ago, when gods came to the main world, they either did so through vessels like possessing or sealing their powers to limit their strength to descend.

Since you have previously defeated the divine manifestations possessed by the Dark Gods, it proves that your power has already reached the pinnacle of what this world can accommodate. In other words, you basically have no opponents left in the main world.”

Chapter 824: Authority Control Progress, Another Divine Power Troop (2)

Ji Chen’s gaze slightly narrowed, not particularly concerned about the words of praise, but rather about a certain issue.

You mentioned that since tens of thousands of years ago, the gods have been unable to descend into the main world in their true forms?”

Nora replied confidently, “That’s right. However, the orderly gods did not disclose this information to the believers in the main world. Since then, the gods have only appeared to believers in the form of divine manifestations... Anyway, due to beliefs and such, the believers couldn’t tell them apart either.” “What reasons led to the main world restricting the entry of the gods?” “Well, the orderly gods speculate that it is mostly related to the breaking of the seal by the dark gods.” Nora pursed her lips. “But some gods have also discovered that the world rules seem to no longer welcome overly powerful beings to stay in the main world.”

This became somewhat evident after the first divine war, perhaps because the scars inflicted by the war on this world and its planes were too severe.

In pursuit of their own interests, factions, and preferences, the gods continuously waged wars, causing mountains and rivers to collapse, living beings to suffer, and countless believers to perish. Consequently, the world rules began actively repelling the gods who initiated the divine war.

Forcing these “destructors” to leave.

As time passed, the suppression and rejection gradually intensified. The gods had no choice but to leave the main world and return to the divine realm in the void, occasionally manifesting to believers through divine manifestations to sustain the power of faith.

These are secrets known only to the gods, lost in the long river of time in the main world, narrated through the mouth of this “descended” Starlight God. “Then is the Elf Mother Goddess Eluvita also affected? I heard from the elves that in the past decade or so, they have not received any commands from the Elf Mother Goddess.”

“Most likely, Eluvita is one of the most powerful gods among the Orderly Gods, so she should have suffered the most severe suppression and rejection. In recent years, the dark gods have been continuously compressing the frontline of the gods of order, even launching attacks on various orderly god realms. Although we Orderly Gods cannot descend commands, receiving prayers from believers in the main world is still possible through the power of faith.”

Nora pursed her lips and said, “But why are you inquiring about this great god Eluvita?”

...The Empress of the Elf Empire told me about this matter, and I was somewhat curious.”

Ji Chen said, “Anyway, after defeating the Decay Lord this time, three of the five demon lords who assisted the dark gods in attacking cities and strongholds have been slain. Once the last two are also defeated, the faith in darkness and evil will be extinguished.

Then, no matter how the dark gods scheme and conspire, their efforts will be in vain. The faith of the orderly fraction will continuously empower the orderly gods for the battle ahead.”

Nora agreed. “That’s right. Since the gods cannot descend into the main world, as long as all those minions who stick their heads out are killed, the dark gods will only march towards their doom step by step!”

In this conversation, Ji Chen gained quite a bit of useful information.

The rejection of the world rules, the dark gods attacking the orderly god realms, Eluvita...

Upon knowing for certain that the gods cannot directly come to the main world and can only manifest through divine incarnations, Ji Chen felt as if something in his heart had been set down.

Perhaps he could be more aggressive in his actions.

Returning to the New Moon Islands from the Mordor Strait, Ji Chen immediately came to the Divine Power Forest. After continuously nurturing with rare resources day after day, now every treetop of the more than 13,000 Divine Power Trees was adorned with crystalline divine power crystals. Some were as big as pumpkins, while others were as small as baby fists.

It could be inferred from the ambush by five incarnated gods in the Mordor Strait that he was now in the sights of the dark gods and even considered an enemy that needed to be personally eliminated.

Therefore, the Crown of the Ocean must also possess the power to resist the gods.

This was Ji Chen’s goal and idea.

Now the only way was to fully develop divine power troops, at least to be able to confront the minions of the dark gods – the Black Beasts.

Otherwise, if Ji Chen were absent from his territory one day and the dark gods secretly sent a large army of Black Beasts to launch a surprise attack, the result could be imagined.

In addition, he also needed to continue to strengthen his own strength, focusing on leveling up, and then searching for more neglected authority left in the main world.

According to the Starlight God Nora’s words, in that distant era that was now almost imperceptible, the gods were not as rare as they are now.

Every race was extremely developed and prosperous, with many individuals ascending to become gods, and the existing divine powers were not limited to the hundreds recorded today.

During the first war of the gods, the dark gods, the orderly gods, and even other neutral gods fought each other for believers, land, and resources. Hundreds of fallen gods were scattered throughout the world.

After the first war of the gods ended, the orderly gods organized efforts to retrieve some of the scattered authorities, but there were still quite a few authorities scattered in hidden places, waiting for someone destined to find them.

Although these authorities might not be stronger than the ones recorded now, they still possessed considerable power. If obtained, it would undoubtedly be a significant boost.

Once the plan was determined, Ji Chen put it on the agenda.

If this Divine Power Forest was continuously fed with rare resources, the weekly output would be about 300,000 units of divine power crystals, enough to promote the sixth-tier troops equivalent to the number of Oceanic Crystal Dragons into Divine Power troops.

Regarding the next promoted troop, he also had a quantified amount in mind. First, Ji Chen harvested a wave of mature divine power crystals from the Divine Power Trees, harvesting 300,000 units of divine power crystals this week, accumulating the remaining 60,000 units of divine power crystals from the previously transformed Oceanic Crystal Dragons.

Then he opened the troop technology tree.

(Naga Iron Colossus (Sixth-tier 4-star): Consumes 275 units of divine power crystals, can transform one unit of Naga Iron Colossus into Divine Power Naga Iron Colossus (Sixth-tier 9-star))

[Current divine power crystal count is 362,500 units, allowing the transformation of up to 1,318 Naga Iron Colossus (Sixth-tier 4-star) into Divine Power Naga Iron Colossus (Sixth-tier 9-star)]

[Confirm?]

“Confirm.”

“Consuming 362,500 units, transforming 1,318 Naga Iron Colossus (Sixth-tier 4-star) into Divine Power Naga Iron Colossus (Sixth-tier 9-star).”

[Divine Power Naga Iron Colossus]

[Level]: 60

[Tier]: Sixth-tier 9-star

[Skills]: Divine Power Fury (Golden skill, can actively unleash the power deep within the bloodline, erupting with extraordinary strength, increasing strength by 350%, resistance to attacks by 50%, speed by 200%, shielding pain and emotions)

Naga Divine Body (Golden skill, scales containing the bloodline and divine power provide excellent defense, ignoring some damage, defense increased by 300%)

Bloodline Regeneration (Golden skill, the bloodline grants powerful regenerative ability, even if the head is severed or the heart pierced, it can regenerate, recovery ability increased by 300%)

Divine Power Amplification (Golden skill, attacks come with divine power damage, causing strong damage to all types of troops)

Flight (Orange skill, wings on the back grant flight ability, flight speed increased by 200%, flight altitude increased by 50%)

Tracking (Orange skill, able to track enemies over long distances based on traces)

[Troop Characteristics]: Bloodthirsty (Naga detects the scent of blood, increasing combat effectiveness)

[Bloodline Ability]: Naga Giant (Body enlarges, all attributes increased by 120%, self-repair speed greatly increased, flight ability decreases, but defense greatly increases)

[Northwest Axe King Advanced Version]

Like the transformed Divine Power Oceanic Crystal Dragons, the Naga Iron Colossus underwent tremendous changes after transforming into Divine Power troops.

Just as its name suggests, behind the name Iron Colossus lies a defense comparable to city walls, and its ability to enlarge its body makes it akin to heavy cavalry.

However, even if all the divine power crystals on hand were used up, only over a thousand Naga Iron Colossi could be transformed. It would still take some time to transform the remaining over three thousand.

Chapter 825: Messenger of the Light Church

However, the Ocean Crown followed a purely elite route.

While other players often expanded their armies to tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, or even millions, Ji Chen expanded his forces systematically while ensuring quality.

This allowed the average tier and level of the Ocean Crown's troops to far exceed those of other players.

The Divine Power Crystal Wyvern, sixth tier with 9 stars, had an average level of 64..

The Divine Power Naga Iron Colossus, sixth tier with 9 stars, had an average level of 62.

The Ocean Blood Dragon, sixth tier with 7 stars, had an average level of 63.

Just picking one of them randomly would suffice as a core unit. Even if there were only a thousand units, they would still demonstrate powerful effectiveness.

It's said that the most elite land unit of the Elven Empire—the Ancient Tree Wardens—numbered only three thousand, but their combat prowess could rival tens of thousands of enemies. In a battle hundreds of years ago, they faced off against a hundred thousand evil orcs with no casualties, slaying fifty thousand foes.

Among the elite of the Markus Empire, the Swan Knights, the number of these elite cavalry troops has remained at five thousand since their creation, yet they have slaughtered countless armies of foreign races. The heads they've severed could build a mountain, boasting an impressive record.

Because of the existence of high-tier units like hero units, simply stacking large numbers often proved futile. Even the demons, boasting of their millions-strong army, only had a portion of elite troops, while the rest were used as cannon fodder and meat shields to absorb enemy firepower and attention.

In the face of powerful individual enemy forces, aside from deploying similarly powerful individual forces of their own, another way to cope was to send out a moderately sized but elite force capable of surrounding and killing the enemy.

This could be seen from the pursuit of the Starlight God Nora by the Black Beasts at that time. Although the Black Beasts numbered only in the thousands, they were able to chase and beat a legitimate lesser god.

Although this happened when the authority of the Starlight God Nora was sealed, it still proved the theory.

Moreover, Ji Chen had the assistance of the Military Talent Tree. Who knew if he would cultivate and strengthen a unit capable of confronting gods?

After instructing the residents to continue nurturing the Divine Power Tree, Ji Chen returned to the Lord's Castle, focusing on the current progress of the Oceanic Faith.

Closing his eyes, he felt the power of faith from the coastal areas and various islands, and by the quantity of faith power, it was evident that the followers of the Oceanic Faith were still rapidly increasing, even faster than in previous weeks, and the range had expanded significantly.

From scattered points to a connected area, the Oceanic Faith had blossomed everywhere.

Especially on the islands and archipelagos of the coastal areas, the Oceanic Faith had displaced the original churches and beliefs of the indigenous people, becoming the mainstream faith.

The Oceanic Faith didn't have fixed prayer times or means of extorting money from believers like "Redemption Scrolls" or the like. It even constantly provided benefits to believers, making it relatively pure compared to other churches.

But it was also because of this reason that some indigenous people, who were not originally believers, approached out of curiosity and to take advantage, and soon they fell and became loyal followers of the Oceanic Faith.

With the increasing number of believers, Ji Chen felt the power of faith becoming more abundant, and the condensation of divinity was steadily advancing.

However, the priests and pastors sent out were residents of the Ocean Crown, mainly human, and the places they could preach were limited to human kingdoms, with preaching targets limited to humans. They were powerless in the vast underwater realm inhabited by countless sea tribes.

Therefore, in order to further expand the scope of preaching, Ji Chen utilized the troop fusion function of the Military Talent Tree to cultivate a unit specifically for preaching.

By fusing a unit named "Faith Spreader" with Tide Sea Spirits, a new unit called "Ocean Spreader" was created.

[Ocean Spreader]

[Race]: Ocean Spirit

[Level]: 1

[Tier]: Sixth Tier, 1Star

[Skills]: Spreader (Orange skill, this unit can spread faith, greatly increasing the speed of spreading faith, faith spreading ability is increased by 200%, and the range of spreading is increased by 200%)

Stealth (Orange skill, can be invisible to different individual beings, with extremely high stealth effect)

[Unit Characteristics]: Intangibility (Orange skill, the entity can only spread faith and does not possess attack capabilities)

[Bloodline Ability]: Possession (Can possess living beings to spread faith, possessing a certain degree of strength of the host organism in this state)

The original form of this unit is completely illusory and intangible, resembling a ghost from a ghost story, but without any attack capabilities.

But by utilizing the bloodline ability to possess living beings, it can spread faith conveniently in various races and civilizations, facilitating evangelism.

The Ocean Spreader would become the medium for spreading faith of the Oceanic Faith in the underwater realm, transforming all oceanic races such as Naga, Merfolk, and Shrimp People into disciples of Ji Chen who can provide faith power.

The number of oceanic races was counted in billions. Even if only a small portion of the intelligent oceanic races could provide faith, as long as a tiny fraction of this portion could be converted, it was enough to support the condensation of his oceanic divinity!

The first batch of one hundred Ocean Spreaders, the first stop of their evangelism work was the Great Luminescent Sea, where there were also quite a few intelligent oceanic races.

The spreaders worked in the Great Luminescent Sea have progressed very smoothly. After such a long time of submission, the oceanic races there had become accustomed and obedient to the rule of the Crown of the Ocean.

Chapter 826: Messenger of the Light Church (2)

It might be said that a considerable portion of the marine clans had already been quite loyal and fervent towards Ji Chen, thus they were more than willing to believe in the Oceanic Faith with him as their leader.

On the first day that the Ocean Spreaders arrived at the Great Luminescent Sea, over a hundred thousand intelligent marine beings became believers of the Oceanic Faith.

Seven days later...

Thirty percent of the intelligent marine beings in the Great Luminescent Sea became followers of the Oceanic Faith.

One month later...

All the major gathering points of intelligent marine beings in the Great Luminescent Sea became believers, and the Ocean Spreaders began to spread their faith in the remote areas of the sea.

Two months later...

All known intelligent marine beings in the Great Luminescent Sea became followers of the Oceanic Faith, believing in the only god, Ji Chen. Following this, the Ocean Spreaders, whose numbers continued to grow, ventured out from the Crown of the Ocean to spread their faith across the depths of the oceans. Their arrival brought hope and belief in the revival of the marine clans, who had long been submerged in countless ages, thus providing them with the capital to face the imminent crisis that was gradually approaching.

Of course, these were events that occurred later.

At this moment, Ji Chen turned his attention to a post on the forum that had gained quite some popularity.

“Breaking News! It seems like a treasure is appearing in this place, and the world is changing!”

Some posters, as usual, used eye-catching headlines to attract attention. Clicking into the thread, sure enough, there were people ranting and raving.

“They have no work other than creating clickbait titles; I can’t believe they didn’t even bother to write a title this time.”

“I just want to see what nonsense is inside, I’ve been seeing such headlines every day.”

“Blocked (pouting).”

The original poster replied.

“Ahem, everyone, please be patient, let me explain.”

“I’m not just a clickbaiter. Last night, just as I was about to sleep, I suddenly saw a dazzling green light from a swamp outside my territory. It was as bright as a little sun.”

“A green light... Could this be radiation? Is there uranium in this world?” Suddenly, someone interjected.

“Don’t interrupt me!”

“Then I took my army to see what it was. I thought if it was some ancient relic or some treasure being born, I would hit the jackpot!”

“And then? Did you find a treasure trove, or did you find Patrick Star’s house?”

“...When I got there, I found that the light was emitted by a dark green light cluster. The light cluster kept emitting a terrifying dark green gas, with extremely strong corrosiveness. Within a radius of thousands of meters centered on it, everything was desolate. All the plants withered, even the rocks and soil were covered with a layer of dark green.

I didn't dare to approach, so I posted to ask you all, what is this thing?"

"Dark green, corrosive? It reminds me of Little Doctor, seems like some special power."

"If you say that, I also found a similar light cluster in a mountain valley in the past few days, but it was guarded by a powerful troll tribe..."

Light cluster, special power.

Ji Chen knew that this was the so-called remnant authorities left behind by the fallen gods during the first Divine War.

The power of these remnants wasn't as potent as that of the official divine authorities; it ranked below the top, middle, and lower divine authorities. Nonetheless, it still wielded considerable force.

After a moment of contemplation, Ji Chen wrote a reply.

"The light cluster is the remnant authority left by the fallen gods during the first Divine War."

With this sentence, the whole thread exploded.

Not because of this sentence, but because the speaker was Ji Chen. No one could imagine how high Ji Chen's prestige was among the player community now.

He was the one who slew three Demon Kings singlehandedly.

Wiping out the Dread Legion, defeating the Undead Legion, and causing chaos in the Decay Legion.

Lord of the Crown of the Ocean.

Above-Epic Tier.

Ally of the Elven Empire.

A solo player with a strong voice.

And so on.

A series of halos kept accumulating, making him the most prestigious and prominent player.

Humans have a gene for admiring strength.

No one knew how many players regarded Ji Chen as their idol and the emblem of glory. Although Ji Chen had never claimed to be the "number one player" or anything like that, in the hearts of many players, Ji Chen was undoubtedly the "number one player"!

Every word and action of his would attract the high attention of the player community.

At this moment, his sudden appearance in the thread naturally drew the close attention of everyone present.

— "The light cluster is the remnant authority left by the fallen gods during the first Divine War?"

“Remnant authority left by the fallen gods?”

“Remnant authority? I remember the game data saying that this thing is the most top-notch power in ‘Lord of Glory,’ containing some kind of rule. As long as you control it, you can gain powerful strength!”

“If these clusters of light are indeed authorities, then obtaining them would be like reaching the sky in a single bound.”

With this thought, many players in the forum couldn’t sit still, their hearts instantly ignited with excitement.

In an instant, a large group of people disappeared from the forum, all hurrying to search for traces of the powers. The thread’s original poster and the players who claimed to have seen the authorities were nowhere to be found, presumably busy searching or attempting to control the authorities they discovered.

For these minor powers, if players could control them, it wouldn’t be a big deal, or perhaps it would be a better choice.

From various channels, fragmentary information suggested that it was still a mystery how the dark gods broke the seal. The lawful gods also seemed to be plotting something, and then there was the elven mother goddess, Eluvita, what reason did she have to help him?

All of this was unknown, but Ji Chen could faintly feel that the demon invasion was just the beginning of a series of events.

Behind everything, there lurks some yet-to-be-discovered presence.

If he could accelerate the development of other players, and have a few more outstanding individuals, perhaps in the future, when facing the unknown, there would be a bit more assistance, so he wouldn’t have to bear all the pressure alone.

“My lord, I have something to report.”

Ji Chen paused, closing the forum.

“Come in.”

Wilus gently pushed the door open and entered, still wearing the same respectful and solemn expression he had maintained for ten years, bowing as he spoke.

“My lord, an envoy from the Light Church has arrived at the New Moon Islands, requesting an audience with you.”

Ji Chen was slightly surprised.

An envoy from the Light Church?

Come to think of it, the only dealings he had with the Light Church were when, before the demon invasion, one of the six sects of the Light Church, the Radiant Sect, attacked the Ocean Crown hundreds of miles away.

The Ocean Crown repelled the fleet of the Radiant Sect, capturing thousands of Radiant believers.

It seemed that the Light Church also felt ashamed because the Radiant Sect had indeed rebelled against the Orderly Faction and even attacked the Ocean Crown, which also belonged to the Orderly Faction. There were no subsequent public declarations from them.

Both sides silently suppressed this matter.

Now, a messenger from the Church of Light suddenly visits, could it be that they want to bring up this matter again?

“Bring them to see me.”

“Yes!” Wilus bowed and exited the gate, quickly bringing in several robed messengers.

The one leading them wore a white robe trimmed with gold thread, appearing to hold a high position.

“Respected Lord Ji Chen, Ivah Tullan brings sincere greetings from the three bishops to you.”

Ji Chen casually sat on the throne, nodding slightly.

“I also extend my greetings to them... You’ve traveled thousands of miles from the distant Eastern Continent, what is the purpose of your visit?”

Ivah Tullan’s expression was slightly anxious as he bowed, saying, “Lord Ji Chen, I have come this time to... seek aid from the Ocean Crown.”

“Aid? Has the situation in the Eastern Continent deteriorated to such an extent that it requires support from the distant Ocean Crown? Didn’t the Elven Empire and several northern continent kingdoms send thirty elite legions to assist?”

Ivah Tullan’s face was extremely bitter. “They’re all gone.”

This time, Ji Chen was genuinely astonished.

Although the compositions of forces and legions varied among different powers and kingdoms, a legion typically consisted of at least ten thousand soldiers. These thirty legions would have had at least two million troops.

The loss of these entire thirty elite legions was no simple matter.

Chapter 827: Divine Realm Army

Listening to the messenger’s account, Ji Chen gradually gained the latest understanding of the demon warfare in the Eastern Continent.

Elves and numerous elite legions from various Northern Continent nations had already arrived in the Hogsback Mountains of the Eastern Continent two weeks ago and joined forces with the local Eastern Continent armies.

They had hoped that with the support of thirty elite legions, they could turn the tide of the Eastern Continent's war, at least slightly improving the dire situation and granting the besieged Eastern Continent armies some breathing room.

However, the arrival of reinforcements did not improve the situation.

Upon seeing the arrival of orderly reinforcements and the increasingly fortified defenses that momentarily held firm, the demons recklessly deployed a new type of soldier.

Terrifying soldiers with beast-like forms suddenly appeared on the battlefield without any warning, dealing heavy blows to the orderly army.

Iva Tullan still vividly remembered the horrifying scene.

From the dark cracks in the purple-black space tearing apart in the sky, soldiers with entirely black beast-like forms emerged, exuding endless evil and malevolence, their crimson eyes gleaming as if they were staring from the void.

Though their numbers were not many, not even reaching ten thousand, this force single-handedly routed the orderly legions, overwhelming them like a landslide. The renowned elite legions all fell before these dark soldiers, defeated and scattered.

“...Those are the Black Beasts.”

Iva Tullan hurriedly asked, “Do you know about these soldiers?”

Ji Chen nodded slightly.

“The Black Beasts are a special army cultivated by the dark gods, containing pure evil power. They can even be used to hunt down weak gods, so it's normal for you to be unable to defeat them.”

“This...”

Iva Tullan's expression turned fearful. An army specially cultivated by the dark gods, capable of hunting down gods, was beyond his imagination.

In fact, according to the straightforward words of the Starlight God Nora, the Black Beasts had already surpassed the ordinary ranks of soldiers, no longer belonging to the first six tiers but instead belonging to the most top-tier seventh tier.

The seventh-tier soldiers, also known as the soldiers of the divine realm, referred to armies that could only be cultivated by the divine realms of the gods.

Whether it was the ancient tree guardians of the Elven Empire, the swan knights of the Markus Empire, or the secret soldiers of other major powers, they were at most sixth-tier soldiers. Even the most elite legions were only at the level of the sixth tier. Being attacked by a seventh-tier divine realm army with a vast gap in strength, defeat was inevitable.

“What should we do? The Eastern Continent cannot fall, otherwise, the billions of beings living there will become the prey of the void legions.”

Seeing the anxious messenger, Ji Chen said, “Most divine realm soldiers are only used to counter the enemy's divine realm soldiers. The fact that the dark gods have assigned the Black Beasts to

attack the orderly faction armies in the main world means that they are already restless and want to use ‘unexpected’ forces to help the demons gain a strategic advantage.”

“If I’m not mistaken, the orderly gods will not stand idly by and should soon send divine realm troops to support.”

As Ji Chen predicted.

A divine realm army belonging to the Goddess of Light was slowly crossing the border between the void and the main world.

Great Archangels, War Paladins, High Priests of Light...

Without exception, these soldiers emitted an aura many times more terrifying than sixth-tier soldiers, their expressions cold, merciless, and loyal, just like the divine beings seen by mortals.

After passing through the rules barrier of the main world, they quickly followed the familiar foul smell, tracking it all the way from above the clouds to find the Black Beasts fiercely attacking the orderly camp armies in the Eastern Continent.

Like a well-oiled machine, they instantly split into dozens of small teams and charged forward.

The rampaging Black Beast sensed the arrival of the enemy, turned around, and roared angrily, then turned back to confront them.

The severely battered Orderly Divine Lineage army saw a supremely pure army suddenly launch an attack from behind against these terrifying dark enemies, and they were instantly astonished and cheered.

Because the characteristics of this army were too obvious, Archangels, Radiant Knights... these were all the divine realm armies depicted on the murals of the Light Church, the armies that followed the Goddess of Light to fight against the evil gods and other races!

Out of compassion, the Goddess of Light saw the suffering of her followers and the crisis in the world, prompting her to send divine troops to support them.

The followers and soldiers of the Light Church were the most excited. During these days of demon invasion, they had thought that the gods had abandoned them, no longer listening to their prayers and supplications.

And now all this unrest, worry, and despair were shattered by the visible reality!

The Goddess of Light had always been watching them, but before, she had only been considering their faith and loyalty!

In an instant, these believers had already imagined the consequences, and became even more excited.

In a sense, the fact that the Goddess of Light had been watching them all along was more exciting to them than the arrival of this army from the divine realm to support them.

Soldiers from other kingdoms and factions looked at each other, their minds racing. It turned out that the Goddess of Light was aware of what was happening in the world, so the other orderly divine beings should also know, right?

The Divine Realm army fought fiercely with the Black Beasts. Although their numbers were much fewer than the latter, only half in quantity, their combat power was several levels higher, and their coordination was seamless, causing great damage to the Black Beasts.

Chapter 828: Divine Realm Army (2)

Until the last black beast was slain, they had only lost one or two thousand-man teams.

It was like completing a mission. The commander of the Kingdom of Light's army, a blazing archangel, coldly surveyed the fervent believers below, his eyes showing no emotional fluctuations as if he were watching animals in a zoo.

But as if remembering something, he spoke slowly in the high language of the divine realm.

"God says, continue to persevere, and darkness will eventually be driven out by our God."

The believers below fell silent for a moment, then suddenly erupted into loud cheers.

"Hail to the Goddess of Light!"

"Hail to the Goddess of Light!"

The army of the Kingdom of Light did not leave after exterminating the black beasts. Instead, they also swept away the nearby invading demons, staying near the Hogsback Mountains as if waiting for something.

Soon, the sky tore open, and fully armed, majestic armies of the Kingdom of Light leaped out, descending upon the world.

Seeing so many armies of the Kingdom of Light descending, the armies of other churches, kingdoms, and forces instinctively felt something was amiss and became somewhat uneasy.

This unease even surpassed the threat of the demons, and they all instinctively relayed this message to their rear.

However, on the second day of the descent of the Kingdom of Light's army, several unexpected forces suddenly joined the battlefield, overwhelming the player's army and the Desert Alliance, causing them to collapse.

These unexpected forces were none other than the armies of the Dark Kingdom belonging to the Dark gods. Apart from the black beasts, there were also many distinctively marked troops from the Dark Kingdom.

The troops of the Demon Lord included the Hell Hatred, the Hell Hound...

The troops of the Dark God included the Dark Warrior, the Dark Titan...

The troops of the Lord of Death included the Death Knight, the Death Priestess...

These extremely terrifying troops from the Dark Kingdom instantly reversed the situation. Not only did they reclaim all the land previously occupied by players, alchemists of the desert, and the Alliance Fleet inch by inch, but they also pushed the front line infinitely closer to the Roni River.

Just when everyone felt despair, several armies from the Orderly Divine Lineage appeared as if descending from the heavens, blocking the fierce attacks of the Dark Kingdom's armies.

The desert troops of the Desert Divine Lineage, the oasis troops of the Oasis Divine Lineage...

Countless desert dwellers were moved to tears. The desert gods they believed in had finally taken notice of this war-torn land!

As if responding to each other.

In the Western Continent, the mountain troops of the Mountain God. In the Death Swamp, the swamp troops of the Swamp God-

in the Far North, the barbaric troops of the Barbaric Divine Lineage. In the Troll Mountains, the troll troops of the Troll Divine Lineage.

Within just a few days, armies from various divine lineages descended upon the three continents tainted by demons, much like mushrooms sprouting after the rain.

Finally, under countless gazes, on the Northern Continent, which had not been invaded by demons, the army of the Elven Divine Lineage, from the portal that tore open in the sky above the Silvermoon Holy City, lined up and cast shadows over the entire city sky.

At this moment, even the most foolish could sense it.

The world was about to change!

Countless people were curious about what had happened in the unseen void to bring forth so many divine armies, causing a situation unseen for hundreds of thousands of years to reappear.

What did the gods want to do?

After the initial excitement, excitement, and fanaticism, everyone began to feel uneasy.

The last time so many armies from the Kingdom of Light came to the main world was during the God War tens of thousands of years ago.

The New Moon Islands, Crown of the Ocean.

"Nora, what do the dark gods and the orderly gods want by sending so many divine armies to descend?"

"I don't know either. I'm just a lesser god without even a divine realm." Nora hurriedly replied, "And when I was in the void, the orderly gods didn't tell me about such a thing. Something must have happened after I was hunted down!"

Seeing that Nora didn't seem to be lying, Ji Chen couldn't help but furrow his brow.

He really didn't understand the move of the dark gods and the orderly gods. How come they had previously said that the dark gods were besieging various orderly divine kingdoms, and now suddenly they were sending divine armies to the main world?

If the dark gods saw the demons of the main world and realized that they had little hope of winning by themselves, sending black beasts down to assist in turning the tide could still be understood.

But with this appearance and seemingly unwillingness to leave, what exactly did they want to do?

What worried Ji Chen was not only the divine armies themselves but also whether they would affect the preaching of the Oceanic Faith.

Previously, because the gods were difficult to manifest, many vacancies in beliefs were left, allowing the Oceanic Faith to absorb believers to the greatest extent. However, now that the divine armies of various gods had descended, the difficulty of spreading would undoubtedly be many times greater.

Who could ignore these beliefs that had been operating in the main world for hundreds of thousands, millions, or even tens of millions of years and were still able to survive to this day?

Furthermore, what Ji Chen found most tricky was that since the armies of divine lineages such as the Elven Divine Lineage and the Desert Divine Lineage had descended, it seemed only a matter of time before the armies of the Ocean Divine Lineage would also arrive.

They might be the biggest obstacle to the spread of the Oceanic Faith. Who knows if these oceanic gods would welcome his arrival?

The real worry was that within just a few days, the demons had turned into divine armies. When some of the indigenous people tried to make contact with them, they were sternly warned by the divine armies that they would be punished if they approached.

This left them feeling helpless, only able to speculate about their purpose for descending.

Fortunately, these divine armies did not immediately take action against the indigenous people; instead, they each sought out the enemy armies of hostile divine lineages to engage in combat.

The forces of the Light Divine Lineage confronted those of the Dark Divine Lineage, the Hell Divine Lineage, the forces of the Jungle Divine Lineage clashed with those of the Swamp Divine Lineage, and the Elven Divine Lineage fought against the Orc Divine Lineage and the Barbaric Divine Lineage. They were all ancient enemies from hundreds of thousands of years ago, harboring full hatred towards each other.

They seemed to be wary and restrained in their actions.

Initially the focus of attention, the demons now became insignificant entities, neither the orderly nor the dark divine lineages paid much attention to them.

At the same time, the armies of various orderly factions and powers also experienced similar situations to some extent. The control of the battlefield shifted to the divine armies, and whichever side had the stronger and larger divine armies could win the war.

For the side with insufficient divine armies, the day after their defeat, several support armies were called down from the heavens, and they continued to fight against the enemy.

They were relentless.

In this slightly chaotic environment, the Crown of the Ocean, due to its geographical location and the absence of the armies of the Ocean Divine Lineage, remained relatively calm and continued to develop rapidly.

Now, what they needed to guard against were the five dark gods he had previously repelled. They had been stripped of some of their power and naturally harbored deep hatred towards Ji Chen. Who knows, they might send divine armies to attack the Crown of the Ocean at any time.

Ji Chen remained vigilant, guarding the New Moon Islands.

With him there, as long as the gods couldn't descend in their true forms, no matter how many divine armies came, it would all be in vain.

One month later.

The Divine Power Forest harvested several waves of divine power crystals, successfully converting all the Naga Iron Colossus into divine power units. Coupled with the previously transformed Ocean Crystal Wyverns, the Crown of the Ocean now possessed two divine power armies.

If placed before, these two divine power armies would have been among the top-tier armies in the world. However, after the descent of the divine armies, they seemed somewhat inadequate.

A 6th-tier, 9-star army, no matter how powerful, still had a considerable gap compared to the 7th-tier divine armies.

Aside from the progress of the armies, the heroes of the Crown of the Ocean gradually mastered their own powers, their strength increasing several times over. Now, it was inaccurate to measure their strength purely based on tiers.

According to Ji Chen's estimation, legendary tier heroes like Alice, Herald, and Benbo, who had also mastered some powers, were much stronger than epic tier heroes, only slightly weaker than those above the epic level.

Heroes like Kraken, who were already at the epic tier and had control over the authority of decay, had surpassed the epic tier in terms of sheer strength, enough to rival enemies like the Undead Lord.

Chapter 829: Reclaiming Land

The Eastern Continent.

The defense line of the Hogsback Mountains.

After the arrival of the Divine Realm army, believers were summoned to build a statue of the Goddess of Light in a valley.

Since its completion, a multitude of believers from different regions have gathered here daily, undeterred by the looming threat of the Dark Kingdom army, to offer their prayers before this towering pure white statue, standing over a hundred meters tall, even surpassing the nearby mountain in height.

To the believers, this location holds significance as the spot where the Divine Realm army, led by the Goddess of Light, initially arrived to rescue the world. Similar to the revered Light City of Avino within the Light Church, it is regarded as a sacred site.

The places where the Divine Realm army descends are also considered special places by the believers to a greater or lesser extent.

It's hard for players to imagine how much fanaticism and faith a god can give to believers in a world with gods.

With the arrival of the Divine Realm army, Ji Chen could feel that the followers of the Oceanic Faith were in a somewhat unstable emotional state.

Many of them were previously followers of other oceanic deities of the Oceanic Divine Lineage. Due to the long period of no response or manifestation from the deities, or the decline of the church's power, their faith declined or turned to disappointment and instead turned to the Oceanic Faith.

So at this moment, seeing many Divine Realm armies descend, they couldn't help but feel a bit frightened, fearing that the original Divine Realm armies would cause trouble for them.

Infidels are more detestable than heretics!

So they were full of worry and anxiety, and their faith in the Oceanic Faith began to waver, resulting in less provided faith power.

Ji Chen knew what needed to be done now. Immediately, he sent troops to the coastal cities along the Mid-Ocean, propagating force in various Oceanic Faith churches.

Especially when the two excellent-looking Divine Power armies arrived, they didn't seem inferior to other Divine Realm armies. The believers were obviously uplifted, and their anxiety and worry were much less, replaced by abundant faith power.

The struggle for believers between the gods was no less intense than the battles between the Divine Realm armies. In relatively peaceful times, it was even the main channel for the expansion of the power of the gods.

At the same time, the Oceanic Faith priests who were sent to preach in various places were also called back to the Crown of the Ocean in batches to listen to Ji Chen's plans and orders.

When they returned to their respective jurisdictions with the next batch of resources, they all started large-scale output of inventory resources for a new round of preaching work.

In simple terms, it was to continue or even strengthen the "spending" behavior.

Nowadays, wars are raging all over the main world, and demons, evil factions, and orderly factions are still at war. The Divine Realm armies of various divine lineages are also fighting each other.

It could be said that the whole world had turned into a mess!

In such a chaotic world, whoever could provide believers with shelter and a sense of security, and whoever could provide enough survival resources, could win the loyalty and trust of believers.

Among them, the Oceanic Faith focuses on the impoverished people and the lower-level believers. After a period of preaching, the effect was remarkable.

Among the newly converted believers, eighty percent were from the lower class, and they were the most loyal group of believers to the Oceanic Faith. There was no doubt about it.

Like the Oceanic Faith, which was so close to the people, treating the lower class and believers by sending food, clothing, and even establishing dedicated relief agencies.

Such "down-to-earth" behavior was unique among many god churches!

Most of the other god churches usually focused on indigenous aristocrats, urban officials, military officers, urban middle class, landlords, or at worst, wealthy farmers.

For them, only these upper and middle-class believers could provide assistance to the operation of the church.

Without the donations of these wealthy believers, the vast amount of funds needed for the establishment of numerous church facilities such as churches, welfare homes, and the training of church warriors in each city would be enough to overwhelm the church itself.

Only these affluent believers with assets and backgrounds could provide financial support to maintain the operation and expansion of the church. However, it did not mean that they didn't care about the lower-level believers; it was just that most of the time, their focus was not on them.

The Oceanic Faith focused on the seemingly minor but crucial aspects of daily life such as food, clothing, shelter, and transportation. By swiftly addressing the needs of the indigenous population, they seized upon a realm overlooked or disregarded by other religious institutions, rapidly accumulating initial followers.

In a sense, the faith and loyalty provided by the lower-class believers were no less significant than those from affluent indigenous people; in fact, they may even have surpassed them in devotion.

Combining spiritual, material, and survival needs, this three-pronged approach swiftly won over the majority of hesitant residents, with many impoverished followers from smaller churches flocking to embrace the Oceanic Faith.

No matter how strong one's faith, having food on the table was essential.

Observing this aggressive encroachment, other religious institutions could only curse this opportunistic behavior of the small church. However, entangled in a series of events triggered by the arrival of divine armies, they had little energy to spare.

Moreover, as these impoverished believers could not contribute significant resources, it was not worthwhile to engage in a major confrontation at that moment. Therefore, they temporarily set aside this matter, intending to settle scores later.

At that time, with divine armies descending one after another, various religious institutions were quite confident.

However, what they didn't realize was that once the Oceanic Faith fully captured the lower strata of society and established a deep-seated belief, it would be challenging to sway them back.

Chapter 830: Reclaiming Land (2)

The spread of the Oceanic Faith in various districts had quickened its pace.

Ship after ship brought resources from the outside world to the Ocean Crown, then transported them to different districts to provide the resources and funds required for preaching.

"Lord, apart from the native land of the Crown of the Ocean and the Great Luminescent Sea, the total number of believers in various districts has exceeded eight hundred thousand. Especially in regions like the Lienhardt Grand Duchy and the other two countries along the northwest coast, in several coastal cities, the Oceanic Faith has become the mainstream church."

Wilus was somewhat excited as he spoke. The rapid pace of preaching was astonishing.

Starting from dispatching priests for preaching, the number of believers on each continent and island had risen from zero to eight hundred thousand in just under a month.

Ji Chen chuckled lightly.

He asked, “Why is there such rapid progress in the Lienhardt area?”

Wilus hurriedly explained, “Well, you see, the Lienhardt Grand Duchy region was originally a wilderness in ancient times. Several pioneer families migrated there from the outside world, starting everything anew and gradually establishing several kingdoms. Thus, there was no indigenous belief...

In addition, the Lienhardt countries have always strictly controlled church preaching. So far, no church has been able to spread on a large scale there.

But after the Oceanic Faith entered, instead of stopping it, they even provided assistance proactively, offering several buildings as churches for our preaching for free, and even dispatching soldiers to maintain order...”

Wilus shook his head in confusion.

Ji Chen became somewhat interested and secretly sensed the power of belief in the Lienhardt area.

The number was... over four hundred thousand, accounting for half of all believers.

Most of them were located in coastal cities, towns, and villages.

Amidst the constant prayers and fervor of the believers, he discovered some familiar presences.

Julius, Monica, Sebastian, Milorna...

These familiar natives had all become followers of the Oceanic Faith, receiving the protection of the territory.

They probably already knew that the Oceanic Faith originated from the Crown of the Ocean and that the “deity” of that faith was him, thus actively facilitating the preaching of the Oceanic Faith.

And this also meant that Lienhardt had taken sides, choosing to stand with him and the Crown of the Ocean.

“...In the future, increase the preaching efforts in Lienhardt, prioritize resources, and quickly expand the influence of the Oceanic Faith there.”

“Yes!”

Wilus raised his head and said, “Lord, there is one more thing about the population issue. More and more people are joining the Crown of the Ocean. There is hardly any land left on the island for building residences and municipal facilities. Once we absorb too many external populations, it will seriously affect the ecological balance of the island, compressing industrial and agricultural areas...”

Ji Chen frowned. “This is indeed a problem. How many residents are there on the island now, excluding the sea tribes and lizardmen?”

“Excluding the sea tribes and lizardmen, there are already over three hundred thousand residents.”

On an island occupying one-third of the total land area, suitable for habitation, and less than one-third of the island’s land left for building, cramming three hundred thousand residents for long-term residence had already approached the ecological limit.

Originally covering sixty to seventy percent of the main island, more than half of the primitive forests had now been cut down, with most of the remaining forests located on the west, northwest, and north sides, while the southeast, centered around the lord’s castle, was filled with buildings.

If it spread further to the west and northwest, the entire island would become bare.

After much thought, Ji Chen also felt that it was not right to destroy the increasingly scarce vegetation just for the sake of increasing the population.

However, only with an increase in population can the territory develop. So, what methods should be used to increase the population capacity of the territory?

Looking at the map of the Crescent Island on the table beside him, he gradually had an idea.

“We’ll reclaim land from the sea.”

Wilus was stunned by this novel idea.

Ji Chen picked up a chess piece from the edge of the sand table and inserted it into the shoal at the connection between the main island and the northeast sub-island.

“How about filling the area around this shoal with a large amount of rocks and soil to build a fortification, creating enough land to build houses?”

Wilus rubbed his chin, his eyes showing some realization and surprise. “This seems feasible? If the water depth of this shoal is shallow, and there are enough rocks and soil...”

“Then what are you waiting for? Go and explore.”

“Yes!”

Wilus hurried out with people to explore.

Soon, they returned to report.

The water around the shallow bay was not deep, making it suitable for land reclamation.

With Ji Chen’s approval, a large number of Ocean Crown residents marched to the site with tools in hand. This scene stunned the visiting merchants and sailors.

They couldn’t understand what these residents were going to do with “land reclamation.” They looked at each other, perplexed.

The ocean was so vast, and these people wanted to reclaim land from it?

Wasn’t creating land a power reserved only for deities?

They soon witnessed how the Ocean Crown residents were “creating land.”

Ship after ship unloaded tons of stones and soil directly into the sea, just like tossing handfuls of coins into the water, causing no ripples.

Some people dismissed it as a joke and left, shaking their heads. Others remained curious.

Some of those dressed in extravagant attire, known as Lords of Glory, showed expressions of realization.

“Damn, they’re reclaiming land!”

“I didn’t expect to see this kind of thing in this world. It seems like the population on New Moon Islands is getting denser, and there’s not enough land.”

“Should we quickly buy a few houses here and sell them for a profit later when the property prices go up?”

“...That’s a good idea. Otherwise, we won’t be able to afford the dowry.”

As ship after ship continued to pour stones and soil ceaselessly, the sea gradually became murky. The rocks and soil no longer sank but began to emerge, gradually being filled in by more soil until people could stand on them.

The residents of the Ocean Crown erupted into cheers. Although the exposed land was only the size of a house, it marked the first successful step in their land reclamation.

As long as they followed the series of instructions from the Lord, they could create land that could accommodate more people to live on!

As long as they reclaimed and filled in all the shallow bays and shallow waters between the main island and the northeastern sub-island, they could create at least tens of square kilometers of flat land here.

These flat lands are enough to establish a residential area capable of accommodating three hundred thousand people!

If they follow suit and reclaim land in shallow water areas around the main island, accommodating over a million people is not an impossible task.

Watching the residents of the Ocean Crown fervently pouring rocks and filling soil, Ji Chen’s face carried a pensive expression.

Rumors had it that the Earth Elementalist possessed the power to move mountains and flatten hills, transforming rugged terrain into flat land, wielding the magnificent power to shape the land at will. So, did the Aquatic Elementalist possess a similar power?

If so, utilizing the power of the element to create an area on the seabed capable of sustaining terrestrial races would naturally solve the land issue.

With this in mind, Ji Chen wanted to experiment immediately.

After careful consideration, he chose a relatively flat seabed basin west of the New Moon Islands.

The power of the element surged forth, and under Ji Chen’s control, the surrounding seawater gradually receded, as if there was a point repelling everything in the middle, and it was expanding.

Soon, this point turned into a cavity, and the fish around looked bewildered at this extremely strange place. They stuck their heads into the cavity and widened their eyes. There was no seawater here!?

Ji Chen raised his hands in a gesture of spreading them apart, and as his arms extended, the cavity continued to enlarge, becoming as big as a house.

He slowly moved into it.

It felt like passing through the protective shield of the tidal core on a giant turtle and entering its interior, but without air.

But that wasn't a problem. Ji Chen just snapped his fingers, and air squeezed in from the surrounding seawater.

Looking at the embryonic form of the underwater space, Ji Chen nodded satisfactorily.