

Titan King 601

Chapter 601: This is what you deserve

After the grand salute, Onyx lowered his head and gazed intently at Pallas.

"A strong physique, innate mental power! This is our Stoneheart Horde's prince, our future!"

"May the Giant tribe flourish, may all things be renewed! May His Highness the Prince be blessed with boundless wisdom and fortune, and grow up strong and healthy!"

"As dawn rises, may wisdom and strength unite in Your Highness!"

A spiritual light of blessing shone from Onyx; it was a ritual of their clan for blessing descendants.

On the back of Pallas's hand, an obsidian mark appeared, shimmered for a moment, then quickly vanished.

Possessing this mark, Pallas gained the loyalty and support of the Obsidian Giant tribe(clan).

Completing the blessing ceremony, Onyx finally stood up and looked towards Orion.

Orion glanced at Lilith, who nodded and carried Pallas back towards the inner keep.

Orion took a step, walking towards the walls of Blackstone City. He planned to inspect the city.

It had been a long time since he last inspected this place!

Onyx followed behind Orion, ascended the city wall, and gazed at the distant forests and plains. As Orion walked, he inquired.

"What is the position of Lorelia and Gustalon?"

"According to the intelligence relayed back by the Sentinel Corps, they have already crossed the desert and entered the edge of the Black Forest."

Orion nodded and continued walking forward.

His return to Blackstone City this time was in preparation to head to the Underworld before the dark beast tides arrived, activate the teleportation array there, and travel to the Emerald Dream Realm.

And Lorelia, Gustalon, and Dirtclaw were the Alpha-level fighters he prepared to take with him.

For the future prospects of the Giant Tribe and the Stoneheart Horde, Orion had no choice but to begin preparations.

With the Deputy Commander taking action against the fungal creatures, those fungi in the Valkorath Realm could now only be used for daily troop training and harvesting life essence.

A battlefield for the Stoneheart Horde to sustain itself through war needed to be opened up as soon as possible.

"When they return, have Lorelia bring Dirtclaw and head to the Underworld to await orders."

"As you command!"

"Prophet, you've reached Alpha peak, haven't you?"

Orion turned, gazing intently at Onyx.

During his time guarding Blackstone City, Onyx had fully digested his gains from the Valkorath Realm and finally reached Alpha peak.

"Yes!"

Onyx was very steady, very calm. He was slightly surprised that Orion suddenly brought this up, showing no hint of arrogance.

"I thought Dirtclaw would reach peak before you; I didn't expect you to take that step first."

Orion extended his hand, and a clump of Legendary level life essence appeared within it.

"This..."

Gazing at the life essence in Orion's hand, Onyx's body trembled slightly.

The calm he had maintained was shattered before this clump of life essence, like ripples spreading across a lake.

Having experienced so much, Onyx's horizons had long since broadened.

He knew very well what this clump of life essence meant to him.

It represented a realm he previously dared not even imagine.

Of course, Onyx advancing to the Legendary level was another matter entirely.

Although he had obtained Legendary level life essence, both the Abyss Dragon and Gustalon were still stuck at Alpha peak, unable to advance for a long time.

"Take it. This is what you deserve!"

"I will grant the area of Obsidian City as your territory. Go take a look when you have time."

Orion placed the Legendary level life essence into Onyx's hand. The latter received it like a priceless treasure, unsure of where the most appropriate place to keep it was.

Orion turned and continued walking forward. The Stoneheart Horde gaining another individual who could attempt to breach the Legendary level was a fortunate event for the Horde, and also a major one.

Although Soraya and Lumi had advanced to the Legendary level, they hadn't appeared in the public eye of the Stoneheart Horde; very few knew.

Once Onyx successfully advanced, the foundation of the Stoneheart Horde, in the eyes of the other southern races, would increase somewhat.

Next, Orion continued his inspection along the wall, while Onyx briefly reported on some events that occurred in the northern territory during his time guarding Blackstone City.

Orion listened without offering opinions.

At his current status, he no longer needed to personally handle such minor matters.

He had cultivated so many people within the Horde precisely to alleviate his own burdens.

What Orion needed to do now was continuously open up new resource channels for the Stoneheart Horde and strive for his own advancement to Arch Lord.

Only upon reaching the Underground Fissure during his inspection did Orion finally speak to Onyx.

"Alright, let's stop here."

"Lilith returned this time to recuperate. Her energy is now focused on Pallas."

"Prophet, you continue guarding Blackstone City."

"I look forward to the day you advance to the Legendary level!"

Under Onyx's watchful gaze, Orion's figure gradually vanished into the Underground Fissure.

"Lord, our Stoneheart Horde will continue to prosper!"

"I guarantee it!"

This was the silent promise Onyx made while watching Orion's retreating back.

At this moment, Onyx recalled the scene of Orion ascending the great mountain where the obsidian giant rested.

There, Orion had come with him to the summit, faced the sea of clouds, and spoken of the world beyond the Black Forest with that confident smile.

Orion, the Giant King, Lord of the Stoneheart Horde—he had truly kept his word.

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Emerald Dream Realm, Red Moon Valley.

Since the last failed dark beast tide invasion, the Red Thread Clan residing here had suffered grievous losses.

Fortunately, their lord Loska survived. After Loska personally plundered the territory thoroughly, the Red Thread Clan obtained a large batch of resources, allowing them to recuperate their strength somewhat.

At this moment, Loska sat meditating near the cross-realm teleportation array. He still wanted to use the array's aura-hiding function to evade the pull of the Void Passage.

Meaning, Loska's desire to invade the other world hadn't died; he still couldn't forget about it.

But then again, a large number of his subordinates had died on the other side of the teleportation array; this was a blood feud. It was impossible for Loska to simply let it go.

His last invasion failed because the opposing side unexpectedly possessed two Legendary level beings, one of whom hadn't even been pulled away by the Void Passage.

Loska was very worried, because from the last invasion, the opposing side could very likely have deduced the teleportation array's function of hiding Legendary level auras.

To put it bluntly, during this upcoming dark beast tide, he might face an ambush by two Legendary level lords.

Yes, an ambush!

Loska was cautious by nature. He felt the possibility of the opposing side descending here via the teleportation array during the dark beast tide to invade Red Moon Valley was very high.

Therefore, Loska was very worried about this.

As the day of the Void Passage opening drew ever closer, this worry became increasingly heavy, increasingly intense.

For this reason, Loska had also made alternative preparations. He was considering whether or not to release the news about the cross-realm teleportation array.

He hesitated greatly because once the news was released, it also meant the Red Thread Clan had reached its end, left with no other choice.

At that time, even if not invaded by extra-planar creatures, the Red Thread Clan would be annexed and killed by other lords uniting against them.

Chapter 602: Golden age

Emerald Dream Realm, Red Moon Valley.

Loska brought the Blackscale Serpent Lord Sylas before the cross-realm teleportation array. After the latter confirmed it was indeed a real cross-realm teleportation array, he was utterly amazed.

"Unbelievable! The Red Thread Clan actually hid such a cross-realm teleportation array."

The relationship between the Blackscale Serpents and the Red Thread Clan had always been good.

The Blackscale Serpent race was a vassal race during the peak of the Red Thread Clan's power, which was why Loska had proactively invited Sylas.

"According to the contract we signed, during the next dark beast tide, we will join forces to invade the other world. The spoils obtained will be split sixty-forty."

"Hahaha... Loska, no problem! You should have called me last year! If we had united then, perhaps we could have ruled the nearby region again, restored the former glory of the Red Thread Clan."

Loska knew clearly that on the other side of the teleportation array, there were at least two Lords.
(Note: Outside the Human kingdom, Legendary level beings are also respectfully called Lords).

He had invited Sylas over partly to coerce Sylas and his people into continuing the invasion of the other world to plunder resources, and partly with the thought of having a defensive backup.

Loska feared that the enemies from the other side of the teleportation array might proactively descend.

Alone, he certainly couldn't withstand two Lords.

If Sylas was added to the equation, Loska would have the confidence to defend Red Moon Valley.

"I can imagine how powerful our ancestors must have been!"

Sylas reached out, stroking the mysterious runes on the teleportation array; it was a mystery he couldn't decipher.

"To legitimately occupy this place, I traded territory twice the size of Red Moon Valley just to reclaim this ancestral land."

Speaking of the teleportation array, Loska also felt a touch of pride.

Had it been another lord, perhaps they wouldn't have possessed the daring to make such a choice.

Because no one knew if the cross-realm teleportation array was still intact.

"Loska, trust me, everything will get better!"

"In the near future, we will possess even vaster territory."

Sylas had already retracted his hands from stroking the teleportation array. He turned towards Loska, attempting to comfort his partner.

However, just at this moment, the cross-realm teleportation array suddenly lit up, emitting pulses of energy fluctuations.

"Sylas, what did you do?"

"Didn't I tell you not to touch things randomly?"

"The optimal time for teleportation is when the Void Passage opens."

The anomaly with the teleportation array made Loska very sensitive, and also very angry.

Because before coming, he had explained certain precautions very clearly to Sylas.

"I... I didn't do anything!"

"Did I use transcendent power or not? Can't you sense it?"

Sylas paused, stunned. He was certain he hadn't used any transcendent power.

It was only upon hearing Sylas's words that Loska realized something might be wrong.

Unfortunately, it was already too late!

A figure descended from the cross-realm teleportation array—burly physique, wrapped in a cloak, holding a trident, a flame burning at its tip, exceptionally domineering.

"Didn't expect there to be two mid-tier Lords here. It seems your vigilance is quite high; you prepared somewhat."

Orion looked at the utterly astonished Loska and Sylas, slowly raising the trident in his hand.

"Was it you who invaded my territory last year?"

Orion's figure flickered, instantly appearing beside Loska. By the time the latter reacted, the trident had already pierced through Loska's heart.

Orion reached out, grabbed Loska's head, and easily crushed it.

With a bang, the explosion startled Sylas nearby.

"Im... impossible!"

"A Legendary level peak expert! You... you..."

Before Sylas could finish speaking, he realized something and turned, wanting to flee.

"Go to hell!"

Orion's figure flickered again. He instantly appeared behind the Blackscale Serpent Lord Sylas and killed him.

Collecting the Lord's Stone, Orion raised an eyebrow, looking towards the recently deceased Loska.

Loska's lower body had vanished completely.

"Interesting. This fellow is actually still alive!"

Orion had just pierced Loska's heart, crushed his head, and taken his Lord's Stone.

Unexpectedly, Loska was still alive.

Such a characteristic reminded Orion of the strange monstrous snake Rockwell and Lorelia had encountered in the Underground Fissure years ago.

"Trying to run? No chance!"

Orion stabbed his trident into the ground. The transcendent power within his body surged, and bolts of lightning immediately pierced deep into the earth.

Boom!

Following a loud explosion, Loska's figure drilled out from underground.

At this moment, Loska had astonishingly regrown his upper body, and his strength still radiated a Legendary level aura.

However, he had dropped from mid-tier Legendary level to lower-tier Legendary level.

"This powerful Giant! The Red Thread Clan is willing to submit!"

Loska wanted to surrender, and also wanted to stall for time.

But Orion wasn't that foolish, nor would he give him the chance.

Pop!

Orion raised his trident. With a light swing, Loska's second life still couldn't withstand even a single move from Orion.

This time, Loska's body was shattered into pieces by the sound wave, leaving absolutely no chance of survival.

Picking up the Lord's Stone, Orion took a long, deep breath, focusing his battle intent.

A circle of Battle Will Surge formed around Orion. After two breaths, the spherical wave of power expanded outwards, killing all nearby Dark Worms, clearing the area completely.

After accomplishing this, Orion turned, approached the cross-realm teleportation array, and input his transcendent power into it.

Subsequently, Lumi, Gustalon, Dirtclaw, Lorelia, Clymene, Vargrum, Mordak, Zorn, Balgor, Grendel, Desdemona, and others all descended from the teleportation array.

"The air here is permeated with a kind of dark aura!"

Lumi, the first to step out, was a Legendary level elemental life form. Highly sensitive to her surroundings, she immediately noticed the peculiar nature of the Emerald Dream Realm.

"I suspect the Dark Source Crystals inside those dark creatures in the Emerald Dream Realm might be related to the dark aura pervading this world."

This was Orion's speculation. After hearing it, Lumi nodded in strong agreement.

Lumi approached the teleportation array and also input her own transcendent power, assisting Orion in teleporting more combat personnel to this side.

"Gustalon, quickly scout the intelligence and terrain within a vast area."

Receiving Orion's command, Gustalon transformed into a gust of wind and departed first.

"Sister, Dirtclaw, Lorelia, prepare to clear out all dark creatures here."

"Remember, all of them. Leave none behind."

To prevent any relevant intelligence from leaking, Orion prepared to slaughter the Red Thread Clan and the Blackscale Serpent race gathered in Red Moon Valley completely.

"Okay!"

"As you command, My lord!"

"As you command, Master!"

After assigning the tasks, Orion looked towards Lumi.

"You act too. Slaughter everything here quickly, then use ice and snow to cover up everything that happened here."

Lumi nodded and walked outwards decisively.

Wherever she passed, fierce winds swept through, and ice and snow filled the sky.

Large numbers of snowlings were born amidst the blizzard, slaughtering all dark creatures in the vicinity.

"The air here makes me feel comfortable. The power in my body seems to be accumulating, increasing bit by bit."

"Praise my Master! Dirtclaw likes this world!"

"Awooo..."

Dirtclaw transformed into his Hellhound form. The darkness permeating the air made him excited and active.

"Ah ha... here... here... all battle achievements, all dark source crystals, all mine!"

Compared to Dirtclaw, Lorelia was much more cautious.

She drilled into her Nest, waiting outside the teleportation array for more cave spiders to be teleported over.

Orion glanced at Lorelia but paid her no further mind.

Lorelia's timid and cautious personality was already formed; it was unlikely to change.

Actually, this was fine too. At least her safety would be ensured; it was also a decent choice.

"Not only is there a dark aura here, but also the smell of death energy!"

Clymene, Vargrum, Mordak, Zorn, Balgor, Grendel, and Desdemona had walked out of the teleportation array area together.

"We must occupy this place, open up a new homeland for the Horde."

This was what Clymene needed to do now.

After that previous event, their fates seemed to have merged; the relationship among their group seemed to have become even closer.

The members of their group also walked increasingly closer together.

Orion could see that after that previous event, Clymene, Vargrum, Mordak, Zorn, Balgor, Grendel, and Desdemona had definitely undergone some kind of change.

Since they didn't want to talk about it, Orion wouldn't inquire.

Who didn't have their own secrets?

Red Moon Valley. With the deaths of Loska and Sylas, the morale of the Red Thread Clan and the Blackscale Serpent race plummeted drastically. Their members began to die and rout in large numbers.

The Legendary level being Lumi acted personally. Enemies were either severed by wind blades or frozen by ice and snow, ultimately killed by the snowlings.

Some clever enemies burrowed underground, temporarily escaping disaster.

However, after large numbers of cave spiders joined the battlefield, those enemies hiding in underground burrows were also successively found and slaughtered completely.

Half a day later, Red Moon Valley, true to its name, had indeed turned into a vast expanse of red.

It was the blood of countless monstrous snakes that had stained the white snow summoned by Lumi crimson.

Despite this, the slaughter continued unabated.

Orion's plan for extermination wouldn't stop just because of some killing.

With the Horde's survival at stake, all personnel participating in the battle were ruthless, their actions clean and decisive.

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Titanion Realm, Blackstone City.

Following Orion's successful arrival in the Emerald Dream Realm and activation of the teleportation array, Blackstone City on the surface entered a state of full alert.

To prevent possible accidents, Onyx recalled Rockwell and Gronthar; one guarded the Underground Fissure, the other guarded the city walls.

And Onyx himself sat within the Horde Hall's meeting room, constantly prepared.

Even in the skies above Blackstone City, hawk cries sounded from time to time; those were thunderhawks summoned back to patrol the heavens.

"The air grows increasingly cold. Is winter coming?"

Onyx felt Orion had chosen an excellent time to invade the other world: descending before the dark beast tides arrived, before the enemy was fully prepared, catching them completely off guard.

Furthermore, this plan had now succeeded.

"The Stoneheart Horde is about to open up a new territory. This is a true golden age!"

Beneath Onyx's calm exterior lay a faint thrill of secret satisfaction.

Guarding Blackstone City, this major rear base, for Orion and the others was what he could do now.

Onyx would not permit any accidents to occur in Blackstone City at this time.

Thinking of this, Onyx dispatched another unit of the Sentinel Corps to constantly patrol the surroundings of Blackstone City.

This was a Sentinel Corps unit he had specially borrowed from Delilah, obeying only Onyx's commands.

The current Sentinel Corps comprised not only succubi and gnolls, but increasingly, harpies from the Thunderwood Forest.

The Nest at Thunderpeak Mountain had cultivated quite a few harpies with sufficiently high loyalty over the past few years.

They had never appeared on the main battlefield before, nor had they strengthened the Stoneheart Horde's aerial power.

These harpies had all been absorbed by Delilah to expand the Sentinel Corps.

The Sentinel Corps bore the responsibility of monitoring all Horde territories; these harpies were the best choice, and also the best scouts and assassins.

Chapter 603: The feasibility of invading the emerald dream realm

In the blink of an eye, seven days passed.

On this day, Orion withdrew his transcendent power and deactivated the cross-realm teleportation array.

Only at this moment did Orion finally have the chance to survey the area where the cross-realm teleportation array was located.

Red Moon Valley—it was a crescent-shaped valley with two exits located at the tips of the crescent moon.

And the cross-realm teleportation array was situated within a secret cave in the center of Red Moon Valley.

As long as the two exits at the tips of the moon were guarded, Red Moon Valley served as an excellent fortress pass.

Orion flew up, ascending high into the air to overlook the terrain of the surrounding region.

Red Moon Valley backed onto a massive mountain range. The mountains were very high, dark green at the base and capped with white snow at the peaks.

And outside the belly of Red Moon Valley stood ranges of stone mountains.

Those stone mountains were peculiar, pitch black and covered in slime—likely a byproduct of those monstrous snakes.

That slime also served as a means to prevent enemies from crossing the mountains to directly assault the Red Moon Valley territory.

After these few days of slaughter, the Red Thread Clan and the Blackscale Serpent race residing in Red Moon Valley had basically been exterminated.

At this moment, apart from Lorelia, Lumi, Dirtclaw, Clymene, and the others had already moved out of Red Moon Valley and were slaughtering the dark creatures outside the valley.

The deaths of Loska and Syllas hadn't attracted the prying eyes of other lords; this was the situation Orion had most hoped for.

If they had faced a siege by numerous lords right from the start, Orion would have had no choice but to call in the forces of Alexander, Leonidas, Edward, and Kraken ahead of schedule.

At that time, with everyone's forces and gathering places concentrated together, it would attract the attention of more powerful entities and also hinder their individual efforts to plunder resources.

Collecting his thoughts, Orion descended into Red Moon Valley, landing beside Lorelia.

"Master, the architecture here is too ugly! We need to rebuild."

Lorelia's task was heavy; she was not only responsible for fully incubating small spiders but also for rebuilding Red Moon Valley.

The reason Lorelia was currently commanding on-site was because Red Moon Valley was about to become her fiefdom, and she needed to construct a castle here for Orion.

"It indeed needs major changes!"

Previously, Red Moon Valley housed the monstrous snakes and worms of the Red Thread Clan; the environment here leaned towards dimness and dampness.

Furthermore, most structures were cave-like, unsuitable for habitation by the Stoneheart Horde and cave spiders.

"Convert the valley floor into a city residential area. Carve two huge caves into the valley walls near both exits, extending inwards."

This was Orion's concept. Red Moon Valley had two exits; one would be guarded by cave spiders, the other by Skeletal Knights.

Henceforth, cave spiders and skeletal knights would be the permanent garrison troops of Red Moon Valley.

"As you command, Master!"

Lorelia mimicked the giant bloodline warriors, performing a giant salute to Orion.

Orion smiled and patted Lorelia's head, then turned back towards the cross-realm teleportation array area.

Presently, the most precious asset in the entire Red Moon Valley was this teleportation array.

Until the Stoneheart Horde had completely occupied Red Moon Valley, Orion didn't plan to stray far from the array.

Sitting down before the teleportation array, Orion closed his eyes, immersed his consciousness into the Survivor's Platform, and entered the Champions Alliance public channel.

Isabella: "Valkorath Realm is pretty good!"

Leonidas: "Just pretty good?"

Alexander: "Isabella's 'pretty good' actually means 'extremely good, beyond her imagination'."

Leonidas: "Alexander, I didn't realize! Turns out you favor her so much!"

Isabella: "Mr. Alexander, is Leonidas very strong?"

Alexander: "So-so!"

Kraken: "Looking down on my boss? Isabella, you come to the deep sea, let's spar a bit."

Leonidas: "Squiddy, thanks for your support! Seems I didn't dote on you for nothing!"

Entering the Champions Alliance public channel, Orion witnessed this scene filled with a 'tense atmosphere'.

Of course, the reality was the big boss protecting his protégé, and the subordinate looking out for the big boss's face.

However, from the content of Isabella's posts, it was clear she was a prickly character, and also very arrogant.

It seemed that apart from her Alexander, she considered herself the strongest.

Orion didn't join this topic. Instead, he organized his thoughts and sent a message to the public channel.

Hulk: "Deputy Commander Edward, Bro Alexander, Bro Leonidas, Bro Squiddy, the connection to the Emerald Dream Realm has been established. Are any of you interested?"

Orion had casually mentioned the Emerald Dream Realm matter before while chatting with these allies.

However, things were uncertain back then, and they hadn't discussed it in detail.

Now that Orion occupied Red Moon Valley, the operational space for the Champions Alliance in the Emerald Dream Realm was much larger.

Edward: "Explain in detail!"

Alexander: "I'm very interested!"

Leonidas: "Hehehe... I was just thinking recently about finding a Godforsaken Land to invade, didn't expect you'd have good news first."

Kraken: "Hulk, I very much like new territory! My desires are endless!"

Edward, Alexander, Leonidas, and Orion's relationship was already quite familiar.

As for Kraken, ever since the legendary equipment incident concluded and Isabella joined the Champions Alliance, his relationship with Orion had progressed further.

Now, Orion directly addressed Kraken as Squiddy.

Hulk: "My territory in the Emerald Dream Realm is currently under construction. Once the territory stabilizes, I will continuously scout the intelligence of surrounding territories and share it all at once."

Hulk: "The currently known intelligence is that a divine war is ongoing between the Emerald Dream Realm and the Titanion Realm. Preliminary estimates suggest there are at least two or more demigod experts in the Emerald Dream Realm."

Hulk: "Because my own world also has at least two demigods."

Orion's world, according to the intelligence he obtained, possessed at least two large continents.

Excluding the Utessar continent where Orion currently was, there was also the continent from which the humans had crossed over ten thousand years ago.

Just these two continents alone each contained at least one demigod.

It was precisely because he had analyzed this intelligence that Orion had extinguished the idea of continuing to vie for hegemony on the Utessar continent.

Before he achieved the demigod level, unifying the continent was fundamentally impossible.

Even upon becoming an Arch Lord, terrifying existences like the Human Saint and the white dragon Frostsire would stand obstructing his path.

Hulk: "The environment of the Emerald Dream Realm leans towards darkness, possessing both dark aura and death energy. I suspect this world has been imprisoned or cursed."

Hulk: "The dark creatures of the Emerald Dream Realm yield Dark Source Crystals, which can be directly consumed to enhance strength."

Hulk: "As for whether there are other resources like minerals, it's currently unclear."

Hulk: "From the intelligence obtained so far, the species in the Emerald Dream Realm are very diverse, their temperaments lean towards irritability, and they enjoy killing."

Hulk: "..."

Orion revealed all the intelligence he knew.

Regarding matters of invasion, Deputy Commander Edward, Leonidas, and Alexander were more experienced than him.

The plan for the Champions Alliance to invade the Emerald Dream Realm would have to be decided by them.

How to do it, when to invade, what preparations needed to be made?

Etc., etc., many matters couldn't be decided in a short while.

As Orion recounted, the members of the Champions Alliance fell silent.

Everyone was contemplating, considering the feasibility of invading the Emerald Dream Realm.

Chapter 604: You're not a queen

Edward: "Since the Emerald Dream Realm is undergoing a divine war, Arch Lord level existences temporarily cannot descend there."

After a long pause, Deputy Commander Edward spoke, as if drawing a boundary line for everyone.

Leonidas: "We can't descend personally, but my Legendary level descendants and subordinates can!"

Alexander: "We can first arrange for some people to go over and establish a forward base, lay the groundwork, make preparations. When the time is right, we launch a full-scale invasion."

Edward set the restriction; Leonidas and Alexander devised countermeasures.

Deputy Commander Edward didn't object to this.

A realm gaining a few more Lords made no difference to demigod experts; they didn't care.

But Arch Lord experts were different; the power of their Body of Faith was immense and would attract the attention of demigod experts.

Leonidas: "This plan is good. We can send some subordinates over first to make some small moves."

Edward: "Indeed, we can test them out!"

The three major figures—Edward, Leonidas, and Alexander—reached a consensus. The preliminary plan for invading the Emerald Dream Realm was basically settled.

Kraken: "Hulk, don't forget to help me find a sea region!"

Such matters of expanding territory and plundering resources were impossible for Kraken to miss.

Both he and Orion were at the peak of the Legendary level; both wanted to shorten the time needed to advance to Arch Lord by expanding their territory.

Hulk: "I have already dispatched intelligence personnel to map the area. I'll notify you as soon as there's news."

Receiving Orion's definite reply, Kraken's restless heart finally calmed down.

Arch Lord experts descending into the Emerald Dream Realm would be noticed by demigod experts, but he was Legendary level; Kraken faced no restrictions.

Going over earlier meant gaining more benefits.

Edward: "Hulk, does your current territory contain a cross-realm teleportation array?"

Hulk: "Yes, intact. I used it just a few days ago."

Edward: "Excellent. Tell me the array's connection coordinates. This way, making teleportation scrolls will be simpler for me, and I can save some materials."

Clearly, Edward prepared to borrow the Red Moon Valley teleportation array to inscribe corresponding teleportation scrolls for the others.

Hulk had no objection to this and privately sent the coordinates to Edward.

Leonidas: "Bro, find a teleportation location far from yours for me."

Leonidas: "My subordinates are rather irritable. Without my personal suppression, they're hard to manage."

Hulk: "No problem!"

Honestly, Leonidas was still reliable. He was using his own situation to remind the others in the group, and also reminding Orion.

If everyone's forces gathered too closely together, issues of territory and benefit distribution would inevitably arise later.

Since that was the case, it was better to plan the landing zones in advance before descending.

Next, under the guidance of Edward, Leonidas, and Alexander, Orion gained considerable insight.

It made Orion realize that his invasion this time was still not rigorous enough, containing many flaws.

For example, the lord auras of the two worlds being inconsistent meant that when the Void Passage opened, they wouldn't be pulled, which would certainly reveal anomalies.

Another example: slaughter wasn't the best method to prevent information leaks.

Orion should have first sought methods similar to spiritual contamination, controlled Loska and the Red Thread Clan, and used the Emerald Dream Realm natives as cover—that would have been the best choice.

In short, the more he listened, the more Orion felt his invasion of the Emerald Dream Realm was somewhat ill-considered.

However, since it had already happened, Orion had no regrets, and could only take things one step at a time.

Soon, the group dispersed, and the public channel fell silent again.

Unknown realm, within a certain palace court.

This was the traveling palace of the Iris Queen. Unlike other realms, the queen here wasn't a queen in the true sense.

All experts who advanced to the Legendary level could be called King (or Queen).

And Arch Lord level existences were referred to as Emperors (or Empresses) in this realm.

The eighth member of the Champions Alliance, Isabella, was the queen here.

Isabella started as a trainee knight and advanced rapidly all the way, becoming the Iris Queen with virtually no obstacles.

All this was because she had a father who had already claimed the title of Emperor. From the moment she was born, Isabella lacked no resources whatsoever.

This was the foundation of Isabella's pride!

Of course, another reason for Isabella's immense pride was that she was a survivor.

Furthermore, on the Survivor's Platform, Isabella had coincidentally met a super expert, namely Alexander.

Through bartering, Isabella had also obtained many practical items from Alexander.

Whether judging by background, personal strength, or hidden trump cards, Isabella was exceedingly proud.

In her home realm, she was a peerless genius, pushing aside her entire generation, an existence admired by the youth.

However, at this moment, Isabella was somewhat angry because she had been ignored.

"Alexander, what did that Hulk mean?"

"He mentioned everyone else, why did he ignore only me?"

Isabella sat upon her throne, scratching at her long, purplish-red hair; she looked very angry.

She was the renowned Iris Queen, the center of attention wherever she went; she had never suffered such disregard.

The more she thought about it, the uglier Isabella's expression became.

This side of Isabella was one others had never seen.

Fortunately, the maidservants attending Isabella had already been dismissed by her.

Otherwise, Isabella would have been even more furious.

"Isabella, I was the one who brought you into the Champions Alliance."

"There were some things I didn't explain clearly beforehand, hoping you would explore them yourself; the benefits gained that way would be greater."

Alexander was a straightforward person. Isabella had indeed been brought into the team by him.

Apart from being a bit proud and speaking bluntly, Isabella's character wasn't problematic.

"Leonidas, whom you asked about earlier, is an Arch Lord peak existence, capable of stepping into the demigod realm at any time."

"Strong or not, you tell me?"

"Also, Hulk whom you just mentioned, about your age, Legendary level peak, holds a battle record of killing an upper Arch Lord."

"Even that Kraken is a Legendary level peak existence."

These words from Alexander caused Isabella's proud yet embarrassed expression to instantly freeze. Then she sat stunned, unable to utter a single word.

"Also, the Deputy Commander whom we all respect—that is a demigod expert."

"Isabella, drop your pride. In the Champions Alliance, you're not a queen, but the weakest puppy."

These last few sentences were rather harsh.

Especiallly for Isabella, who had lived surrounded by glory and the attention of others since birth.

Chapter 605 605: Conquer them with your charm and strength

"Invading the Emerald Dream Realm is a very important matter. Hulk isn't familiar with you."

"Him raising the issue in the public channel, thus not excluding you, was also done out of consideration for my face."

"Isabella, if you want everyone not to neglect you, then conquer them with your charm and strength."

As a guide, as an assassin, Alexander had already said enough today.

Isabella was a smart person; these words today were sufficient.

An unknown amount of time passed before Isabella came back to her senses, muttering to herself on the throne.

"Demigod... Arch Lord... Legendary level peak..."

"I'm the weakest puppy... I'm the worst..."

Only after Alexander had laid everything bare for Isabella did she realize what kind of circle she had entered.

Originally, Isabella had thought the Champions Alliance was just a group composed of some Legendary level existences. After she advanced to the Legendary level, she felt qualified to join.

Now, it seemed she had been far too complacent.

Previously, when Deputy Commander Edward mentioned that Arch Lords couldn't descend, Isabella had thought they were boasting.

Unexpectedly, it was all true.

"About your level... could it be you are also an Arch Lord peak existence?"

Isabella suddenly jolted. Only now did she realize that Alexander, with whom she had a good relationship, was an existence surpassing even her father.

All along, Isabella had only thought of Alexander as a veteran Legendary level expert.

"Heavens... I seem to have joined an incredible organization..."

Emerald Dream Realm, Red Moon Valley.

Orion remained seated cross-legged beside the cross-realm teleportation array, not awakening immediately.

"Release this owl. It will find the intelligence I want."

Deputy Commander Edward had traded a magical item to Orion—it was an owl statue.

It was an extremely high-tier magical item!

"Deputy Commander, do I just release it? Should I do something else?"

"No need. This is a stealth owl. It will fly throughout the Emerald Dream Realm, scouting relevant intelligence for us."

Hearing this, Orion's eyes lit up. This kind of item was practically a divine artifact!

"No, I only have this one in my possession. This item is too precious."

"Deputy Commander, are there any more owls? I..."

Orion deleted the message he hadn't finished sending, feeling slightly disappointed.

Just then, Leonidas and Alexander also sent messages.

"Bro, take this thing. When you find a suitable place for my troops to descend, just throw it hard onto the ground."

Leonidas traded over an iron lump, somewhat resembling a Poke Ball in shape.

"Just throw it onto the ground?"

"Correct. Use some force and throw it hard; it won't break."

Orion stored the item away without asking further questions; this was surely another special item.

Afterwards, Orion looked at the message sent by Alexander.

"I'm gifting this item to you. You should have use for it."

Alexander traded over a strange-looking paper figure, quite peculiar. Its function was eye-opening for Orion.

[Shadow Paper Figure]

Type: Single-use item

Quality: Alpha

Usage Description: Tear the shadow paper figure. Using your own shadow as a medium, summon a shadow slave completely obedient to your command.

Note: The shadow slave possesses intelligence, has no offensive capabilities, and dies upon being attacked.

Staring at the shadow paper figure in his hand, Orion fell into contemplation.

This was a very special functional item, and also a single-use one.

Orion tore the paper figure. A shadow slowly condensed from beneath his feet.

The shadow nodded towards Orion, took a few steps, then stood aside, awaiting orders.

Orion stared at the shadow, his brow slightly furrowed, then slowly smoothing out again.

"Go!"

After a good while, Orion finally spoke this single word faintly.

The shadow slave turned and walked towards the cave exit.

Exiting the cave, the shadow shrank, condensing into a ball, and departed outwards from Red Moon Valley at the speed of a running person.

Where the shadow passed, the cave spiders showed no reaction, nor did the snowlings summoned by Lumi.

Even when passing right beside Dirtclaw, Dirtclaw discovered nothing.

Furthermore, everything the paper figure observed, Orion saw within the cave.

This truly was a magical item!

It was also an excellent tool for silently probing intelligence.

"Hehe... the foundation of a peak Arch Lord is truly incomparable to mine!"

From the items produced by Leonidas and Alexander, Orion understood that the gap between him and Arch Lords wasn't just in strength, but also in foundation and resources.

Items like the ones just received—Orion didn't have them, the entire Stoneheart Horde didn't have them.

Orion sighed, closed his eyes, and swept through the Survivor's Platform, hoping to obtain some useful items from it, to increase his foundation somewhat.

Seven days later, the sound of footsteps echoed, awakening Orion from the Survivor's Platform.

"Master, the snow is getting thicker and thicker. Should we recall the small spiders?"

Lorelia arrived beside the teleportation array, speaking softly, afraid of disturbing Orion.

Following Lumi's actions, heavy snow gradually covered the area near Red Moon Valley.

The thickening snow served as a natural barrier against potential outside invaders.

"Relay the message to Dirtclaw and the others. Have everyone return to Red Moon Valley."

Orion pondered, calculated the time, felt it was about right, and decided to recall Lumi and his sister, who were still slaughtering dark creatures.

"Also, Master, the castle you requested—Lorelia has already built it for you."

Lorelia looked expectantly at Orion, hoping for praise from him.

Orion stood up and walked towards the cave exit, causing Lorelia's smiling face to instantly fall.

Arriving within the valley and looking at the castle Lorelia had constructed, Orion's temples throbbed.

What met his eyes wasn't a castle at all, but a structure resembling a miniature Nest.

Except that on the surface of the Nest, a few structures resembling arrow towers had been added.

Indeed, entrusting such fine work to Lorelia was unreliable.

Orion didn't speak, walking straight towards the "castle".

Shortly after entering the castle, a cave extending down into the earth appeared before him.

Orion shook his head and walked down into the cave.

The cave was very deep, with a large internal space and quite a few branching paths.

"Master, this is the castle Lorelia built. Isn't it beautiful?"

Lorelia followed Orion to the deepest part of the underground caves, showing off with immense excitement.

Orion finally saw it clearly; this wasn't fundamentally a castle prepared for him, but one prepared for Lorelia herself.

"It's alright!"

Orion replied perfunctorily. Reaching the deepest part, he took out a Lord's Stone and placed a territory core within Red Moon Valley.

With the placement of the territory core, the sub-base was thus formed.

Orion could also integrate some special buildings like arrow towers into it, thereby strengthening Red Moon Valley's defensive and early warning capabilities.

"This place is forbidden from now on. Besides you and me, no one else is permitted to enter, understand?"

Orion's tone was extremely serious. Lorelia nodded solemnly.

When it came to serious matters, Lorelia always listened obediently.

"Let's go. There are still some external defensive fortifications that need discussing with you."

Orion took Lorelia airborne.

Orion first released the owl Edward had given him. The owl was incredibly fast, vanishing over the horizon in the blink of an eye.

Chapter 606 606: I'm not going anywhere

Then, Orion marked several important locations on the mountain range at the back of Red Moon Valley and on the stone peaks at its front.

"Arrow towers must be built at these locations. Have your small spiders transport the materials there."

Lorelia was unqualified to supervise the construction of defensive fortifications; Red Moon Valley still lacked a foreman.

Orion thought of Onyx. He prepared to make a trip back to Blackstone City to temporarily bring Onyx over as a construction supervisor.

After several trips back and forth to arrange tasks for Lorelia, Orion returned to the vicinity of the teleportation array.

Three days later, the first to return to Red Moon Valley was Lumi.

Sensing Lumi's aura, Orion proactively walked out of the cave and waited on the city wall for Lumi's arrival.

A surge of wind and snow moved, and Lumi appeared beside Orion. Although her body was ice-cold, it exuded a sense of beauty.

Orion very naturally pulled Lumi into his embrace, and together they gazed at the vast expanse of white snow outside the city.

"This snow cannot stop. It must continue to fall. It would be best if it covered the entire nearby region, blocking all roads leading to Red Moon Valley."

"Mm!"

Lumi rested her head against Orion's chest, asking nothing about the next steps, nor inquiring about any enemies, simply letting the wind and snow fall around them.

"I need to make a trip back to Blackstone City to bring Onyx over. The defensive construction here needs him."

"After I leave, you enter the cave. Do not leave the vicinity of the teleportation array; it can hide your aura there."

Lumi didn't speak, but Orion knew she was listening intently.

Lumi had never disappointed him.

Half a day later, the teleportation array within Red Moon Valley lit up, and Orion vanished within it.

...

Titanion Realm, Human Kingdom.

From the distant sky, a troop of griffins flew over, slowly landing on the flat ground outside Rose Manor.

Prince Theodore dismounted from his griffin, glanced at Garrett guarding the wall, nodded towards him, and then walked into Rose Manor.

In the hall deep within the manor, Prince Theodore saw Brom and James standing guard to the side.

Prince Theodore recognized Brom and James, as he had previously served as an envoy to Stoneheart City and had even challenged the Giant King in the Colosseum.

Brom and James bowed slightly. Prince Theodore nodded and walked inside.

In the living room, Princess Ava was currently teasing Kronos. Upon seeing a stranger walk in, Kronos let out a stream of babble.

"Are you hungry? I had the chef prepare a few dishes you love. Shall I have them brought up now?"

"I am a bit hungry!"

Prince Theodore sat down nearby. Just as he settled, Princess Ava handed Kronos over to him.

"Watch him for me; I'll go get you something to eat!"

Prince Theodore paused for a moment, stunned. By the time he reacted, his aunt Ava had already left.

Watching his aunt's figure, Prince Theodore sensed a subtle change.

In his aunt, Theodore detected a familiar quality, a quality he usually only felt from his own mother.

"Has she changed?"

"Even Aunt has matured!"

Prince Theodore muttered to himself, then looked down at Kronos in his hands.

This was truly a giant cub; his appearance was entirely unlike a human's.

However, meeting Kronos's eyes, Prince Theodore knew this was also the bloodline of the Leofric royalty.

Kronos's eye color was peculiar—heterochromia. His left eye was blue, his right eye reddish-black.

Blue was the mark of the human royal bloodline.

And reddish-black was the mark of the Blackstone giant bloodline.

"Kronos, do you know who I am?"

"I am Theodore, your cousin!"

"Come, say 'cousin' for me to hear."

"..."

Responding to Prince Theodore was a stream of babble from Kronos.

"He can't talk yet, can't even say mama!"

Ava returned carrying two plates of shortbread, placing them aside. One plate was for Prince Theodore, the other was supplementary food for Kronos.

Ava took Kronos back, broke off a piece of shortbread, and fed it bit by bit into Kronos's mouth.

"This little fellow has a great appetite, and his food intake is astonishing."

"If I hadn't seen those two giants feeding him jerky, I wouldn't have believed Kronos could accept supplementary food already."

Giant cubs and human infants were vastly different.

The giants' living environment was relatively harsh, and their cubs were hardier.

Many giant cubs were fed meat paste after reaching three months of age.

Those in poorer conditions might even be fed raw meat directly.

"Aunt, you've become more beautiful, more gentle than before!"

Gazing at his Aunt Ava, whose entire focus was on Kronos, Prince Theodore was quite certain: this was a mother, possessing the same quality as his own mother.

It was a kind of gentleness, and also a maternal radiance.

In this world, the things that change a person's character aren't limited to hardship and emotions.

There are also children!

Kronos's appearance had brought about a change in Ava's personality.

Currently, this change was positive.

Even the gentlest woman becomes strong after having a child.

Furthermore, for the sake of their child, in certain aspects, they can even break through themselves, break through their limits.

"Aunt..."

Looking at Ava, the words he had prepared beforehand, Prince Theodore surprisingly couldn't bring himself to say.

"Is something wrong?"

Ava continued to feed Kronos with her head lowered, not looking up at Prince Theodore.

"The dark beast tides are about to descend. My father and I hope you can return to the royal palace to recuperate."

Prince Theodore gathered his thoughts, but ultimately didn't mention Pallas, instead changing the subject to invite Ava back to the palace.

"I'm not going anywhere!"

"I have the Rose Knight Regiment here, the guards you dispatched, and also a troop of giant Raptor cavalry."

"It's not as dangerous here as you think!"

Dangerous?

How could it be!

Prince Theodore had come to Rose Manor this time precisely to guard this region's Void Passage, and also for the convenience of taking care of Ava.

Of course, Ava wasn't wrong either. With Rose Manor's defensive strength, weathering the dark beast tides would certainly pose no problem.

"Don't just talk, the pastries taste better when they're hot!"

This time, Ava looked up, urging Prince Theodore to eat while it was warm.

Prince Theodore nodded, picked up a piece of pastry, and tossed it into his mouth.

In a glance, Theodore noticed that Kronos had already finished his own plate of shortbread.

At this moment, Kronos was staring wide-eyed, looking with intense longing at the pastry in Prince Theodore's hand.

"Don't give him any; he's already eaten too much!"

Just as Prince Theodore was about to offer the pastry in his hand, Ava spoke out, stopping him.

"You sit here for a while; I'll go put him to sleep!"

Ava picked up Kronos, who was kicking his arms and legs, and gave the little fellow's bottom a firm pat. Only then did he settle down.

Half an hour later, after Prince Theodore had finished the food brought up from the kitchen, Ava slowly walked into the living room.

"What you didn't say earlier—you can say it now!"

Chapter 607 607: This has nothing to do with me

Prince Theodore put down his utensils, gazing at Princess Ava.

At this moment, Ava's aura was different from before, as if she had transformed into another person.

The gentleness Ava had displayed earlier seemed to have been completely used up.

"Is it news from the northern Soaring Bird City, or news from the giant territory?"

Prince Theodore didn't speak. Ava sat down opposite him, guessing on her own.

Prince Theodore stared at Ava. The latter gazed back at him without the slightest evasion, meeting his eyes directly.

"Why do you keep looking at me? Have I developed wrinkles?"

It was a joke, but Prince Theodore could hear the forced strength behind Ava's tone, a strength forcing a smile.

"No, my aunt is forever the kingdom's most beautiful woman!"

Ava gave a faint smile, withdrew her gaze from Prince Theodore, and turned her head to look out the window at the rose garden, from which a rich fragrance drifted.

"I somewhat regret that I didn't practice martial arts diligently like you when I was young."

"Now my strength isn't great, and I still need others to protect me."

Prince Theodore wanted to open his mouth to comfort Ava, wanted to say 'you still have us'.

But before the words could leave his lips, Ava stopped him.

Ava gazed at the distant roses, her eyes somewhat faraway.

"Your aunt isn't as fragile as you think!"

"Having reached this point, what else could possibly strike me down?"

Ava withdrew her gaze, smiling as she looked at Prince Theodore.

Prince Theodore studied Ava again, as if confirming something.

"In the giant territory, the Giant King's wife's son has been born. He is named Pallas, the recognized Giant Prince of the Stoneheart Horde."

This news greatly shocked Ava, while Brom and James, guarding outside, were incomparably overjoyed.

"This has nothing to do with me!"

After a good while, Ava finally managed a bitter smile.

"And it has nothing to do with Kronos either!"

Would Prince Theodore believe this sentence?

Perhaps, even Ava herself didn't believe it.

...

North, Blackstone City.

After Orion returned, he didn't immediately pull Onyx away to the Emerald Dream Realm. Instead, he first went to the Horde Hall to check on Lilith and Pallas.

Before even entering the inner keep, Orion saw Whitefur guarding outside.

The current Whitefur had also advanced to the Alpha-level, becoming a true Frost Giant.

Clad in bone armor, Whitefur appeared exceptionally imposing and fierce.

This close guard, whom Lilith had raised since he was young, had finally taken shape.

"My lord!"

Whitefur saluted Orion, his eyes filled with incomparable reverence.

"It has indeed been a long time since I saw you. You've grown up!"

Orion took out a Hero level giant axe from his collection and tossed it to Whitefur.

Although Whitefur had grown to Alpha-level, with explosive combat power, his mind hadn't fully matured yet and still required further tempering.

Amidst Whitefur's silly grin, Orion walked into the inner keep.

In the bedroom, Lilith, with the help of several succubus maidservants, was currently nursing Pallas.

The little fellow was growing quickly, his body extremely sturdy.

"Have you finished your business over there?"

Orion shook his head. Just as he was about to inquire about Lilith and Pallas, a mighty voice suddenly echoed beside his ear.

"Seven days later, the Void Passage opens. All races may proceed to the Emerald Dream Realm to conquer the foreign race."

"Seven days later, the Void Passage opens. All races may descend upon the Emerald Dream Realm to conquer the foreign race."

"..."

This was the method of a demigod; Orion was very familiar with such means.

Orion stood rooted to the spot, his brow slightly raised, various emotions flashing rapidly across his eyes.

Clearly, the information transmitted by the demigod expert had disrupted Orion's plans.

"Did you hear?"

"Heard!"

"What about you all?"

"Ah?"

Orion first asked Lilith, then inquired of the several succubus maidservants.

From the reaction of the several succubus maidservants, it was clear they hadn't heard the transmission.

Therefore, it could be deduced that the demigod expert's transmission was targeted only at beings of Alpha-level and above.

Orion fell silent, contemplating the problem.

From the demigod expert's transmission, Orion understood that this time, the opening of the Void Passage was actively initiated by the experts of the Titanion Realm.

Meaning, after so many years, in the divine war against the Emerald Dream Realm, the Titanion Realm had gained the upper hand for the first time.

At least, that was how it could be temporarily perceived.

In other words, the Utessar continent would not face the dark beast tides this year, but would instead engage in external conquest.

Furthermore, Orion's aura had been marked by the demigod beings; he would subsequently be summoned to guard the Void Passage.

Orion took a deep breath. The complex emotions in his eyes completely vanished, becoming much calmer.

"You all continue recuperating in Blackstone City. I must make a trip back to Stoneheart City."

Lilith nodded. She understood Orion's meaning; Orion didn't want the armies guarding the Stoneheart Horde to join in this conquest of the foreign race.

Since matters had reached this point, there was nothing more to say. Orion turned and walked out of the inner keep.

Outside the Horde Hall, Onyx, Rockwell, and Gronthar, who were guarding Blackstone City, had already gathered here, awaiting Orion.

"Prophet, you head to the Underworld, pass through the teleportation array to Lorelia City, and shoulder the burden of constructing all of Lorelia City's defensive fortifications."

That Red Moon Valley in the Emerald Dream Realm was now Lorelia's territory. At her strong request, it had already been renamed Lorelia City.

"As you wish. I will head over now!"

Onyx had nothing to prepare and turned directly towards the Underground Fissure.

"Rockwell, you will now guard Blackstone City."

"During the period of conquering the foreign race, if anyone in the northern territory plots rebellion, execute them all."

Rockwell himself originated from the Black Forest and was extremely familiar with the northern territory.

"As you command! I guarantee I will provide the Horde with a stable rear base."

Orion nodded, saying no more.

"Gronthar, you return to Stoneheart City with me."

Gronthar acknowledged the order and followed silently behind Orion, completely obedient.

South, Stoneheart City.

When the demigod expert's transmission reached the ears of the various Alpha-level beings, the lively atmosphere of Stoneheart City, after continuing for a short while, instantly transformed into a clamor.

In just fifteen minutes, the news spread throughout the entire city.

Following the clamor came screams, wild joy, and also panic.

All sorts of sounds instantly echoed through every corner of Stoneheart City.

However, just at this moment, a wave of pressure enveloped Stoneheart City, followed by Orion's deep and tyrannical voice.

"Silence!"

"Seven days later, the Void Passage opens! All tribesmen and allies willing to travel to the otherworld to plunder Dark Source Crystals may report at the entrance of the military barracks tomorrow morning."

"For spoils obtained from the otherworld plunder, the Stoneheart Horde will collect a twenty percent dividend."

Orion's voice spread throughout Stoneheart City. Through the castle's sonic diffusion system, it also spread across the entire territory.

The other four cities within the territory also received his command at this time.

It had to be said, the appearance of a Legendary level expert truly acted like a stabilizing pillar, completely dispelling the panic within the territory.

Chapter 608: Follow me

With Orion's appearance, all the tribesmen settled down.

Inside the Mysterious Tavern, Delilah, who was in the process of issuing orders, finally let out a sigh of relief.

This sudden turn of events made Delilah profoundly understand that a Legendary level expert was simply too crucial for a race or group.

The Stoneheart Horde possessed such a vast foundation in the south; without a Legendary level expert guarding it, it truly wouldn't work.

"I must advance to the Legendary level!"

Previously in the north, Alpha-level status held absolute standing within the Stoneheart Horde, and even among other groups.

But things were different now. The number of Alpha-level experts within the Stoneheart Horde was already nearing 100.

If Delilah wanted to match her current status and authority, she absolutely had to advance to the Legendary level.

Otherwise, sooner or later, Alpha-level beings would begin to challenge her authority.

"Compile the relevant intelligence. We head to the castle to await orders!"

Orion's timely return lessened Delilah's pressure.

It also made her realize that there were some matters her current strength was incapable of handling.

In an extremely short time, the elders stationed near Stoneheart City were all summoned back.

"Relay orders to all armies: have them mobilize! From this moment on, the Horde enters a state of war readiness!"

Arriving at the castle, Delilah didn't see Orion. Instead, she received orders issued by him.

As for Orion, he had already arrived at a secret chamber within the military barracks and immersed his consciousness into the Survivor's Platform.

Hulk: "Several bros, there's a new situation on my side."

No one pressed further; all awaited Orion's subsequent message.

Hulk: "My side has opened the Void Passage. This time it's not reversed; our side actively initiated it."

Hulk: "Meaning, I can provide everyone with a new point of descent."

As Orion released this news, the other allies became somewhat eager.

Leonidas: "Is no one going? Then my side will send people!"

Alexander: "Shameless!"

Edward: "At this time, the most suitable to descend should be Arthas's undead armies."

Leonidas: "Arthas is in slumber, hasn't woken yet."

Leonidas felt it was somewhat regrettable. If Arthas weren't asleep, he could team up with Arthas for the invasion.

With their strength and tacit understanding, they would surely thrive and succeed smoothly.

Alexander: "Arthas hasn't woken, but his troops can descend first."

Alexander: "First descending a Legendary level undead shouldn't pose much difficulty."

Alexander's suggestion enlightened Leonidas.

Yes, even if Arthas woke up now, with his demigod strength, he still couldn't descend into the Emerald Dream Realm.

In the current situation, even Arch Lord level Leonidas couldn't descend, only send Legendary level subordinates.

Leonidas: "You mean send his subordinates over?"

Alexander: "Mm... Before Arthas slept, he sent reinforcements to our side. His subordinates all obey our commands."

Alexander: "Find a suitable opportunity, we can send them over first."

This was actually a good method; undead troop types were among the best for invasions.

Furthermore, sending Arthas's subordinates over meant that when he woke up, he could directly join the invasion force and take over the invasion plan.

Edward: "Alexander's suggestion is good. This opportunity for descent will be prioritized for Arthas's undead armies."

Deputy Commander Edward made the final decision; Leonidas and Alexander had no objections.

Hulk: "Then have them prepare. This process will likely take around three to four months."

With the plan drafted, Orion stepped forward to explain further.

During the period of conquering the foreign race, it was impossible to descend Legendary level undead beings into the Emerald Dream Realm.

Even if they successfully descended, they would be teleported back when the invasion concluded.

The descent Orion spoke of meant utilizing those invading armies during the conquest period to find teleportation locations with favorable conditions for everyone.

And then send the relevant teleportation scrolls and equipment over, confirming the landing coordinates.

And the time of descent must absolutely be after the foreign race conquest activity ended.

Only this way could they avoid attracting the attention of the Emerald Dream Realm's demigod experts.

Next, Orion discussed further with Edward, then exited the Survivor's Platform.

The reason the discussion partner was the Deputy Commander was because the undead preparing to descend were the personnel Arthas had sent to support Edward's side.

Orion withdrew his consciousness, opened his eyes, stood up, and walked out of the secret chamber.

Amidst the reverent gazes of countless tribesmen, Orion walked to the edge of the teleportation array and waited quietly.

Two hours later, the teleportation array lit up. Five figures hidden beneath cloaks—Necromancers—emerged from the array.

"Great Giant King, we are willing to obey your commands!"

An ethereal voice sounded as the five Necromancers walked towards Orion.

"Follow me!"

These Alpha-level Necromancers had all teleported over from the Champions Alliance.

Their arrival this time was not only to help Orion invade the Emerald Dream Realm but also to locate teleportation coordinates, preparing for the future descent of even higher-level beings.

Orion arranged for the Necromancers to stay in a secret location, then returned to the castle.

There, Delilah, Earthshaker, Gronthar, Drakthul, Gormathar, Taran, Brontes, and Steropes—eight Alpha-level elders—had already been waiting for a long time.

Upon the throne, Orion had just settled firmly when Delilah stepped forward to report the situation.

"My lord, currently in Stoneheart City, thirteen thousand foreigners have volunteered to participate in the conquest of the foreign race."

"These people are mostly human mercenaries, with a smaller portion being a mix of blood elves, dwarves, orcs, and other races."

This was the latest data from Stoneheart City. In less than half a day, over ten thousand people, driven by fervor and mutual boasting, had joined the invasion force.

"According to intelligence reports, many vassal Tribes residing in our territory also wish to join this invasion activity; they are all rushing towards Stoneheart City."

"Even from Buffalofolk City, Obsidian City, Delilah City, and Lilith City—the four cities—foreigners are successively rushing over."

"Preliminary estimates suggest the number of foreigners willing to participate in this foreign invasion should exceed 100,000."

A foreign invasion force of one hundred thousand—this number was already considerable.

But it would also pose a major problem!

These foreigners were not from the Stoneheart Horde's regular armies. Leading them to conquer the foreign race meant they couldn't afford too many, or too significant, defeats.

The morale of such a force was too easily broken.

To put it bluntly, these people were just joining for the ride, to grab some benefits.

Orion glanced over the assembled group, falling into contemplation.

The Stoneheart Horde had many Alpha-level elders, but quite a few were deployed guarding territories.

Adding those Orion had sent to the Valkorath Realm for training, as well as the contingent that had already descended into the Emerald Dream Realm's Red Moon Valley, left the Horde with significantly fewer usable personnel.

All things considered, Stoneheart City only had Delilah, Earthshaker, Gronthar, Drakthul, Gormathar, Taran, Brontes, and Steropes—eight trustworthy Alpha-level individuals available.

Chapter 609: We cannot do that

Orion didn't speak, and the assembled group waiting in the hall for orders dared not speak either.

"Delilah, share your thoughts!"

After a long pause, Orion finally spoke, directing his question towards Delilah, the leader amongst them.

"I temporarily don't have any thoughts either!"

This was the truth. Actively invading another world—the situation had arisen too suddenly, and Delilah had never encountered such a thing before.

If Delilah had a good response plan at this moment, that would actually be strange.

"However, there is one point we must pay attention to."

Although Delilah lacked a corresponding plan, she still offered some suggestions.

"My lord, those foreigners who voluntarily joined the invasion force must be managed properly."

"We cannot let them affect our bloodline warriors, affect the army's morale."

"I suggest separating those foreigners, forming them into an independent army."

Saying this, Delilah seemed to recall something and spoke again.

"Among the volunteer contingent from Stoneheart City, three Alpha-level experts have signed up."

"They are the human knight Godfrey, the dwarf warrior Grum Ironfist, and the blood elf archer Saelen."

"My lord, we can let them lead the foreign army to join the invasion ranks."

This was an idea Delilah suddenly thought of; it wasn't particularly good, nor was it bad.

"What about the rest of you? If you have any proposals, feel free to speak?"

Orion looked towards the remaining seven individuals, his gaze primarily landing on Earthshaker, Drakthul, and Taran.

Among these people, only these three possessed slightly more adept minds.

Unfortunately, the three shook their heads, offering Orion no opinions.

Orion sighed inwardly; it seemed the Stoneheart Horde's strategy team needed strengthening again.

"Your method isn't bad, but we cannot do that!"

Orion looked at Delilah and spoke calmly.

Before Delilah could press further, Orion began to explain.

"The members of Stoneheart City's volunteer army primarily come from merchant groups, mercenary bands, slave-catching groups, and envoys from other territories."

"They harbor selfish motives; that is certain."

"But they descended under the banner of the Stoneheart Horde, and furthermore, they did so in Stoneheart City, under my protection."

"Regardless, we cannot push them aside, cannot abandon them."

From a moral standpoint, Orion absolutely could not abandon these people.

Because these individuals were one component of the economic prosperity of Stoneheart City and the Horde.

These people, during the conquest of the foreign race, might be burdens, might be bad apples spoiling the bunch.

However, upon their return, they would again become one of the countless factors driving the Stoneheart Horde's economy.

Abandoning them, resulting in excessive volunteer casualties or even annihilation, would surely invite slander later, and blame would fall upon the Stoneheart Horde and Orion.

Conversely, if they were protected well, ensuring fewer deaths, allowing the vast majority of volunteers to gain benefits...

What the Stoneheart Horde would gain is support, praise, eulogies.

Therefore, Delilah's method was not entirely feasible.

"Additionally, the volunteers from the other four cities are predominantly from the vassal races within our territory."

"They are also part of the Stoneheart Horde; we cannot let them suffer excessive losses."

Delilah understood this point.

She managed all major and minor affairs within the Horde. Vassal races not only provided tax revenue to the Horde but also continuously supplied small contingents of troops and personnel with special skills.

Although the numbers were small, there were numerous tribes, especially the Beastfolk tribes within the territory, numbering in the thousands large and small.

"The volunteer army—we must treat it as an auxiliary force, not the main force."

This was Orion's positioning for the volunteer army. These people were only suitable for fighting battles where the odds were in their favor.

Therefore, the person leading them must possess exceptional wisdom and also command some prestige.

Naturally, Orion's gaze fell upon Delilah.

"It's been a long time since I went out for a walk. I am very willing to serve!"

Delilah's expression gradually became serious.

She was Orion's 'secret' lover; Delilah instantly guessed Orion's thoughts.

Actually, Delilah herself had long wanted to suggest the idea of going outside to gain practical experience.

With the immense resources Orion poured into her, her strength had also reached the late stage of Alpha-level, and her progress was becoming increasingly slow.

Delilah needed to enter the battlefield, feel the atmosphere of combat, and hone her fighting strength.

Orion nodded, once again falling silent.

Unlike Delilah, Orion considered far more factors.

This time, Orion's goal was not only for his subordinates to lead the armies in plundering vast resources, but also to secretly confirm the landing sites for the undead armies.

"Gormathar, Taran, Brontes, Steropes, you four will lead two orc armies, one gnoll army, and one cannon fodder troop, obeying Delilah's command."

"Delilah, I will transfer the Thunderstorm Bearmen army currently amassed in Blackstone City over to become your personal guard."

"Furthermore, the volunteer army is also allocated under your command, to be led by Godfrey, Grum Ironfist, and Saelen."

"The appointment of those three foreigners will be issued personally by you."

Not long after, Orion's majestic voice sounded, directly assigning the forces.

Six regular armies, plus a hundred-thousand-strong volunteer army, totaling over five hundred thousand troops.

Such a massive force could only be commanded by Delilah.

Although it would be very dangerous, it was also a great test.

Once Delilah successfully managed this invasion campaign, her capabilities and strategic perspective would reach a new level.

"Additionally, I will grant you two Scorpion Soldiers to serve as your guards."

"They both possess late Alpha-level strength. They are responsible only for protecting you, not for participating in combat."

Counting Delilah herself, the number of Alpha-level beings under her command now reached ten.

Such a lineup was definitely stronger than the core teams of some Legendary level lords.

"Delilah will definitely not fail my lord's entrustment!"

Delilah was extremely satisfied with these arrangements made by Orion.

Because it meant Orion cared about her, worried about her.

Orion nodded, signaling the elders who had received their orders that they could leave to prepare.

The remaining personnel were Earthshaker, Gronthar, and Drakthul.

For these three subordinates, Orion had other arrangements, preparing for them to lead another three armies and descend alongside the five Necromancers.

The undead armies—Orion did not intend to expose them to the volunteer army.

Orion knew very well that among those volunteers, some harbored impure motives.

An extremely small number were simply scouts from other races, wanting to use this opportunity to probe the foundation and specific strength of the Stoneheart Horde.

The existence of the Undead armies was part of the Stoneheart Horde's foundation, secret reinforcements.

Orion couldn't possibly let those volunteers discover the Undead armies.

Therefore, the five Alpha level peak Necromancers needed to act separately.

Their objective: plundering resources was secondary; finding suitable landing sites was the primary mission.

Chapter 610: Iris City

"You three, go to the barracks and await orders. I will have other instructions for you then."

After Earthshaker, Gronthar, and Drakthul departed, Orion sat quietly upon the throne.

The invasion plan had been divided into two parts, and tasks had been assigned, but Orion felt something was still lacking.

This invasion wasn't that simple.

Should he allow his armies to mindlessly siege cities and plunder land in the otherworld, just like those dark creatures?

That would surely be a foolish decision.

Furthermore, the bloodline warriors of the Stoneheart Horde were not monsters, nor were they undead.

They could die; they could feel fear.

Therefore, certain necessary siege weapons were essential equipment.

At the very least, relatively primitive weapons like battering rams, chariots, catapults, and heavy crossbows needed to be equipped in large numbers.

Although the existence of bloodline power diminished the importance of siege weapons, large weapons enchanted with magic were still terrifyingly powerful.

Fortunately, Orion had begun paying attention to this point early on.

In the warehouses of Blackstone City, quite a few such weapons had already been stockpiled, all manufactured by the Bureau of Weapons.

Furthermore, during trade processes with the humans, the Stoneheart Horde had also purchased blueprints for some relatively inferior siege items.

Building upon this foundation, the technology of the Stoneheart Horde had progressed quite rapidly.

However, this was still not enough.

Orion immersed his consciousness into the Survivor's Platform, preparing to sweep the platform for some high-quality large siege equipment.

More large siege weapons would make things relatively easier for Delilah and the others, and casualties would also be reduced.

...

Valkorath Realm, Western Region.

This was the area guarded by Alexander. Following a ripple of void energy fluctuation, a large army descended into the empty city.

At the forefront of the army was a female knight clad in purple battle robes.

Riding a giant dragon, her cloak dragging on the ground, holding a lance, possessing a heroic bearing and valiant manner—this was the eighth member of the Champions Alliance, the team's weakest member, Isabella.

"This is the Valkorath Realm Alexander mentioned?"

"Such dense magical elements!"

Isabella scanned her surroundings, surveying this new world.

"Lady Isabella, welcome to our Valkorath Realm."

An unfamiliar, cold voice sounded ethereally beside Isabella.

Isabella's body stiffened slightly, then she slowly turned her head to look beside her.

At some unknown point, an ordinary old man dressed in hemp clothes, radiating no aura whatsoever, had appeared beside Isabella.

Roar!

Three breaths later, the colossal dragon beneath Isabella finally reacted, issuing an angry, warning roar.

"Lady Isabella, your dragon is too noisy!"

The old man leaned on his staff. He looked at Isabella, meeting her gaze, and lightly tapped his staff.

The next moment, the colossal dragon instantly became mute, and its body seemed to have been turned into a specimen, unable to move even the slightest bit.

"You... Who are you?"

Isabella made a swallowing motion; her heart was filled with panic at this moment.

If the old man before her intended her harm, she might already be dead.

"I have no name. You may call me Old Fellow."

"By order of my master, I will assist Lady Isabella here and answer all your doubts."

"Lady Isabella, this city is a gift to you from my master!"

The old man was very frank, his expression calm.

However, when speaking of "my master," his tone was reverent, fervent.

"Then, respected elder, may I ask where this place is?"

After all, she wasn't an ordinary person; Isabella quickly adapted to the atmosphere.

"This city has no name. It belongs to you. You may give it a name."

Isabella nodded, glanced at the giant dragon beneath her feet, her intention clear.

The old man smiled, tapped his staff again, and the giant dragon quickly recovered its freedom.

This time, the Legendary level colossal dragon no longer roared angrily but stared at the old man with incomparable terror.

Isabella paid it no mind, reaching out to gently pat the colossal dragon's head, constantly soothing it.

A moment later, the colossal dragon spread its wings and flew, carrying Isabella and the old man into the sky, overlooking the unfamiliar city and land below.

"This entire region is mine?"

"Yes!"

The old man nodded, his voice calm and steady.

"Then this place shall be called Iris City henceforth!"

She was the Iris Queen; this was Isabella's starting point in the Valkorath Realm.

As Orion and Edward cleared the fungal creatures, the number of fungi on the continent had already dwindled significantly.

Based on the clearing progress of the forces Orion left behind in Valkorath, Alexander, after discussing with Edward, had guided Isabella here.

Regarding this point, the Deputy Commander had agreed readily.

Firstly, the vast majority of the continent's Legendary level fungal creatures had already been killed by Edward, and their life essence had fallen into Orion's hands.

The remaining fungal creatures were used for training troops and accumulating foundation, targeted at subordinates.

Secondly, regarding these last dregs, upon Alexander's request, the Deputy Commander didn't mind letting the new member Isabella come and get a share of the benefits.

This way, they could demonstrate the strength and generosity of the Champions Alliance to Isabella.

After all, they were to become mutually supportive allies in the future. Besides, with the forces Orion left behind in Valkorath, the cleanup progress was truly too slow.

In fact, adding one Isabella wouldn't speed up the progress much either.

"Where are our enemies?"

Returning to the city, Isabella was very direct, immediately asking for the target.

In the information Alexander had told her, her purpose in coming to the Valkorath Realm this time was to kill enemies and accumulate resources.

"Straight west, all the way to the sea!"

The old man answered every question, raised his staff, and pointed out the direction where the fungal creatures were located.

"I'll go check out the enemy first!"

The colossal dragon roared and leaped into the air again.

However, this time, the colossal dragon carried only Isabella.

The old man paid it no mind. His figure flickered and vanished from the sight of Isabella's troops.

North, Soraya City.

Edward, teaching Elara in the magical plant garden, looked up, glanced towards the west, then retracted his gaze.

"Mentor, what are you looking at?"

"Nothing. Far away in the west, I saw a colossal dragon with a decent bloodline."

"Mentor, is a colossal dragon the kind of reptile daddy mentioned?"

"Mm, correct!"

"My daddy promised Elara, he would catch a reptile pet for Elara."

Edward smiled, committing Elara's wish to memory.

If Orion failed to fulfill this promise, or caught a dragon with impure bloodline, he wouldn't mind finding a better one for little Elara.

Elara, to Orion, might just be an adopted daughter.

But to Edward, she was the inheritor of his legacy.

Long, long ago, Edward had met an exceptionally good mentor—wise, tolerant, sincere; all these qualities could be found in that mentor.

From that mentor, Edward had also learned much.

Now, Edward prepared to fulfill the promise made to his mentor, to pass down their lineage of magic and make it flourish.

Deputy Commander Edward believed that with Elara's talent, their lineage of magic would bloom with incomparably dazzling brilliance.