

Titan King 681

Chapter 681 681: Half a million wyverns

Three days later.

In Red Moon Valley's largest square, Orion took out a sphere and tossed it to the ground.

As soon as it landed, the sphere began to spin rapidly.

Then, dazzling beams of light erupted from within.

The glare was so overwhelming that Onyx, Dirtclaw, and the others with Orion squeezed their eyes shut.

Only Orion and Lumi stared at the sphere, their faces alight with curiosity.

Soon, the light faded. The sphere vanished, revealing a large, mysterious magical formation etched onto the ground.

"A teleportation formation!" Orion muttered. Just as he'd suspected.

He realized Leonidas must have given him the sphere as a means of teleportation.

Just then, runes on the ground began to flicker—the magical formation had activated.

"Hahaha, Hulk, I'm here!"

Leonidas's hearty laughter boomed out, his voice echoing from the teleportation formation just before he emerged.

As his laughter died down, another flash of light erupted. The first figure to appear from the formation was a dragonkin, his aura strikingly similar to Leonidas's.

"Leonidas?"

Orion stepped forward, staring at the dragonkin who radiated a potent aura, a hint of surprised uncertainty in his eyes.

"Hehe, peak Legendary. Feeling the pressure?"

A smile touched Orion's lips. He nodded, then shook his head and pointed at the tail trailing behind Leonidas.

Leonidas's current appearance lacked any of a dragon's imposing majesty; instead, he looked rather comical, like a bipedal lizard.

Even compared to a half-dragon, Leonidas looked somewhat bizarre.

Right now, he seemed more like a human merely wearing a draconic form, quite distinct from a true half-dragon.

"Ahem, it's just an appearance. Don't mind it too much."

Truth be told, Leonidas couldn't quite voice his private frustrations.

He'd partly chosen a dragon form for this avatar because most dragons could assume a human guise after reaching the Legendary level.

However, Leonidas didn't know what had gone wrong; this avatar stubbornly refused to shift into human form, resulting in its peculiar appearance.

Because of this, he had only developed this avatar to peak Legendary level before halting any further investment of resources into it.

Unexpectedly, for this invasion of the Emerald Dream Realm, this avatar's power level was the most suitable.

"Hahaha, long time no see! Give me a hug!"

Leonidas was overjoyed. Though his current appearance was somewhat comical, the sturdiness of this body was hardly inferior to Orion's own.

Orion was also quite happy to see Leonidas.

"Come, come, look at the troops I've brought!"

Leonidas pulled Orion aside, a smug grin on his face. Never one to build suspense, he was eager to show off to his friend.

Roar!

Roar! Roar!

Roar! Roar! Roar!

Waves of draconic roars surged from the teleportation formation, startling everyone in Red Moon Valley—and all the little spiders dwelling there.

"Draconic beasts?" Orion asked.

"Hehehe..." Leonidas merely chuckled, offering no direct answer.

The answer, however, was already emerging from the teleportation formation.

Swarms of wyverns streamed from the portal, soaring into the skies above Red Moon Valley.

In the blink of an eye, the entire sky above the valley was blotted out by their countless forms.

The dense host of aerial units created an overwhelming spectacle.

It was an exciting and awe-inspiring sight!

For the Stoneheart Horde, which lacked any aerial units, the shock of witnessing such an organized flying army was unparalleled.

"Hehehe, what do you think? Your big brother here brought five hundred thousand wyverns this time, all adult specimens over 300 feet in length."

"Wyverns may not be high-ranking dragons, but my army is certainly numerous enough."

"You've got your little spiders on the ground, and I've got my wyverns in the sky. Wherever we brothers go, we'll conquer, right? How's that sound?"

Orion nodded emphatically. Damn, it was satisfying cooperating with a Big Boss.

Clearly, Leonidas's arrival in the Emerald Dream Realm was well-considered.

He knew what kind of troops Orion commanded, understood their weaknesses, and had chosen his own forces to complement them perfectly.

That was the style of a Big Boss!

With these five hundred thousand wyverns, Orion's ambitions could truly take flight.

"Bro, what supplies are needed for these wyverns? And where would be a suitable place to build their Nests?" Orion asked, voicing a practical concern. If Leonidas hadn't made preparations, he'd have to consider it now.

"Little brother, underestimating your big brother, are you?"

Light flashed in Leonidas's hand, and a honeycomb-like Nest materialized.

"This is a Dragon Nest. With this, we don't need to worry about supplies or a roost."

"Wherever we go, the Dragon Nest goes with us, hehe!" Leonidas bounced the object in his palm, showing it off smugly to Orion.

Orion was naturally curious and couldn't help but desire such a fine item.

However, someone desired it even more than Orion.

Behind him, Lorelia swallowed hard. For a broodmother like her, the advanced Nest in Leonidas's hand was irresistibly attractive.

Lorelia's current Nest was Alpha-level, and it too had been a gift from Leonidas some time ago.

If Lorelia joined them on campaigns, her Nest needed a whole squad of cave spiders just to move it.

Compared to the Dragon Nest in Leonidas's hand, hers was a whole tier lower.

"The teleportation will continue for a while longer. Come on, show your big brother around this otherworld."

Orion nodded and led Leonidas towards the cave that hid the cross-realm teleportation array.

"This is Lumi, my woman!" Orion declared inside the cave, introducing her to Leonidas.

This elicited a series of lewd 'hehehe' chuckles from Leonidas.

He gave Orion an envious look, as if to say: Hulk, you old dog! How many women is that now?

Arriving at the cross-realm teleportation array, Leonidas stopped laughing and circled it several times, his expression turning serious.

"It's indeed a cross-realm teleportation array, just a bit crude. Far inferior to the ones made by the Deputy Commander."

"This thing wasted a lot of good materials!" Leonidas came to Orion's side and pointed at the array.

"Little brother, when we leave, remember to dismantle this array. You can salvage a good amount of high-tier materials from it."

Orion nodded, making a mental note.

"This leads to my territory," Orion said. "I'll have Lumi and some of her kin guard this place. What do you think, bro?"

The cross-realm teleportation array in Red Moon Valley led directly to the Stoneheart Horde. This connection was too important; Orion didn't dare leave it completely unguarded.

In his mind, Lumi would be the 'gatekeeper' here.

"Mm, can't be too careful," Leonidas agreed. "We don't want to succeed with our invasion only to find our own base has been raided."

"If that really happened, we brothers would be too ashamed to show our faces again."

Orion smiled and led Leonidas to a nearby stone table, placing a very detailed map on it.

"This is?" Leonidas leaned in.

He glanced at it, and his expression immediately turned serious.

"A map of the continent we're on," Orion explained. "However, right now, it's only half a map."

Chapter 682 682: Invasion plan

Orion was deeply impressed. The more he grasped the true depth of Leonidas's and Alexander's capabilities, the more keenly he felt the gaps in his own strategic understanding.

This partial map had been charted by the Shadow Paper Figure that Alexander had given him.

Orion had dispatched the Shadow Paper Figure about nine months ago, and in that time, it had traversed half the continent, meticulously mapping the terrain.

Simultaneously, it had provided Orion with intelligence about hostile forces in this region.

Although the Shadow Paper Figure wasn't as potent as the Deputy Commander's owl, its effectiveness was still enough to astound Orion.

"Bro, look."

Orion reached out, pointing to an icon in the top-right corner of the map: a small, three-leaved diagram.

"The Emerald Dream Realm has three leaf-shaped continents, which is why it's also called the Tri-Leaf World."

"The continent we're on is called the Twilight Continent, right here." Orion pointed to the bottom-left continent on the small diagram, beginning his explanation to Leonidas.

Leonidas studied the map intently, saying nothing, waiting for Orion to continue.

"Currently, my Shadow Paper Figure has explored half the continent; the other half is blocked."

Orion's finger moved down to the middle of the Twilight Continent, pointing to a pattern of undulating lines.

"There's a mountain range here called the Ashenfang Traverse. It divides our continent in two. We don't have information on the northern half yet."

"However, this southern region where we are has been completely explored."

Orion gestured expansively at the map, his expression animated as he spoke about their current region.

Especially when he mentioned their first invasion target, Orion grew increasingly excited.

"Bro, before you arrived, some clueless pests already came to test us."

Orion's finger moved west on the map, pointing to a mountain range.

"This is the Stratus Range. There's a Stratus Nest here, inhabited by a flock of Aarakocra – creatures with human heads and bird bodies."

"The Aarakocra are flying dark creatures. They were the ones who sent small units to probe us earlier."

"Bro, they are the first target we need to eliminate."

"We must wipe them out first because, aside from them, there are no other large flying-type dark creature units in this southern half of the continent."

"Once that's done, we can quickly sweep across this half of the continent."

Orion lightly tapped the location of the Stratus Range on the map, his tone icy. A palpable killing intent radiated from him, causing the temperature in the cave to drop noticeably.

"Flying creatures?"

"Hehehe, an air battle right off the bat?"

"I like it!"

Leonidas sounded dismissive of the enemy.

Of course, this wasn't underestimation, but rather strategic contempt.

When it came to actual battle, old hands like Leonidas paid meticulous attention to every tactical detail.

"More importantly, this mountain range is coastal. If we take it, we can bring Kraken over."

"Then, we conquer the land, Kraken conquers the seas, and with mutual support between land and sea forces, this half of the continent can become our stable rear base."

Orion's finger continued westward, moving to the sea area on the map, where he drew a circle.

"Hahaha, that's great! Let's get Squiddy(Kraken) over here too. We'll do as you say."

Honestly, Leonidas was all for a plan that not only accomplished the invasion but also allowed him to bring over his subordinate, Kraken.

Leonidas had felt a bit awkward about not having Kraken join him sooner.

Now, with the plan to secure the coastal Stratus Range and eventually the passes of the Ashenfang Traverse, bringing Squiddy over would be perfectly feasible.

Then, with their three forces—sea, land, and air—assembled, establishing a firm foothold on this continent would surely be a piece of cake.

Orion was also smiling. He was very happy to be able to repay a favor to Kraken.

"And these areas."

Orion's finger moved east, back to the continental map, as he spoke seriously to Leonidas.

"Bro, in this half of the continent, from south to north, there are eight major races."

"They are the Vyrkolath Bloodreavers, Ashenveil Sprites, Obsidian Skaeth, Zephyrkin Swifts, Charghast Infernals, the dark fiend race, and Nethervarg Soulflayers."

"And the Aarakocra race, who provoked us and are about to be... cleansed."

"In other words, we two will be facing eight lords of unknown strength."

Orion's tone was no longer icy, becoming much calmer.

Eight lords of unknown strength—while a bit numerous—weren't a big deal for peak Legendary level individuals like Orion and Leonidas.

The main thing was not to alert these lords before the invasion plan launched, and not to let them unite.

In other words, the invasion of this half of the continent on the map had to be swift, a blitzkrieg.

"Eight lords, even a few more wouldn't matter," Leonidas mused.

"The key is not to let them unite. Otherwise, your spider armies and my wyvern armies would suffer heavy casualties, if not total annihilation."

Leonidas briefly assessed the situation, understanding the scenario they would be facing.

"For a blitzkrieg, the armies we two brought aren't enough," he continued.

"We need Arthas's subordinates, Rumbold or Vexis, to come over. Otherwise, it'll be difficult to steamroll them with our current forces."

Rumbold and Vexis were still in the Valkorath Realm, assisting Orion's forces in clearing out fungal creatures.

Orion nodded, agreeing to this, and prepared to make the arrangements shortly.

"Hulk, one more thing," Leonidas added. "Those Vyrkolath Bloodreavers, Charghast Infernals, and Nethervarg Soulflayers you just mentioned—we suspect they aren't native creatures either. They're likely evil beings."

Orion frowned; he hadn't actually considered that.

Leonidas's words were a reminder to Orion that those three races, whose names sounded dark and sinister, were very likely guided into this world by that Reaper.

"Bro, are you saying these three races might be tough to deal with?"

"Whether they're tough or not is hard to say, but I don't think it will go too smoothly," Leonidas replied.

Orion frowned. He had little experience with this kind of invasion warfare, and there were still many things he wouldn't have thought of.

"Regardless of whether they're difficult or not, if we bring Arthas's undead armies over, nothing will be a problem."

"Even if those lords unite then, we won't be afraid."

Leonidas chuckled. He had cooperated with Arthas for many years and had a profound understanding of the undead armies, filled with confidence in them.

Orion strongly agreed with Leonidas's idea. After making a copy of the map for Leonidas, the two of them closed their eyes in contemplation.

Survivor's Platform – Public Channel

Hulk: Alexander, have you and Isabella successfully arrived?

Alexander: Arrival successful. Currently preparing for the invasion.

Orion and his group were quite lucky. When Delilah previously led a cross-realm invasion, the continent they arrived on was a different one in the Emerald Dream Realm.

Chapter 683 683: Divine Light Lamp

With Alexander's and Orion's teams arriving at different locations, they hoped to avoid drawing too much attention.

Not putting all their eggs in one basket meant that even if something went wrong—if one front failed—another could still succeed.

This way, the Champions Alliance's plan to invade the Emerald Dream Realm wouldn't be easily derailed.

Leonidas: Alexander, let's have a competition. See who unifies a continent first?

Alexander: Leonidas, have you no shame?

Alexander: Can't you see I'm mentoring a newcomer here?

Leonidas: Haha... Just say whether you'll compete or not. Or are you scared?

Alexander: What do you want?

Leonidas: A shadow army!

Alexander: Get lost!

Orion didn't quite understand Alexander and Leonidas's bickering and had no intention of getting involved.

Some matters, if one's relationship wasn't deep enough, were best not casually interrupted or inquired about.

For instance, Leonidas also desired a shadow army, and Alexander's refusal implied that such a force was not something Orion could realistically covet at his current stage.

Hulk: Kraken, get ready. After Leonidas and I take our first region, we'll be near the sea.

Kraken: Really? Waaagh, I'm so grateful!

Leonidas: Squiddy, bring more troops. We can't support you much in the sea regions; you'll have to rely on yourself out there.

To be honest, Leonidas was still very concerned about Kraken.

Kraken was his personally recruited apprentice, someone he had taken under his wing and nurtured. A genuine bond, a mix of mentorship and friendship, existed between them.

Alexander: Leonidas, you truly are cunning!

Leonidas: lol... You didn't fall for it either!

With three peak Legendary individuals like Leonidas, Orion, and Kraken operating together, they were almost certain to unify their continent before Alexander, who was busy mentoring a newcomer.

Their combined combat power was undeniable; united, they would command formidable land, sea, and air forces.

Edward: Alexander, find the location of the other continent as soon as possible. My vassal races can then descend there, and we can create diversions from multiple fronts.

Alexander: Rest assured, Deputy Commander, I've already dispatched the necessary personnel.

The Deputy Commander's faction had initially planned to act as support troops.

However, after studying the world map of the Emerald Dream Realm, they all discussed and revised their strategy.

The Champions Alliance would divide its forces into three, invading the three continents of the Emerald Dream Realm separately.

Dispersing their forces this way would help reduce the attention drawn from powerful archlords and demigod-level entities.

Furthermore, the powerful natives of the Emerald Dream Realm wouldn't be taken completely by surprise; they surely had backup plans, perhaps even maintaining avatars within their realm.

Edward: Hmm, that Queen Lolth of the Blind Spiders still hasn't signed the contract. You and Isabella are near her; you can go and pressure her a bit.

Edward: If she absolutely refuses, eliminate her and retrieve the scroll.

Three months had passed, and the naturally cautious Spider Queen Lolth still hadn't signed the contract.

Evidently, Edward's patience had worn thin, and he didn't want to wait any longer.

Alexander: Understood. I'll have Isabella try first!

Seeing the conversation between the Deputy Commander and Alexander, Orion silently mourned for Spider Queen Lolth.

She was also a survivor, hence her cautious nature, but Orion still hoped she would be a bit smarter.

...

Red Moon Valley, inside the cave, Orion slowly opened his eyes.

All matters had been communicated; now they just had to wait for the lich Vexis to teleport over.

This wouldn't take long, half a day at most, because Orion had asked the Deputy Commander for help.

With the Deputy Commander taking action, he could instantly reach Vexis, allowing Vexis to use a scroll and teleport over alone.

The reason for the half-day wait was that the Deputy Commander needed to create a teleportation scroll on the fly.

Orion glanced at Leonidas, whose eyes were closed. He hadn't woken up yet, likely still having his own matters to arrange.

Orion gestured to Lumi beside him and, taking her hand, walked out of the cave.

"This place is very important to us. Are you willing to stay and guard it?"

Orion was seeking Lumi's opinion. Lumi had a quiet personality and preferred stillness over activity; such a guarding task was most suitable for her.

"I'll listen to you!"

As they spoke, the two of them exited the cave.

Orion pointed towards Red Moon Valley and said seriously, "After Leonidas, Lorelia, and the others leave, let the next heavy snowfall seal off Red Moon Valley again."

Lumi nodded; she understood Orion's meaning.

The city of Lorelia in Red Moon Valley was Orion's lair in the Emerald Dream Realm; it could not afford any mishaps.

"If..."

Orion was about to give more instructions when Leonidas's wild and unrestrained voice came from the cave.

"Hahaha, Hulk, look what goodies I've gotten for you!"

Leonidas walked out of the cave, carrying an ancient-looking, brightly shining magic lamp in his hand.

Bathed in the light of the magic lamp, Orion felt a sense of lightness throughout his body.

"Bro, what is this?"

"Hehe, this is a great item I bought at a high price from a friend. This thing is called a Divine Light Lamp."

Leonidas held the Divine Light Lamp a bit higher, and the cave spiders in the surrounding structures recoiled as if they had encountered a natural enemy, quickly retreating to hide.

"A Great Light spell is sealed within it, capable of dispelling darkness and purifying evil."

"I see many of your little spiders have been corrupted. Let them bask in the Divine Light Lamp's glow, and they'll recover."

"Besides, we'll probably be in the Emerald Dream Realm for a long time. This thing is indispensable."

Orion took the Divine Light Lamp from Leonidas's hand. The item looked very precious at first glance.

"Bro, can this item be bought in large quantities? Stoneheart Horde is sorely lacking these kinds of high-tier items."

"Hahaha, I knew you'd say that. I've already pre-ordered a batch. I'll share some with you and Squiddy later."

Orion smiled.

The Stoneheart Horde had nothing like this high-tier Divine Light Lamp, and the Survivor's Platform didn't offer similar items for sale.

Currently, Orion couldn't find any channels to purchase them either; he lacked the resources in this area.

"Hehe, there won't be too many of these. I had them custom-made by someone."

"You won't find things like this on the trading channels. The kind of being who can make this stuff wouldn't bother making them for profit."

"So, don't even think about it!"

Leonidas saw through Orion's thoughts and lightly patted his shoulder, signaling him not to waste effort on this.

"Here, take it. Quickly have your subordinates come and be purified."

"Once Vexis arrives, we'll launch the invasion immediately. This matter should be handled sooner rather than later."

Orion nodded, summoned Onyx, Dirtclaw, and the others, and quickly arranged matters.

"Bro, this way, please. I need your help with something."

After giving out the instructions, Orion invited Leonidas aside and, under the latter's suspicious gaze, led him to the room where Clymene, Grendel, and the others were sleeping.

Chapter 684 684: They're fusing, advancing

"They aren't just sleeping; they're fusing, advancing."

"When they wake up, they should be at the Legendary level."

"Hulk, this is a good thing!" Leonidas shared his perspective after sensing the condition of Clymene, Grendel, and the others.

However, Orion's expression didn't break into a smile at Leonidas's words.

"Fusing? Then what about my sister?"

"Hmm... well..."

Leonidas frowned, thinking, wanting to gather more information to give Orion a satisfactory answer.

"Hulk, I can't say for sure what the final outcome will be."

"Based on my experience, their souls should merge. This is also their opportunity to advance to the Legendary level. Of course, all of this will be guided by the strongest soul among them, which is clearly Clymene."

"But it's not set in stone. They might separate again after advancing. So Clymene, Grendel, and the others could still remain as they originally were."

"This possibility is also quite high!"

Leonidas's explanation allowed Orion to breathe a long sigh of relief.

"Hulk, actually, you should try looking at it from a different angle."

"Whatever their final outcome, they are still them. Your sister will always be your sister."

Afraid Orion wouldn't understand, Leonidas reached out, grabbed at the wall, and a handful of small pebbles instantly appeared in his hand.

"Look, before, they were like these small pebbles."

Leonidas opened his large hand, a pile of fine pebbles spread across his palm.

Then, Leonidas closed his large hand and continued speaking to Orion.

"See? They are still them, just in a different form."

In Leonidas's palm, the small pebbles were squeezed together, forming a single, larger stone.

"Hulk, actually, you don't need to worry about this at all."

"When Arthas wakes up, just ask him for help. His research on souls is very professional."

"A hundred of you and me combined wouldn't compare to Arthas in this regard."

Leonidas offered Orion a new way to handle it, which brought Orion sudden enlightenment.

Indeed, when it came to understanding undead and souls, who could compare to Arthas?

"Thank you for clearing up my confusion!"

"Hahaha... It's nothing. I didn't really help with anything. My theories are mostly based on speculation and experience. Arthas is the one who can truly help."

Just as Leonidas and Orion were about to leave the stone house, there was a fluctuation of void energy.

Leonidas and Orion exchanged a glance and walked together towards the underground cave.

In the underground cave, the lich Vexis emerged from the teleportation formation and spoke respectfully to Leonidas and Orion.

"Greetings, Your Majesty Leonidas! Greetings, Your Majesty Orion!"

Leonidas laughed heartily and turned to Orion.

"Hulk, everyone's here. I'm going to wipe out the Stratus Nest to the west now."

"That area is mountainous; your little spiders shouldn't follow. Just wait here for my good news."

Aarakocra were flying dark creatures; there was indeed no need for the cave spiders to make the long trek, as they couldn't possibly keep up with the wyverns' speed.

"Alright then. I'll arrange for scouts to head to the dark fiend race's territory and gather intelligence on our second target."

"Hehe, let's do it this way..."

Titanion Realm, Stoneheart City.

Castle conference hall. Three women were seated here: Delilah, Lilith, and Sylvana.

However, the ones truly discussing matters were the succubus sisters, Delilah and Lilith.

Sylvana sat quietly to the side, listening.

"Here, take a look. News from the Dragon race envoy."

Delilah handed a document-like scroll to Lilith, her other arm tightly holding the giant youngling, Pallas, who was trying to squirm out of her embrace.

It was a peculiar scene. When Pallas was in Lilith's arms, if Delilah, the twin sister, showed even a slightly gentle expression, Pallas would stretch out his tiny hands, asking to be held by Delilah.

When Pallas was in Delilah's arms and saw his mother Lilith opposite them, he would use all his baby strength to break free from Delilah, reaching out to Lilith to be held.

For the past few days, Pallas had been living in this state of confusion, unable to distinguish his real mother.

"The Sea Race has lost another Legendary level expert in battle!" Lilith read aloud, her eyes scanning the scroll.

"The Dragon race has declared war on the Sea Race?" she continued, a note of surprise in her voice.

"Is this news true or false?"

The news came from the Dragon race envoy. True or false, the Stoneheart Horde had to verify it.

Delilah didn't speak, instead pushing a confidential letter from beside her towards Lilith.

As for Delilah, she had freed her hands and was continuously pinching Pallas's tender little face, muttering incessantly.

"Pallas, quick, say 'Auntie' for me to hear!"

"Eee-yah-yah... Aun... tie!"

Delilah's face was wreathed in smiles. Though he was saying 'Auntie,' her heart was as sweet as honey.

"The Dragon race and the Sea Race are really at war!" Lilith confirmed after reading the second message.

Beside her, the surprise in Lilith's tone had diminished, replaced by a caution and gravity as if facing a deep abyss.

Even Sylvana, nearby, held her breath, lost in thought.

"What do we do now?" It was Lilith who asked, looking at Delilah.

When it came to understanding and grasping the overall situation, Delilah's insight was definitely the most profound among the three in the conference hall.

"What can we do?" Delilah asked, a knowing look in her eyes.

"Also declare war on the Sea Race?" Lilith ventured.

Delilah countered, "Why should we declare war on the Sea Race right now?"

"Didn't we sign a pact with the Dragon race?" Lilith pressed.

"Then why haven't we heard news of the Humans, Dwarves, or Blood Elves declaring war on the Sea Race yet?" Delilah pointed out.

"This..." Lilith fell silent. Through her conversation with Delilah, she realized her thinking had been too simple and too hasty.

"A declaration of war is certain," Delilah stated, her voice firm. "The Stoneheart Horde yearns for the vast sea regions."

"For Orion's future, we must also declare war on the Sea Race and seize more territory."

"But now is not the best time to declare war!"

The more power one wielded, the more information one could obtain.

The Delilah of today was no longer the novice who had just walked out of the Black Forest.

Delilah knew very well what the ultimate goal of the Stoneheart Horde's territorial expansion was: for faith, and to enable Orion to ascend to Arch Lord.

To this end, the Stoneheart Horde was vigorously developing its population and agriculture in the Valkorath Realm, providing a continuous stream of logistical resources for the horde.

Invading the Emerald Dream Realm was also a way to accumulate resources and strength for the Stoneheart Horde's growth.

The purpose of declaring war on the Sea Race was to occupy sea regions and find more islands.

Chapter 685 685: You truly are a clever woman

If, through their efforts, Orion truly ascended to Arch Lord, only then would the Stoneheart Horde truly soar.

At that time, facing the Human and Dragon races, the Stoneheart Horde would have much more confidence.

Delilah's beautiful, dewy eyes curved as she held Pallas, planting a firm kiss on him, doting on him immensely.

"Then when should our Stoneheart Horde choose to declare war on the Sea Race?"

Lilith wasn't ashamed to ask for guidance, a commendable trait.

In terms of management and methods, Lilith knew very well that her sister Delilah was more outstanding than her.

"Wait. Only after the Humans, Dwarves, and Blood Elves declare war can we do so."

"Compared to these three races, our Stoneheart Horde has a weaker foundation on this continent, so we should be more low-key."

"Only this way is it logical and fitting for the situation."

After kissing Pallas, Delilah chuckled and gently pinched the little one's cheek, looking utterly enamored.

"At the very least, we must wait until our neighbors, the Blood Elves, declare war on the Sea Race before it's our Stoneheart Horde's turn."

"Even so, we can't rush this. We have to wait for the Dragon race to request our aid and promise us various benefits before we can declare war."

"At that time, we can then, according to plan, purchase more Sea-Devouring Warships from the Dragon race and exchange for more rare resources."

Watching Delilah dote on Pallas, Lilith gained a new understanding of her sister.

In terms of strength, Delilah had already forged ahead, reaching Alpha peak.

In management ability, Delilah, presiding over Stoneheart City, held great power; her foresight, methods, and decisiveness were above others.

Besides managing the horde, Delilah also managed a mysterious tavern.

Lilith felt a little helpless. Sometimes, she even felt that Orion's affection for Delilah might be greater than for her.

This sister of hers truly had boundless charm.

Her methods of captivating men were definitely bolder, more passionate, and also quicker and more effective.

Lilith felt that, aside from having Pallas, she was probably inferior to her sister in all other aspects.

"Our Stoneheart Horde's territory will only grow larger. You'd better familiarize yourself with these administrative affairs quickly."

"Don't always think about getting by on your child and your beauty. You should know what Orion's ambitions are."

Delilah glanced at Lilith and offered her a word of advice.

Just now, Delilah had seen a trace of disappointment in Lilith's eyes.

Delilah knew very well that the Stoneheart Horde's upcoming focus was on development and expansion.

For the task of expanding territory, Orion would personally lead the horde's major armies into battle.

As for development, that would fall upon people like them.

The Stoneheart Horde was very short on managerial talent. Since Lilith and Sylvana were Orion's women, cultivating and improving them became a way for Delilah to unearth talent.

Upon hearing this, the disappointment in Lilith's eyes instantly vanished, replaced by a surge of motivation.

"And you, Sylvana. You've been by my side for quite some time now. You must have learned a lot, right?"

Delilah turned her head, looking at Sylvana.

"I've learned a great deal!"

Meeting Delilah's gaze, Sylvana was very calm. She nodded, openly admitting she had learned much.

In fact, during the time they actively invaded the Emerald Dream Realm, it was Sylvana who was making decisions and controlling all affairs in Stoneheart City.

During that period, Sylvana grew rapidly.

Unfortunately, Sylvana was blind, which made some things very inconvenient for her to do.

She also couldn't distinguish the truth or falsehood of some intelligence and information.

She couldn't observe others with her eyes and had no subordinates of her own to gather information for her.

This was Sylvana's weakness, and also the reason Orion hadn't assigned her to an external post.

Due to her visual impairment, she could often only assist, not take the lead.

"Hehe... Sylvana, would you like to perform a divination? See what the outcome of Stoneheart Horde's declaration of war against the Sea Race will be this time?"

Delilah's expression was calm, but her words were full of probing.

"I'll try!"

Sylvana remained calm, took out two animal horns from her bosom, and tossed them onto the table.

Then, Sylvana extended her hands and, with a solemn expression, stroked the two horns she had just thrown.

After a long while, Sylvana put away the horns, her tone very calm.

"I saw the great sea, turbulent and profoundly dark."

"I also saw blood and schools of fish; the sea was full of ferocious fish."

"I also saw Orion. He was riding a giant whale, looking incredibly valiant."

Delilah and Lilith exchanged a glance, both sisters gazing at Sylvana.

They didn't know if this was a prophecy or a divination result.

However, the succubus sisters saw the mystery surrounding Sylvana.

"No wonder Orion keeps her by his side!"

This thought arose in Delilah's and Lilith's minds simultaneously.

They knew very well that Giant King Orion was very picky about the opposite sex. Ordinary women would not gain his affection, nor would he have sexual relations with ordinary women.

"So, Sylvana, tell me, what should we do now?"

Delilah spoke, her tone gentle, a smile on her face.

Such a Delilah, in the eyes of Lilith who knew her well, was dangerous and also brimming with killing intent.

"I don't know. I only described the scenes I saw."

"What we should do next, I believe, we should listen to you."

"Because your insight is more profound than ours."

Delilah laughed, a hearty laugh, and the killing intent and coldness in her eyes vanished completely with it.

Sylvana's answer satisfied her greatly.

Of course, in Delilah's understanding, Sylvana was also yielding to the succubus sisters.

This was a good thing. Yielding meant harmonious relations and room for cooperation.

"Sylvana, you truly are a clever woman. I know why Orion likes you!"

"..."

North, Lysinthia City.

These past few days, the waves in Mist Bay had become even more turbulent, and the number of Merfolk coming ashore to invade Lysinthia City had increased.

All these changes were caused by the arrival of the Mermaid Marina.

In the castle at the center of Lysinthia City, there was a fresh-water pool, newly constructed.

At this moment, Lysinthia stood by the poolside, looking at the mermaid Marina suspended in the water.

It was unknown what method Marina used to be able to stand suspended in the water, even more stably than if she were standing on land with two feet.

"Ever since you arrived, those Merfolk have become very aggressive. Their attacks are fiercer each time."

"Tell me, what is your status in the Tidefang Clan."

Lysinthia's voice was cold as she stared at the Marina, a chill glint flickering in her eyes.

Chapter 686 686: I still want to see him again

Unfortunately, every time Lysinthia pressed her, Marina would just shake her head and say nothing.

"Where is he?" Not only did Marina refuse to answer questions, but she also pestered Lysinthia each time about Orion's whereabouts.

Marina was very concerned about Orion.

Orion and Marina had engaged in sexual relations. For the mermaid race, this meant Orion was the man Marina had chosen.

It sounded very cliché, but those were the rules.

In the sea, mermaids were synonymous with fidelity.

Furthermore, Orion had rescued Marina from the Dragon race, saving her from the fate of becoming food.

For this, Marina was very grateful.

Facing Marina's inquiries, Lysinthia would always turn and leave directly.

Delilah had given instructions regarding Marina's arrival: ensure her safety.

Therefore, Lysinthia hadn't resorted to any special methods to interrogate Marina.

Outside the castle, Slagor had been waiting for a long time.

"Elder Lysinthia, did she still say nothing?"

Lysinthia shook her head, and a look of disappointment appeared on Slagor's face.

Considering the current situation in Lysinthia City, everyone knew Marina's identity was definitely problematic.

But this mermaid was rather stubborn, saying nothing and persistently asking for Orion's whereabouts.

"Then what do we do now?"

"If this continues, Lysinthia City will fall sooner or later. The number of attacking merfolk doubles each time."

Slagor was very worried about the upcoming situation. He greatly hoped to get some information from Marina.

Perhaps, through this mermaid, the Stoneheart Horde and those merfolk could communicate, exchange mutual benefits, and coexist peacefully.

To be honest, Slagor really didn't want to stay in this place indefinitely.

Wouldn't it be better to go to the Valkorath Realm and kill fungal creatures?

Wouldn't it be good to go to the Emerald Dream Realm, kill dark creatures, and improve one's strength?

"I will not let the Merfolk occupy Lysinthia City!"

"As long as I live, this city cannot be taken!"

Lysinthia, her pretty face cold, stared icily at Slagor.

Facing Lysinthia's gaze, Slagor looked slightly awkward, feeling bitter and helpless.

Slagor was frustrated. Every one of Orion's women he had encountered was unique.

Delilah was like that, and so was Lysinthia.

The key was, Slagor couldn't voice any objections; he had to show respect.

In fact, with Slagor's personality, if Lysinthia City were moved a bit further inland, these Merfolk wouldn't pose a threat at all.

The pressure on Lysinthia City would also instantly lessen, perhaps not even needing reinforcements.

However, Lysinthia was extremely stubborn, unwilling to retreat even an inch.

Every time the Merfolk attacked, she would stand on the city walls, leading from the front, summoning her black serpent and commanding those swamp water pythons to throw themselves fully into battle.

Towards Lysinthia, Slagor felt both respect and helplessness.

"There's news from Arch Elder. Orion will arrive here soon. You don't need to worry."

Lysinthia dropped this sentence and walked straight towards the city wall, leaving a pleasantly surprised Slagor grinning foolishly on the spot.

In the pool inside the castle, Marina gazed westwards, a hint of worry appearing on her calm face.

"The message has been sent out. I believe my fourth brother will arrive here soon, and I'll be returning to the sea shortly."

"But that giant... I still want to see him again."

"Will he come here?"

"..."

Emerald Dream Realm, Red Moon Valley.

Leonidas, along with Vexis and Gustalon, headed west towards the Stratus Nest.

Orion remained there, not only to accompany Lumi but also to view information about this continent through the Shadow Paper Figure's vision.

Central Continent, Ashenfang Traverse.

The Shadow Paper Figure roamed all the way here, arriving at the territory of the Vyrkolath Bloodreavers.

Vyrkolath Bloodreavers were a species with entirely white bodies, sharp fangs, and demonic tails, feeding on blood.

The Vyrkolath Bloodreavers inhabited the southern part of the Ashenfang Traverse, where they herded many dark creatures.

Compared to other territories, this place was actually more peaceful, with much less bloodshed.

This was because when Vyrkolath Bloodreavers fed, they wouldn't kill their prey but would instead draw half the blood from their bodies.

At this moment, the Shadow Paper Figure stood at the mouth of a mountain pass, watching a Vyrkolath Bloodreaver in the distance clinging to a bull-shaped dark creature, continuously sucking its blood.

After a quarter of an hour, the bull-shaped dark creature became emaciated but did not lose its life.

Strangely enough, whenever a Vyrkolath Bloodreaver clung to these dark creatures, the dark creatures would obediently stay put, allowing the Bloodreaver to feed on their blood.

Orion directed the Shadow Paper Figure to move deeper into the mountains.

Orion's goal this time was to find the lair of these Vyrkolath Bloodreavers in preparation for a future invasion.

Three days later, following the satiated Bloodreaver, Orion controlled the Shadow Paper Figure and arrived at a place with terrain like a narrow gorge offering only a sliver of sky, halfway up the mountain.

Entering the gorge, the environment within was exceptionally dim. Vyrkolath Bloodreavers frequently went in and out, their bodies reeking of blood.

On the cliff walls inside the gorge, countless coffins of various sizes were placed; the Vyrkolath Bloodreavers crawled out from these coffins.

Seeing those coffins, Orion initially thought these Vyrkolath Bloodreavers were the vampires he knew from his understanding.

However, a strange phenomenon changed his mind.

After entering the coffins, these Vyrkolath Bloodreavers weren't sleeping; instead, they transformed into pools of blood that merged with the runes inside the coffins.

This bizarre scene left Orion dumbfounded.

Furthermore, the deeper one went into the gorge, the larger the coffins became.

In the deepest part of the gorge, Orion also saw an altar.

The altar was enveloped in a visible, tangible layer of light, and upon it rested a very large sarcophagus.

Because he wasn't physically present, Orion couldn't sense the sarcophagus's aura, but a layer of blood mist was visibly coiling around it, making it extremely mysterious.

This was the final area Orion and Leonidas planned to attack, and the altar and sarcophagus here piqued Orion's curiosity.

Just as the Shadow Paper Figure was observing the sarcophagus, it suddenly began to shake.

"Discovered?"

Orion was very alert and quickly controlled the Shadow Paper Figure to withdraw from the deepest part of the gorge.

"Very keen perception!"

"At this level, the being inside might be at the peak Legendary level!"

With Orion's discernment, he quickly determined the strength of the being inside the sarcophagus.

Because Orion himself was the best reference; from the perceptive ability just now, he could ascertain the enemy's level of strength.

"Alpha peak?"

"It seems the Emerald Dream Realm isn't as weak as I imagined!"

Orion controlled the Shadow Paper Figure to continue its retreat; its mission here was more or less accomplished.

Next, the Shadow Paper Figure was to cross the Ashenfang Traverse and see what the situation was like in the northern part of the mountain range.

Chapter 687: Seeker auction house

The summer sun blazed down. The bustling Stoneheart City teemed with people, a ceaseless flow of prosperity and clamor.

Lycanor, arriving in Stoneheart City once again as an envoy of the Blood Elf race, felt a certain sense of familiarity.

"Elder, aren't we going to the castle yet?"

Vaelia was the Blood Elf race's representative in Stoneheart City. Lycanor's arrival left both her and the elven archer Saelen somewhat bewildered.

Lycanor represented the envoy, but for some reason, this time the arriving delegation consisted only of Lycanor herself.

Moreover, Lycanor had traveled all the way here leisurely, showing no signs of being on an important mission.

"We're definitely going, but being a little late won't matter!"

Lycanor remained unmoved by Vaelia's advice, her eyes fixed on Stoneheart City, continuously observing the flow of people and the buildings in the outer city.

This place was different from before.

Traveling from south to north, Lycanor had successively inspected the Stoneheart Horde's Buffalofolk City, Ironbone City, and Giant City.

Among them, Buffalofolk City had already been completed and officially put into use, becoming the first transit station between the Blood Elf race and the Stoneheart Horde.

Although Buffalofolk City wasn't as bustling as Stoneheart City, Lycanor saw signs of thriving prosperity there.

"The Ten-City Plan?" Lycanor mused.

"The giants aren't just the simple brutes they appear to be on the surface. Are they also striving so hard to improve themselves?"

The Stoneheart Horde's Ten-City Plan was no secret; any faction that knew a little about the Stoneheart Horde or cooperated with some of the tribes within the horde knew something about it.

Lycanor could tell the Stoneheart Horde was racing against time. Ironbone City and Giant City, which she had passed through, were operating day and night, exceptionally busy.

Witnessing and experiencing these various changes firsthand gave Lycanor a new understanding of the Stoneheart Horde.

Within the Stoneheart Horde's territory, it was still very chaotic.

The Tribes and Races dwelling in the wilderness were accompanied by barbarity and slaughter, with no semblance of order.

However, in areas where cities had appeared, Lycanor could sense the breath of civilization.

Even the areas surrounding the cities had gained a measure of order.

These were Lycanor's reflections from her journey, and they filled her with some worry and doubt about the future of the Blood Elf race.

There were also many cities in the Blood Elf territory, but these cities rarely allowed other races to settle within.

Such regulations had brought stable order to the Blood Elf race.

However, these cities also lacked a great deal of vitality.

For instance, the scene before her in Stoneheart City, with various races coming and going, interacting with each other, was rarely seen in Blood Elf cities, not even in their capital, the City of Blessings.

"Elder, the mysterious tavern is just ahead. Shall we go in and sit for a while?"

Saelen pointed to the five-story tavern ahead; it was her favorite place to visit.

Here, she could eat many delicacies and meet all sorts of peculiar people and hear about strange events.

Hearing this, a light flashed in Lycanor's eyes. She didn't like to drink heavily, but she enjoyed wine tasting, savoring various wonderful flavors—it was a small indulgence of hers.

"We'll go later. After I visit the castle, you can accompany me!"

Lycanor retracted her gaze and glanced at Saelen, who was somewhat of her disciple, as Saelen had once sought Lycanor's guidance in archery.

"But where is that Seeker auction house?" Lyncanor then asked. "The intelligence sent back to the Elf race mentioned that many treasures and secrets are hidden there."

Speaking of the Seeker auction house, Vaelia's expression gradually grew solemn.

As the head of the diplomatic mission stationed in the Stoneheart Horde, understanding and organizing intelligence about the Stoneheart Horde was Vaelia's responsibility.

However, the Seeker auction house had appeared silently, as if one had gone to sleep and woken up to find this faction in Stoneheart City.

Most crucially, along with this auction house, a mysterious organization had also appeared.

Blood Elf race merchants, rangers, and trade caravans had all been attacked and assassinated by this mysterious organization.

"Elder, the Seeker auction house is in the West City, quite a distance from here," Vaelia informed her.

"In three days, the auction house will hold a small auction. We can go then."

Lyncanor nodded and led the way forward.

"How about this: we'll sightsee along the way and go to the castle for dinner first."

In Stoneheart City, Lycanor knew Delilah, Lilith, and Sylvana. Setting aside their racial identities, they were actually quite close friends.

Vaelia and Saelen exchanged a glance, both seeing a wry smile in each other's eyes.

Lycanor was an elder of the Blood Elf race. Her temperament was most peculiar: unrestrained and unconventional, yet also bloodthirsty and ruthless.

With Lycanor's arrival in Stoneheart City, according to custom, she took over all authority for the Blood Elf race there.

Vaelia and Saelen had to report to Lycanor first and seek her opinion before doing anything.

"Keep up. I have something to ask you."

"..."

The Castle.

Lilith, Delilah, and Sylvana were seated around a round table in a corner of the castle garden.

"It seems Lord Lycanor's interest hasn't waned; she's full of curiosity about our Stoneheart Horde."

Delilah toyed with a small goblet in her hand, her tone somewhat inscrutable.

Actually, when Lycanor entered Buffalofolk City, the Sentinel Corps had already passed intelligence to Delilah.

Throughout her journey, the Sentinel Corps had been monitoring Lycanor from afar.

Lycanor had undoubtedly noticed the Sentinel Corps tailing her, but she didn't care.

Attracting attention within the Stoneheart Horde's territory was quite normal.

Of course, when Lycanor entered the area near Stoneheart City, the abyssal dragon Xalathar also let out a warning roar.

Because of this, Delilah had to appear at the castle to inform Lilith.

"Prepare to receive her. She is, after all, a powerful Lord!" Delilah said.

Lilith took Pallas into her arms. She had originally planned to take Pallas for a stroll around Stoneheart City today, but now she had to abandon it.

With a Legendary level expert appearing in Stoneheart City, the castle became the safest place.

"Should you perhaps make yourself scarce?" Delilah asked, her gaze flickering towards Pallas.

Delilah stared at Pallas in Lilith's arms. The little one was currently wide-eyed, staring blankly at Delilah, his eyes filled with confusion.

"No need. This is the castle. No one can harm us or Pallas here."

Lilith smiled broadly, lovingly cuddling Pallas closer.

"Letting Pallas come into the view of these important figures a bit earlier isn't a bad thing!"

Delilah nodded. She was currently at Alpha peak, attempting to break through to the Legendary level.

The more she tried, the more she understood the gap between Legendary and Alpha level, and the stronger her desire to become a Lord grew.

At the same time, during this process, Delilah found her confidence when facing Lords was gradually building up.

For example, this time, after receiving news of Lycanor entering the Tribe territory, the unease and fear in Delilah's heart weren't as strong as before.

Of course, Xalathar's presence might also be a reason for this.

Chapter 688: They need energy

"Lycanor's visit is most likely related to the Sea Race."

"Our Stoneheart Horde's and the Blood Elf race's coastal regions are adjacent. Once war is declared on the Sea Race, we will be allies."

"Although we'll be allies, some regional boundaries and conflicts of interest must definitely be clarified beforehand."

"Otherwise, when we expand into the sea regions later, friction between our two races will inevitably occur."

Delilah reached out and took Pallas from Lilith's arms.

Facing Delilah's face, which was identical to his mother's, the little one subconsciously offered no resistance.

"Little one, say 'Auntie' for me to hear!"

"Aun... Mom!"

"Giggle giggle..."

Teasing Pallas, making the little one call her 'Mom,' was Delilah's greatest joy.

With every tease, a rare trace of doting affection and gentleness would appear on Delilah's face.

...

Compared to the relaxed atmosphere in the south, Lysinthia City in the north was much more tense.

The Sea Race attacked again. More Merfolk warriors surged forward with the water, attempting to submerge Lysinthia City and rescue the mermaid princess trapped within.

"Despicable Medusa, release Princess Marina! Otherwise, what awaits you is Lord Vorluk's wrath and an endless tsunami!"

The speaker was a Slark Merfolk, an Alpha being named Skalnir, hideous in appearance, his specific Sea Race indiscernible.

"If you want a fight, then fight!"

Lysinthia stood on the city wall, longsword in hand, her black hair dancing in the wind, the Twilight Viper coiled at her feet.

Below the city wall were countless water pythons, swamp crocodiles, and Tidecrab Shield Warriors, all prepared for battle.

Facing the indifferent Lysinthia, Skalnir was furious yet helpless.

It wasn't that Skalnir didn't want to conquer Lysinthia City, but rather that he lacked the ability.

To breach Lysinthia City, Skalnir had roped in two Alpha-level neighbors from the nearby sea regions, along with their kin.

Even so, they still couldn't breach the city and had lost many Merfolk warriors in the assault.

Fortunately, word had gotten out, and Lord Vorluk, who governed this sea region, would soon arrive.

In Skalnir's view, the merit he would gain from breaching Lysinthia City and rescuing Princess Marina himself was different from waiting for Lord Vorluk to arrive and do it.

This was the root of Skalnir's relentless attacks; he wanted to curry favor with the Tidefang Clan and Lord Vorluk.

"Something's wrong with the seawater! The tide is rising!"

The one who spoke was Clawpincher, standing beside Lysinthia. He was a Tidecrab Shield Warrior and had a mystical understanding of the tides.

The abnormality of the tide was detected by Clawpincher.

"No need to be nervous. This group of Sea Race won't be able to maintain their offensive for long!"

Having fought many times, Lysinthia had figured out Skalnir's capabilities and had a clear understanding of his threats and tactics.

Far away, in the deep sea.

While Lysinthia and Skalnir's group of Sea Race were in a standoff, a colossal shadow flickered rapidly towards them from the deep sea.

Wherever the dark shadow passed, it left countless bubbles in the deep sea.

Even the surrounding seawater rippled outwards layer by layer with the undulations caused by the shadow's movement.

The seawater's disturbance caused the tides in this region to continuously surge outwards.

"This is impossible!"

"My little sister went to the Starfall Sea sanctuary for pilgrimage. The news from the Reverse Whale race was that little sister was slain by the Dragon race."

"But why would news of little sister appear in the northern Silvercurrent Sea?"

"This news... is it true or false?"

Atop the rapidly swimming dark shadow on the seabed, a handsome man clad in sleeveless battle armor frowned deeply, his expression a mixture of heavy worry and intense agitation.

Beneath this man's sky-blue fishtail was an elongated and massive sea dragon beast.

Judging by its aura, it was one hundred percent a Legendary level being.

This person was none other than Mermaid Princess Marina's fourth elder brother, Lord Vorluk, the Tidefang Clan's representative in the Silvercurrent Sea.

Ever since receiving news of his little sister Marina, Vorluk had been riding his mount, rushing towards Mist Bay.

"Damn that Reverse Whale race! What on earth do they want?"

"The white dragon Frostsire broke its seal; why did it have to provoke a powerful Arch Lord?"

"Damn it! My little sister was passively drawn into your war, her fate unknown, and you still want our Tidefang Clan to aid you in battle? Dream on!"

"..."

Emerald Dream Realm, Red Moon Valley.

The Shadow Paper Figure was arduously crossing the Ashenfang Traverse; Orion had long since withdrawn his focus.

At this moment, Orion stood in the place where Clymene slept.

Just moments ago, a violent energy fluctuation had occurred in this room.

"What exactly happened?"

Orion stared at the bones before him, frowning deeply, because this pile of bones was constantly reassembling and then shattering into pieces.

Orion observed very carefully and discovered that each time these bones reassembled, a different face would appear.

To be precise, the face formed after the bones reassembled would cycle through those of Clymene, Vargrum, Mordak, Zorn, Balgor, Grendel, and Desdemona.

Among them, Clymene's face appeared most frequently. Occasionally, other faces would appear, but their expressions were filled with pain.

"This is a form of attrition. Each time the souls condense, they wear each other down." Lumi appeared beside Orion. As an elemental life form, her perception of elements and souls was clearer than Orion's.

"Wear each other down? What do you mean?"

Orion had a bad feeling; Lumi's tone was not very optimistic.

"Each reassembly of the bones is actually an external manifestation of their souls attempting to merge."

"Every time the souls try to merge, the bones reassemble once."

Lumi's cool voice was like ice water poured over Orion's agitated mood, allowing him to grasp something in that instant.

"Are you saying my sister and the others haven't successfully merged, that they are continuously eroding each other, and that they will perish sooner or later?"

Lumi didn't answer, but sometimes, silence is the answer.

Orion stared at the pile of bones. He hadn't noticed it before, but now upon observation, he realized the bones suffered attrition after each reassembly.

Compared to the beginning, the quantity of bones was noticeably decreasing.

"They are trying, searching for a way to merge. How much longer they can hold on, I don't know either."

"But the elements here are fluctuating. They tell me they need energy."

Lumi also didn't understand soul.

Everything Lumi knew was told to her by the elements in the vicinity.

Orion stared at the mass of bones, his thoughts racing, his heart incredibly complex and tense.

Originally, after withdrawing his focus from the Shadow Paper Figure, Orion had planned to teleport back to the Titanion Realm to deal with matters in Lysinthia City.

He just hadn't expected Clymene and the others, who had been dormant for so long, to show activity at this moment.

"Need energy..."

Orion kept muttering, repeating this phrase over and over.

After a moment, Orion seemed to make a decision. With a flick of his wrist, he sent all the remaining Rebirth Stones in his possession into the pile of bones.

Upon contact with the Rebirth Stones, the bones, like a sponge meeting water, frantically absorbed the life energy within them.

That wasn't all. Orion took out a mass of Legendary level life essence and tossed it into the pile of bones.

Chapter 689: Balance

The tumbling bones accepted all comers, directly enveloping the Legendary level life essence.

This scene, in Orion's eyes, was like seeing a glimmer of hope.

Orion didn't stop, taking out another mass of life essence and tossing it over.

The situation remained the same; the bones quickly enveloped the life essence deep within.

This time, Orion quickly understood something.

Orion's wrist flicked again, and he tossed masses of life essence towards the bones as if they were free.

Only when he tossed in the eighth mass of life essence did the pile of bones seem satisfied, and it bounced the life essence back.

Just as Orion put away the life essence, the pile of bones also calmed down, visibly contracting and condensing, then fell into a deep sleep once more.

"The surrounding elements tell me they seem to have formed a kind of balance."

Lumi's voice came, startling Orion out of his recent frenzy of continuously supplying life essence.

Truthfully, Orion had just been acting purely on instinct, continuously providing life essence to that pile of bones. Although he didn't know why his sister had ended up like this, he would spare no cost to protect her.

"Is it enough?"

Orion asked in a low voice. Lumi fell silent again.

The question seemed a bit foolish.

"Do you know how long they will sleep?"

"I don't know!"

Lumi shook her head, then suddenly felt her answer might be a bit disheartening. She turned to look at Orion, her tone much gentler.

"You did your best!"

"Now it's up to them! You need to believe in your sister's firm will. Not only do you long to see her, but she also longs to see you again!"

Orion sighed. When it concerned Clymene, he cared deeply.

No matter how strong Orion's current power or how high his authority, when it involved those close to him, he would still worry and feel anxious.

Taking a deep breath, Orion composed himself, his eyes once again shining with determination and confidence.

"Help me watch over them. Notify me immediately if anything happens, and pay special attention to my sister."

"Alright!"

...

West, on the edge of the Stratus Mountains.

Shrill cries rose and fell, echoing through the sky, high-pitched and piercing.

A small advance party of wyverns encountered a group of human-headed, bird-bodied Aarakocra, and a battle erupted.

In the dim high sky, dozens of wyverns and a small flock of Aarakocra were engaged in a life-and-death struggle.

An Alpha-level wyvern rapidly flapped its leathery wings, accelerating. The bulging muscles on its wings vibrated, allowing the wyvern to display astonishing power and speed.

On the other side, an Aarakocra shrieked strangely, also flapping its wings, its body twisting continuously, gradually spinning as it charged towards the wyvern in a bizarre manner.

Screech!

Screech!

The wyvern and the Aarakocra, one above and one below, scraped past each other's bodies, narrowly avoiding a terrifying high-speed collision.

However, their talons shot out, aiming for each other's abdomens.

The dragon's claws dug deep into feathers, tearing out a large amount of flesh and blood, pulling out fresh innards and guts.

The Aarakocra's talons also raked across the dragon scales, but they didn't break through the defense, only striking sparks and leaving visible scratches.

After one exchange, the Aarakocra was at a disadvantage.

The wyvern roared, flapped its leathery wings, and charged towards the unsteady Aarakocra, snapping its jaws at the Aarakocra's neck.

The shrill cry went from strong to weak, until the Aarakocra's dark source crystal was devoured, and its shriek finally died out completely.

A moment later, an Aarakocra's corpse plummeted from the sky like a pile of unwanted trash.

Such a death was like a signal, and also like a beginning.

After the first Aarakocra fell, the second and third soon followed.

Suddenly, the sky started to rain Aarakocra.

In the surrounding area, the battle between wyverns and Aarakocra escalated into a white-hot struggle with the appearance of death.

The wyverns roared and attacked.

The Aarakocra dodged, continuously letting out shrill cries.

In the blink of an eye, feathers drifted, dragon scales glinted, and both were falling.

The battle, characteristic of aerial flying units, grew increasingly fierce and bloody.

In this environment, it seemed there wasn't even a chance to escape; enemies were everywhere, battles raged all around.

There were only the roars and mournful cries of the wyverns and those human-headed bird creatures.

"They can actually manage to break through defenses, barely. It seems this flock of Aarakocra has a few tricks up their sleeves."

Further back, a dragon, entirely crimson, its dragon scales shimmering with red light and its body covered in a layer of fire, spoke human words, making a preliminary judgment of the Aarakocra's combat strength.

Evidently, this giant dragon was Leonidas, restored to his true dragon form—an adult, mutated fire dragon.

According to dragon lore, the current Leonidas was a red dragon.

The encounter between the small group of wyverns and the Aarakocra was Leonidas's arrangement, intended to ascertain the enemy's fighting style and basic information.

The battles of flying creatures relied on speed and agility.

Because even the weakest attack, when combined with high speed, could have its power increased by two to three tiers.

Understanding this, Leonidas formed his own judgment of the enemy.

"Jareth, advance at full speed!"

Having obtained the information he wanted and feeling more certain, Leonidas directly issued the command for his troops to advance at full speed.

Stratus Mountains, the highest peak.

On the summit, there was an immense Nest, similar to an Eagle's Nest.

Surrounding this massive Nest, the entire mountain range, from top to bottom, was dotted with similar Nests.

The Nests, ranging from large to small, were densely packed and innumerable.

This was the Aarakocra's Nest, and also the sacred ground of this race.

At this moment, in the Nest on the highest peak, two enormous Aarakocra faced east, their faces filled with bewilderment.

Aarakocra were human-headed and bird-bodied. Judging by their faces, these two Aarakocra were one old and one in its prime.

The old one's feathers had almost completely fallen out, and it showed no outward signs of a terrifying aura.

However, all Aarakocra knew that this aged Aarakocra was also a Legendary level expert.

In other words, the Aarakocra race possessed two Legendary level experts.

One overt, one covert; they had cunningly taken down countless Legendary level experts.

"Stratus, what did you sense?" asked the younger Aarakocra, Kree'tah.

"A strange Legendary level expert. He is heading towards us," replied the elder, Stratus.

"Is his aura very powerful?"

"Very powerful!"

"Have we sent kin to inquire and probe?"

"Yes, but no word has come back yet."

With no news returning, both Legendary level beings fell into a brief silence.

Such a situation, in this world of slaughter, signified death, signified war.

"From the east... could it be that unfamiliar being from Red Moon Valley?" Stratus mused aloud.

"Most likely him. Some time ago, I sent a small team to probe them. Their defenses were very good, and we suffered heavy casualties," Kree'tah confirmed.

"Prepare yourselves. This is for revenge!" Stratus declared.

"Same old plan, Kree'tah. I'll hold off the enemy, and you deliver the fatal blow."

And so, the Aarakocra named Stratus and Kree'tah had already devised a countermeasure before Leonidas even arrived.

Chapter 690: Don't be deceived by false appearances

Titanion Realm, Soaring Bird City.

"Master, it's true! Our human kingdom has declared war on the Sea Race!"

"His Majesty the King's mobilization order for the nobles will soon reach here."

In a study within the palace, Mike and Wyatt stood before Baron Torin, reporting the latest news they had obtained to him, their voices filled with excitement.

If it were in the past, upon hearing such news, Torin would surely have been very excited, would have stood up and paced the room, mulling over countermeasures with his subordinates.

But now?

Torin showed no reaction, remaining seated, engrossed in reading a history of the human kingdom's development.

The famous noble figures recorded within greatly interested Torin.

"What exactly happened six thousand years ago?"

"The light withdrew from the continent, The Theocracy abandoned this region, and only a group of nobles held out here to the death."

Honestly, Mike and Wyatt couldn't understand what Torin was talking about at all.

In their view, this critical moment was a good opportunity for their own development.

However, given Torin's current state, Mike and Wyatt truly didn't dare to disturb him.

Don't be fooled by Torin's current gentle and modest appearance; beneath that hypocritical mask hid a perverted cruelty and madness.

Torin shook his head. His own foundation was too shallow, and he hadn't read many books before; it was difficult for him to speculate on history from its roots or trace the truth.

"Don't be deceived by false appearances!"

"Although the human kingdom has declared war on the Sea Race, the fighting hasn't truly begun."

"Even if fighting does break out, even if you see it with your own eyes, are you sure it's a real fight?"

"Besides, our Soaring Bird City is inland; the war with the Sea Race won't affect us at all."

Torin put down the book, stood up, and walked out onto the balcony, basking in the sunlight. Even his silhouette seemed much taller.

"This war has little to do with inland cities like ours."

"At such a time, we must continue to maintain a low profile."

"The kingdom is at war externally. Any display of making sly moves behind the scenes will incur the enmity of the kingdom's noble class."

“If we’re not careful, what awaits us is a devastating disaster.”

Mike and Wyatt exchanged a look, staring at each other in consternation, both seeing terror in the other’s eyes.

“Master, so we do nothing now?”

Wyatt was a bit reluctant. Ever since Torin advanced to Alpha level and gained a voice in Soaring Bird City, they had purchased a large number of slaves and cultivated a decent armed force for Torin.

Wyatt constantly longed to take their armed forces outside the city and make a hefty profit.

“If you want to achieve great things, now is not the time. You must wait for an opportunity!”

Torin turned back, his smile holding a kind of inscrutability that Wyatt couldn’t comprehend.

“Wyatt, make a trip to the Royal Capital. Keep a close eye on news from the slave market.”

“Investigate the situation of Sea Race slaves in the market: when they appear, their numbers, and the male-to-female ratio.”

“If you encounter beautiful female Sea Race beings, try your best to buy them. I have a use for them.”

Torin’s voice grew a bit more serious. He lacked connections with the high-ranking nobles of the human kingdom and could only judge the situation through the slave market.

“Mike, lead a team to the Stoneheart Horde and continue trading with them.”

“It doesn’t matter if profits are squeezed. As long as there’s even the slightest bit of profit, we must continue this business.”

“We need time...”

Not long ago, the Stoneheart Horde, for some unknown reason, recalled the giant bloodline warriors, took away their share of the profits, and even began to exploit Torin.

Torin had nothing to say about this, as he had anticipated it when he signed the contract with Orion.

He had the Survivor’s Platform to rely on. As long as he wasn’t forced into a dead end, he had a chance to turn the tables.

When that time came, everyone who had offended him would be punished, and debts would be collected.

“Oh, right. Later, go invite Sir Lambert to the palace as a guest. He is Princess Ava’s guardian knight; we should get closer to him.”

“Understood, Master. I’ll go right now.”

The smile reappeared on Torin’s face. He increasingly resembled a knight, a noble.

...

North, Lysinthia City.

There were no such bizarre twists here.

Orion didn’t wait until Lysinthia and the others were in danger, facing life and death, to appear as a great hero, saving society, saving the world.

Orion arrived in Lysinthia City ahead of time. His op aura spread out, causing the invading Merfolk to flee in disarray.

After Orion's arrival, the entire Mist Bay fell silent; not a single Merfolk dared to show its head.

"Master!"

"My lord!"

"My lord!"

Unlike Slagor and Clawpincher, Lysinthia preferred to call Orion 'Master,' even in public.

"Collect the corpses of those merfolk. I have a great use for them later."

Orion glanced at the merfolk corpses floating in the seawater. These were the best fodder for the Giant Kelp Water Cannons and Ocean Hunters and couldn't be wasted.

"As you command!"

The Alpha-level Tidecrab Clawpincher unconditionally obeyed Orion's commands.

Clawpincher jumped off the city wall and directed a group of swamp crocodiles and water pythons into the bay, beginning the salvage work.

“Tell me about the situation here.”

Orion stood on the city wall, glanced at the subordinates following Clawpincher into the water, his expression as calm as still water.

The sea breeze blew, causing Orion’s cloak to rustle behind him.

“Since the end of winter, this place has suffered a total of eight Merfolk attacks, all of which we successfully defended against.”

Lysinthia’s voice, compared to its previous iciness, was much more timid, leaving Slagor, who stood nearby, utterly speechless with surprise.

“Did that mermaid bring any influence?”

“Yes, and no.”

Orion turned back, looking at Lysinthia with puzzlement.

“Master, for now, no incidents or individuals related to the mermaid have appeared.”

“However, that Alpha-level Merfolk who invaded here did mention before that a lord seems to know about the situation here.”

“Perhaps that beautiful mermaid knows something.”