

## God level 231

Chapter 231: Little Li's First Pot of Gold

Dust and chaos ensue as the boss furiously chases them down, and Little Fang and Little Li run panicked into the shimmering broken hole, where a glittering treasure chest appears before their eyes!

Little Fang's eyes shrink in surprise: "Oh my god, a huge treasure chest! We've found the hidden treasure vault in the instance!"

And just then, a huge earth spike suddenly shoots up from the ground!

Ah! Little Fang screams in agony as she's impaled!

Little Fang yells frantically in the dormitory: "Hurry up, rush to open the chest!"

Little Li exclaims in shock: "How do we open it?"

"Just touch it!!!"

—System Prompt: Congratulations! You have discovered a random treasure vault in a team instance!

—System Prompt: As you are the first player to discover the random treasure vault in the "Grey Stone Town Abandoned Mine" instance, the rewards from the random treasure vault are doubled!

—System Prompt: Congratulations! You have discovered a super treasure chest, received Gold Coin+20000, Experience+200,000, obtained C-grade strategic treasure Traveller's Boots, obtained C-grade strategic treasure Captain's Armband. Additionally, you have received +1 Skill Book and +1 Life Book.

—Traveller's Boots: C-grade strategic treasure, increases the marching speed of the hero and their troops by 20%, stacking with Logistics skills.

—Captain's Armband: C-grade strategic treasure, increases the hero's Command Power by 30 points.

—Skill Book: Use to gain one Skill Point, can also be used on a Vice Hero.

—Life Book: Use to gain 20 points of life, can also be used on a Vice Hero.

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Before Little Li could even make out the long list of system prompts, a huge rock whistles through the door! Bang! Little Li's world goes dark as she experiences her first virgin death in the game!

"Did you get it?! Did you get it?!" Little Fang yells frantically in the dormitory, taking off her helmet and vigorously shaking Little Li's shoulders!

Little Li replies with an "oh": "Seems like 20,000 Gold Coins and some other things, but I think I died!"

Little Fang laughs loudly: "Jackpot! I didn't lie to you, did I? Not even half an hour into the game and I've already made you money!"

Little Li excitedly asks: "How much can 20,000 Gold Coins sell for? 4000 RMB?"

Little Fang laughs and puts on her helmet: "That's small change! Let me check out what the other stuff is!"

Random treasure vaults refer to hidden treasure chests within instances. The location of chests changes each time you enter the same instance, and the loot for higher-level players opening chests is different from that of lower-level players. This is a significant demonstration of the instance's value, an integral feature that keeps players "enjoying endlessly" and "intoxicated" by the game.

However, finding a random treasure vault is as challenging as getting a hidden quest, requiring players to have keen observation, tenacity, and especially luck. It's something that's often sought but seldom found.

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In the Grey Stone Town church square, white lights flash repeatedly as the whole group from Ninth Heaven's 4th pioneering team resurrect and assemble in succession. The instigators, the beauties of Bloodrose, stand by with an indifferent look on their faces, secretly snickering and watching from the sidelines.

Currently, Divine Flame is reporting to the Guild Leader: "Boss, I beg you! Assign the beauties to other teams next time, I can't handle this good fortune!"

Divine Emperor sighs: "Brother, it's tough on you! But hang in there for now, your temper is the only one that can suppress the evil."

"Suppress my ass!"

And at this moment, the church square lights up, as Fleeting Blossom and Harem Beauty appear one after the other. The women of Bloodrose take a sidelong glance teasingly, only to be shocked and stunned!

They see the character named Harem Beauty with continuous bursts of golden glow above her head, which means she's leveling up continuously!

That's right, just now Little Li opened the treasure chest and gained 200,000 experience before dying. After resurrection, she naturally continues to level up! In an instant, 200,000 experience points take Little Li to level 10!

Instantly, the whole team is in an uproar!

Divine Flame's eyebrows twitch, and he steps forward to ask: "What's going on?"

Little Li looks up at the towering team leader and, feeling guilty, bows her head unsure of what to say.

Little Fang laughs: "Sorry, but we just found a treasure vault after a minecart crash. The boss killed her because she was the lowest level, allowing her to pick up the chest."

"A treasure chest!" The whole team erupts in excitement! The beauties of Bloodrose are even more incredulous!

Divine Flame looks astonished and asks urgently: "What did you get? What did you get?"

Little Fang laughs in the dormitory: "Wife, show them the picture! We're in a large guild with big corporations; there's no need to keep it secret!"

Little Li says "oh": "How do I post a picture?"

"Do this, then that..."

When Little Li publicly displays her loot, the whole team explodes in excitement! Everything else is trivial, but it's that Skill Book that's key! Especially later on, when leveling is as hard as ascending to the heavens, the only way to fill up skills is through special tasks rewarding Skill Points and Skill Books! However, tasks rewarding Skill Points can hardly compare with Skill Books, as the latter's late-stage growth for Vice Heroes is the real challenge!

Divine Flame immediately reacts, jaw dropping, and incoherently blurts out: "Sell it to me! Sell me the Skill Book aahhh!!!"

Little Fang laughs: "Sure! If it weren't for the Guild Leader's blessing, we wouldn't have been able to get there. Just name your price!"

Divine Flame, with a fierce expression, stretches out a trembling hand and opens five fingers! The crowd goes silent at once!

Little Li exclaims in surprise: "Five hundred?"

Divine Flame let out a long breath, his voice quiet and shy: "Five, five thousand..."

Little Li's eyes widen in shock: "Five, five thousand!!!"

Little Fang sighed softly, somewhat disappointedly pouting, "Five thousand..."

Divine Flame's eyelid twitched, retracting three fingers and gritting his teeth, "Then eight thousand, eight thousand!!!"

Little Li, startled, her eyebrows jumped, "Eight thousand!!"

A hushed silence fell over the crowd!

Little Fang chuckled, "Then eight thousand it is. The team leader has had it the hardest; right, wifey?"

Little Li hurriedly nodded, "Yeah, yeah!"

Divine Flame pumped his fist excitedly, "Thank you! Thank you, beauties! What's your account number? Which bank? I'll transfer the money right away!"

Little Fang laughed heartily, "Does wifey have a Taojin account?"

Little Li, taken aback, "No."

Little Fang grinned, "Then take this chance to set up a new one. Please wait a moment, team leader."

Divine Flame quickly responded, “No problem, no problem!” Immediately turning to the bystanders in the square, he announced, “Dismissed! Dismissed!”

“Team leader, aren’t we having the routine failure debriefing?”

Divine Flame waved impatiently, “Failure is the mother of success; I’ve said my piece, go on, go do whatever you have to do!”

The crowd dispersed amid a chorus of jeers.

At Bloodrose Studio, the faces of the girls from Bloodrose were not looking good.

What was this all about? A wiped team, and they ended up gifting benefits to someone else.

Big Sister Zhou Qing laughed coldly, “Alright, beauties, go do what you have to do!”

Bloodrose Qiqi complained angrily, “The more I think about it, the more I can’t stand it! I’m not convinced!”

Zhou Qing shook her head with a chuckling smile, “Then let’s shift our mood, tomorrow Star’s Little Pig Run will come to our city to develop. Do you know who Little Pig Run is?”

The girls were surprised, “The Griffin Breeder who’s ranked 4th in the world?”

Bloodrose Qiqi’s eyebrows twitched, “Does Big Sister mean that we should deliberately get close to Star, just to annoy Ninth Heaven?”

Zhou Qing chuckled, “Let others think what they want; in any case, everyone, just do what you need to do.”

The girls laughed heartily, “Got it, this is called fighting fire with fire!”

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When Little Li saw the added 8000 RMB in her new Taojin account, she rubbed her eyes hard, unable to believe them, "I just played for half an hour and earned eight thousand!"

Little Fang laughed loudly, "Psh! Don't get ahead of yourself; you still owe me money for the computer!"

Little Li laughed, "I'm already being kept by you, wife, what's there to return!"

Little Fang suddenly surprised, "Turns out you're so greedy for money? Why do you never give face to any of those rich lads who chase after you?"

Little Li's expression darkened, "Earning my own money is different from others giving me money!"

Little Fang laughed, "I see! Do you want to earn even more money?"

Little Li, piqued with interest, nodded excitedly, "Is that even a question? Believe it or not, I'll earn more than you and keep you!"

Little Fang roared with laughter, "Please, wealthy lady, keep me!"

At this moment, Divine Flame, who had finally obtained the Skill Book he wished for, chuckled, "Thank you, both of you. If there's anything you need in the future, just tell me. Can I add you as friends?"

Little Fang laughed, "What an honor to add the great team leader of Ninth Heaven as a friend!"

Divine Flame blushed with a shy smile, "Next time when the instance's CD is refreshed, give a shout if you two are free; I may not be good at anything else, but leading a team is no problem for me."

Little Fang laughed, "No problem. It would be best if there are more surprises like today's!"

Divine Flame shook his head with a wistful smile, "That was unavoidable. Alright, I need to go level up; I must excuse myself!"

"Take care, team leader!"

After Divine Flame left, Little Li chuckled, "Truly worthy of being a queen, always hooking men the moment there's a chance. This man who has caught our Queen's fancy must be a top gamer, right?"

Little Fang smiled faintly, "It's called networking, you know? The guy doesn't have to be the strongest, but speaking of the strongest men—" She paused, her expression turning stern and cold with a sneer, "I do know there's a top dog who is the nemesis of that bunch of scum! It's just that there hasn't been a chance to meet him, but if we do, we must forge a good relationship to thoroughly gross out those pieces of trash. They wanted to sicken us today but failed; we'll definitely have our chance to return the favor!"

Little Li gave a wry smile, "True to your Queen's nature, you never take a loss. But who is this strongest man?"

Little Fang shook her head, "Da Fei! The best in the national service, universally acknowledged as the worst in terms of character; known as the world's number one scumbag!"

Little Li exclaimed in shock, "You dare to make connections with such a person?"

Little Fang laughed, "What's there to fear in a game? It's all fine as long as we don't meet in person." She then spoke seriously, "The early stages of the game are extremely valuable; it's the easiest time to make money. I plan to undertake a major venture soon. Are you willing to stay up late with me?"

Little Li, curious, "What kind of venture requires staying up all night?"

Little Fang solemnly said, "I'm taking on an epic project to dig a canal to the sea. Once this project is successful, today's earnings of eight thousand will be just a drizzle. Will you do it?"

Little Li coldly smiled, "Just staying up late, if you can endure it, so can I!"

Little Fang laughed loudly, "You're truly my wife, come here wifey, muah~~~"

### Chapter 232: A Viking's Reconnaissance Albatross?

Renior once said that although a navigator is a thrilling and adventurous job, it is equally a tedious and boring one. For most of the time, the sailors face nothing but the endless, empty sea day after day. Various symptoms of homesickness, phobias, and anxiety emerge.

Luckily, it seemed the system wouldn't let Da Fei feel bored.

On the 7th day of the voyage, another unidentified red dot approached the fleet. Nothing else to say, Skira transformed and set off—scram! Successful, obtained 100,000 experience points.

On the 8th day of the voyage, a strange and vague song drifted over the ice ocean. Still, nothing else to say, continue to transform into Skira and let out a roar! The song abruptly stopped, and another 200,000 experience points were obtained.

On the 9th day of the voyage, another unidentified sea monster passed by, continued to drive them away.

Da Fei couldn't figure out whether these sea monsters were sent from the S-level Chamber of Commerce commission missions or from the resurrection mission of the Chamber of Commerce, but anyway, in front of Skira, they were all cowards ready to flee! He never imagined that his greatest enemy would become his Guardian God; this truly was a fickle world, making Da Fei sigh endlessly.

And each time Skira's phantom appeared, the blackness on Skira's body increased a bit, getting closer and closer to the appearance of Skira's true form. This gave Da Fei infinite anticipation for completely replicating Skira's true form to promote God-level Magic!

Now it was the 10th day of the voyage, it's 3 a.m. in real-life time, and Da Fei had been sleepless for more than 24 hours, with his eyelids constantly at odds.

He wanted to sleep but dared not! Oceanic voyages were such a tormenting task! Da Fei felt like time was unbearable as if staying up all-night gaming was nothing compared to this! In the end, the Deputy Officer was underperforming! If Catherine were on board, he could barely wrap himself in his helmet and sleep comfortably.

Well, wait! Actually, should he leave it to Anlicia? Before entering the ice ocean, there were concerns that Anlicia's skills were insufficient, failing to meet the flagship navigation requirements, and she would fall behind. But now, it was different. In this endless floating sea of ice, the fleet's speed couldn't be slower, and in any case, they wouldn't fall behind, right?

Da Fei called Anlicia over, "You have performed exceptionally well; it's time for you to single-handedly take over the ship. Do you have confidence?"

Anlicia sighed, "Just say you want to rest! Go ahead with peace of mind!" Finishing her sentence, she enthusiastically shoved Da Fei from the helm and tinkered with the steering wheel like a child driving a toy car at an amusement park.

Da Fei couldn't help but laugh, "Alright, alright, you're a genius, don't mess things up!"

Anlicia snorted, "If anything happens, it's not my fault! It's the Captain's poor judgment!"

—System Prompt: You have changed Anlicia's Deputy Officer position to First Officer.

Da Fei was greatly relieved, sighed deeply, set the alarm, and had his game avatar wrapped in a blanket, nestled in the corner of the cockpit to nap. Of course, he was ready to be woken every hour or two.

Thus, Da Fei drifted between sleep and wakefulness, nodding off until dawn, ordered a steak and egg noodle takeout, wolfed it down in two bites, then fell back asleep until lunchtime, only to be woken by a sea monster alert and ordered another lunch box takeout, squatting on the toilet while balancing a helmet and eating simultaneously, then sleeping again.

In summary, he groggily muddled through until 5 p.m., finally freshening up and recuperating. At this time, it was already the 16th day of the voyage. Perhaps another night and by noon tomorrow, they'd arrive?

Damn it, playing this game was too hard! Even long-haul buses have two or three drivers taking turns, who could switch out with him? Tch! He didn't trust player partners, he'd have to hold on and train Anlicia into a navigator to take over!

On the 17th day, the overcast clouds that hovered for days disappeared without a trace, revealing a clear sky, with sunlight illuminating countless icebergs on the ocean, reflecting dazzling brilliance. In the sunlight, the icy wind seemed to carry a hint of warmth.

The sailors unconsciously began exercising on deck. Anlicia, tired from several days of duty, also napped wrapped in winter clothes on a sunlight-laden windowsill.

It was a rare beautiful sunny day, the last thing he wanted was for a sea monster to spoil it.

Suddenly, Da Fei noticed a small yellow dot on his radar! Yellow dot? On the radar, green dots indicated friendly creatures, red dots indicated hostile or aggressive creatures, and yellow dots indicated neutral creatures, typically animals, which meant this animal was quite large if visible on the radar.

Da Fei gazed in the direction of the yellow dot, unable to see it! A submerged sea monster? Da Fei confirmed the Z-axis of the yellow dot again, the sea surface Z-value is 0, sea monster Z-values are typically 0 or negative, but this yellow dot wasn't negative and even had a large value, in the sky?

Da Fei looked up, the sunlight dazzled his vision, where was it? This meant the yellow dot was flying rather high? Perhaps just aligned with the sun, making it undetectable?

However, as long as it wasn't a hostile creature, it should be manageable. Generally, birds were rarely seen in the deep ocean; their presence usually indicated proximity to land.

Da Fei took out his Sea Chart to check the route, seemingly still in the open ocean with no nearby land or notable islands. Could there be undiscovered hidden islands waiting for players to find? Damn, he was a busy man, not that free to wander.

The fleet continued forward, and by afternoon the sunlight grew warmer, and the sailors' morale soared.

Fire Dragon Island remained icebound for ten months a year, and now was the two-month thawing period, and these icebergs littering the ice ocean were naturally thawing products. Yet Da Fei found it strange; since the thawing period was so short and crucial, why didn't the Alliance massively organize fleets for concentrated transport of supplies? Otherwise, why was his fleet the only one along the way? Did Little Coltner speak the truth about Fire Dragon Island being so troublesome that no fleet wanted to take on the job? Or was the island's status within the Alliance unimportant? But the fat Military Department officer said it was where the Evil Dragon was sealed, it's supposed to be significant, right?

Suddenly, Da Fei realized he had made a huge mistake by not gathering more information about Fire Dragon Island!

At this moment, Da Fei noticed the yellow dot still on his radar. What was going on? That yellow dot was still following him? Although some dolphins and seagulls like to follow ships, such a large unidentified organism preferring to follow his ship was concerning, right?

Da Fei was instantly alert, pulling out binoculars to look skyward again, still invisible! The sunlight was blinding!

Da Fei felt a shock in his heart! There was an issue! If it had been in the sun's location this morning, that made sense, but it was afternoon now, and it still hovered at the sun's location? More precisely, it stayed between the fleet and the sun so that whenever viewed, the sunlight blocked the sight! This was definitely not a normal animal, right?

In the Northern Ocean, what dangers were there aside from floating ice sea monsters?

Da Fei hurriedly shouted for the Order Flag Bearer: "Notify the flagship, something's flying overhead, does anyone know what's flying? It's been following us since morning!"

Before long, the flag bearer quickly returned to report, "Captain, they didn't see anything flying!"

Damn it all! Da Fei quickly climbed up to the lookout, temporarily serving as the Sailing Captain, allowing the entire fleet to share his god-level vision!

“Did you see that!? I know you still can’t see it, neither can I, guess what it is!”

The Order Flag Bearer immediately said, “Captain, the Whale Hunter sent a message, it might be an Albatross!”

Albatross? Indeed a large seabird! But the question is—

Da Fei urgently shouted, “The question is, is there such a powerful Albatross, one that always blocks the sun?!”

The flag bearer replied, “Captain, the flagship sent a message; it may be the legendary Viking Pirates!”

Da Fei’s eyelids twitched, Viking Pirates!? The official game materials introduced major pirate factions: Desolate Island Pirates, Innocent Pirates, Blood Sail Pirates, Blood Raider Pirates, and the New World Pirate King’s Caribbean Pirates. But indeed, there were no Viking Pirates! To some extent, the Vikings, as believers of Odin in Nordic Mythology, had long transcended the mortal realm!

Being an expert, Da Fei perfectly understood that every word an NPC uttered had some basis, reflecting the system’s disclosed information. In short, if an NPC said something existed, then it did! Skira’s phantom works well against sea monsters, but not necessarily against pirates.

Da Fei yelled, “Meeting! Meeting!”

Now, Da Fei’s vessel and Spielberg’s boat approached the Radiant Wings.

At this moment, Little Coltner hurriedly came to the helms, anxiously shouting, “Captain, it’s said the legendary Viking Pirates have the ability to train Albatrosses as scouts! An Albatross strategically using the sun to conceal itself must be specially trained, likely by the Vikings! This is exactly the sea area where Vikings are rumored to appear!”

Spielberg frowned, "But the Viking Pirates exist only in legends! No one has seen them for a thousand years."

Little Coltner anxiously replied, "That's because those who saw them are all dead!"

Spielberg said gravely, "Do you have any basis?"

Little Coltner was instantly silent, "All I know is the Northern Ocean is dangerous."

Enough said! Better believe there is than not, if an NPC says something exists, it exists! Da Fei said sternly, "If they're Vikings, then what's their next move?"

Little Coltner said hesitantly, "Of course, intercepting us in the direction we're heading or pursuing us from behind! After all, there aren't many islands nearby; it's hard to believe there's a Viking base, so they too must've traveled a long distance to track us."

Spielberg frowned, "In legends, the Viking combat strength is unbelievably strong. This area of floating ice is perfect for their renowned oar-driven dragonhead assault ships to ambush. If encountered, we will surely lose!"

I see! After all the hard work till now, there's absolutely no turning back!

Staring at the gradually setting sun, Da Fei decisively commanded, "Once night falls, our fleet will change course and proceed around them!"

I refuse to believe that in this vast ocean, I cannot both evade and escape!

### Chapter 233: The Divine Artifact that Creates the Ghost Ship

The night falls, and the long-absent moon appears in the cold night sky of the Northern Ocean. Under the moonlight, the ice floes of the Ice Ocean reflect each other beautifully. Great, there's even no need for lighting. Da Fei's fleet makes a horizontal turn and takes a detour in the blackout.

Of course, this means taking a longer route, and what's more important, it will pass through completely unfamiliar waters, even areas that no one has ever ventured into before. This is the most troublesome and dangerous part. Maybe the Vikings are foolishly waiting ahead in the cold wind? Maybe foolishly chasing from behind? Or maybe scaring himself for nothing? It doesn't matter. Better safe than sorry, especially since we've come this far.

A night without incident, and the next day is another clear day. At this time, the fleet is still heading farther away from the original course.

Da Fei keeps looking up at the sky to see if there are any yellow spots appearing, but for now, there are none. Maybe the opposition has suddenly lost the target and is searching too? To be safe, Da Fei decides to keep going for another day and night, and then correct the course tomorrow morning. Since they've already taken a cautious detour, they might as well be thoroughly careful.

While looking around, a system prompt sounds.

—System Prompt: Your Divine Artifact Equipment, the Sea Soul Staff, has completed absorbing and transforming souls, gaining 4630 points of Mana, acquiring a Middle-level Sea Soul +1, and the Sea Soul Staff has gained a special skill: Ghost Ship Rebirth.

—Ghost Ship Rebirth: The Sea Soul transformed by the Sea Soul Staff can be infused into the ship, creating a Ghost Ship!

Da Fei is suddenly startled! Creating a Ghost Ship!

At the same time, Anlicia also takes out her Magic Wand in surprise and says, "Wow! The Magic Wand has changed its appearance!"

At this moment, the Magic Wand is surrounded by enchanting Demon Light, no longer just a transparent glass bead and bone wand! Indeed, this looks like a Divine Artifact!

Looking at this special skill that suddenly appeared, Da Fei suddenly realizes! So this is how a Ghost Ship comes into being, indeed the Divine Artifact dropped by the BOSS and the BOSS's skills are somewhat related, aren't they?

So how do you use this transformation skill? At least find a ship first, right? Can my current seat ship be used? Let's try? Then just try, really bored and itching to do something.

Choose to use the Ghost Ship Rebirth special skill!

—System Prompt: Currently, your Divine Artifact reserves one Middle-level Sea Soul, which can be used for rebirth on medium or small ships. The higher the level of the Sea Soul, the more worn the ship, the better the rebirth effect.

—System Prompt: Are you sure you want to rebirth the Middle-level Sea Soul on your “Galen Medium Armored Cargo Ship”? This transformation will consume 3000 points of the Sea Soul Staff’s reserved Mana.

Confirm!

The Magic Wand flashes, and a white wisp of smoke drifts out from the glass bead, swirling around the cockpit momentarily before disappearing.

—System Prompt: Congratulations! You have successfully transformed your medium armored transport into a Level 0 Ghost Ship! Ship speed +2, Defense -15, Durability upper limit -4000, added special skill: Emergency Acceleration.

Da Fei is dumbfounded on the spot! What the heck! Renior’s transformation into a Ghost Ship is to massively boost Defense and Health to withstand Skira, and now mine reduces Defense and Health? Is it because my ship is too new and not worn enough, so the transformation effect is poor?

Da Fei hurries to check the ship attributes:

Ship name: Galen Medium Armored Cargo Ship (renamable).

Current level: 0.

Ship special skill: Emergency Acceleration. Activating this skill will further increase the overall speed of the ship by 20%, but once the skill is activated, the ship's maneuverability will greatly reduce, and its Durability will continually decline.

Ship cargo capacity: 300 units

Gun Cabin: 4 gun positions. (2 on the port side, 2 on the starboard side)

Minimum sailor capacity: 8 people

Ship Durability: 26000/26000 (-4000)

Speed: 10 (+2)

Ship Armor Defense: Port 35, Starboard 35, Bow 15, Stern 15. (-15)

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Currently at level 0! That means the ship has gained life, which is essential for a Ghost Ship! It's also gained a special skill but the cost is losing Blood Defense! Damn, isn't this special skill exactly the Octopus's Emergency Acceleration skill?

Da Fei suddenly realizes, this ship is indeed possessed by the soul of an octopus! It seems that the sea soul of different creatures will determine the attributes of the Ghost Ship! No wonder it's completely different from Renior's.

Speaking of this Giant Octopus's special skill, other than constantly losing blood and unable to turn, it's damn awesome because this skill provides an overall enhancement. The 20% from this Emergency Acceleration is a totally different concept from the 20% increase in base ship speed per level of Sailing

Skill. If Catherine was to navigate this ship, her Grandmaster Sailing Skill increases the speed by 120% plus the 25% from being a Master-level Pirate, then a 10 points speed could go up to 24.5! Then activate Emergency Acceleration and increase the speed by another 20% to 29.4! The ship's maximum speed is 29.4 meters per second! That's like an F1 powerboat!

The higher the Sailing Skill of the Captain and First Officer, the more useful this Emergency Acceleration skill!

Holy crap, such a great special skill on a medium-sized ship, what a pity!

No no no, can't think like that! I've been spoiled by owning two large ships, so I look down on medium-sized ships, but actually, players can only sail medium-sized ships for quite some time, right? I can sell it! Lowering the attribute doesn't matter, as the ship now has life and can gradually upgrade and recover its attributes!

And medium-sized ships have their irreplaceable value, like in rivers, shoals, swamps, places where large ships can't go. Just convert all cargo holds to gun cabins, and it'll be a perfect high-speed small gunboat reigning supreme in rivers!

This ship can definitely fetch a good price! 100,000? 200,000? 300,000? Hahaha, about the price of a small car! No no no, wait until I level it up a few times, and its attributes get stronger, then it will definitely sell well! This Divine Artifact really lives up to being a Divine Artifact, just absorb a few more Sea Souls and I can mass-produce special skill Ghost Ships! I'm really going to strike it big! This is like finding a money printing machine! Hahaha, I'm so awesome!

Ah wait! Mass production? It can't be that easy, can it?

To transform a medium-sized ship requires a Middle-level Sea Soul. Why does a Giant Octopus which can escape easily provide 200,000 Experience, and only powerful Sea Monsters that can drop ship figureheads as specialty products are Middle-level Sea Souls? What about the High-level Sea Souls required to transform large ships? Are they Renior-like hero BOSS level creatures?

Damn! If transforming a medium-sized ship requires killing an Octopus-level Sea Monster, then producing Ghost Ships is not only tough but also involves considerable risks! Think about all these Sea

Monsters these past few days, which one could I actually beat? Let alone think about transforming large ships!

Upon realization, Da Fei shakes his head and laughs heartily, thinking too much! Focusing on what's in the bowl while eyeing what's in the field, can I manage that?

Anyway, Da Fei, having figured out the use of the Divine Artifact, feels refreshed and relieved, sweeping away the overnight fatigue.

Another day has passed, the Albatross hasn't appeared, which is good! Running another night, completely throwing off the Vikings.

Around midnight, the ethereal singing comes again, Da Fei's heart tightens, another Sea Demon! But why does this singing sound so ethereal and clear and not at all demonic?

No matter that, Da Fei waves his hand at Anlicia: "Skira get ready!"

Just then, the Order Flag Bearer joyfully reports: "Captain, the Whale Hunter has sent a message, we might have encountered a Sea Hermit!"

Chapter 234: Mermaid Saint

The wilderness world in the game often had many special function buildings. For example, there was the Wisdom Ancient Tree mentioned earlier, which players encountered were guaranteed to level up and either upgrade a skill or comprehend a new skill.

Such function buildings also included the Desert Oasis, where players that encountered it would permanently increase their life by a certain amount. There was also the Heroic Battle Banner on the ancient battlefield, where players would permanently increase their attack and defense damage. Additionally, Swan Lake increased a player's stamina limit and temporarily boosted their luck for a few points, lasting a month. There was also the Magic Hall, where players would permanently increase their mana by a certain amount and learn a hidden spell not recorded in a Magic Book. And the most heart-wrenching was the Prophet Hut, where the Prophet would ask the player for something urgently needed, possibly a troop, perhaps a treasure, or a resource. If the player happened to have it, the reward might even be a Divine Artifact.

And these function buildings appeared randomly; as soon as a player encountered one, it would vanish. They were truly serendipitous encounters.

And the Sea Hermit was undoubtedly one of these function buildings!

For a moment, Da Fei was inexplicably excited! The vast sea was not just all foes; a brother could encounter good guys too! Wahaha, that was the benefit of deviating from the course! Indeed, these function buildings usually only randomly appeared in such remote locations. They would never appear by busy roads with lots of foot traffic.

The fleet proceeded toward the direction of the singing. They saw it, in the moonlight, a giant whale like a small island surfacing to spray water, with a mermaid sitting on its back, shining golden and singing loudly!

“Mermaid!” The sailors of the entire fleet cheered!

Da Fei was even more astonished, his jaw dropped to the ground!

In the Sea Realm, the status of mermaids was comparable to angels in the Divine Realm! A mermaid’s combat power might not be the strongest, but their status was undoubtedly the highest. Encountering a mermaid was akin to meeting an angel. Mortals, have you ever seen an angel in your lifetime? Probably not even a single feather of an angel, right? Damn, a mermaid! This hermit was too upscale! It must be! It couldn’t always be God-level Sea Monsters causing me trouble; there always had to be some God-level mermaids to comfort the players, right?

Da Fei immediately put on his unused Captain’s uniform, adjusted his Captain’s hat, and stood at the bow ready to pay respects to this upscale hermit.

The fleet stopped by the giant whale. The mermaid stopped singing, and a misty, poetic ethereal voice echoed across the Ice Ocean, “In this vast lonely sea, encountering a visit from mortals is indeed a very pleasant and very fortunate thing. Let us share the luck that the gods granted us!”

The mermaid waved her hand, and a large rainbow light enveloped the fleet!

—System Prompt: You paid your respects to the Mermaid Saint. Your troops' luck increased by 5, your fleet's speed went up, duration one month!

—System Prompt: The Mermaid Saint temporarily increased your Luck Skill Level to Master-level, duration one month!

—System Prompt: The Mermaid Saint increased your Vice Heroes' Luck Skill Level, Selvia learned the Basic Luck Skill!

—System Prompt: ...Catherine learned the Basic Luck Skill!

—System Prompt: Anlicia advanced to Advanced Luck Technique!

The entire force's luck increased! All heroes' Luck Skill Levels were raised! My Master Level Luck Skill as well, damn, why didn't it directly upgrade to Grandmaster? Was Grandmaster something even Saints couldn't directly teach?

The mermaid's ethereal beautiful voice emerged again, "Mortal, you seem puzzled. Is there anything unclear? I can answer one question for you."

Me, puzzled? Well, in front of a Saint, mortals always looked dumb.

Alright then, now the main course began, upgrading skills was just the appetizer! The difference between a master and a novice was right here! Given the same opportunity, a novice usually would ask for a bowl of rice, while a master would ask for a seed! Of course, I was the master, and the question I asked must be beneficial now and for future generations!

Now, I had a few questions I really wanted to ask:

1. How do mermaids reproduce offspring?

2. How can I get a mermaid to join my harem?

3. How can I formally advance to Master-level Luck Skill?

4. Are the Vikings after me with axes?

Shallow, these questions are too shallow! I'm destined to advance to all Grandmaster, stomp the Vikings, and gather mermaids! Why bother asking these questions?

Da Fei chose the least personal question: "May I ask, Saint, my Chamber of Commerce's fleet is cursed by the Sea God. How do I resolve this?"

The mermaid laughed heartily, her laugh echoing in the night sky, and dark clouds instantly veiled the moon, as if even the moon was shy.

The mermaid seriously said, "This question is well asked. I appeared here specifically for this matter. Your appearance here shows that you didn't disappoint me!"

Da Fei suddenly realized! This hermit was not an ordinary hermit; it was a hint for the Chamber of Commerce's Epic Quest! I was just saying my luck was too good! I could encounter this in the vast sea!

Da Fei hurriedly said, "Please guide me, Saint!"

The mermaid solemnly said, "Your Chamber of Commerce once plundered a Sea God Altar, not only seizing the Sea God's Divine Artifact but also abducting the mermaid head priestess in charge of the sacrifice. The Sea God might not care about a Divine Artifact, but he sure cares about his head priestess. If you can return that head priestess, you might be able to quell the Sea God's anger. I give you a token; after you find the head priestess, you can use it to contact me. Of course, if you cannot manage it, it can be seen as a gift to the brave and wise mortal who met me."

–System Prompt: You obtained the task item "Mermaid Harp."

–Mermaid Harp: S-level strategic treasure, enhances Poetry Chanting Skill +1, Quest Item.

Da Fei's eyelid twitched with astonishment, a treasure gift! Just like the Blood Eagle Flute, it also enhanced skill levels! Damn, was this considered a stage reward for me evading the Sea God's relentless pursuit?

“Mortal, I hope we meet again!”

The giant whale let out a roar, spewed out a massive fountain, stirring a tumultuous wave that rocked the fleet and carried the mermaid, submerging into the sea, vanishing.

Da Fei steadied himself against the ship railings, utterly stunned. Was this giant whale demonstrating power? Was this the strength of a saint under the Sea God? Was it warning me that opposing the Sea God was utmost folly? Damn, wasn't it obvious! It wasn't like I wanted to oppose the Sea God!

Turns out, Makar only knew part of the story, while the Chamber of Commerce had also captured a Mermaid Priest. What did they do with her? Put her in a zoo? Exotic harem? Seems like the trouble was indeed significant.

Anyway, passing this hurdle first was essential. Having this treasure could at least appease Selvia.

Now, the fleet set sail again.

Chapter 235: The Final Breakthrough

Daylight breaks, and after a day and two nights of detours, Da Fei's fleet adjusts its course once again towards Fire Dragon Island.

The sailors were on a high after meeting the mermaid last night, with many off-duty ones convinced of their loaded luck, itching to place bets against their mates. And then, some were jubilant, others despondent—such foolish mortals indeed.

I must say, the fleet's Luck Value is terrifyingly high now! Da Fei has a temporary +6 Grandmaster level, the mermaid adds another temporary +5, and with the Misfortune Hourglass during battle, we get +5

more. That's 16 points in total, meaning the troops have a 32% chance to deal a critical hit with double damage. It's so strong it's almost blinding!

Of course, Da Fei isn't so naive as to be dazzled by this unreliable luck. So what if it's 100% lucky? The fleet only has so many novice sailors and soldiers of this caliber. Da Fei would love to set sail fully armed, but the issue is that all his troops in the Elf Kingdom are tied up at the Pool of Radiance and can't come out. Forget about even thinking of war. What Da Fei is now pondering is how to achieve Master-level Luck Skill.

Based on my previous experience with advancing to Master, if one could preemptively experience what it's like to be a Master, or use auxiliary skills to infinitely approach the effects of a Master, it would make grasping the true essence of a Master easier. With just one month's time, which is 3 days in reality, this opportunity cannot be missed no matter what. Once missed, it would be harder to attain.

But luck is such an intangible and elusive thing—how can I grasp it? I'm completely clueless!

Throughout this day, Da Fei continued to monitor the sky. No yellow dots appeared, nor did sea monsters. It was still a peaceful night. It looks like we've temporarily shaken off these so-called Viking Pirates—if they really exist.

On the 19th day, the weather turned gloomy, yet no abnormalities surfaced. This was extremely unsettling for Da Fei, who had grown used to being harassed by sea monsters every day.

The 20th day, still no abnormalities! Da Fei felt unbearably itchy; this is the rhythm of asking for trouble! It's one thing to lose the pirates, but why haven't any sea monsters appeared for three consecutive days? Considering I'm on an S-class cargo mission coupled with an Epic Quest, it's simply unreasonable not to have sea monsters greeting us daily! Could it be that meeting the mermaid and receiving the next Task Hint is like getting a bit of amnesty? No way, the Chamber of Commerce is still causing a fuss. Could the mermaid's luck bonus mean not encountering sea monsters? Impossible, this is a game after all; luck doesn't have such a setting. Surrounded by suspicion, doubts, and anxiety, another day passed.

By now, Da Fei had spent all night awake, and daylight greeted him once more. He ordered some takeout to eat his fill, washed his face with cold water to clear and calm his mind, and to alleviate some anxiety.

It's the 21st day of the voyage, and according to the Sea Chart, we're nearing Fire Dragon Island. At the current speed, about three days of travel remain. Still, nothing out of the ordinary has happened.

Da Fei can no longer bear it! The absence of odd events is the greatest oddity itself, isn't it?

Should we take another detour? Damn it, we're almost at the destination; why detour any more? Isn't it just torturing myself? I'm not even sure whether the Vikings are actually following. I refuse to believe the vast sea can block my way!

We're almost there; just rush directly!

No! Calm down! People tend to lower their guard at the very last moment! This is the last critical moment!

Think about it, if I were the enemy, having been led astray and lost the target, how would I track them down?

This is a question worth pondering. It's like playing chess with someone else; of course, you have to consider the opponent's possible moves. Only someone who thinks they are clever and takes everyone else for a fool is the real fool. Not to mention, currently, my opponent is the computer, and I've never won a game of chess against the computer, have I? No way! Back in the factory when I was on duty, the darn old computer only had Minesweeper, Poker, and chess—these three ridiculous brain games! Why must it be brain games!

Alright, keep calm!

Catherine once said that to be a pirate who robs merchant ships, you must first be a qualified merchant, only by understanding the habits and thinking of merchants and keeping up with the latest market trends can you possibly intercept them in the seas where they're most likely to appear.

That is to say, if I were a Viking Pirate, what should I do now? Holy shit! Do I even need to think about it? Of course it's to ambush near the final stop! The monk can run but the temple won't run away, there's only Fire Dragon Island nearby in this vast North Sea, even if the Vikings think with their butts they know

my fleet is headed to Fire Dragon Island. So the easiest way is to just wait near Fire Dragon Island, a small search area, stick to the plan no matter what, it's useless for me to try to detour!

Goddamnit, it has to be this way! The sudden realization had Da Fei shattered! F\*ck, if I had three ships of Druids, thousands of Flower Demons, hundreds of Forest Goddesses, I wouldn't give a damn about the Viking Pirates, I'd thunder on killing gods and demons alike on my way! The problem is I have no troops! Even if I really had three ships of Druids, could I really be confident in fighting the legendary Vikings in these shitty seas?

No confidence at all! The mission I've taken is too advanced, it's not something that can be solved with force by players at this stage!

Finally, Da Fei thought of a method!

Da Fei, the Order Flag Bearer, gathered the fleet for another meeting.

Da Fei told everyone, "We'll soon reach our destination, but our enemies are most likely lying in ambush near Fire Dragon Island, this is the final test. So I've come up with a plan, to split up! I'll take my fast ship to Fire Dragon Island to call for reinforcements, while you'll loiter around here without entering port, waiting for me to bring back help to join everyone!"

Catherine asked in surprise, "How can you be sure that there will be reinforcements?"

Da Fei answered seriously, "The Albatross tracking from a few days ago shows that the Vikings originally planned to hijack us midway, which suggests they don't want to get close to Fire Dragon Island. This indicates that there are strong forces on Fire Dragon Island that the Vikings are wary of."

Coltner asked in astonishment, "How can the Captain guarantee we can persuade them to assist us?"

Da Fei pulled out a thick stack of several hundred purchase orders with a long sigh, "If they're really living a miserable life, they definitely won't give up on these goods."

Spielberg asked, "How can the Captain guarantee a safe breakthrough from the Viking's blockade to reach Fire Dragon Island?"

Da Fei turned back to look at Anlicia, "Can it be done?"

Anlicia let out a long sigh, "Who knows."

Da Fei sighed, "Even if I am lost, it's no big deal, at most just a loss of three hundred orders, it's not the whole picture. But at least I'll know where the Vikings are ambushed, indirectly diverting the Viking ambush, creating an opportunity for our big ship to enter the port!"

That's right, even if I die, I'll definitely resurrect on the flagship of the fleet, then the fleet can immediately enter the port. Of course, it would be best not to die, this Medium Ship is worth a lot more now!

Everyone nodded in agreement, "Seems like that's the only way, we wish the Captain success upon arrival!"

Now, there's nothing left to say, Da Fei's flagship detached from the fleet and headed alone towards Fire Dragon Island.