

## God level 246

Chapter 246: Divine Artifact, The Gold Coin of Fate

When you encounter an unbeatable opponent that seems godlike, what should you do?

As a Saint, shouting and unleashing your small universe is ultimately unreliable. Often, the best course of action is to have a good talk, just like China facing the United States, just like Da Fei facing the Gambling God now.

Opposing through cooperation, cooperating through opposition, it's not only a test of strength but also a test of wisdom. Da Fei clearly found the most suitable method.

At this moment, the two of them were happily grinding experience points in the tavern! Grinding with an NPC, what kind of level is this? God-level!

Money wasn't really the problem. The key was to make him keep winning. Da Fei firmly believed that as long as he kept winning, he could reach God-level!

However, their fake gambling act of mutual grinding instantly aroused the dissatisfaction of the dwarves in the room, causing them to jeer and return to their seats, drinking on their own.

Time ticked by, and Da Fei no longer remembered which round it was. In any case, the Gambling God continued to play the myth of being undefeated. Da Fei believed that if someone dared to gamble with him, he could win the entire world in one day! This skill was just too powerful! Trading thirty days of misfortune for one day of invincibility wasn't really a bad deal, right?

The mutual grinding continued.

Suddenly, Buffett stopped shaking the dice, his expression solemn as he said, "I have a strange premonition! I've never encountered this before!"

Da Fei's brow twitched, "Could it be that you're advancing?"

Buffett's beard trembled with excitement as he somberly said, "Let's begin. We'll find out in the next round!"

Da Fei excitedly nodded his head! Finally, the result was coming out, he thought gleefully, wow hahaha!

The crucial round began!

The moment Buffett's dice landed in the bowl, a red light soared above his head, shattering the rainbow light circling above him like the clinking of broken glass. Misfortune struck!

The Gambling God actually hit misfortune! In that instant, both Da Fei and Buffett were dumbfounded!

And at that moment, the dice in the bowl also came up with a result, making both of them even more stunned!

—System Prompt: Buffett rolled a total of 2 points.

2 points! No mistake, 3 dice rolled a total of 2 points! One die was 1 point, and another die was also 1 point, the difference being that one die was pinned under the third die! The system determined that the pinned die had no points!

Holy crap! Even a situation like this can occur!

Meanwhile, a dwarf watching the game exclaimed, “Oh my gosh, how could this happen?”

The entire tavern of dwarves gathered around again, the room exploding in noise, “Is there anything smaller than 2 points?”

The crowd laughed, “Unless all three dice stand upright!”

With a dazed expression, Buffett asked, “Do you know what happened?”

Da Fei nodded dumbly! He knew Buffett no longer had the divine protection of luck, that he was finished!

Buffett said blankly, "Your turn now."

My turn? 2 points! There was no way he could lose to 2 points, right? Unless he really was so skilled that all three dice stood up! Could he win? Yes, this so-called turning of tides, he had to win! But the problem was, if he won, he wouldn't be able to help him advance to God-level, right?

Oh well! His own advancement was good enough! Despite not knowing exactly what was going on, Da Fei felt something big was happening as he couldn't contain his inner joy, and the three dice flew out of his hands!

In that moment, a rainbow light rose above Da Fei's head! It appeared! The tides were turning! His luck finally appeared!

Before he could celebrate, a red light suddenly shot skyward, shattering the rainbow light with a crash! Was it also misfortune? Was he mistaken? Why did both of them hit misfortune?

—Ding! A light sound came from the bowl, the dwarves gasping in shock, Da Fei's eyes wide open in disbelief!

—System Prompt: You rolled a total of 2 points! It's a tie!

—System Prompt: You tied with Buffett in the Luck Duel, gaining information about Master-level Luck Skill!

Da Fei was astonished! Why did he also roll 2 points? It was because there was only one die in the bowl! That die was 2 points!

Where were the other two dice? During the collision, they flew out of the bowl! Whether it was excitement or the system's arrangement, now it was a tie! Da Fei was utterly shocked! He couldn't win even in the worst-case scenario? However, turning an unwinnable situation into a tie was a significant turning point! Maybe he could win the next round?

At this time, Buffett regained his composure, sighing solemnly, "I was wrong, I was too naive, for the last match, let's follow the will of God and decide the winner with one die."

Da Fei exclaimed in shock, "The will of God? The last match?"

Buffett said with a face full of fear, "Our behavior has angered the gods! We might be punished by them!"

All the watching dwarves gloated, "That's right! There's never been a rule of returning the money you win by gambling, you're asking for divine retribution!"

Da Fei was stunned again! Angered the gods? Was mutual grinding banned by the system here?

"Let's begin," Buffett said with a grim expression, placing a Gold Coin down, "Let God decide the fate of the loser!"

Da Fei solemnly nodded.

Though he didn't know what was going on, things transforming suddenly like this were definitely not part of the normal advancement process, right? He was way too naive!

In the silence and calm of the whole room of dwarves, Buffett rolled a 3!

Now it was Da Fei's turn. Da Fei took a deep breath, with no Divine Skill to protect his opponent now, from a conceptual standpoint, could he win after losing almost a hundred rounds?

Ding, with a crisp sound, a 4!

Da Fei's eyelid twitched, he'd won! Just then, a rainbow light rose above Da Fei's head!

—System Prompt: You defeated Buffett in the Luck Duel, you successfully mastered Master-level Luck Skill!

He'd won! He reached master-level, wow hahaha! Da Fei stood up in excitement!

At the same time, a black rainbow light rose above Buffett's head, what was this?

Buffett now appeared terrified, the whole room of dwarves erupted in chaos, scared and retreating, “Oh no, Buffett has been cursed!”

Cursed? Was this God’s punishment for the loser? If he had lost, would the system punish the player the same way?

At that moment, Buffett laughed heartily, then raised his glass high calling out to the whole room of dwarves, “Friends, I have entered a new domain, I’m buying everyone a drink with the money I won! Buckley, drinks on me!”

The room erupted immediately, “Aren’t you obviously cursed like this?”

Buffett picked up a Gold Coin from the table, handing it to Da Fei, exclaiming, “Thank you, though you didn’t advance me to God-level Luck Skill, and I was cursed by God losing the Luck Skill, I actually acquired a skill only said to exist in rare Demons in legends, the Misfortune Skill, its effect is the opposite of Luck Skill! I’ve had enough of the Luck Skill, it made me feel fear, this Gold Coin I can’t use, I give it to you, when I saw the wealthiest dwarf Bebble’s corpse during the shipwreck, this was clutched tightly in his hand!”

—System Prompt: Buffett gifted you the “Coin of Fortune.”

—Coin of Fortune: Divine Artifact, Luck Skill level +1, comes with “God of Luck” skill!

—God of Luck: Allows the user a full day of good fortune, after use, the user will experience Absolute Misfortune for a month!

Da Fei could barely keep his mouth closed in shock, “It’s actually a Divine Artifact!” So the skill he was using was a Divine Artifact Skill! He thought there wasn’t such an OP skill in the Skill Book!

Buffett laughed heartily, “It looks just like a regular Gold Coin, right? It was my very first one!” Then solemnly said, “Listen, Divine Artifacts are not something Mortals can use lightly, luck, just like the two sides of a coin, brought Bebble enormous wealth, but ultimately destroyed him! I too was endlessly wielding the power given to me by the artifact, fortunately, I knew when to stop. Well, this place is no longer suitable for my training, I’m going to travel to a new place now, see you.”

Da Fei exclaimed, “Travel? Take my ship back, I still have many things to learn from you sir!”

Buffett laughed heartily, “I’m almost becoming a Knight of Misfortune, whoever I’m with will have terrible luck, anyway, thank you, hopefully, if there’s a chance, we can meet again in the goblin casino Las Vistas, wow hahaha!” With that, he took out a Town Recall Scroll and vanished.

Darn! That fellow wasn’t poor, he had a Town Recall Scroll! The Town Recall Scrolls in this game aren’t cheap! Oh, right, did he just say Knight of Misfortune? A hidden skill? Damn, if I had lost, would I have gained a hidden skill?

Just then, Buckley shouted, “Outrageous! Inviting guests without paying for the drinks and running off!”

Spielberg cleared his throat and said, “Captain, he didn’t pay just now.”

Da Fei was stunned, “Didn’t pay? I won against him!” Darn, wait, the last wager he put down was 1 Gold Coin! Damn it! These deceitful dwarves not only swindled his money, but also gave him a harmful Divine Artifact, too bad, so bad, ahh!

Da Fei laughed heartily, “It’s fine, I’ll pay for the drinks, it’s on me!”

The room erupted with cheers.

Now, with this Divine Artifact, Da Fei’s Luck Skill temporarily upgraded to God-level. God-level, seems like a scam, huh! Anyway, know when to stop!

The sub-skill of Master-level Luck Skill is Lucky Hand—when activated on a unit at a tactical position, the unit’s next move will definitely have a luck effect. Can only be used once a day.

Nothing much to say, while it pales in comparison to the absurdity of a Divine Artifact Skill, it also has no side effects. Da Fei took out the Luck Skill Book, a flash of golden light, and learned it!

As for now, while the ship was still under repair, he planned for everyone to stay at an inn to rest. Presumably, whale hunting at sea would be another overnight task, and having stayed up for two days himself, he really needed to catch up on some sleep first.

Chapter 247: There Really Is a Specialty Product

When Da Fei, who had been sleeping with his helmet on, was awakened by a knocking sound in his earphones, two days had already passed in the game.

The knocker was Spielberg: "Captain, my ship has been repaired, and the General is ready too. Shall we set sail?"

Da Fei stretched lazily: "Of course." A good 4+ hours of shut-eye had made him feel much better.

At the docks of Fire Dragon Island, there was a bustle of activity as Bato and a group of officers were directing operations. Teams of dwarves were transporting barrel-shaped objects to several flatbed cargo ships – those were floatation tanks specifically designed for salvaging sunken ships. Salvaging sunken ships was a sub-skill of Master-level Navigation Skill and a rather popular means of earning money among players embarking on maritime adventures during the open beta.

The principle of floatation tank salvaging is simple: first, send divers down to tie one end of a rope around the sunken ship, and the other end to the floatation tanks. Of course, the floatation tanks are forcibly submerged below the water surface by the people above. Thus, the submerged floatation tanks exert a certain pulling force on the sunken ship. Of course, the pulling force of a single floatation tank is negligible, which is why many tanks are needed for salvaging a ship. These tanks, linked together like a string of grapes, lift the entire sunken vessel. Then, with the aid of winches equipped on the salvage vessels, the lifting operation is carried out.

The key to salvaging lies in sending divers to tie down the sunken ships. Too deep, and a ship can't be salvaged; if sea monsters have made it their home, it can't be salvaged either.

Seeing Da Fei's arrival, Bato laughed heartily: "Lieutenant, we've been waiting for you. Let's set off!"

Da Fei murmured an acknowledgment and looked towards the bay where the fleet was already waiting outside the harbor. However, the Radiant Wings was still docked in the bay. Da Fei asked in surprise: "Isn't my Radiant Wings repaired yet?"

Bato shook his head and sighed: "That ship can't be fixed in a short time, especially since the mainmast is broken. It's not something that can be fixed with glue, and we don't have a replacement mast here either. So, anyway, we'll find a way. For now, Lieutenant, please board my Flame Lord."

Spielberg also said, "Captain, with so many warships from the General to help, my single ship can handle the situation too."

Is it really because it's a backwater place that they can't repair big ships? What would they do if their giant warships were smashed to pieces? Da Fei heaved a silent sigh, then resigned himself: "Alright, let's set off!"

Bato gave the signal: "Set sail!"

Instantly, horns sounded in unison and the alarm bells rang. Amidst the cheers and watchful eyes of the townsfolk, the salvage fleet left the harbor.

Watching Bato, who was waving to the crowds on shore with great flourish, Da Fei truly felt a surge of emotion. In the Alliance Kingdom, where would a mere major have the privilege to show such pomp? Or be loosely addressed as "General"? This is the advantage of being far from the emperor's reach on a remote island.

Just then, Bato's tone grew solemn: "Lieutenant, maybe you were right; we might have really discovered a special product in the place you mentioned."

Da Fei was taken aback: "Special product? The crevice in the mine?"

Bato spoke seriously: "After two days of digging, we discovered a passage filled with mushroom spores. The thick spore pollen permeates the air, causing incessant coughing as soon as someone enters, so I immediately sealed off the entrance."

Only then did Da Fei have an epiphany: "No wonder my bees were flying there!"

Where does that passage lead? Da Fei certainly wouldn't ask. Even with the least bit of thought, one could tell it wasn't somewhere good. But it was surprising that this General was meticulous and had taken his report seriously enough to investigate thoroughly. He really did live up to his title of General.

Bato chuckled, "So I have a suggestion, Lieutenant. How about selling your bees to us at a high price? That way, we can not only add a honey specialty to our products but also use the bee swarm to consume the spore pollen in the passage, reducing the pollen concentration and allowing us to further explore the passage."

Anlicia immediately refused: "No! These bees are mine; they were a birthday gift from my grandmother, and I will not sell them."

Da Fei shook his head with a wry smile: "General, I'm sorry! Her bees are extraordinarily special, so the General might as well have someone bring them over from the Kingdom." What's more important is

that I don't want to get involved in this mess, nor do I want to get in deeper—wait a second? High price? What kind of high price are we talking about?

Bato sighed: "Even if we ask someone else, it would not be until this time next year that they could arrive, wasting an entire year just waiting, and our current situation can't afford to waste any more time!"

As he said this, Bato's voice suddenly rose: "How about this, miss? If you won't sell them, could you consider a loan? We'll return them to you after a year!"

Anlicia chuckled, "You want to borrow a queen bee from me, and after a year, when you have established a beekeeping farm with this queen bee, you would then return that same queen to me. What a profitable business proposal indeed?"

Bato hurriedly said: "Should I also return the beekeeping farm to you then? The farm is the fruit of our labor—how about this: we each take half, you would get a 50% stake in the beekeeping farm, would that be okay?"

Da Fei's eyebrows jumped, "Damn! A 50% stake in the specialty product! The General is indeed very generous! But clearly, he's trying to get me involved to help him fend off the Underground Spider Demons in order to protect that generous 50% stake. Isn't this a trap? I refuse to be fooled!"

Anlicia also immediately shook her head, "These bees are not only meaningful to me but their breed is also exceptional. You cannot find a second one throughout the entire Hero Continent. I would not risk cultivating such precious bees in such a dangerous place."

Yeah, not bad at all, this kid really understands the risks of investment. This passage will indeed be a battleground for the Demon Race to attack in the future. Opening a bee farm there is simply asking for trouble, isn't it?

Bato gave a sigh and shook his head: "Miss, your bee has been poisoned by that spore spider, and its life will not be long now. Only the pollen from the Spore Forest can possibly provide antibodies against the poison. As a Ranger Elf, you should know more about this than I do and should know the best course of action."

Anlicia's complexion changed: "Does that mean I must keep bees there?"

Da Fei's eyelids twitched, "Damn! The General even has this kind of move up his sleeve! What he's saying does seem plausible, doesn't it?"

Bato chuckled, "Of course it's not a must for the miss, but for me, it truly is."

Anlicia said urgently, "Then what are we waiting for! Let's hurry and set up the bee farm, let's get ashore—hey, hey, why didn't you say something so important on land, why wait until we're out at sea?"

Bato chuckled, "Even if we're going to set up a farm, we need to survey the surrounding terrain first, right? In any case, I've already sent people to start preparing with due haste. I believe by the time we return from this sea trip, we'll be able to set it up."

Anlicia said, "Oh, I see!"

Da Fei couldn't help but express his respect: "The General really handles things with thorough planning and clear structure!"

Bato laughed heartily, "Mainly because time is really of the essence here. Actually, we consider the underground passage much more important than salvaging sunken ships, but salvaging has only the one opportunity when the ice thaws each year; it's an opportunity we truly cannot afford to miss."

Da Fei chuckled, "I see, let's hope that we won't disappoint the General this time."

#### Chapter 248: Illusory Battleship

The sky was clear, and the icebergs were starting to melt. Seagulls fluttered in the sky, while schools of fish surged in the sea.

The fleet sped westward towards Fire Dragon Island. It was now the peak of the summer thaw, and there were not as many icebergs as there were when Da Fei first arrived.

Heading further west, where would they reach? Naturally, it would be the mysterious East. The map of the Hero Continent was similar to Earth, but without America. The human, elf, dwarf Bright Alliance occupied the prosperous "Europe," the orcs roamed the "Eastern Europe" plains, the undead lurked in "West Asia," the Mage Academy was in "Africa," and hell was presumably beneath the lava-boiling ground.

As for the East, it was said to be a mysterious realm composed of countless islands and small land masses, ruled by the Naga Clan's seas, and few could reach it. In reality, it was akin to Southeast Asia, Indonesia, and the Philippines. Players under level 50 going there would be courting death.

However, players above level 50 could venture into the National War Zone of the New World, so during the public beta, the guilds from various countries concentrated their efforts on dominating the New World, leaving very little information about the East. Not to mention that going to the East required several consecutive real-world days of long-distance sailing, along with dealing with the powerful, unreachable Naga Clan, and the products there might not compare to the prosperous New World, so even fewer ventured there.

Of course, some veteran players pointed out that in the old world dominated by NPC kingdom forces, the East was the only way for players to acquire personal territory. The precondition was that players needed to be strong enough to establish a foothold in the East. But if a player were that strong, it would be more suitable to develop in the New World.

In short, the East seemed to be quite a chicken rib.

Naturally, if everyone else was unwilling to go, then Da Fei certainly wouldn't want to either. Who said the East was the only way to gain territory, didn't I already have a piece of land underground? In any case, I'd better hurry and get everything settled here, then transport the goods back for a few million, and I'd have my first city-building fund secured.

I can only hope nothing troublesome happens here, and everything goes smoothly.

Da Fei withdrew his profound gaze from the East and quietly pulled Anlicia aside: "Do we have a handle on this salvage operation?"

Though Da Fei had accepted this task, he had been preoccupied with sleeping and hadn't prepared at all! The original plan was to install the Six-headed Sea Demon Statue to scare the octopus, but not only was it not installed, the ship wasn't even brought over, alright! Of course, hoping for the ships above the sea to scare off the octopus below wasn't realistic either.

Anlicia chuckled: "No plan!"

Ugh! That's Anlicia for you, always so reliable with her words!

Anlicia laughed again: "But I have developed a new trick after discussing it with Mr. Spielberg, and he thinks it's feasible."

Da Fei's eyebrows twitched: "New trick?"

Anlicia sighed: "Yes, my Skira Illusion Skill has hit a bottleneck and can't go any further. I can't fully recreate Skira's form, especially its body under the sea, which I remember quite vaguely, so I can only change my target and morph into something else."

Da Fei suddenly realized, no wonder using Skira to scare sea monsters along the way showed no improvement, could it be necessary to encounter Skira again? No, don't want that!

Da Fei quickly asked: "What did your new skill morph into?"

Anlicia chuckled: "An octopus!"

Da Fei's eyebrows twitched: "The octopus we've been dragging along this whole way?"

"Ice Fruit!" Anlicia laughed: "I suddenly realized an octopus is the easiest to morph into, its form is especially simple, even more regular with its symmetrical eight arms, far simpler than that oddly-shaped Skira! If I morph into an octopus, I'll save a lot of power! The energy I save might even help me break through!"

Da Fei said with excitement: "So that's it! Keep it up, I believe in you!" Truly a genius! This innovative ability is fantastic, but if she's working hard, then I have to put in effort too! My Sailing Skill has been stuck at Master level and hasn't advanced; if her new trick succeeds while she advances to God-level Arcane, could I also breakthrough to Grandmaster in one go? Wahaha, Grandmaster isn't too hard for me!

In the afternoon, the fleet arrived near a small reef, and all the ships blew their horns.

Bato said solemnly: "We've arrived! Look under the water."

Da Fei looked over the ship's railing and saw, faintly under the clear seawater, a shadow of a ship. It was fortunate that a sunken ship visible to the naked eye usually wasn't deep; salvaging it would certainly not be an issue. And with such a powerful fleet, especially with a massive battleship like the Flame Lord, defeating the octopus shouldn't be a problem either. The most crucial issue was getting it to surface. But—

Da Fei cleared his throat and asked: "General, what if we fail to drive away the octopus?"

Bato was taken aback but then burst into laughter: “Fail and we’ll go whale hunting, you can’t fail at whale hunting!”

Damn! That’s straightforward! Da Fei exclaimed: “But, but if we don’t help the General, how can we accept the General’s assistance?”

Bato waved his hand: “First, our fleet has been frozen for ten months; we need to find a real target to train on and regain combat effectiveness. The whale pods are undoubtedly the best hypothetical enemy. Second, we’re lacking food, and whale hunting could stockpile a large amount of food for the following year. Of course, all this is thanks to Mr. Spielberg; without his whaling ship, we can’t catch whales. But don’t worry, we’ll buy it. So rather than me helping you, you’re helping me!”

Da Fei was left speechless on the spot! Dwarves are truly dwarves, so direct! But whether they buy it is none of my business! The one making money is Spielberg, not me! Unless he stays straightforward and gives me half the money!

Hey, hey, hey! No! How can I think like that in the face of such noble dwarfs! Too dirty, too low-level!

While feeling ashamed, Bato continued chuckling: “Third, I want to be friends with you!”

Friends! Damn! Could it be my enormous potential and value? In that brief moment, Da Fei was almost moved to tears! Da Fei cleared his throat: “Gen-General, well, aren’t we already friends?”

Bato laughed, shook his head: "I'm sorry, you said you were sent by Duke Makar, so I had some reservations. I said, I dislike that person."

Da Fei's eyebrows twitched! Did the dwarf also sense something off with Makar? Da Fei hurriedly said: "I'm just a subordinate running errands, the affairs between big figures aren't something I know. General, could you give me some guidance?"

Bato shook his head with a chuckle: "I'm merely a minor major; I'm not too clear on the matters between big figures. Liking is liking, and disliking is disliking!"

This! Even a straightforward dwarf in a high position has its smooth side. Alright, I won't ask anymore; if I keep asking and get assigned an epic quest, it'll be a pain!

Da Fei and Bato turned their eyes back to the sea.

At this moment, Spielberg's whaling ship signaled and began organizing the other medium warships for a net formation. The four medium warships each held a corner of the net, ready for a large pocket formation.

Anlicia chuckled: "Captain, it's time for us to take action."

Da Fei nodded: "Alright!"

Bato waved his hand: "Advance!"

In an instant, the massive Flame Lord was rowing into the center of the pocket formation!

Da Fei's jaw dropped: "No way, Anlicia! You're going to morph such a huge battleship into an octopus!?"

Anlicia laughed heartily: "Ice Fruit! I mentioned earlier that morphing into an octopus saves a substantial amount of energy, allowing me to concentrate entirely on transforming the ship!"

Da Fei exclaimed: "But! But your abilities only allow you to morph a medium ship, right? Even a larger ship is a struggle, how could it jump directly to a giant ship?"

Anlicia pulled out a Divine Artifact Wand, her expression serious as she shook it: "First, I believe if I constantly morph into Skira, I could advance to god-level, but when Skira encounters a bottleneck and I have to focus on the octopus, a problem arises. An octopus is at least two tiers lower than a demigod like Skira, meaning no matter how well I morph into it, I can't advance. So it must be compensated by the ship, meaning the ship I morph must be at least two tiers higher than a medium ship, requiring a giant ship!"

Da Fei was stunned: "Is that what you're thinking?"

Anlicia chuckled: "However, a giant ship is only possessed by the military, and commoners like us have no chance of boarding one. Now that we've finally received the General's invitation, how can we let it slip? So no matter what, I must attempt it!"

Bato chuckled: "Miss, you can board my ship anytime!"

Whoa! Crafty dwarf trying to tempt my wife with a giant ship! Da Fei exclaimed: "But you must act within your means! You can't morph a giant ship!"

Anlicia raised the Divine Artifact Wand seriously: "If the magic isn't enough, we can use mana to sustain it. This wand still reserves 2600 mana points, nearly 20 times that of the Summoning Mist Magic. With such a vast mana reserve, it can definitely work!"

Da Fei exclaimed: "You've tried it?"

Anlicia frowned: "Captain, are you out of your mind? If you try it, the wand's mana would be gone!"

Ah, crap! Da Fei spat out old blood! Being scolded by my vice hero! Do I fail that hard?

Bato also chuckled: "Lieutenant, don't worry. Miss explained the principle of this skill to me. At the end of the day, the Lieutenant's task is hiding the people on board. Although I don't know the Phantom March, I can perform the ambush skill of the Reconnaissance Skill, which also serves to conceal troops, and I will lend a hand to the Lieutenant!" (Note: the ambush skill can hide all troops, but they cannot move.)

What? It turns out this improved version of Mysterious Stealth Navigation can include an additional skill? Darn! Learning has no end! With the Divine Artifact and support from a General-level person, maybe there really could be a breakthrough!

Da Fei looked forward to it immensely: "Alright! I'll trouble the General then!"

Bato laughed heartily: "No trouble. Rather than saying I'm helping you, say you're helping me. I also want to take this opportunity to try advancing in skills!"

Damn! I see, General, you're so straightforward!

Chapter 249: Advancement Successful, Salvage Failed!

The giant ship finally sailed into the center of the pocket formation, with everything ready.

Compared to Da Fei and Alicia, Bato was the most nervous and excited. For him now, the sunken treasure was no longer important since it couldn't run away, but the opportunity for skill advancement was truly rare.

Looking at the increasingly tilted sky, Alicia said in a deep voice, "We'll start at night. The night is advantageous for the execution of my skills, and we've prepared three plans. One, if the transformation succeeds, it will either scare the sunken octopus away or lure it out to attack; either way, we've achieved our goal. Two, if the transformation fails, our Flame Lord will light up all its lights. Spielberg mentioned that giant octopuses are attracted to light; medium and small ships sailing with lights on at night often become targets for their attacks, so that might also achieve our goal then. Three, if the transformation succeeds but the sunken octopus still doesn't come out, we'll turn on the ship's lights. I don't know if lighting up will affect the illusion, but we must try, regardless!"

Da Fei and Bato nodded repeatedly. Yep, this kid talks quite methodically and theoretically. Having theory is good; practice without theoretical guidance is blind.

The red sun dipped into the sea, and the entire Northern Ocean began to dim. Spielberg's whaling ship started sending countdown instructions, and the Flame Lord was also ready to light up at any moment.

Alicia raised her magic wand and said in a deep voice, "Start! Captain first, General second, me last!"

Da Fei, already prepared and waiting, immediately activated his skill!

—System prompt: You have activated the God-level Reconnaissance Skill "Phantom March"!

—System prompt: Captain Bato has activated the Master-level Reconnaissance Skill "Ambush"!

At this moment, the Divine Artifact Wand in Alicia's hand erupted with a brilliant blue light! In an instant, Da Fei's vision blurred again, and the image of the giant ship before him suddenly twisted and expanded!

Da Fei's heart leaped into his throat as he stared intently at the information bar!

—System prompt: Your Vice Hero Alicia has cast an unknown Arcane Magic on the ship you are on!

—System prompt: You have combined to form a new unnamed skill!

—System prompt: Your Vice Hero Alicia has comprehended a new combined magic “Giant Octopus Transformation”!

It succeeded! They've already named it!

Ding dong! A crisp sound rang out as white light flashed over Da Fei and Bato, and Alicia was enveloped in a flash of golden light!

—System prompt: Congratulations! You have successfully combined to form the new skill “Giant Octopus Transformation,” and you have comprehended Master-level Navigation Skill!

—System prompt: Congratulations! Your Vice Hero Alicia has comprehended God-level Arcane Magic!

—System prompt: Captain Bato has comprehended Grandmaster-level Reconnaissance Skill!

“What? I succeeded!” In that instant, Bato excitedly howled long into the sky!

Da Fei, overwhelmed, cried tears of joy and embraced Alicia, who had no time to show any expression, tightly in his arms, rubbing and squeezing her with great enthusiasm. Only at this moment could Da Fei take advantage of his wife without any scruples.

He advanced! Finally, he advanced smoothly! Within a day, I advanced three skills! Why am I so awesome? Because regular players can only wait for opportunities, but I can create opportunities! Why can I create opportunities? Because I keep progressing from one victory to another, always ahead of the times, step by step ahead! Haha! Mwahahaha...

“Let go!” Alicia pushed Da Fei’s greasy paws away in anger, shouting, “You’re blocking the magic wand from casting, stopping charging!”

Da Fei reluctantly let go, “Right, right! It just started.”

At this moment, the Flame Lord had transformed into a giant octopus the size of a small island! Its monstrous size was akin to the legendary sea monster, Kleegen! Legend has it that Kleegen would disguise itself as a pearl-laden island reef in the ocean. When ships approached, its giant claws from under the water would suddenly explode out and drag the ships to the depths.

Now, faced with the “Kleegen,” sprawling and covering the entire area above the sunken ship waters, how would the sunken octopus respond? Everyone stared at the dark sea with bated breath!

Seconds ticked by, but there was no movement on the water’s surface. Is it sleeping in the sunken ship, unaware?

Alicia said gravely, “Running out of mana, Plan Three, turn on the lights!”

Bato shouted, “Turn on the lights!”

The sailors, who had long been in standby, promptly lit the oil lamps in the reflective covers. In an instant, the entire “Giant Octopus” became dazzlingly bright, like a sculptural lighthouse drifting on the Ice Ocean. Under the strange light and shadow effects, the whole seabed became a magnificent spectacle!

“Wow! Is this the God of Octopi?” Such a magnificent scene left the fleet’s sailors in an uproar!

And at that moment, a familiar red glow exploded on Da Fei’s screen!

—System prompt: Reconnaissance Skill warning! A lurking formidable enemy near you is about to emerge!

“It’s appeared!” A massive red dot sped toward Da Fei’s mini-map!

What the hell! Facing such a big octopus, it’s not fleeing but actively engaging? Is it smart enough to see through my trick, or just too stupid to recognize its limits?

Bato cheered, “Prepare for battle!”

Here it comes! Under the illumination of the lights, the sunken octopus soared up like a launched missile! It faced this much larger “God of Octopi” with no fear!

—Jingle! The bells on the fishing net alarmed, it hit the net! It's going to collide! Going to hit the bottom of the ship!

Bato shouted, "Hold steady!"

—Boom! Eight jets of water shot up into the sky, and the Flame Lord's massive body shuddered violently, with the illusion vanishing! Eight towering arms, higher than the main mast, clutched the Flame Lord tightly!

Despite being prepared, the dwarven warriors on standby aboard could not help gasping in shock! Although the sunken octopus wasn't as large as "Kleegen," it was unimaginably large for an ordinary person!

Da Fei was also in shock, with his eyes wide open! Was he kidding! This was much bigger than the one I captured before!

Spielberg let out a wild cry, "Reel in the nets!"

Bato shouted sharply, "Fire at me!"

In an instant, the Flame Lord's gun cabin, with its 40 gun ports on both sides, the four medium warships around, each with 8 gun ports on one side, and Spielberg's whaling cannon fired simultaneously!

Bang! Bang! Bang! Under the pincer attack from all directions, the octopus's gigantic arms spurted blue blood like fountains, and the Flame Lord seemed to be splashed with blue paint in a flash!

—Creak! Boom! With a loud noise, the octopus, hurt by the onslaught, unleashed astonishing power, instantly breaking one of the Flame Lord's masts!

Da Fei's eyes shrank in shock! Is this for real! This is a giant ship!

Bato's face turned ashen, and he howled furiously, "My ship! Hack it!!!!" All at once, the cloaked War Axe dwarves emerged from the ship's sides, wielding massive axes to chop at the eight gripping arms holding the battleship!

—Boom! With another loud noise, blue blood spattered while waves shot skyward, and the Flame Lord and four net-wielding medium warships shuddered violently, causing a barrage of crashing sounds on the sea surface!

"The net cords snapped!"

Everyone was taken aback! And at that moment, the Giant Octopus retracted its massive claws, diving back to the depths in a tsunami of waves, escaping back to its sunken ship!

Damn, it fled! The entire fleet was in an uproar.

Da Fei was so stunned it took him a moment to recover! This Giant Octopus was not in the same league as the previous one! It was fortunate the bait was a giant ship; otherwise, a regular ship would've been crushed on the spot! This salvage task was incredibly trickery, wasn't it? Now what? Given the cunning nature of octopuses, it suffered once and seemed injured. It certainly wouldn't fall for the trick again, would it? If it stubbornly guards its lair, nobody can do anything.

Da Fei had no choice but to turn his head and clear his throat, "Um, General, now-huh?"

He saw Bato's face dark, murmuring, "It's been a year since I last saw it, and it grew so much stronger..."

Da Fei asked, surprised, "General?"

Bato suddenly snapped back to reality, laughing heartily, "Ah, no good, we failed again. But it's okay. It's injured, and just now, I think I saw it lose an arm while escaping tied to a whaling harpoon. Yes, it's the old trick of octopuses sacrificing limbs. Anyway, it's seriously hurt, so we'll get it for sure next year, hahaha!"

Da Fei also laughed, "Right, right, this time next year, I'll bring another shipment and assist General in the salvage again!"

The General nodded solemnly, "Lieutenant, next year, you must bring much more goods! Several times more than now!"

Da Fei hesitated; several times more goods? Just what I wanted! He nodded and replied with a grin, "Sure, sure! Absolutely, absolutely!"

The General waved his hand around, "Pack up, get ready for whaling! Deputy Officer, check the personnel, see if anyone's injured or, God forbid, shelled..."

All at once, the ships' sailors and warriors began their busy activities with sighs of disappointment. Da Fei also sighed silently. What a pity, what a pity, I have been invincible all along, defeating gods and monsters alike, only to fail at the sunken ship! Alas, what a pity about the treasure in the sunken ship—oh?

Da Fei was suddenly struck with a realization! The sunken treasure? What could the treasure be?

According to the game's wild monster guarding rules, different levels of wild monsters guard different levels of resources. The outdoor large map of the game refreshes wild monsters and resources randomly every week, which is every 17 hours, giving players the chance to level up and hunt for treasures. Ordinary food is guarded by Second-level Soldiers, common wood, stone, iron resources by Third-level Soldier Guards, crystals, mercury, gemstones, and small treasure chests by Level 4 and 5 Soldier Guards, C-level treasures guarded by Level 5 or 6 Soldiers plus dungeon bosses, whereas treasures above B-level drop only from instance bosses or mission bosses.

And the sunken ship task Da Fei had been given, what tier would the Boss guarding the ship be? Isn't it obvious! Even if it wasn't DemiGod-level, it wouldn't be much less than that Skira clone! So the sunken ship treasure, needless to ask, must be a Divine Artifact! If it is a boss guarding a Divine Artifact, it wouldn't get scared away by an illusion after death!

Da Fei realized! So, this was the clue given by the task! What have these dwarves been doing, salvage after salvage ending in failure every year? Lacking money to salvage treasure chests? What a joke!

Soldiers use the country's funds; they lack nothing! A Divine Artifact! They must be salvaging a Divine Artifact! Damn, this salvage mission I got is truly low-profile luxury with substance, eh?

In other words, when he asked me to bring several times more goods next time, he was actually hinting for me to bring more ships!

Holy crap! Darned dwarfs, secretly salvaging a Divine Artifact behind my back, you take the lion's share and give me the crumbs! You aren't being straightforward!

Chapter 250: Brother Fei, the British are after you!

Sure, here is the translated text:

The battle ended in an instant, without even giving the crossbow cannon time to fire a second shot. Each side in this split-second skirmish suffered considerable losses.

The fleet deputy officer reported the battle damage: 34 dwarf warriors were lightly injured, 2 were seriously injured, the flagship's main mast was broken, 13 oars snapped, the trawling sides of 4 medium auxiliary ships were broken, and two whaling nets were severely damaged.

Our side's result was: the whaling spear managed to hook half an arm of the giant octopus trying to escape, and inflicted several bleeding wounds on its non-essential parts.

Da Fei was filled with emotion. This was a high-level war between NPCs, one encounter determined the winner. If it were current-stage players against either side, they'd surely be killed on the spot, right?

Da Fei had to be thankful for always keeping a clear head, dodging when possible and scaring when needed, without rushing into battle. If he had to rely on his current strength, he couldn't even beat a Sea Monster. As for the Skira avatar, it was only because of Renior's unexpected presence, otherwise, his journey would have stopped right then, unable to even encounter Skira.

If he had really stopped back then, where would this shipload worth millions come from? Where would the Divine Artifacts be? How could the God-level Grandmaster insights be achieved?

Realizing the huge gap between his and NPC strength, Da Fei was eager to end everything here and return with the shipload to grow stronger. As for things like sunken ship Divine Artifacts, they were beyond contemplation at this stage. One or two strokes of luck did not mean strength; as the Gambling God said, the bigger one's appetite, the bigger the bowl needed, otherwise, the result would be like the Dwarf Billionaire, the higher the stand, the harder the fall.

While reflecting, Spielberg also sailed over in a small boat, shaking his head and sighing, "General, I'm really sorry, my net couldn't stop it at all."

Bato laughed, "No, no, it was our underestimation that caused you to lose two nets. We will definitely help you catch more whales to compensate for your loss."

Looking at the collapsed main mast of the Flame Lord, Spielberg sighed, "General, your flagship suffered significant damage, this journey may not be suitable."

Bato waved his hand indifferently and laughed heartily, "We dwarves always keep our promises. If we stopped fighting just because a mast broke, the Flame Lord would become a joke. How would it dare face big battles in the future?"

Da Fei inwardly laughed, remembering whose face turned as red as a losing pig liver when the mast broke earlier?

Wait a minute! Suddenly, Da Fei raised an eyebrow. His mast broke twice, and they said it couldn't be fixed. If their mast broke, what then? Send spare parts by domestic express in a year?

Da Fei curiously asked, "General, do you have a way to repair the mast? The giant ship is already slow, missing a mast would have a significant effect." Seriously? Masts don't repair; once broken, they must be replaced; you can't stick them back with glue, can you?

Bato frowned, "There's a way, but it's very dangerous!" He immediately shook his head, "Never mind, we'll manage with oars for now."

Very dangerous? Forget it, Da Fei immediately zipped his lips! He genuinely couldn't afford to play with these high-end NPCs.

Just then, the deputy officer came to report, "General, the fleet is all set, ready to depart."

Bato smiled at Spielberg, "Sir, let's go! I'm taking you to a place you wouldn't expect!"

Spielberg smiled, "Alright, then I'll head back to my ship immediately."

...

Now, the fleet adjusted course, heading north.

Undoubtedly, north of Hero Continent was the North Pole, but players knew nothing about the North Pole, not even official information provided much. All that's known is that entering the Arctic Circle applied a polar chill DEBUFF, significantly slowing down player troops, depleting their Stamina, and once Stamina depleted, they lose health. It's terrifying. After all, it's a life-forbidden zone. Not only life but even ordinary Undead entering it could freeze their bones stiff.

Basically, during open beta, players wouldn't even venture to the mysterious East, much less waste time freezing in the North Pole. But since Da Fei was here, he might as well treat it like a vacation. Yes, turn on the video at the time, and post it on the forums when bored to show off his high-end status; wahaha.

At this moment, Anlicia sat on the ground, embracing her Magic Wand and meditating with a look of indulgence.

Hmm, not bad, seems like she's reviewing her lessons and consolidating the God-level Magic achievements. She was indeed Da Fei's greatest achievement on this trip; wahaha!

Da Fei didn't disturb her, merely opened the Equipment Bar in silence, checking the Vice Hero equipment, and found that the Divine Artifact Wand was out of Mana. This meant that the previous Transformation Skill casting instantly consumed 2600 Mana!

Damn, 2600 Mana! Normally, it would require a hero with 260 knowledge! But how could such a hero exist? In the end, it was a result of her insufficient Magic Power. Magic Power affects a spell's potency and effectiveness and for some status magic, if Magic Power is insufficient to sustain, Mana can be added to maintain it. The additional Mana is usually more than double the required Mana Value for casting the spell.

This means without this reserve of enormous Mana, Anlicia couldn't possibly comprehend God-level insights, let alone cast spells.

A Divine Artifact indeed, it's a backup Mana reservoir. Da Fei truly stumbled upon treasure; wahaha!

Wait a minute! Since Anlicia could advance through this Magic Wand, could Selvia also use it to advance?

Haha! So that's it! Looks like Da Fei needed to find opportunities to kill on the seas to charge the Magic Wand. Oh, right, did the whaling count? Damn, it absolutely did! Even an octopus, which had no bones, counted, so a whale, full of spirit, was even more certain!

So, hitching a ride on this whaling trip was indeed necessary! Otherwise, if Da Fei took on Sea Monsters himself, who knows what might happen! Wahaha! With this thought, Da Fei's frustration over the failed haul disappeared.

While the fleet was sailing, Da Fei took the opportunity to take off his helmet and address basic needs quickly. When Da Fei returned online, the guild channel was buzzing.

“Brother Fei, Brother Fei! Something big happened!”

Wow, wasn't it just some small ships sinking? What's the fuss? And what about Blood Sea Wave's thoughts? He didn't care, so why should Da Fei? Just ignore him.

"Is Brother Fei here? British players specifically named you!"

Da Fei's eyebrow twitched. British players? When did he provoke international relations?

Da Fei couldn't stay calm, replied in the guild channel: "British players? Is there a player with this name?"

Everyone laughed: "Brother Fei truly is Brother Fei, always so humorous!"

"Brother Fei, just now there was earth-shattering news, the Royal Ark Team from the British Zone launched a super giant ship. They claimed that some China Region players shouldn't be complacent, clearly targeting Brother Fei!"

"The ship is insane, I've heard it requires level 7 angel troops as sailors! It's crazily powerful!"

"I always thought Brother Fei was the most awesome globally, but there's actually someone even more awesome."

“Just joking, the British must be cheating! Everyone knows they and the Americans are best buddies!”

Da Fei had considered himself the number one expert in the China Region and even vaguely in the world, but suddenly discovering someone surpassing his own awesomeness was a mental blow he couldn't bear! This is a joke, it must be!

Da Fei hastily said, “Impossible! Current players can't have such a giant ship!”

“Brother Fei, you have a big ship yourself, a nation-backed studio plus cheats, a giant ship isn't surprising.”

Damn you! You must be stimulating me deliberately, aren't you? It's Blood Sea Wave sending you to probe if my big ship is still around, right? I refuse to believe anyone can cheat stronger than me!

Da Fei hurriedly logged onto the in-game forum; no need to search, the bold headline read, “Video: British Zone's Super Giant Ship Noah's Ark Debuts, Powerfully Refreshes China Zone's Player Da Fei's Big Ship Record!”

Damn, couldn't they just debut without dragging Da Fei along?

Da Fei, both furious and upset, clicked on the post, opened the video, and saw a human Main City harbor, a giant ship lazing like an aircraft carrier parked far out in the bay, surrounded by numerous small boats preventing any players from approaching. There were no buildings, masts, or sails on its deck, only a tree! Yes, a tree! Damn! Is there a ship this ridiculous?

A line of subtitles appeared:

—“Noah’s Ark, a giant warship constructed from Divine Wood Gefei Wood, a God-level existence impossible for Mortal technology to build, and Mortal sailors can’t pilot it, angels must man the ship. The Royal Ark Team’s mission is to maintain fairness, justice, and peace in the game world using the Ark.”

Da Fei’s eyes nearly popped out! Fairness my ass! Even giant warships can’t transport large combat units like the Jade Dragon, Angel, or Titan, yet this Ark needs angels as sailors! It’s definitely an aircraft carrier! Not to mention how many gun cabins such a huge ship could hold!

Oh right, what’s with the tree? A Divine Tree? A Magic-Powered Divine Tree? No sails needed? Damn, this must be nuclear power! Too advanced and high-end!

The video was just a minute long, but the shock Da Fei felt was immeasurable. If even Da Fei was shaken, there’s no telling the extent of the amazed reactions from other players commenting!

Oh right, where was the part where the British players said they were targeting Da Fei? It wasn’t there! Didn’t see it! Damn! Didn’t need to see! Da Fei’s very existence was “unfair, unfair, unpeaceful,” this clearly aimed at him!

Facing the noisy guild channel, Da Fei impatiently replied, “Calm down! We haven’t even entered the National War Zone; why panic? Stick with me, everyone will have big ships, we’ll swarm and drown them!”

Everyone cheered, "Right, stick with Brother Fei, everyone gets a big ship."

Tch? Don't believe me? Believe that I'd bring back the Octopus to blind you all? Da Fei's mood worsened: "Stop overreacting, continue what you're doing, let those drinking gutter oil worry about the Imperial Capital."

"Right, Brother Fei is correct..."

Da Fei let out a long sigh, so he wasn't the most awesome. Although he had no intention of competing for the title of most awesome, getting kicked off the top spot felt really unsatisfying!