

God level 256

Chapter 256: The World's Number One Ghost King Emerges

The appearance of the British Noah's Ark super battleship shocked the world, and even more so the European Union Zone. The British Royal Ark Team's slogan of unifying the European Union Zone sparked dissatisfaction among old e-sports powerhouses like Germany, France, and Sweden.

In the global e-sports domain, there were several established strong teams, namely South Korea, Germany, the United States, China, Sweden, Germany, France, and Russia, these eight countries were known as the e-sports eight powers.

E-sports was South Korea's national sport, with a strong grassroots foundation and a high degree of professionalism. Its overall level surpassed other countries, regularly claiming championships in various e-sports events. The style of the South Korea Team was precision, precision, as precise as a computer! When facing a South Korean player, it's hard to imagine that the opponent sitting across you is actually a player and not a computer!

However, China's e-sports did not have a strong grassroots foundation, though there were many gold farming studios and internet café youths. But just like how China, known as the kingdom of bicycles, struggles to produce bicycle-sport champions, China's level of e-sports professionalism was not high either. Its performance in international events was unstable, over-relying on talented players. Each talented player had unique characteristics, so it was hard for the China Team to develop its own style. This was a disadvantage, but also an advantage that left other strong teams puzzled.

The style of the Germany Team, like its soccer, was very steady, with a strong strategic view. Perhaps no dazzling genius players were evident in the team, but if any member was absent, there would be another to replace them without affecting the overall situation.

The style of the American Team was uninhibited! Just like the NBA, dreamlike and uninhibited! The benefit of this freedom was that when everything clicked, it was like a Pegasus soaring unfathomably, because sometimes even they didn't know what they were doing. The downside was that once they encountered the South Korea Team, the humanoid computer unmoved by external factors, they would be beaten like fools.

Russia's style was sharp, their pure-man style of play left a deep impression on all strong teams. Therefore, in the game Heroic Creation Era, they chose to focus on attacking the Dwarf Clan. Although Beastmen might have suited Russia better, the strategic shortcomings of the Beastmen determined that no team would focus on them.

France's style was tactical variability, the French Team's splendid tactical coordination was breathtaking. The matches of the French Team might not always be the highest level, but unquestionably the most entertaining, which was in stark contrast to their pragmatic soccer style. Ultimately, the French found it hard to relinquish their romantic flair, especially in such a classical game.

As for Sweden, similar to China, it relied heavily on talent. The difference was that Swedish talents had exceptionally strong psychological stability and performance, with one super skillful player holding up the Swedish sky. Not only that, but the super skillful Swedish players had an extremely long service term, greatly different from the situation where China's talents shone for just one or two competitions and then faded away.

What's the reason for this? Just like in table tennis, among the China Team, where talents were abundant like waves in the Yangtze River, older members were easily replaced by stronger new talents. However, the young talents, due to being overly young, had psychological shortcomings leading to unstable performances, which also caused China's nationals to be unstable. By the time the young talents' psychology stabilized, they became old members, and were then replaced by new talents.

While in Sweden, there weren't many talents, so older members were unlikely to be replaced by new talents. Thus a talented player kept competing and serving, their skill becoming more refined and experience richer, leading to more terrifying strength. Like Waldner in the table tennis world, in his

40s he was still competing, suppressing many generations of Chinese men's singles, except for talents like Kong Linghui, no one could surpass him.

The e-sports level of each country was roughly like this. Of course, there was also Japan, whose fighting games produced in its own country were at quite a high level, though none of Japan's games were in international events. Then there was Brazil, Canada, and regions like Singapore and Taiwan, where e-sports levels were also quite high.

As for the UK, they occasionally took second or third place, belonging to second-tier teams. But this second-tier UK's team declared it wanted to be the leader of the European Union, which made the traditional European strong teams extremely displeased.

Indeed, Heroic Creation Era wasn't like traditional fair competitive games like CS or FIFA, where a country's real-life power naturally made it strong in the game, which was where the UK derived its confidence. Similarly, Germany and France, whose national strength wasn't inferior to the UK's, also had confidence. This destined that the European Union Zone wouldn't be peaceful in the future. Even on the forums of the European Union Zone, some random players were posting: "The Third World War Will Ignite in the European Union Zone!"

The world's eyes began to focus on the European Union Zone, on the UK's mysterious super battleship, and on the reactions of the German War Machine and the French Arc de Triomphe Team.

At this time, in a basement in Sweden Stockholm, 34-year-old Alfred lazily got out of bed as always, frying steak in a pan, reheating milk in the microwave, while leisurely washing his face, brushing his teeth, and using the bathroom.

His movements seemed slow, yet there wasn't a single superfluous motion. It seemed he had many things to do, yet he handled them with the highest efficiency and reasoning. In just three minutes, he was sitting in front of the computer wall with steak and milk, leisurely putting on a helmet.

His personal information always blinked nonstop, an unavoidable thing, because he was the owner of the world's highest-valued known God-level Hero, "Death Lord," Vurtne, known as Big V, an external member of the Swedish Nordic Crown Team. The reason he was an external member was because he wanted to retire, but the team wouldn't allow it, so they made him an external member. Normally, he didn't need to come for training. During battles, of course, he didn't have to come either, but for matters concerning world peace, he had to make an appearance.

If someone asked, who was the living fossil of e-sports? Undoubtedly, Swedish Big V! He began representing the National Team in competitions at age 14, going through all the participating games in international events. He went from the keyboard and mouse era into the era of intelligent computers, and then into the era of holographic images. In every era, he was the leader in the e-sports industry! He was the spokesperson for game ads in every country!

At a WCG championship award ceremony in a certain year, a reporter asked: "You must love every game dearly to achieve such great accomplishments in games, right?"

At 26, he replied, "No! Since I became a professional player, I detested games more than anyone!" That year, he lost 80% of his game ad endorsements.

Then, he turned 34. Games had long become an inseparable habit in his life. Was he still detesting games? No, his realm had already surpassed such superficial levels of like or dislike. Every day he just stared dazedly at the game avatars.

What was he doing? He himself didn't know, but others did. He was the strongest in the European Union Zone! The strongest in the world! He was ghostfather! He was called Ghost King by Chinese players!

Today's first message came from little British girl Margaret. He met the then 10-year-old blonde-little-girl fan when he was 24. Now, she's become a blonde milk cow. This made Big V quite sentimentally nostalgic, little girls became not as cute when they grew up.

Margaret: "Hello Uncle Big V, the world needs you to save it!"

Of course, Big V knew what was happening, he lazily smiled: "Give me a reason to save the world? Any lame reason will do!"

Margaret: "Because our country's Prince has gone mad, he wants to rule the world, which will bring disaster to our world!"

Big V nodded: "A very lame reason!"

There was no need to look at the rest of the messages, one reason was enough to save the world. Saving the world was also saving himself, he needed to find fun badly.

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The European Union Zone, the harbor city Valen at the border of the Human Sacred Dragon Eagle Empire, the fortress city that controlled the Valen Strait.

The entire city was bustling, filled with players from various countries each with their national flags above their heads. This phenomenon of small national flags above heads was characteristic of the European Union Zone.

Across the sea from Valen City was the port fortress Kedeso of the Undead Empire.

These two fortresses held crucial positions. Once one side fell, it meant an open stronghold for the other to invade. Therefore, an endless millennium war played out here between Humans and the Undead, though not attacking the other's city—that was nearly impossible—but vying for control of the Valen Strait's passage rights. Whoever won the current round, their Chamber of Commerce fleet could pass through the Valen Strait safely and collectively. The temporarily losing side needed to gather strength to fight back next time.

In short, this place was where players mixed with the NPC fleet to grind battlefield merits.

Today, as always, the navy of the Human Empire and the Undead Empire NPCs continued their battles with medium-sized battleships in the narrow Valen Strait. Of course, in this narrow strait, only medium-sized battleships could combat.

Players had gotten used to these make-believe battles by the NPCs that ended just short of completion. Relying on NPCs to open a situation was eternally impossible. Only when one side's players gained absolute advantage would the opposing fleet retreat and admit defeat.

Just then, a black light shot up from an Undead battleship, and an Undead Dragon, black smoke billowing all over like a massive ship, descended from the sky!

The sudden change on the sea battlefield caused a stir of exclamations!

The black Undead Dragon plummeted like a black meteor onto a Bright Alliance medium-sized battleship!

—Boom! Amid the cries of all players present, the battleship exploded violently, black smoke scattered, bones and wood chips flying together!

Players were dumbfounded by this unexpected development; the seemingly invincible NPC battleship had been blasted in seconds! What did this mean? Did it mean the make-believe era of NPCs was ending?

At that moment, shock ran through the regional channel, "Vurtne! It is the legendary Vurtne! Vurtne came to battle!"

"Vurtne! What's that unit of yours? It's incredibly powerful! Can you tell us?"

—Regional Channel [Vurtne]: Sorry, I disrupted everyone. That was my skill "Death God," which can summon a temporary level 8 soldier daily, its strength related to my level magic, so its current power is weak. However, I am here to announce to everyone, from today on, here, the Bright Alliance will not win a single battle, the Valen Strait will forever belong to us, the Dark Alliance!

"Too great!" for a moment Dark Alliance players loudly cheered.

Meanwhile, the Bright Alliance players were stunned in shock! Summoning level 8 soldiers might not count as much, but this was the beginning of the War Balance's tilt! The stormy European Union Zone would evolve with new unpredictable factors due to this Ghost King's sudden appearance!

Chapter 257: Inserting a News Bulletin

— "Hello, everyone. Welcome back to Hero News. Today, let's focus on the situation in the European Union Zone. In our last episode, we had the pleasure of having Divine Emperor, the leader of the Ninth Heaven Guild, analyze the British Royal Ark Team and their Noah's Ark. Just ten minutes ago, at 7 a.m. London time, the European Union Zone was once again stirred up. Vurtne, the world's top-ranked God-level Hero from Sweden, made his first public appearance and boldly declared his intention to permanently claim the Valen Strait. This is comparable to our China Region's Virgil Strait. For today's episode, we're live with Mr. Chang Liang from the Dragon Slayer Guild to answer our viewers' questions. Mr. Chang Liang, hello!"

Chang Liang: "Hello, host! Hello, everyone, very glad to meet you all again."

Host: "Regarding Vurtne, those who follow e-sports probably aren't strangers to him. Known as the evergreen tree of the e-sports domain, as someone who once battled and successfully defeated him, Mr. Chang Liang, what do you think of Mr. Vurtne?"

Chang Liang shook his head with a smile and said, "That was during the 16th Tokyo Toyota Cup, not a very official match. I had just finished the CPL qualifiers and was mentally and physically exhausted, and Vurtne was jet-lagged too. Neither of us was in prime condition. In the end, I managed to win. If I were to evaluate him, I would say he is very suppressed, very dull, and lacks passion. Maybe it's because he's older."

The host laughed and said, "Perhaps it's this suppressed and dull style that makes him quite suited to playing the Undead Race?"

Chang Liang laughed and said, "Ah, that's right. Playing the Undead Race for a long time does give off that depressing vibe, making one crave a place where it's warm with flowers and birdsong!"

Host: "So the Undead players especially love going to the Human and Elf territories for some fun?"

Chang Liang laughed and said, "You got it, host. You're quite impressive."

The host laughed and said, "Now, Vurtne has publicly showcased his hidden skill, Death God, on the battlefield. As far as I know, this skill isn't in the textbooks. Could Mr. Chang Liang analyze it for our audience?"

Chang Liang: "This Death God is quite similar to the Master-level Arcane skill, Summon Phoenix. They both summon level-eight units, and their strength is related to the player's level and magic power. But Death God has the ability to perish together and instantly kill medium-sized warships. Such advanced damage is not something the Phoenix at this stage can compare to. Based on my analysis, this should be a sub-skill created by combining his main professions of Undead Witchcraft and arcane skills. To combine such a sub-skill, the main skills must be at the same level and at least Master Level. It can be inferred that his Undead Witchcraft and arcane skills have reached at least Grandmaster."

Host: "So this is at least a combination skill of Grandmaster-level Undead Witchcraft and Grandmaster-level arcane skills. How should ordinary players deal with such a powerful skill?"

Chang Liang sighed with a laugh and said, "Arcane Master is notoriously challenging to achieve. The essence of arcane skills lies in the Grandmaster level. Once you reach Grandmaster, you can conquer the world through summons without any troops. Don't even mention how regular players find it hard to cope—even we professional players find it quite troublesome. I think he's sending a clear message to the outside world."

Host laughed and said, "To the British Royal Ark Team?"

Chang Liang laughed and said, "Presumably so. After all, the UK wants to be the Alliance Hierarch, but without consulting the opinion of Europe's number one, if I were him, I wouldn't be pleased either."

Host laughed and said, "There are multiple battlegrounds between the Undead and Human races. Why did he choose the Valen Strait for his demonstration?"

Chang Liang laughed and said, "To wage asymmetric warfare. Since British big ships are unbeatable at sea, he strikes from the rear to hit the economic supply lines of the Bright Alliance in the European Union Zone, aiming to economically suppress the Bright Alliance and indirectly target the British Team. The goal is to make it increasingly difficult, if not impossible, for the UK to maintain those big ships. The initial effect might not be obvious, but once the Dark Alliance truly secures control over the Valen Strait, it could trigger an economic chain reaction within the Bright Alliance, potentially threatening the safety of Valen City with far-reaching impacts."

Host: "The key point is that the UK's big ships can't enter the Valen Strait and are powerless against him."

Chang Liang: "Exactly, meaning he alone can hold off the entire British Team, even dragging other European Bright Alliance Teams into it. It's a very profitable venture."

Host: "But the UK won't sit idly by. They are bound to send people to engage in a showdown with him at the Valen Strait."

Chang Liang laughed and said, "This is precisely where Vurtne shows his craftiness. Maintaining the big ships is already challenging enough for the UK, and sending forces to fight him would only distract them and play right into his hands."

Host: "So, Vurtne knows precisely how to exploit the UK's weaknesses?"

Chang Liang: "Such weaknesses can only be exploited by a super expert like Vurtne. However, an internal conflict in the European Union Zone doesn't align with Sweden's interests. I believe, in the end, the UK will return to their proud round table to invite others to discuss things together."

Host laughed and said, "Similar to how the rotating presidency of the European Union works, taking turns to be the Alliance Hierarch?"

Chang Liang laughed and said, "That's honestly a terrible idea. I believe Prince George has long been worn out by this burden of a rotating system."

Host laughed and said, "Alright, now let's address a question most concerning for our Chinese players. Vurtne has been recognized as the evergreen tree, the world's top expert. And in our China Region, recently, Da Fei, who has been making waves with his Dragon Slayer achievements, has been reluctantly crowned by many Chinese players as the world's number one expert. So, who between these two is more formidable?"

Chang Liang sighed with a laugh and said, "Why is my name not mentioned? It's not easy for me to answer such a question willingly, you know!"

Host laughed and said, "It's said that professional players concerned about their ranking reflect poor mental toughness! We don't think Mr. Chang Liang is of this type!"

Chang Liang burst out laughing and said, "Comparing an old professional player with an amateur player isn't very reliable. Speaking of Da Fei, he's flamboyant, acts high-profile yet remains quite secretive. To date, no one has encountered him outside town. In this aspect, he's a bit like Vurtne. Maybe we're not even playing the same game. They have been crowned as top experts for a reason. I have watched two of Da Fei's duel videos in the arena. He didn't make any moves or show any attack, which showed off the aura of a top expert. His tech skills couldn't be determined, but his Vice Hero was very impressive. However, I still think Vurtne would win."

Host exclaimed, "Why?"

Chang Liang sighed and said, "We always thought Vurtne, with his God-level specialty as a Death Lord, would certainly roam the wild recruiting Undead free agents. We assumed his low early-game level was due to recruiting many Vice Heroes to increase his Command Power and carry more troops. Looking at things now, we were wrong. Not only did he not recruit a single Vice Hero, he didn't recruit any Undead free agents either. Perhaps, at his level, he finds them beneath him."

Host: "So you're saying, like most people, his aim is to reach level 50 and enter the New World without any burdens?"

Chang Liang sighed and said, "If it's a regular person's thought, that's probably it. For Vurtne, it's even harder to predict. All in all, Da Fei currently has at least three Vice Heroes, slowing his leveling speed down by threefold. He will be completely outleveled by Vurtne, who could beat him with just one move

of Death God. Judging by today's incident where Death God crushed ships, even Da Fei's proud big ship might be hard to save."

Host: "It's rumored that Da Fei's big ship was destroyed during the National War?"

Chang Liang: "Destroyed or not, for a player who has killed a demigod, acquiring another big ship shouldn't be a problem."

Host laughed and said, "Either way, Da Fei remains a controversial player in the China Region. We sincerely hope he can contribute positively and look forward to his eventual match against Vurtne."

Chang Liang: "Indeed, very much looking forward to it."

Host: "Alright, thank you, Mr. Chang Liang, for being with us in our live broadcast. Wish you success showcasing the China Team's brilliance in the Beastman Domain."

"Thank you, host. Thank you, everyone. Looking forward to seeing you next time!"

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The news ended as Fleeting Blossom watched the embedded forum video to pass the time while transporting goods in the carriage, and Little Li let out a long sigh.

Little Fang chuckled and said, "That handsome guy named Chang Liang is the top Undead player in the China Region and recently switched to Beastman. His annual salary is around ten million, which is the income of top professional players, equivalent to an executive at a state-owned enterprise. However, in the end, they still earn a fixed salary. They can't compare with us individual business operators, and frankly, they are not worth our time to socialize with."

Little Li was surprised and said, "Didn't you say you wanted to befriend experts? Why would you not socialize with the top expert?"

Little Fang laughed heartily and said, "If you have an urgent matter and need his help, and he jumps out with a 'training or in a match,' what can you do? In summary, professional players are bound by circumstances. Our main target is to first befriend amateur experts like Da Fei, who are both amateur and skillful."

Little Li sighed and said, "I find playing like this really tiring. Can't we just transport goods peacefully? Why deal with those dubious people?"

Little Fang snickered and said, "Can transporting goods earn you a million annually? Women, especially pretty women, ultimately have three paths to follow for a good life: marry a rich husband, follow unspoken rules, and finally, become a mistress. Don't be fooled by the glamorous top celebrities; in plain terms, they're all bitches. Even a regular company female employee needs to cross some boundaries to get promoted. Drinking at least is a must, and with how pretty you are, I can already imagine how many men will try to reach out to you once you step into society!"

Little Li's expression darkened.

Little Fang chuckled and said, "But it's different here. Here is a game, a virtual world where we play another self. We can engage in social interactions recklessly here to achieve our financial goals, which is hundreds of times better than accompanying drinks due to unspoken rules in reality. In the game, you must let go and lose that cold and noble demeanor. At least consider it some form of practice."

Little Li nodded thoughtfully upon hearing this.

Little Fang laughed heartily, "Glad my wife has understood!"

Chapter 258: The Legendary Leviathan

The Arctic Ocean, the sun hung low and far on the southern horizon, emitting a faint white light, slowly moving around this world of ice and snow, bathing the entire realm in a white glow. This was the Arctic summer, the six-month-long polar day where the sun would neither rise higher nor set for several months. Under the slanting light of the sun and driven by the currents from the Southern Ocean, the vast ice cap of the Arctic Ocean began to disintegrate and melt, with the tremendous sound of breaking ice and icebergs crashing into the sea echoing continuously.

The Flame Lord led the fleet, breaking ice and advancing in this vast world. The closer they got to the Arctic Circle, the more solemn Bato's expression became.

—System Prompt: You have entered the Arctic Circle and gained the negative effect of "Extreme Cold."

—Extreme Cold: speed reduced by 30%, stamina consumption speed increased by 30%.

The inevitable had finally arrived.

Bato said in a deep voice, "If it were winter, the reduction would not be just this. The biggest challenges of this mission are twofold: one is that the cold water temperature is not conducive to the work of salvaging divers, and the other is Sea Monsters. This season is also when Sea Monsters are most active. Avoid battle if possible, as the strength of sea monsters in the Arctic is unmatched by ordinary oceans."

Da Fei nodded, "I will do my best to help."

Da Fei opened the Equipment Bar to check the attributes of the Sea Soul Staff in the Vice Hero Equipment.

—Sea Soul Staff: Divine Artifact, Magic Power +20, Knowledge +20, special skill: Rebirth Ghost Ship. Absorbed the soul of a Mid-level Leader-level creature +1, absorption in progress: Currently gained 635 points of Mana.

Da Fei's brow twitched. After finishing the whale hunt yesterday, he had clearly absorbed the soul of the Narwhal King and five ordinary narwhals. But according to the current display of the Divine Artifact, only this boss's soul remained, while the five ordinary narwhals had completely vanished without a trace! It meant that ordinary no-name small creatures were entirely converted into mana upon absorption, but only with boss-level existence would the soul remain? On the vast ocean, finding a boss wasn't that easy! It seemed that mass-producing Ghost Ships wasn't that simple after all.

Moreover, from the current reserve of mana, the mana converted from small creatures wasn't much. However, for Anlicia, who had already reached the God-level Magic realm, this was enough to accomplish many things.

—Boom, in the distance, another loud sound of breaking ice burst forth! Everyone turned their heads, exclaiming in surprise!

They saw a massive whale as large as a ship break through the ice layer and emerge from the water. Its enormous black body performed a magnificent 360-degree turn in mid-air before crashing down, sending waves and ice shards sky-high!

Such a display of power left Da Fei's jaw on the floor!

Bato's complexion changed, his beard quivering, "The Arctic, although one of the harshest places on Earth, is also the endpoint of the Southern and Eastern Ocean currents, where countless fish converge; thus, it is also home to the most giant whale Sea Monsters."

Hey, hey, now's not the time for a science lesson! Da Fei exclaimed, "If the Sea Monster we encounter is that big, can we handle it?"

Bato let out a long sigh, "The ocean isn't our domain, after all."

Da Fei could only sigh in response. Initially, Da Fei had come along with the mentality of 'better them than me,' not caring much about how strong the enemy was. But things changed when Spielberg joined the Chamber of Commerce yesterday; he was one of their own now. If something went wrong, it would be a huge loss!

Moreover, his joining the Chamber of Commerce meant his ship was also a target of the Sea God's wrath. With so many Sea Monsters here, who knew if they might be called upon by the Sea God to attack as a group? Damn, what a miscalculation!

The fleet continued its journey, the ice on the horizon becoming more fragmented, with large expanses of the sea already exposed, no longer requiring the Flame Lord's specialized ice-breaking. Clearly, this wasn't the normal order of ice melting; it was a sign of frequent Sea Monster activity. The entire fleet was on high alert.

Bato took out the Sea Chart, his expression serious: "We're almost there. The Dragon Bone is like a big bone in a soup pot, cherished by both mortals and Sea Monsters. We must be prepared to deal with Sea Monsters, but our main objective here is to train. If things get too difficult, we'll retreat."

Alright then, truly a mix of courage and opportunism befitting a dwarf; just hope they could make a retreat when needed.

Not long after, an eagle's cry rang out from the sky. A dwarf warrior rushed into the cockpit: "General, we've spotted a large Sea Monster at the target location!"

Bato's face changed, and he said in a deep voice, "Continue reconnaissance!"

"Yes, General."

Da Fei sighed inwardly. Damn, a sunken ship guarded by a giant octopus, a dragon bone guarded by a big Sea Monster, this dwarf's salvage task was truly a massive headache! But their Reconnaissance Eagle was impressive! Compared to it, Da Fei's God-level Reconnaissance Technique was weak. No doubt, this Reconnaissance Eagle must be the key to advancing beyond God-level in the profession.

Suddenly, Da Fei thought of the Blood Eagle Flute in his bag that he hadn't had a chance to return, wasn't that for a Reconnaissance Eagle? But it could only be used once a day, and its use was short, incapable of handling wide-ranging searches over the sea. Right, should he find that Ranger Guild Master once back and ask him about it? Yes, his current status wasn't what it used to be; the man must show some respect.

The fleet got closer to the target sea area, where the mist was boiling on the sea ahead. Bato put down his telescope and quickly ordered the fleet to stop advancing, shouting, "Recon scouts! Why aren't you reporting?"

The dwarf warrior's expression was uneasy: "Reporting to the General, the Reconnaissance Eagle hasn't returned..."

Bato's face changed! Da Fei's heart skipped a beat! Damn, what kind of Sea Monster could take down a plane? This was beyond strong!

Chapter 259: The Legendary Leviathan_2

Bato said in a deep voice, "Friend, what do you think?"

Holy cow! Are you asking me if we should retreat or retreat or retreat? Even though anyone with a brain can tell this sea monster guarding the Bone Dragon must be ridiculously strong, we at least need to witness it first, right? Wait! It's not uncommon for animals like a Flying Eagle to be in danger, but my Blood Eagle Flute is a Spiritual Eagle, so it shouldn't be in trouble, right?

Da Fei immediately took out the long-lost Blood Eagle Flute, "General, allow me to scout ahead."

Bato nodded solemnly, "It's all on you."

He clicked to use it, and the long-lost Spiritual Eagle soared into the sky. Da Fei's field of view expanded, taking in the entire ice ocean from a bird's-eye view. Da Fei controlled the Spiritual Eagle to fly towards the misty front. Closer, closer, Da Fei faintly saw a black silhouette spewing clouds and mist! Holy cow! Does Skira have this move too? Is this the mark of a high-level sea monster?

The Spiritual Eagle flew into the fog and saw it!

A black, gigantic crocodile-like creature sleeping on the ice! Wait, it had two pairs of long, sharp horns on its head, a dozen long, fleshy tentacles on its belly, and the mist was spewing from its nostrils! And there was a faint fiery glow in its nostrils! Holy cow, how does a sea monster breathe fire? What on earth is this dragon-like crocodile thing?

In his shock, the Spiritual Eagle's usage time ended, and it disappeared. Da Fei was stunned on the spot.

Bato asked, "Friend, what did you discover?"

Da Fei said in astonishment, "I discovered a creature that can spew mist..."

After hearing Da Fei's description, Bato's face changed dramatically, "Friend, perhaps we should retreat. If I'm not mistaken, this fire-breathing, mist-spewing sea monster is the legendary Leviathan!"

Da Fei was taken aback, "An eighth-level creature Leviathan?"

Bato said seriously, "That's right. Legend has it that God created the world in seven days, and on the sixth day, he specifically made two giant beasts. The male was the Bimong, known as the desert dominator, and the female was the Leviathan, known as the ocean dominator. When doomsday comes, mortals must capture these two giant beasts as offerings to God. Although they're offerings meant for release, the fact that the Leviathan was personally created by God means its status is much higher than that of an angel!"

—System Prompt: You have obtained information about an eighth-level creature, Leviathan!

Da Fei was shocked speechless! My goodness, this is a Divine Beast! This is the second time we've gathered information on a Leviathan in the game; the first time was in the Artillery Commander's diary! It also spewed clouds and mist, chasing the ship, but his description was as big as an island?

Da Fei exclaimed in surprise, "But its size is much smaller than the sailors' legends, and it can sleep on ice?"

Bato sighed, "It must be a juvenile! Just like those Jade Dragons in the Elf Kingdom, once they mature, they become as big as an island. However, no one in the world has discovered a Leviathan as big as an island yet. Only the resource-rich New World could possibly nourish such a giant beast, but encountering a Leviathan here is really unexpected. I think it must have been attracted by the dead giant dragon's nutrients. Even if it's a juvenile, its strength is beyond ordinary sea monsters."

At this moment, Alicia also spoke, "It's said that Leviathans are arrogant and vicious, and they will relentlessly hunt down intruders who trespass in their territory."

Bato sighed, "So while there's still time, we should retreat." Then he shook his head and let out a long sigh.

Retreat? Holy cow! Didn't Makar blast it back with a single Fireball? It's not invincible after all, so why should we be afraid of a juvenile? This is a high-level sea monster; it must be on par with Skira, maybe even half a level higher! Who knows what rewards we'll get once we take it down! A Divine Artifact? Absolutely!

Bato has always been decisive, and the fact that he's hesitating means he actually wants to stay, right? Afraid that the casualties will be too great and affect his reputation? Holy cow, fine, I don't care about reputation; I'll take the blame!

Da Fei quickly whispered, "General, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. If we give up now, we won't stand a chance against it later!"

Bato's eyelids twitched, "How do we attack? Its sharp horns are even stronger than a narwhal's, and not even the Flame Lord can withstand its attack! While we are at its mercy."

Alicia chuckled and said, "Can the prow of the Flame Lord withstand its attack?"

Bato asked in surprise, "The prow? The prow is where the ice-breaking ram is installed; no sea monster would be foolish enough to ram the prow!"

Alicia nodded and said solemnly, "Other sea monsters might not, but the Leviathan is so arrogant that it might actually ram into it!"

Da Fei's eyebrows twitched, "Your idea is—Transformation?"

Alicia laughed heartily, "Precisely! We should transform the Flame Lord into a giant octopus, and this Leviathan will definitely attack. Moreover, its target is a soft-bodied animal, so it will charge full speed without any worries. By the time it realizes it's an illusion, it'll be too late! Then, our Flame Lord will suddenly accelerate and ram it; isn't it afraid of crashing?"

Da Fei was invigorated! Holy cow! Awesome!

Bato's eyes gleamed with excitement, "Can it work?"

Alicia said seriously, "Let's gamble!"

Bato laughed heartily, "We dwarves love gambling above all else! Alright! Let's bet!"

...

Now, under the flagship's command, the other ships were retreating along the way they came, trying to stay out of Leviathan's warning view. Should the plan fail and the flagship sink, they might still have a chance to escape. As for rescuing, forget about it.

The Flame Lord now moved slowly towards the fog, and suddenly, a red light exploded on Da Fei's screen!

—System Prompt: Reconnaissance Skill Warning! You are about to enter a powerful enemy's warning range!

Now's the time! Transformation begins, let's form the head!

—System Prompt: You activated the God-level Reconnaissance Technique skill, "Phantom March"!

—System Prompt: Captain Bato activated the Master-level Reconnaissance Skill, "Ambush"!

—System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Alicia has cast God-level Arcane Magic "Giant Octopus Transformation" on your ship!

Da Fei's vision blurred again, and the scene suddenly expanded, with the legendary gigantic "Kleegen" appearing magnificently!

This time, the Kleegen was different from before; the General's supporting skills and Alicia's skills had all advanced!

And at this moment, a flame shot up from the mist, a gigantic roar echoed across the ice ocean, and a black lightning bolt shot out of the fog, charging towards the giant octopus in the sea!

Such a shocking momentum left all the dwarf warriors on board so terrified that they covered their mouths, not daring to make a sound. Watching its agile figure darting across the water, Da Fei and the others were dumbfounded with shock!

My goodness, it's walking on water!

Chapter 260: Hidden Instance: Leviathan Nest

Looking at the black giant "crocodile" that was charging through the waves like an airship, belching smoke, Da Fei, Bato, and the others were completely stunned! This was the first Sea Monster Da Fei had ever encountered that could "run" on the surface of the sea! The speed was terrifying, and no ship could escape its pursuit! The legendary Leviathan truly lived up to its reputation!

It's getting closer! The speed is increasing! Alicia's strategy seemed to be working! While an octopus was effective against sailors, among Sea Monsters, it was a prime target!

It's getting closer and closer! Its size is comparable to a large ship, and if it were to collide head-on at such high speed, even the Flame Lord ship wouldn't fare well! Everyone on the ship couldn't help seeping cold sweat and trembling slightly!

It's about to hit! Now you could see its golden eyes as big as car windows!

Bato raised his right hand high, his voice trembling with excitement and exhilaration, "Rowing room, get ready—"

—"Roar!!!" The Leviathan opened its jaws as big as a garage door and let out a thunderous roar that shook the heavens and the sea, while a flame shockwave burst forth suddenly!

—Clang! The glass of the pilothouse shattered into pieces! Da Fei felt as if he was struck hard by a heavy hammer, and a sudden -40 damage emerged above his head!

Battle Roar Attack! But there was no time to concern himself with that; facing the oncoming, relentless bursts of fire, Da Fei didn't hesitate to press down Alicia toward the ground next to him!

"Charge!!!" Bato roared furiously!

—Boom! A heatwave swept through the pilothouse!

—System Prompt: Giant Octopus Transformation Skill effect has dissipated!

—Clang!!! A wave soared into the sky, and the ship violently shuddered, -34! Da Fei, who had just laid down, was thrown out!

It hit!

Da Fei's head was spinning, his vision filled with golden lights, his ears filled with noise, he felt the ongoing aftershocks of the ship, he seemed to hear the sound of wood breaking consecutively, he heard the sailors' screams, he smelled the burning smoke filling the cabin!

Was it successful?

Boom! The ship's body trembled heavily again! Then, a muffled groan came from the bow, and the shaking and moaning gradually ceased. Then, ding dong rang!

—System Prompt: Battle ended! You gain Experience +174,000.

—System Prompt: You successfully killed a juvenile Leviathan, gained an Experience of 2,500,000! You have acquired incomplete information about the Leviathan! You obtain the spoils of war: Leviathan Nest Key, and Leviathan Additional Armor.

Leviathan Nest Key: A key to enter the dungeon space of the Leviathan Nest.

Leviathan Additional Armor: S-class ship auxiliary equipment, equipment location: ship's sides, Defense +100, Magic Resistance +50%, Ice Resistance +85%.

—System Prompt: Congratulations! Your Vice Hero Alicia has leveled up to 28! ...

Success! Gear obtained! Da Fei laughed uproariously, feeling wildly joyful! Who would have thought it would actually work! That it really killed it head-on, this Giant Octopus Transformation is truly a Divine Skill for luring and killing Sea Monsters! Haha, wahahaha!

"Victory!" At this moment, the sailors on the entire warship erupted into fervent cheers.

Bato, disregarding his smoke-covered face and beard, excitedly shouted, "Put out the fire! Hurry, put out the fire! Deputy Officer, check for damages and casualties!"

Cheers! Dwarf Warriors, high in morale, shouted loudly and began busily.

Bato laughed heartily and patted Da Fei on the shoulder: "Friend! It's truly incredible, you are a commander capable of creating miracles. Your future is boundless!"

Anlicia patted the dust off her body and muttered: "Hey, hey! It was clearly my strategy, right?"

Damn! Isn't yours mine?

Now, Bato, Da Fei, and their party came to the Flame Lord that was dramatically tilted upward, the ship's material crowding around the completely transformed bow, then everyone saw the Leviathan's tragic death!

Like skewered fish, the sharp ram of the battleship deeply pierced into the Leviathan's throat—clearly, it had opened its mouth intending to eat some roasted octopus, but instead, it ended up swallowing a big steel nail.

Anlicia waved her Magic Wand and laughed haughtily: "It paid a heavy price for its arrogance!" as she waved the wand, pale golden smoke drifted out from the Leviathan's corpse into the Divine Artifact Wand.

Bato happily expressed his admiration: "Miss, you are right, pride is indeed a great taboo! I always thought that the Flame Lord was invincible, but now it appears so heavily damaged that it can no longer break through ice. Anyway, we must hurry and complete the salvage."

Immediately he shouted: "Signal the soldier, order the salvage fleet forward!"

Now, the salvage operation was about to start, and Bato personally took command of the formation. Da Fei finally breathed a sigh of relief and started to check the spoils of war.

Regarding the ship armor, there's nothing much to say, great stuff! Typically, installing additional armor affects the ship's speed, but this one not only aggressively increases defense but also has high Magic Resistance, a top-grade find!

It's just a pity that such a high-class Sea Monster did not drop a Divine Artifact; it really doesn't do justice to its reputation. But considering it was still young, I shouldn't be too harsh. At least its soul quality is absolutely high, definitely a seed for a great Ghost Ship! I've already got a name picked out, Leviathan! Wahahaha! Anyway, I still need to find a high-class sunken ship to salvage in the future, which is another problem. But for me, that's not an issue anymore. At the very least, I already know about the octopus shipwreck, and what Gambling God mentioned – the most luxurious Obsidian. Oh, and will this Flame Lord sink? Wahahaha, thinking too much.

Now, all that remains is this dungeon key.

The dungeons in this game aren't just something you can enter anytime, they require a key or a pass. They can be exchanged with reputation, or bought with Gold Coins. But large outdoor dungeons or hidden dungeons need to be looted from monsters, even boss-level monsters. And this dungeon key dropped from Leviathan obviously hints at its high-end level. Damn, isn't that obvious? The key point is, where exactly is this Leviathan Nest dungeon? It's hidden so high-end, guess it must be in the North Pole? Or could it be underwater? Isn't that annoying? The Arctic Ocean underwater is just like Hell's lava, jumping in will cause damage!

Well, since I'm here already, I might as well ask these divers to help search. Whether or not we enter is another matter, but at least we need to know the location, at the very least a hidden dungeon can still fetch a good price.

Da Fei then found Bato: "General, I suspect there might be a Leviathan's nest nearby underwater, so please be cautious with the salvage."

Bato was taken aback, then nodded: "You make a very good point, we must be careful not to let a brief victory cloud our judgment."

Wahahaha! Worthy of being a General, accepting advice so graciously.

Now, the salvage ships were all in position, and the sailors on board threw all sorts of buoys and ropes into the sea. The divers also began donning their thick, oily Sea Beast Skin and started their preparatory work, which is drinking vodka. A medium-sized fleet surrounded the salvage fleet for protection.

Spielberg seemed quite interested in this Leviathan situation, he praised the Club President greatly while he mobilized sailors to unload goods.

The salvage operation was fully underway. Divers took turns in shifts. In the freezing Arctic Ocean, no diver could complete the work continuously. Every dwarf diver who climbed onto the ship from the sea was shivering all over.

Bato proudly said: "Our divers are the most elite, strongest warriors from Fire Dragon Island, and in the whole world, only they can accomplish such feats under the Arctic seas! If even they can't handle it, then really no one can."

Is he advertising his own salvage company? Da Fei agreed repeatedly: "The General makes a good point."

Just then, another diver hurriedly boarded the ship, saying in a panic: "General, I found a portal to the Otherworld inside a giant dragon's skull!"

Da Fei's eyebrows twitched: "Did you find the Leviathan's nest?"

Bato sternly said: "It must be so! A high-level Sea Monster like Leviathan would certainly not just randomly place its nest in a crack between stones for other Sea Beasts to steal from. It chose a giant dragon's skull as a nest certainly to let its young feed on the dragon's Magic Power. If there is one young Leviathan here, then a second one will surely appear! However, only the Child of Destiny can freely enter the Otherworld, friend. If you want to go, we cannot assist; it's up to you now!"

Da Fei is stumped! I haven't even said I wanted to go! This is clearly a high-end dungeon, obviously a product of me being ahead of my time. It's all on me? Isn't that just asking for trouble?

Meh! I've come this far; might as well go take a look! Given my current worth in the game, just treat it as a trip to a high-end dungeon. The General is right; if I could secure the first key, of course, I could secure the second one too. I, can afford to play!