

God level 276

Chapter 276: The Bewilderment of the Deep Sea Treasure

Now, Da Fei's fleet was trapped inside the massive maw of the Sea Demon; the only way was to unleash the full power of their crossbow cannons to blast it open.

With Da Fei's command, the Radiant Wings had forty cannon ports on both sides, adding to his own medium-sized ship's four cannon ports, and the whaling ship's six whaling cannons on all sides. The fleet's crossbow arrows blasted the surrounding massive flesh walls, with huge echoes reverberating in the fleshy cavern, while a large barrage of "-6!" "-7!" "-5!" damages filled the whole screen!

Da Fei's jaw dropped to the floor!

What was the damage of that last shot? 30! He wasn't mistaken; it was 30 points!

What was the normal damage of his Master-level Crossbow Cannon? Cannon damage = basic damage × player's total attribute points. After deducting the attribute points added by equipment, his total attribute points reached 80 points, with a Master-level Crossbow Cannon's basic damage at 7–8, thus his uncorrected damage was 560–640! Averaging 600 points of damage, but his actual damage was only 30 points, meaning a damage reduction of 95%!

According to the game's damage calculation formula, when the attack was lower than the enemy's defense, the final damage = basic killing ÷ (1 + attack-defense difference × 5%); achieving a damage reduction of 95% meant an attack-defense difference of over 400, and the Master-level Crossbow Cannon had an attack of 35, indicating this Sea Demon's maw defense was at least 500!

What concept was 500 defense? A copper wall and an iron bastion!

Alright then, as a demigod, if this creature dared to swallow a fleet whole, it must be confident in its power! But he had a day to retaliate, he'd fire at it for a day; even ants could bite an elephant to death!

Da Fei gritted his teeth and roared: "Keep firing! Focus fire on a point and shoot steadily! Blast it for a day!"

The sounds of the crossbows firing echoed once again.

And just then, a dull sound once again echoed through the space: "Mortal, it seems you're in a last-ditch struggle? However, let me remind you, I once swallowed a fleet of mortal navy; their firepower was much stronger than yours, but eventually, they ran out of ammunition and couldn't escape. If you believe you have enough ammunition and time, then continue, but I won't tell you that I can self-heal, hm~~!"

—Ah, puh! Da Fei spat out blood in rage!

Damn it, not only was its skin thicker than the city walls, but it could also self-heal! Fighting this was pointless! Was he being punished for being too ahead of the curve?

Wait! Ahead of the curve? Great, he still had his final ultimate move! He would use the foresight to combat foresight!

Da Fei pulled out the Luck Coin given to him by the Gambling God — Come on, he'd exchange a month of misfortune for a day of invincible luck!

—System Prompt: Warning! Are you sure you want to use the Divine Artifact Luck Coin? Once used, you will remain in a state of Absolute Misfortune for the next month, and cannot benefit from any luck items or altar blessings.

Of course! If he were to die here now, that would be true Absolute Misfortune!

Use it! Whether it worked or not, he'd gamble on it!

A rainbow light rose from Da Fei's head, and at the same time, the entire fleet was enveloped in a rainbow!

—Boom pop pop! The crossbow cannons roared once more, a barrage of "-10!" "-11" "-12" damage filled the screen.

Although the damage was still unbearable to look at, at least it was doubled, wasn't it? That meant it was like doubling the number of cannons, right? But even if it doubled, was there any way to match the formal navy fleets? Even they couldn't escape; could he really do it? Da Fei began to miss the Artillery Emperor babies left behind at the Pool of Radiance. If they were here, the damage wouldn't be so weak. But even if they were here and it still failed—could he afford such a loss?

If even doubling couldn't win, then he'd have no choice but to admit defeat.

For a moment, Da Fei's heart was tangled with complicated emotions, lamenting life's unpredictability, and riches as fleeting as smoke.

Wait! Wasn't the formal navy the ultimate existence players could develop into? If even they couldn't win, then players couldn't win now or in the future! Could it be this Sea Demon couldn't be dealt with by force? Right, it said only the hero Odysseus had succeeded before; was that a hint for the player?

But who was Odysseus? Also known as Odysseus, the renowned half-man, half-god hero from Greek mythology—a demigod! A notch above the Golden Saints! His crewmates must have been heroes too. In their time, they probably didn't have high-tech weapons like crossbows; they might've just jumped off to act as human siege machines and hacked away? Ultimately, it still required strength; it depended on whether the player could reach their level?

Damn! That's absurd! How could players reach his level? Even becoming a Golden Saint was impossible!

Just then, the order flag bearer came to report: "Captain, the flagship sent a message, it seems they've found valuable items among the surrounding wreckage!"

Da Fei's eyebrow jumped, treasure? Damn! There was something substantial inside this Sea Demon's mouth? Could the key to breaking the situation be in these wrecks? It had to be! No matter how godlike the boss was, there had to be a chance for the players, right?

Da Fei excitedly said, "All gunners continue firing, while the other sailors start diving to search the wreckage!"

Each ship quickly lowered lifeboats; Catherine, Anlicia, and Coltner dived in to search. Treasure hunting was something Da Fei wouldn't fall behind on either.

Soon there were results, a treasure chest! There was a dazzling golden chest inside a wreck!

Da Fei's eyes twitched! Damn, there really was something of substance in its maw!

Da Fei approached and opened it in excitement, and the immediate dazzling brilliance blinded Da Fei's eyes!

—System Prompt: You searched the sunken shipwreck and obtained 1 unit of sunken ship salvage "Deep Sea Night Pearl"!

—Deep Sea Night Pearl: Sunken ship salvage item. It is a specialty item produced only in the unreachable deep-sea areas, worth a hundred times gold in the surface world!

Da Fei's eyelid twitched! Whoa, damn! This was indeed good stuff! Gold in the trading post was a high-end luxury item, with a purchase price of around 10,000 gold coins per order. A hundred times gold meant one million? Perhaps the literal interpretation used exaggerated rhetoric, but selling at ten times gold for 100,000 gold coins was absolutely not a problem! Just the label "origin unreachable to mortals" guaranteed the price!

In other words, if the player managed to escape its mouth, these would be considered bonus rewards? (Note: Items labeled as sunken ship salvage do not require purchase orders when trading at trading posts worldwide)

Then, Catherine shouted from the front, "Captain, we found 3 orders of Crossbow Cannon Ammunition!"

orders? That's 800 Crossbow Arrows! That meant ammunition wasn't a problem either! There must be more ammunition, and surely more good stuff!

They were definitely getting out! There had to be a strategy! Da Fei's eyes lit with burning hope, excitedly shouting, "Everyone, keep searching! We must be able to find a way to escape from these wrecks!"

In a short while, Anlicia also brought good news: "Wow haha, we found 2 units of Deep Sea Ice Crystal Diamond, have you ever seen these? It's my first time seeing them!"

Coltner couldn't help but exclaim, "Ice Crystal Diamond? Legends say that under the extreme cold and high pressure of the ten-thousand-meter-deep-sea trench, water becomes permanently solidified, like carbon under extreme pressure turns into a diamond. This is the origin of Ice Crystal Diamonds! These are items no mortal could ever acquire, how can they be here?"

Anlicia happily said, "Does that mean they're worth a lot?"

Coltner admired, "They're invaluable!"

Damn, this Sea Demon's mouth was quite loaded! It even had such powerful treasures; it surely had a Divine Artifact or key item to break the situation!

—System Prompt: You searched the sunken shipwreck and obtained 3 units of sunken ship salvage "Deep Sea Jade Coral"!

Wow haha! Deep-sea productions must be high-quality! 3 units too! At least tens of thousands were secured again! His fleet's total capacity was 3000, and they only loaded up 2400, which was a significant regret. Wasn't this clearly an opportunity to completely compensate for that regret?

Wow haha! Search! Keep searching!

For a time, the search team harvested massively, discovering various deep-sea specialties one after another. The sailors busily transported goods up and down with joy, entirely forgetting they were still within the Sea Demon's mouth, entirely forgetting these things still belonged to the Sea Demon.

Finally, a dull but clearly disdainful, mocking voice echoed again in the space: "Still ignorant and laughable mortals!"

Tch! What did it know; he was looking for a way to deal with it from the wrecks! This was called strategy and reward double harvest! Wow haha!

Just then, Catherine rowed a small boat over: "Captain, something's not right."

Da Fei asked, surprised, "What's not right?"

Catherine furrowed her brow: "Didn't you notice, Captain, these goods we've found are all incredibly rare, immensely valuable deep-sea merchandise, yet on the shipwrecks here, they're as common as can be, and looking at these ships' models, they don't seem like ships of seasoned sailors. Just by them wanting to acquire deep-sea specialties, I'm deeply skeptical."

Da Fei suddenly awoke! She was right! This was indeed too suspicious! Wait, it was mocking him just now as "still ignorant and laughable" mortals, which meant others have done the same thing he did?

Damn! That's obvious, anybody encountering this situation would most likely search the wreckage, right? So, searching the wreckage was not feasible!

Da Fei suddenly realized: "We've been tricked! These goods were nothing more than a way it confused mortals, misguiding them!"

Catherine furrowed her brow and said: "I think so too, after we've wasted a lot of time on the wrecks, we've completely lost our chance to escape!"

Da Fei was drenched in cold sweat! This Sea Demon was too cunning, directly exploiting human nature's weaknesses!

Wait, so what were the Sea Demon's weaknesses? As a demigod needing to use tricks against mortals, it surely had unspeakable vulnerabilities, right?

So, what was the weakness? Did its mouth have a weak point? Did he need his God-level Reconnaissance Technique to stare at it for a while and trigger the Intelligence Analysis Divine Skill to find its weakness? But even if triggered, it was most likely only reducing the defense by a tiny percentage. For something with a defense of 500 points, that would mean nothing. At most, reducing damage immunity from 95% to 93%, which was insignificant.

Not to mention such a famous Sea Demon was not meant to be solely dealt with by a player with God-level Reconnaissance Technique. That would not follow the game's boss design principles.

Could it be, it was still that initial hint, Odysseus?

Da Fei's eyebrow suddenly jumped, and he asked: "Catherine, do you know about Odysseus?"

Catherine shook her head with a sigh: "We could never achieve the power of that mythological hero, much less he wasn't alone in battle."

Da Fei hurriedly said: "I mean, Odysseus must have broken out from its mouth, right? We can rush out through the path he once opened! That must have been the Sea Demon's wound, where the defense is weaker than elsewhere!"

Catherine suddenly realized with excitement: "That's remarkable, Captain! Legendary heroes like Odysseus of that mythological age were imbued with divine qualities, and wounds inflicted by their attacks might not fully regenerate, perhaps even lack self-healing abilities!"

It must be so! Da Fei was filled with joy: "Then let's find this wound! Others keep moving the goods!"

Wow haha haha! So this was the real strategy and reward double harvest! If even this wouldn't work, he would go smash the glass of the hero proxy merchants.

Chapter 277: The Sea Demon's Script

Da Fei, Catherine, Anlicia, Selvia, Coltner, and Spielberg were each rowing their boats around the edge of a puddle, tapping and searching for the anticipated giant mouth wound. As time ticked by, the booming sound of crossbow cannons and the clang of crushed debris echoed continuously within the flesh tunnel.

The sailors' transportation team had a bountiful harvest, having already found 200 batches of deep-sea specialties in the wreckage! If each batch could sell for tens of thousands, or even hundreds of thousands, perhaps even a hundredfold gold selling close to a million, Da Fei couldn't imagine the substantial profit this batch of goods could bring him!

But the precondition was that they had to get out! If they couldn't get out, everything would be bait, all would be zero!

Soon, Catherine shouted from afar, "Found it! A big scar!"

Brother is too awesome! There's a reason why brother became an expert!

Da Fei quickly rowed over to take a look, and indeed, there was a protrusion on the flesh wall, distinctly different from its surroundings—it was a huge scar! Needless to say, this was the spot.

Da Fei laughed heartily, "Move the fleet over, concentrate firepower on this scar!"

Anlicia called out from afar, "We still have a lot of goods here that haven't been picked up!"

Da Fei laughed loudly, "Hurry up and pick them up, I'll start bombarding it with the Octopus!"

—Boom Pop Pop!!! With the Octopus firing two lucky arrows, flesh splattered from the scar, and three-digit damages of -234 and -263 burst out!

This was indeed the spot! In an instant, the whole fleet's sailors cheered in unison. Da Fei laughed heartily; this was truly a double harvest! Thanks, Sea Demon!

Just then, a muffled sigh came from the hollow: "This scar of mine has been turned by so many self-righteous mortals so many times, it's become a mouth ulcer for me, ah! Pain, pain, pain..."

Da Fei suddenly paused, "Could it be, someone has escaped from here before?"

The Sea Demon sighed, "Firstly, congratulations on guessing correctly, this was indeed the breakout point in the Odyssey. However, mortals, do you know where you are now? I can tell you now, you are in a deep-sea trench more than ten thousand meters deep, have you considered what will happen if you break through and sea water rushes in? Do you think your ships are submarines? Even the United States' Sea Wolf-class nuclear submarines can only dive up to 600 meters, do you know what a concept the ten thousand meter deep sea is? That is the Divine Domain, where the physical and chemical properties of materials will surpass the knowledge of mortals..."

—Ah spit! Da Fei spat out a mouthful of old blood! Are you kidding me? Keep playing the fantasy Sea Demon, don't bring up Pacific Rim!

Da Fei frantically said, "Could it be that Odyssey escaped from the deep sea because he was a demigod?"

The Sea Demon said astonishingly, "It's really quite ridiculous, such a famous epic celebrating the legend of Odyssey, and you're asking me, an enemy? I won't tell you that I've also read Homer's Epic!"

Da Fei suddenly realized, could the strategy be in Homer's Epic? Is it telling me to go read now? Damn it! Is there a download online? Wait, isn't there a poet here?

Da Fei quickly turned his head and saw Coltner hurriedly rowing his boat over.

Bringing the strategy? Hurry up! Da Fei eagerly called out, "Baron sir, you must know Homer's Epic, right?"

Coltner shook his head and frowned, "As a poet, I'm very familiar with Homer's Epic 'Odyssey', but indeed, the epic does not contain a Chapter on how Odyssey escaped from Calubidis!"

Da Fei exclaimed, "There isn't?"

Coltner sighed, "The epic only described Odyssey passing through the Messina Strait, facing the whirlpool Sea Demon Calubidis on one side and the Six-headed Sea Demon Scylla on the other, he chose

to pass through the domain of the Six-headed Sea Demon Scylla. Although the casualties were severe, he still successfully escaped!"

Da Fei's jaw dropped: "How can this be? What kind of strategy is this?"

The Sea Demon's resentful voice echoed through the flesh cave: "Right? How could this be? For centuries, I have flipped through 'Odyssey' countless times, memorized every punctuation mark, but still couldn't find my part! I'm even lesser than a passerby! Why does Scylla become a famous demon just by being a minor character in one scene and even gets to be the trusted Sea General of the Sea God, while I'm still just a small director in the garbage disposal department of the Sea Governance Department?"

—Apuh! Da Fei violently spit out another mouthful of old blood! I'm not asking about how you became a director, I just want you to know how you're flipping the book!

Coltner explained sweatingly: "Perhaps the great poet Homer, considering the conciseness of poetry and the ease of composing rhymes, cut out the scenes involving your great battle."

The Sea Demon's furious voice rang through the emptiness: "I'm not convinced! I'm not satisfied! My strength is clearly stronger than Scylla's!"

Da Fei's heart skipped a beat, could this be the key to breaking the situation?

Da Fei quickly laughed: "I have a way. We have a poet here, just tell us how you fought Odyssey back then, and we will complete the poem!"

The Sea Demon sneered coldly: "Ridiculous mortals, are you belittling my wisdom? A third-rate poet trying to complete the epic poem of a renowned great poet? Not only is it ridiculous but also arrogant! I will not tell you the details of that time. You don't have much time left, continue to struggle and grope in desperation, wahahaha!"

Da Fei was instantly shocked!

"You! To call me a third-rate poet! I am, after all, the most popular aristocratic poet in Elorin!" Coltner's fair face turned bright red with anger.

The Sea Demon surprisingly said: "How? Comparing you with Homer, you are indeed third-rate, not convinced?"

Coltner immediately wilted: "Convinced, thank you for your favor..."

Suddenly, Da Fei and the others looked lost, what to do? Could it be that only a demigod like Odyssey could escape? You really want to compare me to Odyssey? Brother, also convinced! Damn it!

The Sea Demon sighed: "Anyway, it's Homer's fault that I didn't have a part in it; even a great poet is not perfect! Only I, being the involved party, could make the storyline perfect! But I don't have the talent or fame of a poet, yet I could be a scriptwriter! So I became one. Mortals, this is the stage I set for you; to see you mortals struggle with hope and then desperately agonize in pain until giving up, this is my favorite drama aside from 'Odyssey.'"

Everyone was suddenly amazed!

The Sea Demon continued: "Actually, you did well, at least you taught Scylla a lesson and vented my anger. Even Odyssey wasn't a match for Scylla. In terms of military power, your era possesses much stronger warships, in terms of luck, you are hundred times luckier than Odyssey. By the way, why is your luck so good? Of course, that's not important now. The only difference between you and Odyssey is wisdom! Whatever you do now can't be called wrong, it's just your perspective on the problem. The same item, some see it as treasure, some see it as a trap, yet others see what no one else has seen. Come on, I have hinted clearly enough, mortal, can you add a perfect and real ending to the script I directed? Alright, as an audience, I shouldn't interfere with the actors, from now on, I won't say another word, I'll silently enjoy the drama as it concludes..."

Echoes reverberated through the hollow, Da Fei stunned with his jaw dropping! This demigod is playing me to death!

Just then, Coltner suddenly said, "Odyssey was once trapped on Giant Demon Island, and with the witch's help, he escaped through the Netherworld! The scripture's Chapter is called 'Return from Nether Sea'!"

Return from Nether Sea!

Da Fei suddenly jolted, interdimensional transfer? You mean just by tearing through the current plane and entering the Netherworld, I could escape? But that's high-tech! How could I possibly know such a powerful move?

Just then, Anlicia also spoke: "Its giant mouth is actually a powerful barrier; we must break through it to be able to cast spells. So we still need to break its mouth."

Wait a moment! In an instant, Da Fei's thought process became clear again! The Sea Demon said that whatever I do can't be considered wrong, meaning that searching the wreckage was also correct. Bursting through the flesh wall was also correct. It's just that "I didn't see what I should have seen"!

Divine Artifact! My initial thought was correct, there must be a space-crossing Divine Artifact among these wreckage, perhaps it was the Divine Artifact left by Odyssey! But the presence of a pile of treasures distracted me from the Divine Artifact. The real Divine Artifact might not necessarily be gleaming with gold, for instance, the Blood Eagle Flute I once found!

Da Fei made up his mind and decisively said: "Continue searching, search for the Divine Artifact! Search for the Divine Artifact among the wreckage!"

Chapter 278: Treasure Appraiser and Vortex Crystal

Now, the work of searching for the Divine Artifact begins to unfold. Well, it has always been unfolding, it's just that everyone was only paying attention to the treasure.

So that's it, these treasures are both fortune and traps, not only to disguise scars but mainly to disguise the Divine Artifact! But, how do you find the Divine Artifact in a mountain of trash? The key is, most people are only human, even if they pick up the Divine Artifact they might just throw it away thinking it's junk, like the Blood Eagle Flute from back then.

Suddenly, Da Fei thought of a boring sub-skill under the Luck Skill, Treasure Intuition!

- Treasure Intuition: Can increase the chance of players digging up treasures and discovering treasures. The higher the Luck Value and Luck Skill level, the better the effect of the skill. Prerequisite for learning: Advanced Luck Skill.

It is said this is the only treasure digging skill in the game, increasing the guild's adventure level not only increases the chance of drop items from fighting bosses and monsters but also enhances the effect of this skill.

But during the public test, the actual situation was that even with the support of the guild level, even if players piled on full luck gear to dig treasures, the effect was generally poor, and players still felt the skill's existence was negligible! Actually, during the public test, Star did increase the guild adventure level by 20 levels for this skill, and after testing by the treasure hunting team and computer data analysis, the conclusion was that the chance only increased by about 3%! A chance as fleeting as smoke.

But fortunately, it only costs 1 Skill Point, so those players aiming for adventure and treasure digging learned this skill anyway, preferring something to nothing.

At this moment, Da Fei shook his head with a silent sigh. What was he saving Skill Points for? Of course, to deal with these damn situations! Even though this skill is frustrating, I'm blessed with a permanent God-level Luck Skill now, surely there has to be some effect? Learned!

Da Fei took out the Luck Skill Book, turned to the page with Treasure Intuition, and selected to learn it. A flash of golden light!

- System Prompt: You spent one Skill Point to learn the Luck Skill sub-skill Treasure Intuition.

And in that instant, a small dot flashed with golden light on Da Fei's mini-map radar, and Da Fei's eyebrow twitched, what's that?

Da Fei looked toward the direction indicated by the mini-map, and sure enough, saw something flashing in a pile of wreckage!

Da Fei was shocked! Could that flashing thing be a treasure? Is this Treasure Intuition? No, my radar clearly has the God-level Reconnaissance Technique, meant for alerting and finding monsters, how can it be used for treasure hunting?

Without much thought, Da Fei hastily rowed to the glowing wreckage, it was a soaked, dilapidated cabinet with a pile of broken cups, teapots, and plates. When Da Fei turned over a broken plate, there was a sudden flash of light from the plate and the pile of broken china around it, and Da Fei's radar flashed with golden light again!

It's a treasure!

- System Prompt: With your sharp eyesight, you feel you have discovered a "broken antique"!

- System Prompt: You've acquired the profession information of a "Treasure Appraiser"!

Da Fei was thunderstruck and gaped in astonishment! Treasure Appraiser! Profession information! Damn, it used to only generate skill information, but now it's generating profession information? Does that mean the combination of my God-level Reconnaissance Technique and God-level Luck Skill along with Treasure Intuition results in a new profession?

So it is indeed! My assumption was right! God-level is not the end of skills, but the beginning of new professions! The realm above God-level skills is the birth of new professions!

At this moment, Catherine picked up a piece of china and exclaimed, "Huh? This seems like royal porcelain from the Falcon Dynasty era!"

Coltner agreed, "That's right, the Falcon pattern on this china is typical of the Falcon Dynasty's court style, and the dark gold lacquer on the edge of this china is actually Demon Light Powder. If a thief attempts to steal, the court mages will track them down using Magic Powder to capture the thief! Moreover, this china is not ordinary china, but jade china, so this item is extremely rare and expensive, that's why such high-end anti-theft measures are used!"

Catherine laughed, "The Captain deserves credit, even though this thing is broken, as long as it's glued back properly, it can still fetch a high price!"

This trash heap not only contains sea goods but also antiques! This is not your average well-endowed context! Da Fei was speechless with astonishment, "You know so much?"

Catherine laughed heartily, "The more you learn, the more you understand!"

Da Fei patted his forehead; such an unnecessary question. Catherine is a cultured pirate with stuffed illegal goods at home; her Professional Specialties are "Treasure Intuition"! Treasure and treasure are as close as words, but the scope is different! The Blood Eagle Flute was discovered by her!

Coltner smiled, "My grandfather hoped I would become a brave navigator, but I never could until now. However, at the very least, the appraisal skills necessary for a navigator I believe are decent, and I have many well-traveled friends in my circle, so I've seen much. Now, I think I am quite brave, at least I can stay calm in the mouth of a Sea Demon."

Da Fei asked in surprise, "Why are you so brave?"

Coltner laughed, "Because of the Captain! With the Captain so composed, of course, I don't need to worry."

What the heck! Players can resurrect when they die, but you're just an ordinary NPC!

Da Fei hurriedly asked, "Do you know what a Treasure Appraiser does?"

Catherine chuckled, "No idea."

Coltner laughed, "They are insightful experts with broad knowledge of treasures from any dynasty, and they can discern the extraordinary in even nameless items. I suppose I would have to study hard for 100 years to reach that level."

Da Fei was startled, "Study what?"

Coltner laughed, "Of course, to learn the history, geography, culture, and relic illustrations in various libraries!"

- System Prompt: You've acquired the profession information of a Treasure Appraiser!

More information emerges!

I've understood, under normal circumstances to become a Treasure Appraiser, I'd have to go on a manic library binge, but the issue is I'm illiterate, never spent a day in a library!

Catherine pursed her lips, "True treasures naturally emit a unique aura; as long as you can sense that aura, you can find treasures. As for those so-called high-priced masterpieces by artists, mostly hyped by so-called royalty and celebrities, in the eyes of a pirate, they're actually worthless."

Da Fei realized! My path is the pirate route, no need to binge in the library. With my dual God-level Skills paving the way, plus the Invincible Luck of a Divine Artifact, I'm determined to become that Treasure Appraiser!

Da Fei laughed heartily, "It's great that both of you can appraise treasures, let's hurry, gather all the items suspected to be treasures together, and appraise them!"

Both replied immediately, "Okay!"

The three split up to act. Da Fei's sharp eyes meticulously searched through the trash heap, indeed! The radar flashed golden again, and the trash heap glowed simultaneously! Found it again! Da Fei rushed forward to dig it up!

A round stone!

- System Prompt: With your sharp eyesight, you feel you've discovered an "expensive gemstone"!

- System Prompt: You've acquired the profession information of a Treasure Appraiser!

Could it be it? Damn, doesn't seem like it! If I really dug up a Divine Artifact from trash, wouldn't I be promoted directly? I think this is the treasure place for me to rush my skills, right? Keep going!

Time ticked by, and Da Fei's radar's golden light flashed accurately every time, with every flash there was a harvest! Da Fei became increasingly convinced, such a high success rate must have something to do with his Invincible Luck! Da Fei further confirmed, if ordinary treasure chests were meant to draw attention and confuse ordinary sailors, these antique treasures were specifically designed to tackle experts!

But why haven't I found it yet? Time isn't on my side anymore, the fleet has less than half the way to the Sea Demon's throat, Da Fei long lost the excitement of treasure hunting and was growing increasingly anxious.

- Bang! Another loud noise, another pile of trash was swallowed by the Sea Demon with a huge echo.

Da Fei jumped in shock, damn, did that mouth just swallow my Divine Artifact treasure too?

Wait! A Divine Artifact could absolutely not be swallowed! Otherwise, what would players play with? Which means a Divine Artifact must be in a place where water won't carry it away, so the Divine Artifact won't be on a ship's wreck!

Damn! I've been searching in vain all this time! Could it possibly be—

Da Fei jumped headfirst into the waterhole beneath the trash pile, the waterhole was dark, polluted with various unknown things floating, it felt like falling into a cesspool! Damn, hasn't rinsed in thousands of years?

Damn! Da Fei quickly surfaced, shouting loudly, "Sailors, dive for the Divine Artifact! It must be at the bottom! Catherine, don't go down!" Sheesh, how can I let my dear treasure dive into a cesspool?

For a while, the sailors jumped into the water one after another, making the murky bottom even more so, damn! How to find something like this!

No no! Flowing water doesn't rot! The more polluted it is, the less likely it is to be washed by the current, making it more likely for the Divine Artifact to be hidden in the mud.

Suddenly, a flash of light flashed from beneath the waters! Da Fei's eyelids twitched in shock!

A Divine Artifact! Could it be a Divine Artifact?

With incredibly excited and expectant feelings, Da Fei swam over vigorously, and saw a stick inserted into the silt! Wand? Magic Wand?

Da Fei trembled and reached out to grab it – snap! The stick broke and turned into rotten mud.

Isn't it? No, it must be!

Da Fei dug under the silt where the stick was lodged, and in that instant, a light as dazzling as a pearl shone out! A treasure bead flashing with blue light!

- System Prompt: With your sharp eyesight, you discovered the timeless buried treasure "Vortex Crystal"!

And just then, a golden light descended from the sky and entered the water with a splash!

- System Prompt: Congratulations! With your sharp eyesight, you found the dusty incomplete Divine Artifact "Vortex Crystal"! You have obtained part-time beginner Treasure Appraiser professional qualification! You have comprehended the Professional Skill "Sharp Insight."

- Beginner Treasure Appraiser: A part-time profession for treasure hunting and appraisal. Vision +10%, vision stacks with reconnaissance skills. In the state of a beginner Treasure Appraiser, players gain 1 free attribute point professional bonus every 5 levels.

- Sharp Insight: Increases the chance of discovering treasures and successfully identifying counterfeits. The higher the Treasure Appraiser profession level, the stronger the skill effect. Reconnaissance Technique, Luck Skill, and this skill have mutual enhancing effects.

- System Prompt: You are currently level 34 and gained a beginner Treasure Appraiser profession bonus of 6 free attribute points.

- Vortex Crystal: Magic Power +10, Knowledge +10, Special Skill: Vortex Space Gate!

Vortex Space Gate! It's it! I also got a side profession! Da Fei laughed joyfully! One mouthful of cesspit water breached in—ah puh!

Chapter 279: Return Voyage of the Nether Sea

Sometimes, the answer was very simple, but the process of obtaining it was extremely difficult.

Now with the Divine Artifact, the breakthrough scar, and the firepower of Invincible Luck, it seemed that all the conditions for escaping were fully in place. If we still couldn't escape, there would be nothing to do. The first thing Da Fei would do was take a private jet to the Imperial Capital and smash the windows of the China Hero Agent Corporation.

Now, all the sailors were on board, each in their positions, and the fleet was stationed at the giant mouth scar, ready to aim and fire. Da Fei began to check the special skill attributes of the Divine Artifact,

—Vortex Space Gate: Can create a vortex space gate on the sea that leads to another world. Can only be used at sea.

I see. Equipment that can open a space gate is definitely top-notch, worthy of being called a Divine Artifact. There's nothing left to say, let's break through!

The fleet's crossbow cannons roared in unison, and the gigantic echo reverberated in the hollow once again!

"Ah... it hurts!" The moaning of the Sea Demon resounded, "Alright, mortal, you win!"

Da Fei was ecstatic to hear this, so awesome! I really was about to escape another calamity! Wahahaha!

The Sea Demon continued, "You have written a perfect ending for my script. You truly are the second person to be cursed by the Sea God, after Odyssey. Last time Odyssey left, something was left behind. I don't need it, so I'll give it to you!"

—System Prompt: You have obtained the "Odyssey's Navigation Experience Golden Sheepskin Scroll"!

They gave me something? This Sea Demon is righteous! Da Fei was overjoyed to find a glowing golden scroll in his bag!

—Odyssey's Navigation Experience Golden Sheepskin Scroll: A scroll recording Odyssey's ten years of sea drifting experience, increases Navigator Level cap by +1 when used.

Da Fei was astonished! Level cap +1? Can it directly rush to God-level? No way, right? In the Pool of Radiance, that book of destruction I got from Siriel only gave information on God-level skills!

The Sea Demon laughed, "I don't know what level Odyssey's Sailing Skill is considered in this era, even in his time there was no concept of Sailing Skill or navigators, but in his era of backward ships, he did things that modern people find difficult to do. In my view, it should be God-level, right? So, mortal, cherish this scroll! It will surely save you, a mortal with limited life, decades of detours!"

Da Fei was stunned! It really can rush to God-level! That's amazing! But the premise is I must reach Master-level Navigator first!

"Alright, stop hitting! The drama has ended!"

The water surface started to shake violently. The Sea Demon slightly opened a crack in its giant mouth, and the deep sea water roared in as if it were instantly vacuuming the air inside the giant mouth, creating a suffocating pressure like death upon everyone's chest, making it impossible to speak and difficult to breathe! This was the feeling of being deep at sea!!

Da Fei's face turned deathly pale in terror! It turned out that destroying me was just a mouthful effort for him! This was the power of a demigod! Unlike the clone Skira I encountered, this Vortex Sea Demon must be the original! This was an existence that mortals simply could not defeat! In front of it, I could only play the role of a dramatic actor!

Da Fei tightly grasped the Crystal Ball, immediately activating the skill!!

In that instant, the Crystal Ball exploded with dazzling light, illuminating the fleshy cavity of the giant mouth, and the water around the fleet formed a rapidly spinning, huge vortex!

"As a final word, you will be sent by the Vortex Crystal to the Netherworld Sea, which is not actually controlled by the Nether God nor the Sea God. I won't tell you that I simply don't know who governs that place, or how to return to the surface world from there—may Odyssey's epic guide you to the path home!"

What the hell! Is it that treacherous?

—Boom! With a massive boom amidst the enormous shock, the scene changed! Another massive crash sound followed, and a gray world appeared before Da Fei!

A silver moon hung in the sky! Nether Sea, I've finally returned!

—System Prompt: You have successfully passed Demigod Calubidis's test, gaining 5 million Experience! Your Navigator Level upgraded to Expert Level! Expert-level navigators get 1 free attribute point bonus for every 2 levels, you receive 6 attribute points from the Expert-level Navigator bonus! (Note: Advanced Navigators gain 1 point for every 3 levels, Da Fei was 34th level, already gained 11 points, now it should be 17 points, gaining the missing 6 points)

—System Prompt: Coltner successfully passed Demigod Calubidis's test, Coltner's Navigator Level upgraded to intermediate!

—System Prompt: Congratulations! Your Vice Hero Alicia successfully completed the navigator's test mission, officially promoted to Junior Navigator!

—System Prompt: You defeated Demigod Calubidis, achieving "Dancing with Gods," your life +50, all Vice Hero life +50, your Command Power +50, all Vice Hero Command Power +50, troop morale +1, troop life +1.

—System Prompt: You successfully defeated a demigod. Would you like to publicly announce this on the World Channel? Publicly announcing will gain 1000 world reputation points!

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Staring at a long list of system information scrolling by, Da Fei was dumbfounded for a long time! Life truly felt like a dream!

Is this the reward for defeating a demigod? Besides getting the sheepskin scroll, the Navigators upgraded collectively! Even Alicia, who was supposed to complete the navigator test mission certified by Makar, did it! Then, the whole family gets more health, Command Power boost all-around! Including the Divine Artifact, nearly 300 units of deep sea specialties, countless ancient relics of unknown value, and the unexpected additional role of Treasure Appraiser—this return trip's harvest was unimaginable! If gathering boat materials at the North Pole, then here it's definitely making crazy money! This is the advance reward brought by completing an advance mission!

The entire fleet's sailors exploded with cheers of victory, awakening the dazed Da Fei from his stupor!

Damn, what cheering, from the tiger's den into the dragon's pond! My return journey isn't over! This lawless area is the real treacherous place, alright!

Should I announce it publicly? This time, I won't make it public! I've already scared the whole world into wetting their pants yesterday, probably forcing the big teams to unite against me. If down goes a demigod, likely all world's players would protest in front of the White House to delete my account? For the \$1 million championship prize, this time I shall participate quietly, don't fire the shot!

Da Fei once again examined the Vortex Crystal in hand, +10 Magic Power, +10 Knowledge.

Damn! What about the special skill? Gone! Is it really a one-time item? Or an exhausted long cooldown? Meaning it's impossible to go back with the crystal in the short term!

Just then, the flag officer came over, "Captain, the flagship requests, where should we go?"

Where to go? Gazing at the boundless dark sea, Da Fei's heart sank!

Although this was Da Fei's third visit, without a Sea Chart, a sextant to fix the position of the stars, or even any knowledge about this world, where should I go? Right, where's Old Man Riel? Can he wake up?

Suddenly, Da Fei remembered his Anemone King! Da Fei urgently checked his territory panel—it's lit up! The Anemone King is lit! It still exists! Turns out, indeed, it requires returning to the same world to use?

At that moment, it felt like a lighthouse for returning home was ignited far away in the sky. In his confusion, Da Fei's first reaction was: "Target, Netherworld Miracle Island!"

Chapter 280: The Arrival of Absolute Misfortune

In Heroic Creation Era, gods are undoubtedly the highest-level beings, existences that players cannot meet. The Light God governs the Divine Realm, the Demon God governs the Demon World, the Sea God governs the Sea Realm, and the Nether God governs the Netherworld. Then there's a whole mess of Minor Gods and Demigods with all sorts of roles. For players, encountering a Demigod is almost the limit.

But even for gods, there are some middle grounds that are difficult to control, such as the Nether Sea, which is the ocean within the Netherworld. The Nether God wants to control it but unfortunately has no knowledge of water. The Sea God wants to control it but unfortunately the death energy is too heavy and doesn't suit him.

In short, some powerful and mysterious indigenous Sea Demons rule over this vast expanse of ocean. No one knows exactly what the Sea Demons of the Netherworld are like, but one can imagine how powerful they must be just from the existence of creatures like the Nether River Bone Demon.

Now, under the blowing winds of the Netherworld and the illumination of the silver moonlight, Da Fei's fleet is advancing at full speed towards their destination in the misty and vast Nether Sea. Not just a sentimental journey, but mainly because Renior once easily tore open a Space Gate there, indicating it must be the easiest place to find a way out of the Nether Sea.

Just at this moment, Da Fei's Reconnaissance Skill sounded an alarm; a large amount of red dots appeared on the sea surface!

Da Fei's heart skipped a beat—a Sea Monster from the Netherworld? But as long as they're just small dots, brother isn't afraid! Da Fei immediately ordered the fleet to prepare for battle.

There they are! Hundreds of skeletal fish resembling dolphins converged!

No need to say anything, whoever blocks me dies. Whoever comes gets blasted, fire away!

In an instant, the fleet's firepower was fully unleashed. Under the cover of rainbow light, every Crossbow Arrow hit its target accurately, blowing the underwater Sea Monsters into fragments! Then a long list of combat information scrolled across the screen.

—System Prompt: Your troops killed a Nether Sea Wanderer; you gain Experience +65.

—System Prompt: You have obtained incomplete information about the Nether Sea Wanderer

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Although these skeletal fish seemed unable to do anything to the large ships in front, they were relentless against Da Fei's Medium Ship, ramming the bottom of the ship with thuds like "-1!" "-2!" pounding incessantly!

Dammit! I knew it, a Medium Ship sucks! Then let's fight, fire at me!

For a moment, the cannons on Radiant Wings roared, and water splashed high around Octopus! Amidst Octopus's rocking, Da Fei's heart also jumped with shock! Dammit, don't hit me please!

Just then, the rainbow light enveloping the fleet suddenly flickered, and a dark crimson arc surged up, replacing the rainbow and enveloping the entire fleet!

—System Prompt: Your "God of Luck" status has ended. As the price for squandering luck, from now on, you will enter a one-month state of "Absolute Misfortune"!

Da Fei's eyelid twitched, the Absolute Misfortune the Gambling God mentioned! Da Fei hurriedly checked his Luck attribute, Luck Value $-\infty$! Negative infinity! What? This means no lucky charms could save me now?

The effects of misfortune were immediate. As another volley of Crossbow Arrows whistled down, all sorts of missed shots and halved damages, skewed damages scrolled across the screen, the Damage Values were pitiful to see! (Note: Skewed damage refers to "shooting askew," causing less than normal damage. Attacking underwater enemies or enemies with a Magic Shield usually results in skewed damage.)

Damn it! Da Fei is devastated!

Anyway, under the desperate cover of Radiant Wings, under the full-on spear attacks from the crew of Octopus, and through the crew's rapid repairs, the fleet finally, though painfully, dealt with the first wave of enemies they encountered in the Nether Sea.

Da Fei had a profound understanding of the power of Absolute Misfortune! It guarantees a hundred percent chance of negative status effects, and also halves and skews the damage!

How can you even fight with that? Lucky it was just these weaklings, if it were strong ones it would've been even worse, right?

It seems that the only way is to let Anlicia take the lead by transforming into Skira Leviathan without fighting. Though this means the team needs to be rearranged, I'll take command of Radiant Wings, and join Anlicia on the same ship, while Catherine reluctantly takes over the Medium Ship.

After the crew's adjustment, the fleet set sail once again.

By the way, this is the first time Da Fei is sailing on Radiant Wings, right? Although this ship has joined the Chamber of Commerce, Da Fei doesn't own it and can't see its attributes apart from knowing that

Radiant Wings has 100,000 Durability. Likewise, he can't see other attributes of Whale Hunter besides its 130,000 Durability, especially not the speed attribute, which is truly frustrating!

Of course, this is a normal setting for a Chamber of Commerce. Even if a player joins a Guild, the Guild Leader can only see the player's level and not their specific attributes. A ship is the player's personal equipment and property, and whether it's a player or an NPC that joins a Chamber of Commerce with a ship, it falls under personal privacy. The speed of a sailing ship has always been the highest secret of the Chamber of Commerce or navy.

But knowing Durability and Defense is already pretty good; at least there's some foundation for arranging tactics. 100,000 Durability is equivalent to a big BOSS's level. This kind of health is neither too much nor too little. Of course, a ship's Durability is an architectural attribute, which has defensive bonuses against Light Weapons, which is something a BOSS creature can't compete with.

Suddenly, Whale Hunter made a loud clang! Da Fei's screen burst into red light!

—System Prompt: Warning! The bottom of the fleet's Whale Hunter has fractured, which is likely to cause the entire ship to break apart and sink! Immediate reduction of load and repair are necessary!

Da Fei's heart shook! 130,000 Durability, just talking about sinking? What the hell, how could this be happening? Damn it! Of course, it's that convenient with Absolute Misfortune!

Da Fei rushed out of the Cockpit, and ran into the Order Flag Bearer. The Bearer hastily said, "Urgent message from Captain Spielberg, the ship has suffered severe damage, we must stop the ship and reduce the load!"

Da Fei exclaimed, "What is reducing the load?"

The Bearer said, "It means throwing the cargo we're carrying into the sea and abandon it!"

—Argh! Da Fei spewed blood! What did he struggle so hard for? How could he possibly abandon it! His ship has a capacity of 2000 units, accounting for two-thirds of the entire fleet. If his ship ditched the cargo, then this trip was for nothing!

Da Fei frantically cried out, "Stop the ship! Stop the ship! Let's talk after we stop!"

The fleet halted its advance, and Da Fei hurriedly boarded a small boat to approach the listing Whale Hunter. The sailors of the Whale Hunter were fervently passing buckets, scooping out the seawater that gushed continuously from the cracks in the ship's bottom!

Upon boarding, Da Fei encountered the anxiously distraught Spielberg: "Mr. Spielberg, what happened?"

Spielberg hurriedly said: "Whale catchers are not dedicated cargo ships after all; my cargo hold is big, but it's meant for storing entire whales, so it doesn't have the intermediate layers like ordinary cargo ships that can distribute the load across multiple levels to reduce pressure. The consequence is that my ship's bottom has to bear the full pressure of the cargo! Although indeed risky, I did not expect it to fail so quickly!"

Da Fei immediately realized that misfortune was not unfounded—it was indeed a vulnerability he had overlooked!

Da Fei anxiously said: "Does this mean, sir, we must jettison the cargo?"

Spielberg shook his head and heaved a deep sigh: "I know it's a painfully tough decision; I wouldn't want to do it either if I were the captain, but given the current situation, if we don't jettison... Oh..."

At that moment, Catherine boarded as well, and she said solemnly: "There is still one method left—the most common tactic used by pirates!"

Da Fei's eyes lit up: "Towing?"

Catherine nodded sternly, "Exactly, towing! Pirates sometimes have to go through intense battles with cannon fire to subdue their prey, but by that time, the prey is heavily damaged and sinking. That's when the pirates would tow the ship back to base!"

Da Fei was overjoyed: "Right! Towing is the only navigation skill that can save an allied vessel from sinking!"

Spielberg exclaimed in shock: "If that's the case, then our entire fleet will have no speed to speak of; how will we survive in this peril-ridden Nether Sea?"

Exactly! This was the big problem! But at this point, of course, we must deal with problems as they arise! If it comes to it, we will have to abandon it!

Da Fei took a deep breath, patted Spielberg on the shoulder, and said: "Sir, do you have confidence in me? Even if you have no hope for the prospects of this journey, at least you should have confidence in my financial resources, right? I assure you, if anything goes wrong, I'll compensate you with a new ship!"

Spielberg's complexion twitched - he agonizingly shook his head: "But this ship of mine... it's an advanced ship... How could I bear to lose it..."

Catherine chuckled: "Anyway, with your current abilities, you can't manage this ship, so you might as well use this crisis at sea as an opportunity to improve. Once you get through this crisis, your abilities will naturally improve. With the captain's ship-building divine artifact in hand, obtaining a ship is never a problem!"

Damn! That's why she's my wife, always watching out for her husband! She even knows how to use my ship-building divine artifact for crisis management!

Da Fei quickly nodded and said firmly: "That's right, there's currently a Leviathan soul and a Narwhal King soul inside the divine artifact; the new ship will be absolutely top-notch! Once the new ship is completed, you'll be named captain!"

Spielberg's eyelid twitched as he grimly said: "Fine! I believe in the captain! Let's tow it then, but I'll still stay on board to supervise the repairs and direct water drainage!"

Catherine said earnestly: "However, to tow such a huge and fully-loaded ship without letting it disintegrate is beyond the captain's abilities; it has to be me, a professional pirate, who will steer the Radiant Wings."

Da Fei raised an eyebrow: "Then who's going to pilot the Octopus?"

Damn! The fleet can't fight anymore; we can only intimidate with transformation magic combination skills. Anlicia and I can't leave, so maybe—

All eyes were suddenly focused on Selvia!

Selvia burst with excitement: "Really? Can I pilot a ship by myself?"

Ha! The reaction is just like when I let Anlicia sail alone for the first time! If you want to pilot a ship, just say it!

Da Fei quickly seizes the opportunity to pat her head: "That's right, it's up to you!"

Selvia excitedly said: "I want to learn navigation skills! And master them!"

No way! Your Magic Hero Skill Points are precious! How can you learn navigation skills!

Da Fei could not help but smile wryly: "Well, there's no need; the ship's speed will be dreadfully slow once we start towing, you won't get lost even if you don't learn navigation skills!"

Selvia's expression darkened!

Da Fei's heart skipped a beat—damn, Little Baby is showing attitude! Wait a minute! Is this her first time actively asking to learn a skill? Could this be a critical moment for growth? Anyway, I lost a lot of her loyalty the last time with the divine artifact wand. If I fail to satisfy her again, who knows what irreversible consequences might happen?

Well then, let's learn it. After all, she's the daughter of a Sailing Captain. Oh, right, her father's remains are still on Miracle Island, aren't they? If I manage to escape from Miracle Island, I'll bring her there to collect the remains and boost her loyalty.

Now that Selvia is level 33, she was level 20 when I first recruited her - a Nun Master, a Light Magic Master, and then all five sub-skills under each were maxed out, using up 20 skill points. Then, out of curiosity, I added one point to her Basic Leadership Skill, and when she reached level 30, she specialized in Meditation Skill and all five of its sub-skills, leaving 3 skill points remaining. Let's just go straight to Advanced then!

Da Fei had no choice but to take out the navigation skill book, and a continuous flash of gold light followed.

—System Prompt: You have spent 3 Free Skill Points to teach Vice Hero Selvia Advanced Navigation Skill!

Only then did Selvia's face brighten, and she joyfully exclaimed: "I'm off now! I'm the world's first nun captain; watch me!" With that said, she eagerly boarded a small boat headed straight for the Octopus.

Da Fei sighed inwardly. It's all in your hands now. I hope the 3 precious skill points I invested into her won't be in vain. If the future is promising, I'll continue to invest up to Master Level!