

God level 941

Chapter 941: Crab Sea Tidal Offensive

Beijing time, 10:30 in the morning, Nether Sea. Da Fei's forward reconnaissance Blood Eagle has reached the Crab Sea, and from a distance, the sea surface appears red and yellow, a bright spot in the dim gray tone of the Nether Sea.

As the Blood Eagle flew closer, Da Fei realized it was a large shallow water area filled with giant Sea Monster bones. The red and yellow colors were the sand under the water, not more than half a person's height deep; it's like the Maldives under the moonlight.

Such a shallow water area means large warships can't penetrate, and even large Sea Monsters can't do much. Looking at the huge bones on the shoal and the massive gray crabs under the water, Da Fei immediately thought of the phrase "dragon trapped in shallow waters"!

This is troublesome. If there's going to be a battle, they'll have to give up the advantages of warships and send troops to wade and land? What the hell! This is a pure masochistic pain! Last time, when the Guild members and I did the mission to find the sunken Jade Dragon ship, we landed on a shoal and were surrounded by a group of Fishmen. The rear ships almost got taken out by the Fishman BOSS.

That lucky battle left a psychological shadow on Da Fei; he doesn't want to land at all. Even the US Empire, invincible, looks pathetic in infantry battles once they land, right? Anyway, let's check the goods first. We're here to loot, not to kill crabs.

Soon, the Blood Eagle discovered a shimmering red sand hill deep in the sandbank, surrounded by countless crabs, with many more crabs transporting red sandstones to the hill.

Da Fei's eyebrows twitched! There's treasure! Though he doesn't know what it is, it must be a rare underground resource.

However, sending troops to wade such a distance to plunder is madness! Unless they take a small boat directly to the sand hill's foot. The Flying, with its four lifeboats, only has a carrying capacity of ten units, which is just a waste of effort and wouldn't help check the enemy at all.

At this moment, another flash of red light appeared in the Blood Eagle's vision, revealing another red-glowing sand hill in the distance.

What? There are two more? Moving with a small boat to grab resources would be nothing but scratching an itch!

Then, the third and fourth sand hills were discovered by the Blood Eagle, along with medium-ship-sized giant crabs in the water, armored like tanks in the water, the Lanxiang among excavators! These are the apparent strengths of the Crab Sea, and those suspected giant crabs lurking in the sand haven't even been carefully excavated yet!

In short, this is definitely not something Da Fei intends to oppose by landing.

At this time, Da Fei recalled the landing on the sunken Jade Dragon, wasn't there a tide back then? So, is there a tide here?

There's a moon here, so there must be tides, right?

Da Fei hurriedly asked Catherine, "Is there a tide here in the Nether Sea?"

Catherine nodded, "Yes! But it's very different from the surface world's tides of day and night. Here, it rises once at full moon, falls once at waning moon, happening twice a night. There are 17 minutes to full moon, and the tide is coming!"

Da Fei's brows twitched: "You observe so meticulously, huh?"

Catherine sighed, "Whether as a Navy General or as a Captain, mastering the rules of the tide is essential."

What the hell, I've heard this somewhere before? Okay, as long as the tide rises.

Da Fei immediately said, "I want to observe the tide to see if the water level rise would allow our warship to launch a tidal robbery attack. What do you think?"

Catherine hesitated for a moment before shaking her head: "I think there's no need to observe; it's a delay. We're already close to enemy forces, and the longer we stay, the easier it is for our actions to be exposed. I suggest we get ready to launch the tidal attack first. If we find the tide doesn't support the action, then we abandon the operation! It's better to call Yasoro, he knows what to do!"

Da Fei nodded repeatedly, "Yes, yes, call him here!"

So at the summon of Da Fei's flagship, Yasoro rowed over on a paddle-driven small boat to join the meeting. He jumped on board and complained, "City Lord, your meetings are such a hassle. Can you install a Teleportation Array on my flagship too?"

Catherine snorted, "A Teleportation Array costs 20 million Gold Coins, and your broken ship isn't worth 20 million Gold Coins!"

Da Fei cleared his throat: "Miss Hilda isn't here, I can't do anything about it. Anyway, let's talk about this action plan. Our goal this time is to seize the red sand mountain built by the giant crabs—"

Yasoro snapped his fingers and laughed heartily, "I love stealing stuff the most! I've been itching for two months without stealing anything, go on, boss!"

Damn! Can you not interrupt? Da Fei continued: "I want to launch the tidal attack in 17 minutes—"

"Got it!" Yasoro waved his hand, interrupting Da Fei again, his expression turning much more serious: "This operation is most suitable for my fleet; our sail and oar ships have the shallowest draft and fastest attack speed! But, City Lord's ship is obviously unsuitable! First, sail ships have a deep draft. Second, your sailboat is already heavily loaded with cargo, making it even deeper. Third, once a sailboat reaches shallow waters, it will slow down, not to mention that huge Jade Dragon ship; when the tide goes out, you won't even have time to escape before it runs aground, understand, boss?"

Da Fei was dumbfounded!

Catherine nodded, "You have a point!"

Yasoro wagged his finger: "So, City Lord's task is to engage early on the periphery, attracting the crabs' main force attention, while my fleet will flank and, if I deem the tide conditions meet our needs, we'll follow the tide to seize the sand hill. In other words, City Lord's task is to cover me, understood, boss?"

Da Fei's jaw dropped! Damn it! You're turning around and giving me assignments now, who's the boss here?

Catherine nodded, "You have a point!"

Fine, you're impressive! Da Fei helplessly shook his head, "Okay, let's do that, then you'll flank them!"

However, completely following his lead made Da Fei feel uneasy, so he added, "But be careful of your movements, such a large fleet of yours shouldn't be discovered prematurely."

Yasoro laughed heartily, "As long as the boss covers us from the front, it'll be hard to spot me!"

After speaking, he grabbed the flag from a flag-bearer and waved it at the pirate fleet. Instantly, the sailors on each pirate ship pulled out several rolls of glossy oil-cloths, climbed the masts, and spread them, transforming each pirate ship into a large mobile tent under the cloth's cover!

Da Fei's brow twitched, "What is this?"

Yasoro smugly smiled at the equally puzzled Catherine, "Girl, never seen it before, right? Never played this, have you? Wait for uncle to show you!"

Catherine fumed, "You!"

Yasoro laughed and jumped back to the small boat, "See you in Fatalon after the job is done!"

Damn it! Alright, let's see your real skills, as long as you're capable, I don't mind you being cocky, Brother Tian likes it!

Now, the pirate fleet began flanking with the tent overhead, soon blending into the map and completely disappearing from Da Fei's view.

Da Fei suddenly realized, this was how I fell into his ambush back then. Fine! You're skilled, and I like that!

Meanwhile, Da Fei's three warships, with the Jade Dragon as the core, began ferociously heading towards the Crab Sea. An intense battle is about to unfold!

Chapter 942: Even Crabs Know the Art of Diversion

The Yasoro Fleet's maneuver began stealthily, while Da Fei's Radiant and Jade Dragon openly sailed to the Giant Crab Sea Shallows. Instantly, a large group of half-human tall giant crabs gathered behind the gigantic bone pile fortifications, well-armored and prepared.

As Da Fei's fleet approached, the opponent retreated, giving no chance for Da Fei's crossbow cannons and archers to shoot.

Now the fleet's hulls have bottomed on the sand and can't get any closer. The opponent clearly intends to wait for Da Fei's landing battle, without any plans to attack.

It must be said, very cunning! If it were a typical player with typical shipborne units, they would be entirely at their mercy! But Da Fei has already entered the era of top-tier naval aviation forces, and will not conform to their wishes.

Da Fei waved his hand, and a rowing lifeboat was lowered from the Radiant Wings. Da Fei personally led the team with Elena sitting in the boat. As for the troops, it was undoubtedly the close-combat angel sailor corps and the long-range sea demon army. With Da Fei's godlike attribute bonuses, even a mere archer dealing a few points of damage could perform miracles, let alone the astonishingly leveled-up angels!

The lifeboat approached, and the giant crabs remained unmoved, yet did not retreat any further, as such a vast force obviously would not be scared off by a mere lifeboat.

Fine if you don't retreat, you won't have time to retreat again!

With a grand gesture, Da Fei summoned the angel and sea demon troops from the boat into the air, falling into the crab formation. Various lights of stamina, recovery, and lifesteal surged in succession, as the supposedly formidable giant crabs crumbled before the angels' absolute power, and the long-awaited clearing began again!

Da Fei's pre-battle tension eased instantly with this initial skirmish. Ultimately, although the Nether Sea is high-end and perilous, it is ultimately on par with the hell of Divine Punishment City. What the angel BOSS could crush there, he could crush here as well.

Even more gratifying was that his Temple Crusader gained the extraordinary special skill "Punish Evil," increasing damage to dark creatures by 50%. This was also effective here, not to mention the Ultimate Sea Monster Hunter skill boosting damage to sea monsters by 20%. This place is more suitable for him than even hell!

That is to say, under the situation of being cursed by the Sea God, with a distant solution, the Nether Sea is indeed the direction he should focus his full efforts on. Could he open up a passage straight from the Nether Sea to the New Oriental?

In that instant, Da Fei thought of many things. Just as thoughts were racing through his mind, thick white smoke began to emanate from every dead giant crab, gathering toward the hull of the Radiant Wings.

No need to say, this is the soul-absorbing reaction of the Radiant Wings possessed by Renior. Only the density of the white smoke from these giant crabs seems to surpass regular sea monsters?

Just then, Da Fei suddenly noticed that Selvia, in a weakened state, was also standing on the deck of the Radiant Wings, waving the Sea Soul Staff in an attempt to absorb the white smoke. However, her efforts were in vain, as the white smoke was entirely absorbed by the hull of the Radiant Wings and not the Sea Soul Staff.

Come on, this blatant grain-snatching behavior, is it okay? Or is it that the Sea Soul Staff's absorption range isn't as good as Renior's?

"It's Death Energy!" Elena said calmly. "These white smokes are not souls; they don't fall within the Sea Soul Staff's absorption range!"

Da Fei's brow twitched: "I see, in Greek mythology, crabs are associated with death, with a habit of collecting death energy."

Elena nodded: "Moreover, the current state of the Radiant Wings is similar to that of a Necromancer Death Knight, with a considerable craving for death energy and souls. I believe after these large-scale absorptions, it should undergo substantial enhancement."

Indeed, ever since absorbing Skira's power in that battle long ago, Renior has been in a deep slumber for too long. It's time for him to awaken and contribute, but until then, it's a relentless harvest!

Now, Da Fei's Sea and Air Soldier Corps began sweeping along the shallow waters. As for the enemy who had landed on the reefs, there was no reason for the crabs to continue retreating, as more and more crabs, hundreds to thousands in number, began to encircle Da Fei.

No refusal for any arrivals.

Five minutes passed, the silver moon in the sky was about to become full, and Da Fei felt the tide starting to rise. Let it rise more fiercely.

At that moment, a flash of red light appeared on the map, and a huge red dot emerged from the sand, revealing a massive crab the size of a medium ship, stepping on a gray Hero Aura, a hero appears! Under the enhancement of the hero's attack and defense skills, the crabs were no longer one-hit kills, bringing a bit of challenge to the battle!

Da Fei's heart tightened, instinctively pulling back the troops to first test the opponent's attack and defense attributes. If the opponent's attack and defense are higher than his, he would retreat to the ship at any time, prepared for guerrilla tactics.

Correct, though Da Fei considers his attributes superior among players, it's better to stay humble in front of these unidentified epic, legendary, or even mythical-level NPC heroes.

But Da Fei still couldn't test it. The frontline had over twenty Power Angels with long weapon special skills, mutual splintered support, and rear sea demons striking with Flame Chains. Though these crabs weren't one-hit kills, they were already severely wounded, unable to charge to Da Fei's forces.

The situation remained one-sided in Da Fei's favor. Could this crab hero be so mediocre? Da Fei had a strong impulse to have his troops directly air drop in front of the foe for a beheading!

But no! Patience and caution are paramount! Only the disadvantaged side makes a desperate gamble, while the advantaged side would be reckless to risk. Just follow the original plan.

The battle continued into the tenth minute, an indescribably tense ten minutes during which Da Fei couldn't remember how many little crabs he'd killed. The tide had inundated the angel troops' thighs, yet their combat power remained unaffected. For regular human soldiers, the tide over their heads would lead to instability and a sharp decline in combat power. This was the advantage of large-scale troops, so continue killing.

And it was at this moment, an alarm rang on the Blood Eagle Radar, showing a large area of red dots suddenly surfacing from the sea behind the fleet, an array of much larger elite crabs!

Da Fei was shocked, his jaw dropping. So they too knew how to feint an attack from the rear! This was an attempt to either pierce the ship or board it! This was troublesome! A sailboat is not a motorboat; it can't flee just like that. If they attacked from beneath the sea, detection would be too late.

Then we will fight it!

Da Fei hurriedly paddled back the small boat, retreating the angel troops back to the ship for support. Meanwhile, the crab hero furiously pursued, thousands of crabs' shells colliding, producing an overwhelming battlefield sound as though a massive wave was surging!

Moreover, Da Fei realized his small boat might not make it back, certainly to be intercepted and taken down by the surfacing crabs!

But it's okay! A naval battle is like a castle defense; the commander revives in the Captain's Cabin without disbanding the troops. It doesn't matter if I die.

Fine, I'll paddle the small boat to annoy and distract you! Let these slow crabs know the F1 speed of a God-level Navigator piloting a small boat!

Meanwhile, Anlicia kicked several barrels overboard from the deck, darkening the sea beneath.

—System Prompt: Captain Anlicia of the Radiant Wings has cast God-level Arcane "Ink Barrier"!

—System Prompt: Ink Barrier has polluted an area of 100 meters radius around the caster, putting enemies into a blinding and scent-loss state.

In that instant, the entire sea surface turned pitch black!

Da Fei's brow twitched, this was from when we went to Fire Dragon Island, killing the first octopus sea monster in the Floating Ice Sea, and Anlicia independently developed this God-level Arcane skill from collecting ink! I didn't expect it to now have a scent-loss effect as well; she's improving as well!

But it wasn't over; a flash of magic light sparkled in Anlicia's hand again!

—System Prompt: Captain Anlicia of the Radiant Wings has cast God-level Arcane "Illusion Army" on you!

In an instant, several illusionists identical to Da Fei's small rowing boat appeared around him, and every boat had a Da Fei and an Elena!

Could she create so many illusions at once? Da Fei was utterly astonished!

And it didn't stop there, each "Da Fei" on the small boats burst into laughter, frantically rowing in all directions!

They could talk to disrupt the opponent's hearing! Da Fei was impressed! This was clearly to help him get back on board for a more enjoyable fight.

Chapter 943: Rocket Angel Deploys

Ink, illusions are ready, to react so quickly in such an unfavorable sudden situation, this is already the limit of Da Fei's current setup. Now the enemy is in the open while we are in the dark, and what's left is to further create chaos in the blinding confusion.

The Sea Demon Army dove into the water, focusing their fire on those larger, confused giant crabs. A string of low damage values like "-16", "-17", "-15" appeared in a line!

Such low damage sent a chill down Da Fei's spine! I've got a 50% damage bonus from the Temple Crusader against the Undead, and a 20% boost from the Ultimate Sea Monster Hunter! Without those bonuses, wouldn't the damage be in the single digits?

No doubt, aside from the elite giant crab's own strong attributes, this sneak attack squad is also led by a hero, their god-like defense and defense skills completely neutralized my proud high attack of over 300! And for such an obviously attack-defense type creature, this race's hero must also be a high attack-defense type. Da Fei could imagine how much damage their excavator-like giant claws could inflict on the ship's hull.

In any case, quickly escape amid the chaos, believing that once in deep sea, the crabs' pitiful swimming speed won't catch up.

As for the elite giant crab, though my damage is low now, my attack speed is fast, and I have numbers, a round of focused fire is 800 total damage, I'll see how many thousands of health it can withstand against my several rounds!

Then, after two rounds of attack, a bizarre scene unfolded. Perhaps this giant crab was running low on health, or maybe it was blinded by the ink and couldn't find the attacker's direction, it sank immediately, burrowed into the sand on the seabed, and vanished from sight!

Da Fei was stunned on the spot!

What the heck, this is too sneaky! Does it mean they burrowed through the sand for the sneak attack just now?

But anyway, Da Fei got some understanding of the giant crabs' behavior, and immediately switched the target to another giant crab, "sinking" the next one, then proceeded to the next target.

At this moment, Da Fei's small boat finally took advantage of the chaos and returned to the Radiant Wings, the ladder hoist immediately pulled Da Fei back aboard.

Anlicia was already impatient: "Captain, let's break through!"

Da Fei immediately said: "Hurry up!"

Anlicia quickly approached the long-missed Dragon Bone Mast, touched the mast, and the long-missed dwarf runes on the mast immediately lit up!

—System Prompt: Radiant Wings activated the "Charge" rune, its speed greatly increased, with the charging process lasting 30 seconds!

In an instant, Radiant Wings jolted, a loud splash roared under the hull as the speed sharply increased, also boosting the speed of the Jade Dragon guided by it!

However, the huge spray from the hull finally alerted the enemy, the bewildered crab swarm finally locked onto the direction, thrashing the water with their eight legs, catching up to the bulky, sluggish Jade Dragon — bang bang bang!!! "-161!" "-153!" "-158!"

A series of tremendous sounds erupted as sheets of damage numbers emerged from the bottom of the Jade Dragon!

Da Fei's eyelid twitched wildly in shock! But never mind, the Jade Dragon has 500,000 health, as long as it reaches the deep sea, my Sea Demon Army can easily abuse them!

But then, an unexpected situation occurred, the speed of the Jade Dragon began to slow down, increasingly unable to keep up with the navigation of the Radiant Wings!

What's going on?

Da Fei urgently directed the Sea Demon troop to check closely, and saw over a dozen elite crabs with their massive pincers deeply embedded into the hull, holding tight and slowing the Jade Dragon's speed!

What the heck! Da Fei hurriedly ordered the Sea Demon to attack and take out the crabs.

But it was ineffective, more and more elite crabs arrived subsequently, causing another cascade of loud bangs, as even more crabs clamped onto the Jade Dragon's hull, forcefully trying to bring the massive hull to a halt!

Da Fei was utterly stunned!

If the Jade Dragon still had a spare lightning reserve, Da Fei wouldn't worry, but the lightning was entirely used up in the battle with the Siren Sea Demon, so now it's down to the ultimate move!

Indeed, it's those 20 Rocket Cannon Blazing Angels! The Blazing Angels themselves might not be daunting, but their ammunition was specially brought back from the Uriel Crystal Factory in the European Union Zone's Divine Punishment Hell, super rare high-energy crystals whose power is undeniably immense.

The crux is, the value of these crystals! Each angel's ammo pack holds 9 units. A Blazing Angel's shot consumes 1-3 crystals, who knows, 1 unit of this crystal could be worth hundreds or thousands of ordinary resources! If these creatures I kill aren't even worth a fraction of the crystal's value, that'd be like the US Empire using a missile to bomb a slum, overly indulgent! Moreover, the most crucial point is that these might be limited edition, once used up, they're gone!

Da Fei gritted his teeth, go big or go home, hold off until they cluster together!

Indeed, Da Fei dared to wait because these crabs were hauling, not wrecking the ship! If their objective was to halt the ship to wreck, Da Fei would definitely strike immediately. Judging by the attacking momentum of the thousands of crabs from the shore, the enemy might attempt to board the ship.

Alright then, let me witness how crabs board a ship!

Now, the Jade Dragon was completely stopped by dozens of elite giant crabs. Simultaneously, the crab hero from the shallows led thousands of crabs, surging towards the Jade Dragon like a tidal wave.

Good, come more, come denser!

At this time, 20 Blazing Angels were already soaring in the high sky, their flame guns poised. They flew high up both to avoid detection and because Da Fei, in his own thought, assumed that the targets were underwater, and ordinary thrown spears might be less effective. Hence Da Fei thought of the WWII German bombers' dive-bombing tactic, which could exponentially boost lethality, and decided to try if the Blazing Angels could do a dive-bomb throw in the game.

Whether it works or not, it's always worth a try.

Nearer, the crab hero led thousands of crabs to swarm closer to the Jade Dragon, these crabs hastily clustered and piled up, soon forming a rising sea of crabs above water, with the incoming crabs stepping on the crab mountain to approach the deck of the Jade Dragon!

Da Fei was genuinely amazed at this spectacle, so that's how it is!

At this time, Catherine urgently said, "Captain, we must act, or the Jade Dragon might be overturned by this crab mountain!"

Elena added, "I will release my three God-level spells in unison after the first wave of attack!"

Catherine also said, "The fire-spitting cannons of my ship will fire all at once in the first instance!"

Da Fei, unable to help feeling excited, said, "Alright, let's do it!"

With a wave of Da Fei's hand, the Blazing Angels roared in a dive from high altitude! Closer, a bit closer! OK, fire!

Twenty streaks of flame shot across the dim sky of the Nether Sea!

At that moment, Da Fei suddenly lost focus, instantly thinking about the hotel's braised crabs! Those are super expensive, unaffordable for regular folks! But, I can afford them now!

—Boom boom boom boom!!! Da Fei's lapse drifted as red light flooded before his eyes! Countless densely packed damage numbers in tens of thousands instantly filled his view! The massive crab mountain exploded in an instant, blasting sounds resounded like thunder over the sea and sky, soaring flames mixed with water vapor and sheets along with countless limbs rose high, with the enormous body of the Jade Dragon seemingly leaping out of the explosive water surge!

What an astonishing bombardment! A feeling that surpasses any exhilarating experience in hell!

Da Fei knew he had won, that with high-tech weaponry it was impossible not to win, now it's up to the tides and Yasoro. Haha, wahahaha!

Chapter 944: Ghost Ship Hero, Renior Revived!

Under the bombardment of the Blazing Angel's Hell Crystal Rocket Cannon, thousands of giant crabs piled into a crab mountain collapsed with a boom. Elena's Big Ice Seal Skill, Blast Technique, and the Radiant Wings' Fire-spitting Cannon followed closely behind, while the Sea Demon Troop and the shooter corps on the Jade Dragon unleashed their full firepower amid the chaos to harvest the blood-soaked enemies.

As the battle reached this moment, victory was inevitable. In the murky sea water, a subtle yet meaningful glow shone brilliantly at the bottom, where the heavily scarred, ice-encrusted crab hero attempted to burrow away.

Da Fei laughed, waving his hand, and the entire Sea Demon Troop darted forward like torpedoes to finish him off, and then what should happen finally occurred:

—System Prompt: The battle has ended! You have defeated the Corpse-eating Giant Crab Hero Klapo's Heroic Legion, earning 11.46 million experience points and loot: S-level treasure "Nether Sea Night Pearl" ×1, B-level loot "Nether Sea Pearl" ×77.

—Nether Sea Night Pearl: S-level treasure, enhancement item, can be embedded in any of your protective gear to increase your personal attribute "reduce the effect of dark creatures' special skills by 75%." This item can only be used once. Embedded equipment will not affect upgrades.

—Nether Sea Pearl: B-level treasure, enhancement item, can be embedded in any of your protective gear to increase your personal attribute "reduce the effect of dark creatures' special skills by 20%." This item can only be used once. Embedded equipment will not affect upgrades.

—System Prompt: Congratulations! You have achieved victory in the 21st battle, receiving a Command Power reward of +10.

—System Prompt: Congratulations! You have achieved victory in the 15th glorious battle, receiving a Command Power reward of +20, and Personal Life +20.

—System Prompt: Congratulations! Your Vice Hero Elena has successfully upgraded to level 41!

—System Prompt: Congratulations! Your Vice Hero Alicia has successfully upgraded to level 45!

—System Prompt: Congratulations! Your Vice Hero Selvia has successfully upgraded to level 47!

—System Prompt: Congratulations! Your Vice Heroine, Katelina has successfully upgraded to level 46!

—System Prompt: Your Contract Angel, Power Angel Anvil, has absorbed your experience points, gaining growth potential, Attack +5, Life +100, Mana +10.

—System Prompt: Your Contract Angel, Power Angel Nerxia, has absorbed your experience points, gaining growth potential, Defense +5, Life +50, Mana +80.

—System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Selvia's Contract Angel, Wisdom Angel Elifel, has absorbed the growth experience points, gaining growth potential, Defense +5, Life +50, Mana +80.

—System Prompt: The battle has ended! Congratulations! After the baptism of battle, your Natural Guardian Army Order has successfully risen to level 3, gaining Legion Attribute Attack +2, Defense +2, and acquiring the legion special skill "Intermediate Light Protection."

—Intermediate Light Protection: Creatures in the legion are shielded by Light Power, reducing the curse strike effects of dark creatures by 15%.

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The battle is over, upgrades achieved, achievements obtained, and legion special skills gained! Amidst the flood of system messages, Da Fei's primary concern was the spoils of war.

Of course, even if there is no loot comparable to the Hell Treasured Crystal, it doesn't matter. Even if the tides cannot be used to launch a robbery, the significance of this victory itself cannot be measured by items; one only needs to demonstrate sincerity in cooperating with the Necromancer Dragon.

When Da Fei saw the attributes of the Nether Sea Night Pearl and a large pile of Nether Sea Pearls, he couldn't help but pause. Another enhancement-type item! What difference does this reduction in dark creature special effects have with the recently upgraded legion special skills? It should be the same feature, right? It should be stackable, right?

And this legion special skill is only at intermediate now; surely it will have intermediate and advanced levels after upgrading, right? Meaning, while the legion upgrade's attack and defense bonuses may not be substantial, the power lies in the legion special skill, equivalent to giving the entire legion more skills. If fifty-something pearls are embedded in the Angels' Dragon Blood Armor, then the Angel Army would truly be a nemesis to the undead!

Da Fei understood he should have made a good deal in this battle. He finally realized why the Necromancer Dragon wasn't fond of the Giant Crab Clan. These giant crabs were the nemesis to the undead, especially for relying on various aging and evasive techniques to counter the Necromancer Dragon.

If I could cripple the Giant Crab Clan and then recruit them into our partnership, wouldn't my conquest of the Nether Sea gain a significant boost? At this moment, Da Fei was deep in contemplation.

Meanwhile, Radiant Wings was like a giant smoke extractor, frantically absorbing the battlefield's white fog and death energy. Simultaneously, the sound of crashing waves was heard from the horizon, the silver moon was full, and the tide was finally rising.

To prevent the sailboat from being washed into the rocky area by the tide, Radiant Wings and the Jade Dragon immediately set sail towards the deep sea. The next step was to rely on Yasoro. Not only did I help him draw enemy fire, but I also wiped out an entire Heroic Legion for him. With so many ships and soldiers, if he can't handle this, there's really no excuse.

Now, to prepare for any possible ensuing challenges, Da Fei embedded the first pearl into the Angels' Dragon Blood Armor. As the armor flashed with black light, an additional attribute appeared—this item is indeed incredible! It's a pity they're all B-level; it seems this S-level Nether Sea Night Pearl is worthy of being my Divine Artifact.

Alright, quickly upgrade the equipment for the entire Angel Army. Just as Da Fei was busy, the World Channel made an announcement:

—China Region Announcement: Warm congratulations! Southeast Asia Region and South America Region officially launched with grandeur, adding another 20 million new players globally to the Heroic Creation Era family...

—World Channel: The New World National War Zone will officially open to all regions worldwide in 10 days. Players are encouraged to prepare for entering the New World. Starting immediately, the official website will release the already public New World atlas, monster index, force listings, and players are advised to take note.

Instantly, tycoon players on the World Channel were in an uproar: "Finally waiting for the New World to open, but it's another 10 days!"

"Does this mean Southeast Asia Region and South America Region will catch up to our two months of leveling progress in 10 days?"

"They opened a free hanging system in the mall, thinking others!"

"Stop arguing, with your skills, entering the National War Zone will surely only lead to giving foreigners your equipment and dying. Better grab the chance now to cling to the experts!"

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Da Fei couldn't help but feel a bit anxious, ten days! It takes me at least a week just to travel through the Eastern World, not to mention possibly going to Fire Dragon Island, and I also need to discuss with Makar about how to take over the two gemstone mines in Blood Sea. I simply don't have enough time!

However, seeing the discussions on the World Channel, Da Fei felt somewhat relieved. Come to think of it, the New World is in chaos, and I've already drawn so much animosity; why should I be the first to go there? If others are attacking me day and night, I wouldn't be able to handle it. After all, I'm just a commercial player, not a contestant player.

In short, you all go and have your battles in the New World. I'll stabilize my territory at home first. When you all are exhausted, I'll make my grand entrance!

While contemplating, a long sigh suddenly came from the cabin.

Da Fei was startled: "What is that?"

Anlicia immediately reacted: "Is it Captain Renior?"

From inside the cabin came a hearty laugh: "Indeed, it's me! I've awakened again!"

As he spoke, the shadow of a middle-aged sailor with a big beard, dressed in a captain's uniform, suddenly appeared in front of Da Fei. Man, I've fought four or five major battles in the Nether Sea and killed thousands of Sea Monsters, and I've finally fed you awake!

Da Fei laughed heartily: "Congratulations, Old Captain, did you rest well?"

Renior laughed: "Every time I wake up, it's always in the Nether Sea. Actually, I was ready to never wake up again. How many years have I rested?"

Anlicia laughed: "Not even half a year!"

Renior praised: "Choosing to collaborate with a warrior was truly a wise decision. Alright, I'll show everyone the results of my dormancy!"

With that, he waved his hand, and the entire ship, Radiant Wings, flashed with black light, and a faint black glow immediately emanated around the ship's hull.

Da Fei's eyebrows twitched: "Is this, a Hero Aura?"

Renior laughed with emotion: "Exactly! I absorbed energy from Skira's avatar, plus a large amount of Undead Energy, and finally restored my heroic status! But I'm a Ghost Ship, so I'm a Ghost Ship Hero. My hero attributes only affect the Ghost Ship—not ordinary, lifeless, and levelless ships—so I don't even know how to define myself, but at least I can enhance myself."

Da Fei was stunned: "So, it's a building-type hero!"

Renior was surprised: "Building-type? You've seen it?"

Da Fei laughed: "Of course! The Nasir Ancient Tree is one! As soon as I saw him, I thought the captain might grow into a similar hero, and it turns out to be true!"

As they were talking, the Teleportation Array flashed, and Katelina and Selvia hurriedly came over to visit: "Jade Dragon's Defense +100, light weapon damage -5, and Durability can Self-Heal!"

Da Fei was overjoyed: "Is this the Old Captain's hero attribute?"

Renior was also surprised: "I didn't expect such a large friendly ship of yours to also be a Ghost Ship?"

Everyone marveled at each other and burst into laughter.

Renior said with emotion: "A warrior always surprises me. However, my Hero Aura is not permanent; it consumes my stored energy. I suggest turning it off when not in battle. Alright, in gratitude for the surprises the warrior has given me, I shall continue to sleep and store my strength, but it's different now: whenever the warrior or this Captain Miss Anlicia has something, you can ring the bell in the cockpit to call me."

Katelina hurriedly asked: "Our next battle is in the dark sea under the Arctic Ice Cap; can the Old Captain lead the way?"

Renior was amazed: "There's a sea under the Arctic Ice Cap? This is my first time hearing that. Excellent, be sure to wake me up then! I'll go to sleep. Good night!"

Everyone cheered! Da Fei felt even more relieved, knowing that with this experienced captain leading the way, even the Arctic was nothing to fear!

Just then, five fireworks shot up in the distance and exploded with a bang, is that Yasoro?

Katelina chuckled: "He succeeded, 5000 units of cargo! That's a signal for us to hit the road quickly."

Da Fei was overjoyed: "That much?"

Katelina shook her head and sighed: "Not much, a large Sail and Oar Ship only has a cargo hold of about 500 units."

Is that so! But won't having enough ships solve that? Now Da Fei was delighted upon delighted, full of luck and high-spirited, he waved grandly: "Return to Fatalon!"

With the opening of the new zone, entertainment media from various countries conducted intensive and heated coverage during this period.

The U.S. Supernova Team's lower-level pioneering team, the Japan pioneering team, and the UK pioneering team logged into the game at the first opportunity under their respective national player identities, following fast leveling strategies to kickstart the colonial frenzy in the new zone. In fact, even ordinary players had already obtained a large number of leveling guides from forums, no longer taking detours or fretting over which Vice Hero might hold them back.

At this time, among these ordinary players were a large group of people who were anything but ordinary.

Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam. All the medium and high-end internet cafes were reserved by newly established university student esports teams, with security guards stationed at the gates day and night to keep idlers outside.

These were not ordinary teams, but a secret cyber army. Specifically, two months after Heroic Creation Era went online, the Vietnamese government saw the vast market potential and decided to form a standardized organization to recruit patriotic university students on a large scale. This was to address employment issues among university and social youth, while also trying to create a new source of foreign exchange. Of course, this also reflects Vietnam's ambitious aim to become the esports overlord of the Southeast Asia Region and even to secure a strong position in the global arena.

In other words, unlike other countries where professional teams and clubs are typically commercial organizations with private or semi-official backgrounds, Vietnam had military involvement, fundamentally differing from other nations, which highlights the importance Vietnam attached to this game.

Here, let's take a moment to briefly introduce Vietnam.

Since ancient times, Vietnam has been a vassal state of China. Yes, since ancient times. So not only has the South China Sea been indisputably Chinese territory, but Vietnam could also just about qualify as such since ancient times.

Then, during the Qing Dynasty, Vietnam was occupied by the French and became a French colony. However, the Qing Army did defeat the French troops in Vietnam. What happened afterward is common knowledge, and there's no need to dwell on Qing Dynasty matters.

Decades passed until World War II broke out, Germany swiftly defeated France, and Japan seized the opportunity to occupy Vietnam.

In 1945, after Japan's defeat, the French were released from the POW camps and returned to take control of southern Vietnam. Northern Vietnam was handed over to Hu Zhiming by the Chinese army receiving the Japanese surrender.

This marked the beginning of the North-South standoff in Vietnam.

A lot happened later. First, Old Jiang called the Chinese troops back for a battle, and the French took advantage to seize Northern Vietnam, pushing Hu Zhiming back into the jungle to fight guerrilla warfare. After the establishment of New China in 1949, Hu Zhiming received training, tactics, and substantial material support from China to drive out the French. The North-South situation entered a period of détente.

Then, under North Vietnam's unification offensive, South Vietnam sought backing from the U.S. Empire, which even rolled up its sleeves to join the fray, in what became the famous Vietnam War, lasting from 1955 to 1975. This war, with the full support of China and the Soviet Union, exhausted the U.S. Empire's economy and caused them 300,000 casualties, introducing the world to Vietnam and the legendary AK47.

Ultimately, with the U.S. Empire's withdrawal, North Vietnam achieved a grand victory, leading to the reunification of North and South in 1975.

During this period, the relationship between Vietnam's two supportive big brothers, the Soviet Union and China, began to sour. Under great pressure from the Soviet Union, the U.S. Empire also acknowledged China's significant influence in regional affairs, leading to diplomatic relations between China and the U.S. in 1972. The reasons are not elaborated on here; it's all due to the capricious Xiaofu.

In this situation, Vietnam chose to side with the stronger Soviet Union. Naively, Vietnam believed that China establishing diplomatic ties with the U.S. signified a falling-out with it, harboring fear and resentment in its heart.

The Soviet Union, fearful that a populous and vast China was not submitting, needed a strong ally to contain China. Vietnam became such a "strong" ally, posing a north-south pincer attack on China.

Saying Vietnam was strong at that time is not an exaggeration. After 20 years of harsh war, Vietnam had the world's most advanced Soviet equipment, the finest battle-hardened army, and defeating the U.S. Empire's confidence soared to the skies, considering itself "the world's strongest army"!

Vietnam's downside was its small territory and lack of resources, insufficient to completely threaten China. So, with Soviet support, Vietnam promptly annexed Laos and invaded Cambodia, accomplishing the "Indochina Federation" unification action. It even spread the conflict to the China-Vietnam border, eyeing Thailand, posing a huge threat to Southeast Asia's peace.

At that time, Vietnam believed China, having undergone a decade of turmoil, had no combat-ready army, its equipment outdated, weaker than the U.S. Empire's by several grades, not to mention having Soviet backing in the north, making it not worth fearing. For a time, pro-China officials in Vietnam were all sidelined, and Chinese expatriates there were expelled as an anti-China movement swept through Vietnam, with domestic broadcasts extravagantly proclaiming a Chinese invasion threat.

The events that followed are well known. The opponent that the U.S. Empire couldn't subdue in 20 years was rolled back by 200,000 Chinese troops from two border military districts within a month, including one district with combat ability only on a par with a second-tier troop. If not for the Soviet Union organizing all its small partners to strongly condemn China and demand withdrawal, Vietnam might have returned to Chinese rule.

Yet it must be acknowledged, at that time, the "world's strongest army" indeed had grounds to be arrogant, revealing many issues within the Chinese military, significantly prompting its modernization.

After this battle, Vietnam discovered the logistical and organizational weaknesses of the Chinese troops, and unwilling to submit, continued to excel in guerrilla warfare by provoking and harassing the border. The harassment lasted from 1979 until the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991. These ten years were Vietnam's decade of reckless militarism, but indeed it was the golden decade of U.S.-China diplomatic relations and China's reform and opening up, attracting Western investment. However, in Vietnamese textbooks, Vietnam describes this war as a great victory against Chinese invasion.

Then in 1992, Vietnam resumed normal diplomatic relations with China. Having lost its former big brother, the Soviet Union, Vietnam began to adopt a very low-profile approach to learning from China's reform and opening up experience. After 20 years of development, Vietnam has made tremendous progress (compared to before) and has become one of the most successful developing countries in the world.

Moreover, in the cultural market, Vietnam is deeply influenced by China. Shows like "Return of the Pearl Princess" and "Plum Blossom Trilogy" and their own remakes of Chinese dramas are very popular. China's martial arts fantasy MMOs are equally popular in Vietnam.

However, after the war with China, Vietnam once again recalled the terrifying aspects of their powerful northern neighbor, and due to territorial disputes with China over oil and gas resources in the South China Sea, they invested a large part of their income in military armament to guard against China. Their army numbers up to 500,000, making it one of the countries with the largest military forces in the world.

It is worth mentioning that although the Soviet Union disbanded, Russia still maintained its friendly relations with Vietnam from before. This is also the reason Russia sells advanced submarines to Vietnam.

Then, as time entered the 21st century, the United States was deeply mired in the quagmire of the war on terror, and China joining the WTO once again ushered in a golden decade of development, emerging as a world power second only to the United States, and the declining United States also felt the pressure from China. Against the backdrop of the U.S. Empire's strategic return to Asia-Pacific, Japan and Vietnam once again found new opportunities.

Alright, that's all about Vietnam. After reading these over two thousand words, students can score 60 on the related history test.

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The news about the establishment of a "secret" cyber army by Vietnam also quickly reached the professional guilds in China. Yes, as the most capable country in the Southeast Asia Region, Vietnam, just like when internet cafes were first rising in China, has countless internet-addicted youths.

Therefore, China's guild leaders attach great importance to Vietnam. So Star, Dragon Slayer, Ninth Heaven, Royal Family, and Bloodrose once again gathered in the chat room to jointly discuss countermeasures.

Eternal Star spoke first: "News from the Southeast Asia Region is out. The Japan Region's pioneering team is using Vietnamese nationality; the UK and the United States are using Singapore and Australia. It's uncertain if there's a Korean pioneering team; I guess the United States didn't invite them to play."

Bloodrose Rosa was surprised: "Japanese using Vietnamese nationality? Are their relations that good?"

Ma Yinglong sneered: "If it weren't for the Japanese kicking the French out back then, Vietnam would still be a French territory now, so the Japanese are Vietnam's saviors, not to mention Japan has invested so many factories in Vietnam."

Divine Emperor said solemnly: "This Vietnam is clearly positioning itself as the lackey of a lackey, clearly seeking to showcase itself to bite us. 10 days, is everyone prepared?"

Bloodrose laughed: "Even if Vietnam sends its entire nation's 500,000 soldiers to play games as a cyber army, it would still only be half as much as Divine Emperor's finger, wouldn't it? Confronting them just needs Divine Emperor to lift a finger."

Divine Emperor couldn't help but laugh out loud: "Beauty, then which finger should I lift?"

All the leaders burst into laughter: "Middle finger!"

Divine Emperor laughed again: "Alright, the China Region's limelight can't be fully taken by all of you. My Ninth Heaven must also strongly assert our presence; dealing with Vietnam's trivial matters will be left to our guild, everyone feel free to develop peacefully."

However, Ma Yinglong shook his head and said gloomily: "I can't feel at ease, I just need to ask one thing, have you all been busy with some big move recently?"

Everyone laughed heartily: "If we tell Boss Ma, is Boss Ma going to invest then?"

Ma Yinglong sneered: "Invest in hell! Actually, don't think I know nothing, this somewhat involves Da Fei too! As your enemy camp, I sincerely advise, anything involving Da Fei is a trap, invest with caution!"

Everyone roared with laughter: "Even if it's a trap, our Radiant Alliance can afford to take it together, unlike Boss Ma standing alone..."

Chapter 946: Snowball Growth? Low-Level!

In the Nether Sea, Da Fei was waiting offshore at the Crab Sea, where he and the Yasoro Fleet celebrated their victory, and then hurried toward Fatalon.

At this moment, Yasoro's flagship and the Radiant Wings were advancing side by side with just over thirty meters between them. Yasoro stood on the deck, boasting loudly to Da Fei about the battle just now while drinking triumphantly. But with the strong sea winds, it was hard to hear clearly, and being too engrossed in drinking, his speech was unclear. It was probably something about the oar ship taking advantage of the rising tide's momentum to charge in unstoppably, ramming and killing countless blocking crabs.

At this moment, Da Fei finally relaxed completely from his tense mood.

Although it was unclear what kind of minerals the pirate fleet's ship holds were full of, the outcome of this battle far exceeded expectations. In the future, Yasoro only needed to feign harassment on the outer Crab Sea to report back to the Necromancer Dragon, then just hold on until he returned to settle the situation in half a year.

If Yasoro's AI was high, getting stronger with each battle, and could take the Crab Sea while I was busy with things in the Eastern World, that would be even better. But this clearly wasn't likely. The system isn't going to give the player such a good deal.

In short, the matter now was to return to Fatalon for repairs, and he could finally take time offline to participate in Bloodrose's event. However, with so many young girls in their studio, what lines should I prepare? Or should I, as Sister Hong said, act as a mature, steady man, say nothing, play deep, play meaningful? This issue is really troubling.

Just as Da Fei pondered deeply, a sudden red light flickered on the screen, and a huge red dot suddenly appeared ahead of the fleet!

What the heck! Did I really expect things to go so smoothly? Da Fei's heart tightened. Looking closely, he saw a giant swirling vortex appear on the sea ahead, and a massive silver crab, half the size of the Radiant Wings, emerged from the vortex! It's a Vortex Space Gate.

Da Fei was taken aback, and the fleet's cheers abruptly ceased! What the heck, with such teleportation ability, this size, this presence, could it really be the Giant Crab King coming to battle in person? Such a God-level Boss isn't possible, how are players supposed to play?

But it wasn't over yet. Another red light flashed on the screen, and a black light pillar suddenly appeared in the sky. From within the pillar emerged a figure with black wings and a serpent's tail, was it a Siren Sea Demon? Both forces came for revenge? Da Fei's jaw dropped! At that moment, the fleet's alarms sounded, and all units immediately prepared themselves.

It was then that the giant crab spoke: "Mortal! I am the image of the Corpse-eating Giant Crab Klapo!"

The sea demon also spoke: "Mortal! I am the image of the Dead Siren Sea Demon Naples!"

—System Prompt: You possess a relatively high world reputation, causing your enemies to be interested in conversing with you. Please respond accordingly.

Da Fei's eyebrows twitched! An image? Did my world reputation being so high trigger a special plotline? Da Fei, feeling slightly relieved, hurriedly asked, "Do you want to ask why I'm fighting you?"

The giant crab grunted, "Exactly! To be defeated, no, to have my army completely obliterated in such a short time with no chance of resurrection, this power is not something an ordinary mortal hero can achieve."

The sea demon agreed, "Similarly, to defeat, no, to completely kill my sea demon troop, that also exceeds my understanding of mortal power."

The giant crab continued, "Thus, we think, you're no longer a mortal. Moreover, with a new force emerging, we see the necessity of exterminating this great threat ourselves. But before that, we want to know the reason for the battle!"

Ah, crap! Da Fei spat a mouthful of old blood; could it be that being too awesome is also wrong? Angel Demon brother, hurry and save me! But, since the system prompt has appeared, it means there are other solutions. Even if there isn't, worst case, it's a fight as soon as we step out. At the very least, since they've sent images, it shouldn't immediately escalate to battle. Anyway, seeking mercy is the priority!

Da Fei, with a swift turn in thoughts, immediately responded, "It's to develop a peaceful, cooperative relationship with you!"

The sea demon laughed wildly, "How ridiculous!"

The giant crab also questioned, "Eradicating us to attain peace, that I can understand. But how does cooperation come into play?"

Da Fei braced himself to continue rambling, "Through these two battles, I demonstrated power and got the opportunity to meet and talk with both of you, which is the beginning of peaceful cooperation. Otherwise, if I can't meet you, it's endless battle, and there's never a chance for cooperation."

The giant crab grunted, "I see, then what is the content of your cooperation?"

The sea demon sternly stated, "If your content is utterly boring, we shall formally declare war on you, regardless of who your backer is!"

Da Fei's eyebrows flicked! A chance arises; perhaps there's really a possibility to negotiate with them? Alright, it's time to bring out the background brother to take the fall!

Da Fei immediately said, "My backer is the Death Angel Samael of Fatalon. Our cooperation content is that Fatalon hopes to establish a good neighborly, peaceful relationship with you two, at the very least to be neutral without fighting!"

The sea demon angrily retorted, "How ridiculous! How could we possibly establish neutrality or cooperation with Bright Creatures! Then let's fight to the end!"

...

Da Fei anxiously said, "Wrong! Precisely because Samael is a Bright Creature, it's absolutely impossible for him to invade your territory or devour your life to strengthen himself. From this perspective, he is your most reliable natural ally. Compared to other Undead allies, shouldn't you also guard against each other on a collaborative basis?"

The Giant Crab replied sullenly, "My dislike for Samael far outweighs any interest in collaborating with him. Does he even have any collaborative value?"

The Sea Demon sneered, "Indeed, I would rather destroy him!"

Damn! Is it true that nobody gives a hoot about the Commander? Da Fei, anxious, started babbling nonsense, "He has immense value! Because he won't infringe on your territory, he can maintain absolute neutrality and serve as a mediator in your disputes—"

At this point, Da Fei suddenly had a flash of inspiration and his mind opened wide, "Right, I'm the City Lord of Fatalon, and my goal is to establish an absolutely neutral commercial trade city in the Nether Sea. Those things you don't trust each other with or find inconvenient to trade can all be brought here to be traded!"

The Sea Demon coldly replied, "No matter what, it's impossible to trust living creatures!"

Damn! Mere words are useless; it's still necessary to fight! Fine, ever since taking on this mission, my destiny has been war!

Da Fei impatiently said, "Fine, forget trust, then let's fight! We will find others willing to collaborate! For example—" Necromancer Dragon, you know!"

"No!" The Giant Crab spoke up at that moment, "In the Nether Sea, no Undead Force can sustain a meaningless large-scale war; mutual depletion would result in a third-party takeover. I find your proposal interesting, and I'm willing to remain neutral with Fatalon and consider possible collaboration based on circumstances!"

Wow! It actually succeeded! Da Fei was suddenly delighted, "Yes, a wise choice! Samael's requests are so minimal, just neutrality; you can't possibly fail to meet these small demands!"

The Sea Demon remained silent for a moment and then spoke, "Fine, unnecessary conflict does not align with our interests. I can tolerate past harm, but as soon as you dare to act in any improper way, we will immediately rally our allies to eliminate you!"

Damn! It's clearly you Sea Demons who ambushed and robbed us! Da Fei nodded repeatedly in surprise, "Absolutely no problem, I guarantee I won't litter when passing through!"

—System Prompt: The Crab Sea Force and Song of the Dead Force have canceled their hostile attitudes towards you, your relationship has changed to "Distrustful Neutral".

—System Prompt: Your collaborator, Necromancer Dragon Samaster, has altered the campaign mission "Attack Corpse-eating Giant Crab Craplo", please reconfirm progress with Samaster.

—System Prompt: You have completed the third phase, "Eliminate Hostile Territories", of Samael's Epic Quest "New Pattern of Nether Sea World", please claim your reward from Samael.

Damn! At this instant, Da Fei felt a mix of surprise and joy.

Although Da Fei is used to the system continuously bombarding him, seldom does the bombardment seem as concise and complex as now!

My Epic Quest's first phase of city-building hasn't even been completed, yet I directly finished the third phase? What was the second phase? A fight to the end with the surroundings? This situation is just like the Rise of Dragon Cavalry Commerce Epic Quest which also completed later first, making it so much easier to reverse and complete earlier tasks!

What's rolling snowballs? Low-level! Things I've already done, now I'm progressing by leaps and bounds! No, to use trendy terms, it should be cross-dimensional development, hahaha!

Ultimately, compared to normal players' normal mission flow, Da Fei has three major advantages: One, a combat prowess that astonishes everyone who knows him; Two, a new ally (Yasoro) altering regional power balance; Three, most importantly, Da Fei's high world reputation, creating a condition for peace talks!

Summarizing these three advantages in two words is: awesome, enough to alter the normal task flow.

At this moment, the Giant Crab's red name had turned yellow, and he said sullenly, "Mortal, I will observe your performance coldly, goodbye!"

Da Fei suddenly snapped back to reality and hastily asked, "Excuse me, what are those minerals piled up into mountains?"

The Giant Crab paused silently for a while and then said sullenly, "The excrement of the Corpse-eating Giant Crab clan after absorbing Dark Matter! However, Bright Creatures surely have use for it; if you need it, exchange it for good things abundant in Death Energy! Or you can directly use biological corpses." Then he disappeared.

Damn! So it's feces! Is this eating grass and producing milk? Does this open a trade route for me? Seeing the Sea Demon about to disappear, Da Fei hurriedly whipped out "Sea Demon's Tears" and asked, "Wait, what's this for?

The Sea Demon angrily replied, "Mortal, do not challenge my tolerance limit. Until you achieve any substantial progress, I will not engage in any topic with you." Then it too disappeared.

At this moment, the fleet finally recovered from the silence like cicadas in winter and erupted in deafening cheers!

Chapter 947: Uses of Giant Crab Excretion Ore

As the neutral agreement was established, the entire fleet erupted into thunderous cheers, and Da Fei couldn't close his mouth from laughing.

The situation had gone so smoothly to this point that it was beyond Da Fei's imagination. Da Fei initially thought that the situation in the Nether Sea would require him to personally come and stabilize it in half a year, but he never expected that he would settle it conveniently just passing through.

Of course, the Nether Sea has many forces, and securing two forces certainly doesn't mean complete stabilization. But this is the snowball effect; with two joining, can the third and fourth be far behind? Moreover, four forces can totally establish a trade circle, doing business slowly to gain reputation and smooth out relationships. After everyone is united, splitting the entire Nether Sea would be just around the corner.

Now Da Fei finally feels truly at ease. Not to mention going out in the afternoon, even when sleeping at night, he can finally sleep soundly.

At this moment, Yasoro couldn't wait to row over in a small boat from the neighboring ship. He jumped onto Da Fei's deck, laughing heartily: "Boss, it seems we've scared them out of their wits! But there's a problem, where do we unload this cargo?"

While speaking, he pulled out a handful of golden-yellow earth, which was the excrement of the giant crab. But it still had no attribute, not even the name of the item. That is to say, aside from knowing it possesses Light Energy, this is something even the Giant Crab King doesn't know how useful it is, meaning he doesn't know how to price it either.

Da Fei handed this lump to Nervia and Anvil beside him and said, "This, the Giant Crab King said that Bright Creatures might need it. Can you identify it?"

Nervia shrank back a bit and coughed dryly: "Well, it looks like some kind of salt essence. This should be the result of material energy transformation. Although various energies might be needed for the evolution of the Undead, Light Energy is especially not needed. Although Light Energy is scarce in the Netherworld, scarce doesn't mean absent; it ultimately still needs to be expelled. Uh, better let Anvil take a look."

Oh dear! Do you really see it as just a pile of poop? Although it indeed is just a pile of poop, how could Angels without physical bodies understand the existence of such a material? Helplessly, Da Fei handed it to Anvil.

Anvil seriously extended a finger, chipped off a small piece from the earth, and sniffed it. Then — in front of everyone present, she stuffed this little piece into her mouth!

At that moment, everyone was stunned! Nerxia was even more shocked and turned pale. Goodness! Is the Power Angel's mind that simple and crude? Okay then, this is not eating poop; this is milk produced by the giant crab!

Anvil chewed slowly while frowning, and those present kept watching her expression, eyelids twitching continuously. Finally, Anvil began to speak, and as soon as she opened her mouth, a small puff of golden smoke drifted out!

"Wow!" The crowd gasped in amazement.

Anvil calmly said: "A very pure Light Energy Crystal! But it's not suitable for Angels without physical bodies to consume; we cannot fully absorb it, but if given to Unicorns or Bright Griffins, the effect would surely be different."

Nerxia was shocked: "Are you sure this is for consumption? Not a material for casting spells? What effect will it have when eaten?"

Anvil gave her a look: "Why don't you try it and see?"

At this moment, Selvia appeared: "Let me try!" She reached out, chipped off a small piece, and put it into her mouth.

Da Fei was astonished again! Forget it, nothing to say, I will eat it too! Da Fei also chipped off a piece and stuffed it into his mouth.

In the game, players of course can't taste it. Players need to watch for the system prompt for the status. For example, when drunk, the player's screen would start shaking and blurring. However, apart from spitting out a puff of golden smoke, Da Fei also had no system prompts to discover.

Even Selvia shook her head: "I can feel the Light Energy inside, but I cannot absorb it at all. This might not be an item for heroes to use."

Anlicia, however, ground the powder slowly, clapped her hands, and laughed: "I guessed what this is. It might be similar to the honey produced by bees; bee honey can increase the population of the Flower Demon Vine Demon race and the production of Flower Demon species. So this thing must have a similar function, able to enhance the production of Light Species like Unicorns, or even improve the species' attributes. If that's the case, this thing is quite upscale!"

Who would have thought the Nether Sea actually had such good stuff! Da Fei found it hard to believe yet was extremely excited: "This is the excrement of the giant crab!"

Anlicia laughed: "Honey is bee saliva, after all. Same difference!"

Catherine also spoke: "Right, since ordinary Angels can't absorb it without bodies, what about Remy whom we rescued last time? He is an Ancient Angel with a body. Let him try, won't we be able to test all the effects?"

Da Fei was suddenly enlightened: "Makes sense!"

Exactly, I've always seen him lifeless on the chessboard during this time and didn't have the chance to ask, but in a place like Nightmare Space, where Light Energy is meager, the recovery progress may not be fast regardless of rest, and without recovering strength he's just a burden. It's better to take him to the Light Energy-filled Fatalon to eat and sleep to his fill, and shake things up a bit, strengthening Fatalon's power, lest Fatalon's military is too weak and can't even make a sound.

Yasoro was growing impatient: "Boss, what I care about is who to sell this to!"

Da Fei laughed heartily: "Of course, sell it to me! Rest assured, we'll go by the agreement. You won't get any less for your share, but don't talk about money until we figure out the value of this thing — oh right, I had half the credit for taking the goods this time, right?"

Yasoro sensibly laughed: "Of course, that's why the boss gets half too!"

This is the right attitude, even God-level Experts were frightened by my strength, let alone a little pirate like you.

Anlicia asked again: "The Giant Crab also mentioned needing items full of Death Energy or biological corpses in exchange. Has the City Lord thought about the future procurement method?"

Da Fei raised an eyebrow, this is also a problem?

Yasoro sneered: "I don't know about items full of Death Energy, but plenty of biological corpses. Our brothers randomly kill a few —" At this point, Yasoro realized: "There seems to be no biology here? Do Undead Zombie corpses count as biological corpses?"

Damn! Isn't this nonsense, of course not, they want fresh meat! The problem is, in the marketplace, the meats sold are labeled "food" not "biological corpses", plus, under normal circumstances, how can players even transport corpses here?

Elina, who had been silent, finally spoke: "The Giant Crab means, in fact, is simple, it's to exchange for biological troops with him. Although it seems like a very cruel thing, it's actually not much different from using war captives as sacrifices to gods, just get over it."

As soon as these words were spoken, everyone suddenly became speechless. Da Fei immediately realized that, as a player, of course, I can get over it! The problem is, my weak point is precisely having no troops! Even if I buy them from other players, who knows how many units of troops' corpses it would take to exchange for one unit of supplies?

In any case, this matter can only be thought over in the future. First, use up the 5000 single loads in hand before saying anything else.

Chapter 948: Return to Fatalon to Claim the Reward

At 3:30 PM, Da Fei, who was napping in the auto-mode, was awakened by the cheering of the fleet. Fatalon had arrived.

Finally, the station was reached. Da Fei stretched long and lazily. At this moment, Samael was on the shore, smiling and waving to Da Fei.

Although he knew that such occurrences with God-level NPCs were not surprising, Da Fei still feigned surprise and asked, "Lord Samael, weren't you supposed to be modifying the barracks on my Flying ship?"

Samael laughed, "It's not just Lilim who can have numerous clones. Warrior, I just received neutral reports from the Song of the Dead and the Sea of the Giant Crab. I really can't imagine, Undead creatures would find it hard to maintain neutrality with each other, let alone with me. But if it's you, Warrior, achieving such a situation is indeed as expected. Without a doubt, you are my most trusted and important comrade, so I must reward you to the best of my ability!"

Hahaha! It's here, it's here! The Epic Quest reward! Since the City Lord already conferred it, I'm not hoping for domain rewards. And there's no expecting you, a Lower Angel standing guard for thousands or tens of thousands of years, to have Divine Artifacts. But at least give some sort of Divine Skill as a gesture, right?

While anticipating in his heart, Da Fei put on a faint smile and said, "You are too kind, my lord!"

Sure enough, Samael's tone shifted to one filled with emotion, "It's just a pity, I can't impart to you any Hero professions or titles like that officer from the Divine Punishment City, nor do I have any wealth to reward you with. The only thing I can reward you with is my combat skills!"

After saying that, he waved his hand, and a golden light flashed above Da Fei's head!

—System Prompt: Your reputation in Fatalon has become "Trusted".

—System Prompt: You have completed the third stage of Death Angel Samael's Epic Quest "New Pattern of Nether Sea World" titled "Eliminate Hostile Territories", and have received Samael's "Master-level Attack Skill" reward! You have gained 3 million experience points.

—System Prompt: You have additionally lobbied a neutral faction, earning an extra reward of the hidden skill "Weapon Mastery Skill Legacy".

—System Prompt: You have learned the Master-level Attack Skill, and your melee forces' damage has increased by 60%!

—Weapon Mastery Skill Legacy: Upon use, you can learn the basic level of Weapon Mastery Skill, with sub-skills including "Long Weapon Mastery", "Heavy Weapon Mastery", "Light Weapons Mastery",

"Remote Weapon Mastery", and "Shield Mastery". The effects of these sub-skills improve with the increase in the main skill level.

Long Weapon Mastery: When at the basic weapon mastery level, the hero and the hero's long weapon units gain an additional attack speed +1, attack +1, and critical rate +1% special effects.

Shield Mastery: At the basic weapon mastery level, the hero and the hero's shield-carrying units gain additional defense +1, damage reduction of 5%, and a 1% reduction in enemy critical rate special effects.

....

No way, a real skill reward, I've become another Grandmaster! And as soon as I see this Weapon Mastery Skill, I instantly recall what the Habbit Village Chief said back then about the Weapon Master. Is the Weapon Master the profession version of this skill?

Da Fei excitedly asked, "Lord Samael, what is the relationship between this Weapon Mastery Skill and the Weapon Master?"

Samael laughed, "As expected of my most trusted warrior, you actually know about the Weapon Master! When both your Attack and Defense Skills reach Master-level, and you have learned all the skills of the Weapon Mastery Skill, you can advance to the Weapon Master profession."

—System Prompt: You have obtained information about the Hidden Profession "Weapon Master".

More information! Da Fei couldn't help but feel a bit pained, "But I have too many professions now, it seems I've reached the limit for a mortal's professions!"

Samael laughed, "Why not transcend mortality and not be a mortal then?"

Da Fei raised an eyebrow in surprise, "Become a God? A Demigod?"

Samael laughed, "You already possess the Holy Frost Body, you are on the path of transcending sainthood, but mere strength is not enough, you also need wisdom. You need to read more books, learn various kinds of knowledge, and visit and gain the recognition of the Ancient Sages to obtain their imparted wisdom!"

In that instant, a great door abruptly opened to Da Fei! Excitedly, Da Fei continued to ask, "Who are considered Ancient Sages?"

Samael sighed long and deeply, "That's hard to say. I don't know if, in the eyes of mortals, I would be considered a sage?"

Everyone including Da Fei was momentarily stunned!

Samael then laughed out loud, "Just kidding! I don't even recognize a few words in Miss Anlicia's book of Ancient Divine Talismans, so I'm certainly unworthy. But perhaps, among the warlords of the Nether Sea, there might be those who can impart wisdom to you?"

No way, this is clearly telling me to work hard and develop this place?

Miss Anlicia eagerly asked, "So, if one recognizes the Divine Talismans in this book, does that mean they're considered sages?"

Samael shook his head with a smile and said, "It's hard to say. Actually, many times people gain more beyond the results while pursuing them, making the results less important."

Da Fei nodded constantly: "I see!" At the end of the day, it's about buying books in the game, doing academic research, and becoming a Grand Mage! It's like the library idle gameplay, the most frustrating and least welcome by players, but evidently the most high-end playstyle. Alright, I'll deal with Anlicia's secret skill along the way during my quest for divinity.

At that moment, Da Fei suddenly noticed that Samael's figure began to blur and fade, and he couldn't help but ask in surprise, "Lord Samael, what's happening to you?"

Samael laughed and said, "A clone of mine is fully devoted to transforming the barracks on the Flying, and this clone is forcibly teaching you a Master-level Skill. Even as a god, I can't handle it anymore. Anyway, I'm off to rest and save energy, manage things here by yourself."

After saying this, the image disappeared.

Alright, I'll arrange things myself then. At this time, the pirates had already laid out a dozen huge canvases on the shore and began to consciously transport the "Crab Meat" ashore and pile it up. Meanwhile, the more than two thousand skeleton dragon people all used the special skill "extinguishing their Soul Fire" and sat dead and still on the deck. For the Undead, Fatalon is a land of death; they can only survive by hibernating.

It must be said, this is really a frustrating thing, very much like the barrier of Divine Punishment City. Fine, it's time I head to Divine Punishment City.

Da Fei started mobilizing the troops to help transport and then grabbed a few units from the "Crab Meat" being transported ashore to carry as samples. Then, he activated the Nightmare Crystal again. With a change of scene, Da Fei was once again floating in Nightmare Space.

This time, eager, Da Fei looked down into the sea of fire and was astonished! In just a few game days absent, the tiny reef in the sea of fire had expanded several times over, now large enough to build a house on! The Duke truly deserved the title, indeed having vast energy; goodness knows how many children he mobilized during this period!

In this moment of wonder, Elda also appeared full of smiles: "City Lord, sailing smoothly?"

Da Fei laughed heartily: "It's due to the smooth sailing that I can return for a look! The progress of Nightmare Space is very impressive, isn't it?"

Elda's smile tightened: "Indeed, quite impressive, to be precise, it's faster than imaginable. But compared to the previous power of fear, I indeed perceive the space filled with a strong force of greed, which might not necessarily be good in the long run, potentially attracting magical creatures other than Lilim. We must prepare to defend."

Da Fei was surprised: "Greed force? What's that about?"

Elda laughed in surprise: "You're asking me? Isn't it your doing? However, greed is the source of all progress; perhaps that's the reason for the rapid development here. By the way, now the Dream Force is much more abundant than before; given the few teleportations using Nightmare Crystal, does the city lord need some replenishment?"

Indeed, what a reminder from Little Honey! It's only half-past three in the afternoon; there's plenty of time to get everything done, and maybe borrow a few intellect-enhancing books from the Duke. As a Duke, he can't be short on high-standard books, right?

Da Fei handed the Nightmare Crystal over to Elda: "Alright, help me manage the supplement, and I'll go see the Duke to update him on the progress here, and ask about the reason for the greed force."

Elda took the crystal with a hearty laugh: "No problem. But rest assured, City Lord, the current level of greed force is not enough to draw the attention of strong magical creatures; instead, it benefits the space's development."

Da Fei nodded: "Another more important matter is about Remy! Is he still asleep?"

Elda sighed: "Yes, recovering very slowly, relying on him as the space's guardian in the short term seems unlikely."

Just as expected. Da Fei then showed the Crab Meat to Elda, explained the origin, and concluded: "Anyway, let him taste it first. When I return from the Duke's place, I'll take him to the small paradise of the Nether Sea for recuperation!"

Elda nodded: "Alright, I will wake him and inform him. City Lord, please go and return soon."

So, Da Fei once again donned the Demon God's wig, robes as a priest, a flash of Demon Light, and transformed into the NPC Nicholas Steel Hand, leisurely flying out of Nightmare Space and arriving at the Divine Punishment City.

Upon emerging, Da Fei immediately saw several players standing in front of the plaza Mercenary Store, surprisingly including Little Li, Little Fang, the pretty guild leader, as well as — his Junxiang and that vice hero named Ouling!

Oh my gosh! No wonder it's my sister; she actually got my sub-account in here! Kudos! But seeing them standing still, they seem to be idle? Preparing for the night's activities without heading down the hill for monster hunting? Ultimately, as an NPC, it's best to act unaware, hoping they don't notice me either; one less thing to worry about.

So, "Steel Hand" calmly and steadily left the teleportation array, then directly teleported all the way to the Duke's Manor's private teleportation array. Needless to say, this time was far smoother than the previous cumbersome walking journey.

As soon as Da Fei appeared, he immediately attracted the attention of the guards, who shouted in surprise: "Master is back! Steward, Master Steel Hand is back! Come out to greet him!"

At this moment, uproar ensued at the manor entrance: "It's that NPC, he has appeared!"

Da Fei's eyebrows jumped; he nearly turned around to look! Oh my gosh, if I look, wouldn't it expose my poor acting skills? Surely it's players who've come admiring, trying their luck in questing; no need to look! Wahaha, excellent, you all strive to do quests.

Meanwhile, Da Fei was unaware that the Bloodrose Studio was similarly abuzz. Although the guild leader was idle, her view was professionally monitoring the entire city with very few blind spots, capturing the entire special Space Gate exit sequence of the NPC.

Chapter 949: The Book Borrowing Quest Unlocks the Editing Assignment

At the entrance of the manor, amidst the players' discussions, and under the butler's welcome, Da Fei once again entered the Duke Mansion.

At this moment, the walls of the hall in the Duke Mansion were covered with fiery oil paintings. Da Fei couldn't help but exclaim, "What is this?"

The butler smiled and said, "Sir, these are the award-winning entries from the competition! You will soon find out."

Award-winning entries? Da Fei vaguely guessed what the greed power of the Nightmare Space was about. As Da Fei entered the reception room, Duke William himself was personally painting.

The butler reported, "Your Grace, the Forging Steel Hand has returned!"

However, the Duke was so focused that he didn't react. When the butler called out twice, Duke William finally snapped back to reality, exclaiming with great joy, "Warrior, you've come again. What good news do you have this time?"

Da Fei laughed heartily and said, "I've come to report, Your Grace, that the island in the Nightmare Space has expanded several times in size; the progress is swift!"

The Duke was overjoyed, "Wonderful! It really works. If that's the case, I will further increase the prizes and hold an oil painting competition across the entire Alliance! I want to raise the prize limits again!"

Da Fei came to a sudden realization. No wonder the Nightmare Space has a power of greed; it's stimulated by prizes. It seems that the Nightmare Space can collect not only the power of fear but also greed itself. This must be the Divine Domain of a Demon God, right? The power source of a Demon God's belief is precisely these things.

At this point, the Duke excitedly pointed to his painting and asked, "Warrior, what does the current Nightmare Space look like? Describe it for me so I can repaint it as a model for the competition!"

Da Fei walked over to the easel and saw that it was indeed a scene filled with poker and chess pieces flying around, truly immersive!

Da Fei couldn't help praising, "It's so lifelike! Truly worthy of being called a Duke, even your painting skills are impressive!"

The Duke sighed with emotion, "Since losing my strength in childhood, I've been too weak to learn even the most basic swordsmanship, so I've only been able to dabble in the arts. Now I can't do anything else, but when it comes to painting or playing cards, I'm quite adept!"

Dabbling in the arts, huh? Then there must be plenty of books!

Da Fei exclaimed with joy, "No worries, Your Grace, your strength will return! There's nothing much wrong with this painting, just make the island in the sea of fire several times bigger. And from the current trend, it'll only get bigger and bigger, so you'll have a foundation to stand on."

"I see!" The Duke, invigorated, made a broad stroke, "Then I'll directly paint a continent in the sea of fire!"

Da Fei added, "This Nightmare Space is, in a way, a Divine Domain Space, akin to the world's initial creation form, capable of transforming thoughts into matter. Therefore, if the participants can use their imagination to add some gold mountains or money trees to the space, that would be excellent! And

there's nothing wrong with being a bit artistic, perhaps drawing some fountains and flowing water wouldn't be bad either?"

The Duke laughed enthusiastically, "Great! What a call to imagination! This time it's not just copying; it's finally reaching the stage of artistic creation. Great, that's how the competition rules will be set!"

But just after he finished laughing, the Duke began wheezing and coughing. The butler hurried forward to support him, "Your Grace, you've been too tired today. Please take care to rest!"

Such frailty in the Duke! Da Fei also quickly said, "In that case, I won't disturb your rest, Your Grace. I should return as well. I just have one request; the voyage is long, and I wish to learn some knowledge during my journey. May I borrow some advanced books from you, Your Grace?"

The Duke praised highly, "Nowadays, there are more and more young people seeking quick success, and fewer and fewer willing to settle down and read. It's great that you have this request, Warrior. In that case, I'll lend you my treasured complete set of 'Lionheart Empire's War History' for you to read. It contains tactics from famous generals of the Lionheart Empire and strategies from our allies and enemies, as well as various geographical knowledge. These books are reserved for the Royal Family and Grand General Level; even the library doesn't have them, so you must read them carefully! And reading them once won't be enough, as you'll gain new insights each time you revisit them."

Wow! Starting with a big move right away, I just wanted to borrow a few dictionaries, oh right, dictionaries!

Da Fei quickly said, "Thank you, Your Grace, for your guidance! I'm afraid these books are too advanced for me to understand, so I'll need some dictionaries."

The Duke laughed, "No problem. Butler, give the Universal Language Dictionary to the Warrior as well!"

The butler immediately replied, "Yes, Your Grace!" and hurriedly left.

The Duke sighed, "Warrior, your battles in Divine Punishment City have already earned you quite a high world reputation, but it's not extremely high yet. Do you know the fastest way to increase world reputation?"

Da Fei raised an eyebrow, "Please, grant me your wisdom, Your Grace!"

The Duke sighed with a smile, "Of course, it's to write a book and leave your name! I was once part of the compilation of the 'Lionheart Empire Encyclopedia,' but the world's things are so complex, and it's such a grand masterpiece. Unfortunately, my health declined, and I had to withdraw midway. If you're interested, I can recommend you to join, how about it?"

—System Prompt: The Duke has issued you with a data collection task, "Compilation Work of the Lionheart Empire Encyclopedia." Would you like to join?

Holy moly! As expected, dealing with high-level NPCs means they can assign me tasks anytime, anywhere with just a word! Da Fei fumbled and said, "My lord, what virtue or capability do I have to handle such a literary task?"

The Duke chuckled, "As far as I know, you're a Sea Monster Hunter, right? Your Reconnaissance Skill can collect data on sea creatures, correct? You can participate in the compilation of the 'Sea Monster

Encyclopedia.' All you need to do is submit the materials to the compilation group or directly to me. Oh, and didn't you pass some unexplored territories on your world voyages, Warrior? You can also contribute to the 'World Geography Encyclopedia' with maps you hand over. The more detailed the information, the better, how about it? It's just something you do in passing, and most people don't even have the opportunity to participate in something like this."

That makes sense! Da Fei suddenly remembered something and hurriedly asked, "I have sold quite a bit of sea creature data to the Elorin Fishing Guild in the past. Can I submit these materials to you, my lord?"

The Duke was taken aback and then sighed deeply, "What a pity! Such a pity that we met too late! If it's first-hand data, its value is the greatest. If it's been sold multiple times, its value is much less."

Holy moly! It indeed feels like we met too late, but the fact is, how long would a regular player have to wait to meet an NPC of this rank like the Duke?

Da Fei exclaimed with frustration, "Besides sea creatures, I've also slain several powerful beings in hell, like the Hell Volcano Earth Dragons. Even though the information is incomplete, would these suffice?"

The Duke gasped excitedly and said, "Yes! Definitely, these materials can contribute to the 'Hell Creatures Encyclopedia'! "

Now I get it! Reputation is immensely important; it determines whether the same NPC can assign different tasks to players or even unlock hidden tasks. The significance of world reputation goes without saying if not for it, the Nether Sea mission might not have gone as smoothly.

Without further hesitation, Da Fei chose to accept the task.

—System Prompt: You have accepted the data collection task, "Compilation Work of the Lionheart Empire Encyclopedia." You have received the task item: Observation Notes. The Observation Notes will record the unknown geographical features you encounter.

—System Prompt: You can choose to submit the biological data and unexplored maps you possess to the Duke.

No need to say more, submitting information to an NPC of the Duke's rank is like obtaining a divine artifact, far surpassing the regret I felt when I handed information to a small fishing guild president back then.

Da Fei opened the intelligence collection panel from the Reconnaissance Skill, presenting all sorts of Volcano Earth Dragons, Volcano Demon Scorpions, Volcano Demon Wolves, and recently, various Nether Sea Monsters, Siren Sea Demons, Giant Crab Elites, etc., and submitted them all.

—System Prompt: You have submitted a large amount of compilation materials. You have received a progress value of 9130 points for the compilation work. The higher the progress, the greater the share of world reputation and manuscript royalties upon completion.

At that very moment, the Duke, holding Da Fei's data, was so excited that his face turned pale, his breathing quickened, and he trembled all over, unable to utter a word!

Fortunately, the butler arrived in time to support him, "My lord, do not get too excited!"

The Duke mumbled incoherently in a dreamlike state, "Good! Good!"

The butler had no choice but to take out a glimmering magic bag and handed it to Da Fei, "My lord, the Duke needs to rest now. This is a specially-made space bag for storing books. Inside, there's a complete set of books, but these books need to be reviewed by the Royal Family annually. With the next review in half a year, please make sure to return them by then."

—System Prompt: You have borrowed a complete set of 10 books from the Duke, including "Lionheart Empire's War History" and "Universal Language Dictionary." Borrowing period: half a year.

Half a year? Well, books need to be borrowed to be read! I'll rally the whole family to read those 10 books! Da Fei joyfully exclaimed, "Then, Duke, please rest. I shall take my leave!"

Duke: "Good... Good!"

No one knows the power of books better than Da Fei. Back during the Newbie Island phase, I relied on a few shipwreck notes to acquire various epic quests, including Phantom Crossbow Cannon information. And now, these military books limited to high-end NPCs are bound to make me unstoppable in this game, wahahaha!

Having accomplished his tasks, Da Fei had no regrets and made his way back with large strides. As Da Fei reached the estate, he finally saw several players standing at the entrance, seemingly there for quest-related matters.

Upon seeing "Forging Steel Hand" appear, the group of players excitedly cheered, "He's out, he's out, we can report back now!"

Holy moly, turns out they're spy players hired to do paparazzi work for the large guilds! Alright, having the attention of the big guilds is all the better.

Da Fei teleported back to Divine Punishment City. At this moment, only his own Junxiang was left idling at Divine Punishment City Square, and Little Fang and Little Li, the beautiful guild leaders, were nowhere to be found. Could they have gone leveling up? Perhaps, but no matter how hardworking Little Fang and the others are, they're unlikely to manage dual accounts in battles.

Nothing much to say now, directly enter Nightmare Space, it's about time to take Remy and head out.

Chapter 950: Book Borrowing Leading to an Editing Assignment

Amid the players' discussions at the manor's gate and the butler's welcome, Da Fei once again entered the Duke Mansion.

At this moment, the halls of the Duke Mansion were filled with red paintings of fiery seas hanging on the walls everywhere. Da Fei couldn't help but exclaim, "What's this?"

The butler smiled and said, "Sir, these are award-winning entries from the contest! You'll find out more in a moment."

Award-winning entries? Da Fei vaguely guessed what the greed power of the Nightmare Space was all about. When Da Fei entered the living room, Duke William himself was also there painting in person.

The butler reported, "Duke, the Forging Steel Hand has returned!"

But the Duke was so focused that he remained unmoved. After the butler called out twice, Duke William finally came to his senses and exclaimed with great joy, "Warrior, you've come again. What good news do you have this time?"

Da Fei laughed heartily, "This time, I am here to report to you, sir, that the island in the Nightmare Space has expanded several times over. The progress is incredibly fast!"

The Duke was jubilant, "That's great! There are indeed results. If that's the case, I'll amplify the effort even more and launch an oil painting collection contest nationwide, no, across the entire Alliance! I want to increase the prize limit for every level!"

Da Fei suddenly realized, no wonder the Nightmare Space had the power of greed; it was driven by prize incentives. It seems that the Nightmare Space can not only collect human fear power but also greed. This truly deserves to be the Divine Domain of a Demon God, whose source of faith and power is precisely these things.

At this point, the Duke excitedly pointed at the painting he was working on, "Warrior, what does the Nightmare Space look like now? Help me describe it so I can redraw it and use it as a model for the contest!"

Da Fei walked to the easel to have a look. Indeed, the poker and chess pieces were flying all over, truly an immersive experience!

Da Fei couldn't help but praise, "It's so lifelike! As expected of you, Duke, you're also so skilled at painting!"

The Duke sighed with emotion, "Since I lost my strength in childhood, I've been so weak that I couldn't even learn the most basic swordsmanship and could only play with arts. Now I'm not good at anything else, but when it comes to painting and playing cards, I'm really not bad at all!"

Playing with arts? Then there must be lots of books!

Da Fei said happily, "Don't worry, sir; the strength will return! There's nothing wrong with the painting, just make the island in the fiery sea several times larger. And given the current trend, it will only get bigger in the future, so there is a foundation."

"I see!" The Duke enthusiastically waved his pen, "Then I'll just draw a continent in the fiery sea!"

Da Fei added, "This Nightmare Space, in a sense, is a Divine Domain space, equivalent to the original form of world creation, where thoughts can be transformed into matter. So if participants can use their imagination and add some gold and silver mountains or money trees to the space, that would be great! And if they can be a bit artistic and paint some fountains and flowing water, that wouldn't be bad, either?"

The Duke laughed heartily with excitement, "Good! What a good imagination! This time, it's finally not about imitation, it's elevated to the stage of artistic creation, good, let's set the contest rules just like that!"

But just after laughing, the Duke coughed repeatedly with short breaths. The butler hurried forward to support him, "Sir, you've been too fatigued today, please take care to rest!"

The Duke is in such a weakened state! Da Fei also said quickly, "In that case, I won't disturb your rest, Duke. I should be returning too. Just one thing, the sea voyage is long, and I wish to learn some knowledge during the journey. I wonder if I could borrow some high-end knowledge books from the Duke?"

The Duke highly praised, "Nowadays, young people seeking quick success and instant benefits are increasing, but those willing to calm down and read are becoming fewer and fewer. It's great that the warrior has this request. How about this, I'll lend you my cherished complete set of 'Lionheart Empire's War History' for you to read, which includes tactics of famous generals from various periods of the Lionheart Empire, as well as those from our allied and enemy countries, and various geographical knowledge. This is a book that only the Royal Family and Grand General Level individuals are entitled to possess, which you won't even find in libraries. You must read it carefully! And reading just once is not enough; every time you reread it, you'll have new insights."

Holy crap! As soon as I came in, I got such a coup when I just wanted to borrow a few dictionaries, oh right, dictionaries!

Da Fei quickly said, "Thank you for your guidance, sir! I'm afraid this book is too advanced for me to understand, so I also need some dictionaries."

The Duke laughed, "No problem, butler, also give the 'Universal Language Dictionary' to the warrior!"

The butler immediately replied, "Yes, sir!" and hurriedly left.

The Duke sighed with emotion, "Warrior, due to your battles in Divine Punishment City, your world reputation has become quite high, but not extremely high. Do you know what the fastest way to enhance world reputation is?"

Da Fei's eyebrows jumped, "Please enlighten me, sir!"

The Duke chuckled and sighed, "Of course, it's by writing books and leaving your name behind! I once participated in the compilation of the 'Lionheart Empire Encyclopedia,' but the world is so vast and complex; it's such a grand masterpiece that, unfortunately, due to my failing health, I had to quit halfway. If you are interested, I can recommend you to join. How about it?"

—System Prompt: The Duke has issued you a data collection task for the 'Lionheart Empire Encyclopedia Compilation.' Do you wish to join?

Oh my goodness! As expected, when interacting with higher-level NPCs, they can assign me a task anytime with just a casual remark! Da Fei lamented, "Sir, how do I have the ability to handle such a cultured task?"

The Duke laughed, "As far as I know, you're a Sea Monster Hunter, right? Your Reconnaissance Skill can gather Sea Monster information, right? You can participate in compiling the Sea Monster Encyclopedia by submitting the data to the compilation team or directly to me. By the way, aren't you a warrior who sails past unknown lands during world exploration? If you submit the map data, you can also contribute to the World Geography Encyclopedia. The more detailed the data, the better, how about it? It's just something you can easily complete while passing by; not everyone qualifies for this."

I see! Da Fei remembered something and hurriedly asked, "I've sold quite a bit of Sea Monster information to the Elorin Fishing Guild before; can this data be handed over to you, sir?"

Startled, the Duke sighed regretfully, "Such a pity! It truly is a shame to meet you too late! First-hand data is always the most valuable. If the data has been sold several times over, its value decreases significantly."

Oh my goodness! Indeed, meeting such an important figure comes too late; normal players wouldn't meet an NPC of the Duke's caliber for many years!

Feeling a bit of a headache, Da Fei said, "Well, aside from Sea Monsters, I've defeated many strong creatures in Hell, like the Hell Volcano Earth Dragon; although the data isn't comprehensive, can these help?"

The Duke, surprised and breathtaken, responded, "Of course! Certainly, this data can contribute to the Hell Creatures Encyclopedia!"

I see! Reputation is truly important, determining the type of tasks a single NPC can assign different players, even hidden tasks. The importance of world reputation is undisputed; without it, this Nether Sea mission wouldn't have gone so smoothly.

No more hesitation from Da Fei; he chose to accept the task.

—System Prompt: You accepted the data collection task of compiling the Lionheart Empire Encyclopedia. You received the task item: Observation Notes. Observation Notes will record unknown geographical features you pass.

—System Prompt: You can choose to submit the creature information and unknown maps to the Duke.

It's clear as day that submitting data to an NPC of the Duke's caliber is like obtaining a Divine Artifact, vastly superior to giving it to a mere fishing guild president with no regrets compared to back then.

Da Fei opened the intelligence collection gathered by his Reconnaissance Skill, submitting data on various Volcano Earth Dragons, Volcano Demon Scorpions, Volcano Demon Wolves, and recent data on various Nether Sea Monsters, Siren Sea Demons, Giant Crab Elites, along with more.

—System Prompt: You submitted a large amount of compilation materials, gaining a progress value of 9130 points for the compilation work. The higher the progress value, the greater the world reputation and manuscript fee reward upon publication.

At this moment, upon receiving Da Fei's data, the Duke's face turned pale with excitement, breathing rapidly, his entire body trembling, unable to utter a single word!

Thankfully, a steward promptly arrived to support him, saying, "Sir, control your excitement!"

The Duke, speaking in a dreamlike state, stammered, "Good! Good!"

The steward had no choice but to hand Da Fei a book bag shimmering with Demon Light, "Sir, the Duke must rest, this specialized book bag is used to carry books. It contains a complete set of books, but these

books need royal supervision once a year, with the next supervision in half a year's time. Therefore, be sure to return them after half a year."

—System Prompt: You obtained 10 borrowed books from the duke: Lionheart Empire's War History, Universal Language Dictionary. The borrowing period is six months.

Six months? Well, books are best understood when borrowed! All the family team will read these 10 books together! Da Fei happily said, "Then please rest, Duke, it's time for me to leave!"

Duke: "Good... Good!"

Da Fei is well aware of the power of books. Remember back on Newbie Island, by using a few Ship Notes, many epic quests and Phantom Crossbow Cannon information were obtained, let alone these war books only accessible to high-end NPCs. This game cannot stop me from becoming a god, hahahaha!

Now that tasks have been completed, Da Fei left with no regrets, striding forward. As he reached the manor, finally he saw several players standing at the gate, possibly here for tasks.

Upon seeing "Forging Steel Hand" appear, excited players cheered, "He's out, we can report back!"

Oh my goodness, turns out these are spies for the large guild acting like journalists! Fine, having the large guild's attention is even better.

Da Fei teleported back to Divine Punishment City. At this time, the Divine Punishment City Square only had his ship, Junxiang, stationed, while beauties like Little Fang and Little Li were nowhere to be seen. Training downhill perhaps? Maybe, but no way Little Fang can handle two accounts for battle.

Without much else to say, he directly entered the Nightmare Space, for it was time to take Remy away.