

Ocean Lord 111

Chapter 111: Anina's Return, Civil Construction (2)

"Lady Anina, why are you leaving? Are you unhappy living here? We all hope that you can stay."

"Although you ate a lot, we didn't despise you at all. If you're not full, I'm willing to give you half of my portion of food!"

"I'm willing to pay half of it."

"I only eat one meal a day. I'll give you the rest!"

"I'm not eating anymore. I'll give it all to you!"

They knew that Anina had an extraordinary background and possessed a body with strength and appetite that surpassed humans.

In the beginning, they did feel like he was out of place, like an alien.

However, after a long time, everyone fell in love with this seemingly arrogant, but actually very kind and warm-hearted girl.

During the monster invasions, the girl would always stand up with her greatsword and kill all the monsters. She could not even take a step into the territory.

They had long treated her as a part of their territory.

Now that they heard that she wanted to leave, they immediately became anxious and anxiously asked her to stay.

"You want me to stay?" Anina was stunned when she heard that. When she saw how the residents were trying to persuade her to stay, tears welled up in her eyes.

In the past, she was alone and had no worries.

But now, there were so many humans who treated her as family. For the first time, she felt the deep feeling of being needed by so many people.

Seeing this, Ji Chen acted like an old blacksmith, striking while the iron was hot.

"Anina, as you can see, everyone can't bear to part with you. Just stay here and treat this place as your home."

Upon hearing this, the young Dragon Whale girl, who was extremely sensitive, couldn't hold back any longer and tears streamed down her face.

After a while, Anina sniffled, her face slightly flushed, and her gaze wavering as she said to Ji Chen, "Since you all insist, I'll reluctantly stay."

"But you must make sure I am well-fed at every meal, or else... I'll run away!"

Ji Chen was overjoyed and chuckled, "Of course! As long as I can feed myself, you won't go hungry!"

"It's a deal!"

"Ding- Deep Sea Dragon Whale (Human Form): Anina (Hero) pledges loyalty to you."

"Anina (Hero) unit talent tree panel unlocked."

"Ding- Successfully recruited three hero units. You have gained the Red skill: Persuasion."

Persuasion?

Recruiting three hero units can also unlock skills?

Ji Chen was slightly surprised. With a thought, he opened his personal panel to take a look.

He found the skills section.

Besides the occupational skills, there was now a section for life skills.

[Life Skill: Persuasion (red skill) – Ability to persuade targets using language, significantly increasing the chances of surrender, submission, and conversion (effective only on sentient beings)].

It looked very good.

However, there weren't too many surprises, considering he had previously persuaded so many pirates to submit to him, albeit through physical means.

But obtaining a red skill was still good news.

In addition to its use in persuasion, perhaps it could also be employed in negotiating with merchants.

With Anina successfully becoming a hero of the territory, one of his concerns had been resolved.

Closing his personal panel, Ji Chen looked at Anina, who was engaged in conversation with Alice and remembered something.

He seemed to have something to give her.

Rummaging through his backpack, he took out an amulet.

[Strength Talisman]

[Level: 4-star treasure (single)]

[Effect: Increase strength by 200% but increase stamina consumption by 100%.]

[Cooldown Time: None]

This Strength Talisman was originally meant to be used to rope in Anina.

Now that Anina had declared her loyalty to him, he could only give this amulet away as a gift.

"Anina, come over for a moment. I'll give you this amulet."

The dragon whale girl looked at the talisman in surprise and asked in disbelief.

“Is this really for me?”

Ji Chen smiled.” Of course. Put it on and see if it fits.”

The moment Anina put on the amulet, she felt that the power she could control had increased by more than twice.

She picked up the greatsword and felt like she wasn’t holding anything.

Well, it was like she was holding a tree branch before, but now it was like she was holding a stick made of parchment paper.

With this, she thought, she would definitely be able to better protect the Lord, right?

“I really like this gift!” Anina’s face was filled with excitement. In the midst of her excitement, she suddenly tiptoed and kissed Ji Chen on the right cheek.

Alice and Ji Chen were both stunned.

“Anina, you...”

Looking at their bewildered expressions, the whale girl nonchalantly said, “What’s so strange about it? This is how deep sea whales express gratitude. Is there a problem?”

With those words, Ji Chen and Alice were left speechless.

In their minds, they couldn’t help but wonder, do deep sea whales really have such a custom?

With this matter settled, Ji Chen led everyone back to the territory.

He began to inspect various affairs of the territory.

Firstly, there was the issue of resources. During his time at sea, the resource points produced a large amount of resources.

Clay, crude iron, and stone filled the warehouses.

Especially when it came to wood, it was abundant and piled up everywhere, reaching a staggering quantity of over fifteen thousand units.

Here, they had to thank the kobolds once again for their hard work.

Due to their continuous logging, except for the coffee trees, all the trees in the territory had been completely cleared.

Even the surrounding forests had been felled, creating a lot of space for construction.

This laid a solid foundation for Ji Chen’s upcoming civil engineering projects.

He took out two building blueprints from his backpack.

[Blueprint: Large Water Fort]

[Blueprint: Wood Processing Plant]

These two blueprints were obtained from the mystic realm. The former required a massive amount of wood and a suitable location, which was not feasible to construct at the time.

The latter required both wood and stone, and the resources were sufficient for construction. It was advisable to build this type of industry-chain building as early as possible.

It was best to complete its construction and produce a sample product before Raymond returned so that he could assess its value upon his return.

The chosen location for the Wood Processing Plant was an empty space northeast of the Lord's Manor. This area would become a functional zone in the future, accommodating various functional buildings.

Next, he opened the Territory Construction Panel and accessed the unique buildings of the territory.

[Territory Special Building]

[Jungle Plantation]

[Level: Special]

[Construction cost: 1000 units of wood, 1000 units of stone]

[Area: 50 x 50 (m)]

[Effect: Able to plant jungle crops and increase their yield]

It covered the premium coffee tree and contained it.

“Ding – The Jungle Plantation has selected premium coffee trees as its crops. The yield can be increased by 50%.”

50% of production meant that the production of premium coffee beans would increase from 2 units to 3 units per week. The bonus was amazing.

In addition to increasing production, the jungle plantation could also grow and reproduce jungle crops.

Twenty-five coffee trees would soon become fifty or even a hundred.

At that time, he would be able to produce more coffee beans and help him earn a steady stream of gold coins!

Ji Chen didn't stop building these two buildings. He ordered more than ten residential buildings to increase the number of houses.

Now, the native tribes had all moved over and changed their appearance, truly becoming a part of the territory.

Wilus also reported the situation of the sea rice planted by the natives.

In the southeast of the main island, dozens of acres of sea rice had already been planted, and it was still expanding.

It was estimated that in the next week, they would be able to plant enough sea rice fields to sustain thousands of people.

After dealing with these more urgent matters.

Only then did Ji Chen come to the west side of the territory and take out three military recruitment camp cores.

One Tidal Sea Spirit and two Deep Sea Roamers.

Without wasting any time, he willed them.

The three cores each flew to a different place.

After digging deep into the soil, three recruitment camps immediately emerged from the ground.

The appearance of the Tidal Sea Spirit recruitment camp was like a signal tower, while the Deep Sea Roamer recruitment camp was like a massive dog's den, shrouded in complete darkness.

However, Ji Chen didn't pay much attention to their appearances; he was filled with excitement.

These two units would revolutionize his combat strategy!

Chapter 112: Military Recruitment, Sunken Ship

[Lair of the Deep Sea Roamer]

[Level: Tier 4,1 star]

[Recruited military type: Deep Sea Roamer (tier 4,1 star)]

[Number of recruits per week: 5]

[Current Recruit Count: 5]

[Recruitment cost: 200 units of crystals]

[Click to Recruit]

Recruiting a Deep Sea Roamer required 200 units of crystal, which could be considered expensive.

In terms of the same quantity of crystal, its value was at least ten times that of other resources.

A Lair of the Deep Sea Roamers could recruit 5 of them. With two lairs, it was 10 in total, requiring a total of 2000 units of crystal for that recruitment wave.

He was currently wealthy, with over 40,000 units of crystal, so that amount of crystal was naturally not a problem.

He proceeded to recruit all of them right away.

The three recruitment camps trembled slightly.

From the lair, which resembled a kobold's den, dark figures slowly crawled out of the exit. They were units that were as massive as a bus and had a lizard-like appearance.

With slightly elongated bodies, armor-like scales, strong and powerful limbs with sharp claws, and eyes the size of copper bells.

If one were to say that they were giant beasts used for a siege, there would be no sense of incongruity.

Ji Chen looked left and right and asked one of them to open its mouth, gazing into it.

Inside the gaping mouth, aside from the tongue and a narrow esophagus, there was a large cavity leading to the depths. A layer of membrane separated the mouth from the abdomen.

Curiously, Ji Chen walked inside, and the membrane slowly wriggled open, revealing the bloody space inside.

It was unclear where the organs of the Deep Sea Roamers were located. The entire abdomen was almost empty, with enough space to accommodate dozens of pirates. If they squeezed in, it could easily fit over a hundred pirates.

Even soldiers like the Naga Warriors, who had thick waists and broad shoulders, could fit several dozen inside.

The carrying capacity was astonishing!

But it was unknown how they consumed resources.

Ji Chen thought about it, walked out, and took out five units of crystal.

When these Deep Sea Roamers saw the crystal, each one of them got excited and sprayed a jet of fluid.

Randomly, he had one of them swallow a crystal.

Instantly, its expression turned extremely content, estimating that it wouldn't need to eat for the rest of the day.

After conducting individual experiments, he gradually gained a better understanding.

A Deep Sea Roamer required 5 units of crystal for daily consumption. With ten of them, it would be 50 units per day, and 350 units per week, equivalent to consuming half of the output of a miniature crystal mine for a week.

But it was still within his acceptable range.

Ji Chen waved his hand, instructing the Deep Sea Roamers to stay in the sea. Otherwise, with their weight, they would leave the territory full of pits and holes.

After seeing off these giants, he turned his gaze to another Tidal Sea Spirit Recruitment Camp.

Tidal Sea Spirits could only be recruited once a week, and each one required 500 units of crystal.

“Ding- Consuming 500 units of crystal, recruit Tidal Spirit x 1.”

As the voice fell, a deep blue ghost floated out slowly from the recruitment camp, silently suspended in mid-air.

On its deep blue body, a pair of pure white eyes were revealed.

Ji Chen was slightly surprised and pointed to the New Moon, which was moored on the sea's surface.

In the next moment, the instructed Tidal Sea Spirit instantly flew out like an arrow released from a bow, directly passing through the amazed gazes of the citizens, and flying towards the direction of the New Moon.

“My Lord, what is that?” asked Wilus, his face filled with astonishment.

“That is a Tidal Sea Spirit, a new unit of the territory. It can attach to the hull of a ship and control the vessel, greatly reducing the need for manpower,” Ji Chen explained briefly.

After his simple explanation, Wilus suddenly understood.

There was actually such a magical unit? It truly broadened his horizons.

Once successfully possessed, the appearance of the New Moon remained unchanged, but its internals underwent a qualitative change.

It could raise and lower sails, turn the rudder, adjust direction, and even operate the cannons on its own.

A huge ship only required a few dozen pirates to operate it effortlessly.

After recruiting the Tidal Sea Spirit and Deep Sea Roamers, Ji Chen shifted his attention to the other recruitment camps.

After two weeks, the recruitment camps had refreshed, accumulating a variety of recruitable units over the weeks.

Now, he could recruit all of these units at once.

28 Naga Warriors, 28 Shallow Sea Murlocs, 42 Sea Pixies, and 112 Murloc Rangers.

Including these, he now had:

62 Naga Warriors, Tier 3, 5-star.

There were 67 Shallow Sea Murlocs, Tier 3, 3-star.

77 Sea Pixies, Tier 3, 3-star.

210 Shallow Sea Murlocs, Tier 2, 5-star.

270 Elite Pirates Tier 2, 4-star.

10 Deep Sea Roamers, Tier 4, 1-star.

1 Tidal Sea Spirit, Tier 4, 1-star.

A total of 697 units.

In terms of numbers, they had a strong army.

However, Ji Chen was not entirely satisfied.

If he hadn't been to the mystic realm before, he might have thought that this number was already quite substantial.

But after experiencing being hunted down by thousands of Krieg soldiers, Blood Spirit Warriors, and hundreds of warships, he knew that this number was far from enough.

At least, the quantity of each main combat unit needed to exceed several hundred to form sufficient intimidation and combat power.

From the current perspective, there were two ways to quickly increase the number of units.

One had to find more recruitment cores of the same unit type.

With more recruitment camps, the number of recruitable units each week would increase.

The other way was through the unit talent tree.

When each unit's talent tree was sufficiently developed, it would unlock a branch that increased the recruitable quantity.

The other was the military branch tree.

When the talent tree of each unit was lit up to a certain level, a branch that could increase the number of recruits could be unlocked..

Chapter 113: Military Recruitment, Sunken Ship (2)

This was the case for the Sea Pixies.

The two methods did not conflict with each other and could be carried out simultaneously.

The core of the military recruitment camp...

It could be purchased from players or natives.

As the saying goes, money makes the world go round. He had just dug up pirate Edward's treasure and was now carrying a huge amount of gold coins.

As long as he could give enough money, he was not afraid of not being able to find it.

In two weeks, he had left the territory and accumulated quite a bit of savings.

Other than the various basic resources, the two Miniature Mithril Mines produced a total of 2800 units of Mithril.

This amount of Mithril was enough for the little Siren to complete a true transformation.

He asked someone to call Alice.

"My Lord, did you summon me for something? Are you perhaps..." Alice glanced at the sky, her face showing a hint of concern. "But isn't it generally not advisable for humans to perform such tasks during the day?"

Ji Chen's face displayed a few wrinkles as he cleared his throat and spoke with seriousness, "Where did your thoughts go? I want to help you advance to the Purple Rare Grade."

Alice's eyes lit up with delight. She knew that the Lord possessed the unique ability to promote units and even heroes without any negative effects.

She quickly nodded in agreement.

Without wasting any time, Ji Chen opened the unit talent tree.

Having previously elevated the Song of Temptation to the Purple skill level in the mystic realm, he now only needed to unlock the remaining five nodes to facilitate her promotion.

“Consumed 3200 units of fiber, 3200 units of clay, 800 units of mithril, unlocked node B-i.”

“Consumed 1600 units of crude iron, 400 units of mithril, unlocked node C-1.”

“Consumed 2000 units of crude iron to unlock node C-2.”

“Consumed 800 units of crude iron to unlock node D-1.”

“Consumed 1600 units of crystals and 1600 units of Mithril to unlock node E-1.”

A beam of light enveloped Alice, and energy began to accumulate and surge.

Some kind of transformation and evolution was happening in her body.

After more than ten minutes, the light pillar slowly dissipated.

“Siren: Alice (Hero) has been promoted to a Purple Rare Hero.”

Looking over, Alice closed her eyes and returned to her fish form.

The fishtail became even more delicate and bright. It was like a gem shining under the sunlight.

Her dazzling silver hair hung down from her waist like a waterfall that fell nine thousand feet.

[Alice (Hero)]

[Race: Siren]

[Level: 13]

[Current Tier: Purple (Rare)]

[Potential: Red (Legacy Tier)]

[Skill: Song of Temptation (Purple Skill, uses a beautiful and alluring voice to mesmerize enemies, putting them in a state of daze and illusions, capable of charming and controlling enemies, effectiveness depends on enemy rank [increased mana consumption speed when charming and controlling enemies by 100%])]

War Song (Purple Skill, uses singing to inspire allies, increasing their attack and movement speed by 70% and temporarily removing pain sensation)

Ocean Noble (Purple Skill, receives a certain bonus while in the ocean, increasing mana and stamina regeneration speed by 70%)

Siren's Body (Green Skill, increases maximum mana capacity by 100% and significantly expands the range of the song's propagation)

[Military characteristic: Siren bloodline (has a powerful suppression effect on all sea races with inferior bloodlines, the effect depends on the race)]

[This is a mature Siren.]

Three purple skills and a new green skill.

This was the complete Siren!

Alice slowly opened her blue eyes, feeling the abundant magic power that was far more than before. A glimmer of light flashed in the depths of her eyes.

“Alice, how do you feel now?”

“My Lord, I feel better than ever. Even if there are hundreds of Tier 4 enemies, I can still control them.”

Ji Chen nodded in relief.

If that was the case, then this wave of leveling up would not have wasted any resources.

One had to know that most players’ mainstream troops were still tier 2, and a small number were only tier 3.

And Alice could control a tier 4 soldier. Only some high-level soldiers of the natives had tier 4 soldiers.

Alice now possessed the power equivalent to hundreds of 4th-tier units.

In three words: invincible and strong!

However, as the saying goes, one always desires more. Just as Alice had reached the Purple Rare Grade, Ji Chen couldn’t help but wonder how powerful she would become if she could advance to the Red Legacy Grade.

So, he opened the unit talent tree again to examine the nodes required for her promotion.

But soon, Ji Chen’s expression changed slightly, and he reluctantly closed it.

To advance to the Red Legacy Grade, basic resources like wood and clay were no longer needed. The minimum requirement was at least a 2nd-tier resource and unlocking a single node would require a five-digit quantity of resources like crystal and mithril, which were 3rd-tier resources.

It seemed that there was a clear watershed between the Purple Rare Grade and the Red Legacy Grade...

Although the cost was enormous, Alice, as the territory’s second most important magical unit, still possessed tremendous potential.

He would have to gradually seek the resources needed for her promotion through various channels.

Now, it was time to move on to the next task—searching for sunken ships in the underwater depths.

Alice had previously mentioned that she knew the locations of many sunken ships and could spend some time exploring the ones not far from New Moon Islands.

“Alice, where is the closest sunken ship that you mentioned before?”

“Are you going there now, my Lord?” Alice tilted her head adorably, thinking for a moment. “The closest one is not far from here, about half an hour’s journey..”

Chapter 114: Military Recruitment, Sunken Ship (3)

“That’s right. Bring me there now.”

Because the distance wasn't far, Ji Chen didn't plan on using the New Moon. He simply chose a three-masted warship as his vessel.

He called Alice and Anina and brought the Naga Warriors and the Sea Pixies with him.

Half an hour later.

The ship anchored at a place northwest of the New Moon Islands.

The units and heroes plunged into the water.

They swam towards the depths of the sea.

Thanks to the Lord's innate talent, Ji Chen couldn't feel any water pressure. It was as if he was in his own swimming pool, and the darkness of the depths had no effect on him. The surroundings were as bright as daylight.

Soon, led by Alice, he saw the stern of a ship buried in the muddy seabed, with the bow of the sunken ship raised.

Judging from the mast on the bow and deck, it appeared to be a three-masted merchant ship.

There was a large hole on the side of the bow, indicating that it had been punctured by something, causing it to flood and sink.

Just as he was about to enter the sunken ship, a system notification suddenly sounded.

"Ding- You have entered combat mode. Assessing morale..."

"Our side's overall morale is 70 points, entering an advantageous state."

Dozens of four to five-meter-long electric eels swam out of the ship's breach. Their bodies emitted a faint electric glow, and their mouths were filled with teeth resembling a shredder.

They looked intimidating, but judging from the morale assessment, these monsters shouldn't be too strong.

Upon closer inspection, the unit information appeared vivid.

[Race: Electric Eel]

[Level: 15]

[Tier: 3, 4-star]

[Skill: Lightning (blue skill, can release lightning to attack enemies, causing paralysis effect)]

Sharp Fangs (Blue skill, sharp teeth can shatter scales and bite the flesh of prey)

Agility (Blue skill, movement speed increased by 50%)

[Military characteristic: Energy storage (the body can store electricity and use it when attacking)]

[I'm Not a Canadian Electric Eel]

After examining the panel, Ji Chen felt reassured and ordered the Naga Warrior to charge forward and engage in combat with the electric eels while the Sea Pixies cast spells from behind.

Accompanying the Naga Warrior was the Dragon Whale girl.

It was Ji Chen's first time witnessing Anina's combat abilities underwater. Compared to her land battles, there was a subtle absence of overwhelming strength but an added agility as her blades danced with precision.

It was as if she had propulsion systems installed on her feet, swiftly darting forward.

Without even wielding her massive sword, her iron fists struck the electric eels. The eels were shattered instantly, bursting into a cloud of blood mist.

Seeing their comrades killed in such a manner, the remaining electric eels convulsed, releasing dazzling electric currents that struck Anina.

Anina possessed astonishing strength, but her body's resilience was even more formidable. The lightning strikes that could kill sharks simply bounced back when they struck her, unable to break through her defense.

What followed was an unrelenting massacre, accompanied by the occasional splatter of blood, showcasing the ferocity of the battle.

By the time the Naga Warrior arrived, most of the electric eels had already been wiped out, leaving only a few fleeing in panic.

However, they were swiftly pursued and slain by the Naga Warrior one by one.

"Ding- ... You have gained... gained 12,000 experience points."

Half a minute later.

The Naga Warrior and Anina returned.

"Anina, well done!"

"Hmph, just these little monsters, they didn't even make me break a sweat." The Dragon Whale girl remained as haughty as ever.

With the threat eliminated, Ji Chen wasted no time. He entered the ship's interior through the breach at the bow, dispersing the Naga Warrior to search for treasures..

Chapter 115: Mithril, Argos (1)

When they entered the cabin, the remaining trace of light disappeared, and the surroundings were pitch black.

However, Ji Chen's eyes shone brightly as he looked around him.

The water-proof cabin at the bow of the ship should be the nest of the Electric Eels. There were some corpses of fish and sea monsters piled up, and dozens of fist-sized Electric Eel eggs in the corner.

After controlling the seawater to squeeze the Electric Eel eggs into minced meat, he swam directly into the depths of the cabin.

After leaving the cabin at the bow of the ship, they came to the second deck. From here, they could gradually see some pale skeletons. In the empty eyes, it seemed to be telling the tragic scene of sinking.

Ji Chen's heart was unmoved. The water surged and pushed the bones that were blocking his way to the side.

The second deck should be where the crew lived. There were a relatively large number of bones left. However, they found some waterproof money bags containing gold and silver coins on these bones.

Even though these were nothing compared to the hundreds of thousands of gold coins in Pirate Edward's treasure, they were still meat, so he still casually took them away.

At this time, the Naga warriors who entered the shipwreck from other places also sent news that they had found the place where the goods were stored.

Ji Chen's heart skipped a beat when he heard the news. He immediately swam over.

Compared to gold and silver coins, he wanted to obtain some valuable resources that he could use in his territory immediately.

After passing through the cabin and the stairs, they arrived at the third deck.

Compared to gold and silver coins, he now desired valuable resources that he could immediately use in his territory.

Passing through the cabins and staircases, he arrived at the third deck.

Amidst the large patches of mud in the cargo hold, damaged crates revealed a silver gleam.

Ji Chen's eyes lit up.

It was Mithril!

This merchant ship was actually carrying Mithril?

Suppressing his excitement, he immediately signaled the Naga Warrior to start digging through the mud.

The Naga Warriors wielded their bone blades, their wide and sturdy blades resembling crude shovels, digging through the mud.

As the mud was cleared away, neatly formed pieces of mithril were unearthed.

Judging by the size of the cargo hold, there should be a considerable amount of Mithril buried here.

At this moment, Anina, who had disappeared after entering the sunken ship, suddenly swam in through a partially open door and approached Ji Chen. Her face showed some excitement, and she began gesturing continuously.

It seemed like she wanted to convey some good news to him.

However, after observing for a while, Ji Chen still couldn't understand the meaning behind Anina's gestures.

Shaking his head, he used his mana to create a barrier, isolating the seawater around him and Anina, forming a bubble filled with air.

Now they could communicate.

The Dragon Whale girl looked at the barrier that had formed around them, her eyes filled with immense astonishment. After holding her breath for a while, she finally spoke.

“My Lord, when did you have such a skill?”

“I obtained this class ability during our previous voyage,” Ji Chen smiled, not explaining too much. He asked, “Did you discover something?”

At this moment, Anina remembered what she had seen earlier and quickly said, “I found the captain’s quarters.”

The captain’s quarters?

Ji Chen’s interest was immediately piqued.

This was another place worth exploring besides the cargo hold.

After all, the captain held the highest authority on the ship, and there might be some valuable items stored in his living quarters.

“Take me there.”

Upon hearing this, Anina wasted no time and immediately led the way.

A few minutes later, they maneuvered through winding cabins and corridors, arriving at a thick wooden door.

The door was quite thick and difficult to open due to water pressure.

Originally, Ji Chen wanted to drain the water again and open the door, but Anina pointed to the side.

Beside the door, there was a large hole in the wall.

Seeing Ji Chen’s slightly astonished expression, she proudly smiled and raised her clean, white fist.

She was trying to show that she had forcefully broken it open.

Well, strength truly allows one to do as they please.

Entering the captain’s quarters through the large hole, they immediately saw a set of skeletal remains wedged behind the door, with its hands tightly gripping the handle.

Judging by the attire, he was likely the captain of this ship.

The wooden door was tightly shut, indicating that the captain hadn’t had time to escape. The inflowing seawater had sealed the door, and he likely drowned alive.

Perhaps, before embarking on long-distance trading, he had fantasized about making a fortune, thinking that he could return to a life of worry-free livelihood and be with his family in happiness.

Unfortunately, not everyone had the same luck as Raymond. He not only escaped the pursuit of pirates but also survived the storms in the outer periphery of the Stormy Sea.

Everything came to a halt at the moment the ship sank.

The two of them began searching the captain's quarters, and soon they discovered a locked metal box beneath the wooden bed.

The material of the box was unknown, but despite the passage of time, it hadn't rusted at all. Its surface still shimmered with scales, and its sealing was excellent.

It was estimated that this was the captain's small treasury, just like the captain himself, who didn't have time to leave and remained buried at the bottom of the sea.

In addition to this metal box, Ji Chen also found a special parchment on the top of the ship's cabin.

The surface was colorful and emitted a faint light, preserving it well from the erosion of seawater.

He took it directly in his hand and examined it.

It was a map, which detailed the entire Western Central Ocean, including various locations such as ports, islands, and sea names. It also marked the frequent appearances of monsters, pirates, and dangers in each sea area.

It could be said that with the help of this map, one's grasp and safety in traversing the Western Central Ocean would be significantly improved by 50%..

Chapter 116: Mithril, Argos (2)

It seemed that the merchants who dared to cross the sea to trade were all quite capable.

Ji Chen nodded.

This map was very useful to him. Although he would not get lost in the ocean, he needed a direction to go in before he got lost.

Otherwise, if he didn't even know the direction, it would be meaningless to get lost.

Ji Chen put the map into his backpack and continued searching.

After confirming that there was nothing else of value, he left with Anina.

Back on the second deck, the Naga warriors were still digging hard in the mud. It seemed that it would take a long time to dig out all the Mithril.

He decided to return to the ship first and wait until he was done digging before coming down to collect it.

After instructing Anina to supervise the scene, he wrapped himself in the seawater and quickly floated up. With a splash, he broke through the sea surface and jumped onto the deck.

"My Lord, you're back. Did you find anything in the sunken ship?" Alice asked in surprise.

"A ship of Mithril, a magic map, and a box. The Naga warriors are still digging below."

Ji Chen smiled and took out the metal box.

It began to shake.

There wasn't much inside, and as it shook, it made a dull sound.

It didn't sound like coins or gems.

Curious, he congealed water into a saw and began to cut the box. The water saw was even tougher than metal with the support of his magic power. The friction with the box made an ear-piercing sound.

Considering that he could not destroy the things inside, he sawed very carefully and did not dare to use too much force.

Ten minutes later, one side of the metal box was sawed off, revealing what was inside.

There were only three things inside.

An ancient compass, a diary, and a strange gun.

He was slightly surprised to see these items.

It wasn't gems or gold coins, but these objects?

He picked up the compass with a curious expression and examined it.

The compass was made of copper and was engraved with some strange words and patterns. There was a small button on the top and a transparent crystal shell on the surface.

It was strange that, when looking through the crystal casing, there was no seafloor visible. Instead, there were intricate gears and hinges interlocking with each other, giving it a steampunk-style appearance.

On the side, there was a diamond-shaped crystal connected by copper wires.

It was evident that this was not an ordinary navigational compass but rather some kind of alchemical mechanical creation.

[Alchemy Compass]

[Level: Special]

[Usage: Able to direct the way to Argos]

Argos?

Ji Chen frowned. What was this place?

The information panel of the compass in front of him could not provide any more information.

He turned his attention to the diary.

Not long after he entered this world, he was instilled with the common language of this world. Not only was he able to hear, but he was also able to understand the words easily.

He casually opened the waterproof leather cover and flipped to the first page.

However, he quickly skimmed through the following pages because they were filled with miscellaneous details of the captain's maritime life.

But through those few pages, he learned some information about the ship and the captain.

The ship was named the "Ocean Adventure", and the captain's name was Zolt Roa.

Zolt was not a merchant, as he had initially assumed, but rather an ocean explorer. His ventures included but were not limited to developing new sea routes, exploring dangerous waters, undertaking commissions to find rare and precious items and researching marine creatures.

He engaged in highly perilous activities.

However, he had accomplished quite a few remarkable feats.

For instance, he had established two major sea routes between the northern and southern continents, successfully explored a treacherous region resembling a stormy sea, and completed numerous commissions, earning himself a considerable reputation on the continent.

But as the saying goes, “If you play with fire, you’ll get burned”.

The ultimate outcome was evident: the ship sank, and he and all the crew members met their watery graves.

After flipping through about two-thirds of the pages, Ji Chen’s hand stopped.

When he saw the content on the page, his heart skipped a beat, and he began to read it carefully.

From this point onwards, it was the record of Zolt’s final voyage.

The first sentence at the beginning made him tremble with excitement.

“This voyage of the Ocean Adventurer is to find the legendary underwater city, Argos.”

Argos, the place mentioned on the psionic compass, was actually an underwater city?

Ji Chen was surprised, but he quickly collected himself and continued reading.

“Strange coincidences exist in the world, which may happen yesterday, today, or tomorrow, but now it’s happening to me.”

“Just when I was contemplating what the next meaningful voyage would be, I unintentionally caught a compass while fishing. It had some peculiar characters on the back. Through my investigation and the remnants of ancient books by the seaside, I discovered that there once existed a highly advanced civilization in the Mid-Ocean called Argos. The characters on the back of the compass bore a striking resemblance to the Argos script mentioned in those ancient texts. So, I suspected that this compass could guide me to the location of this lost civilization.”

“...And so, another challenging and magnificent journey began. After making all the necessary preparations, I set sail with over a hundred brave sailors, hoping for good luck...”

“...Across endless seas, guided by the compass, we finally arrived at our destination. According to the legends, Argos was located underwater. To ensure our success, I invested heavily in the production of dozens of special alchemical garments capable of diving into the depths...”

“...The search process took longer than I had imagined. I hope that tomorrow the sailors will find what we’re looking for, or else our food and fresh water might not be sufficient for the return journey...”

Several days passed between the two paragraphs.

The slightly hasty handwriting revealed Zolt’s excitement.

“After countless nights of enduring severe sea conditions and evading dreadful marine creatures, we have finally found Argos!”

“When we saw it, we could hardly believe our own eyes. It was a magnificent city encased in a crystalline shell, surrounded by a ring of mithril columns. Through the shell, we could catch a glimpse of a city adorned with peculiar towers and buildings, bearing traces of alchemical technology...”

“There is no doubt, this must be the legendary lost civilization of Argos! Now, the next step is to find the entrance to the city...”

“...We have been unable to find the entrance to the city, but our food and fresh water have almost run out. If we don’t leave soon, the consequences would be unimaginable... Therefore, we unanimously decided to take one of the mithril columns outside the shell with us. Each mithril column is several tens of meters high, and there are hundreds of them. It’s truly an astonishing treasure...”

“Of course, we need to break down the column into smaller pieces before we can transport it back... Oh, by the way, we also found a uniquely shaped alchemical firearm nearby. Its precision is unlike anything I’ve seen in my life...”

“...The transfer of the mithril is complete, and we are now on our way back. Once we return to the mainland, this earth-shattering discovery will surely make me renowned across the continent... Yes, that alchemical firearm will serve as the best evidence...”

He flipped another page and the notebook stopped abruptly.

Upon seeing this, Ji Chen let out a deep breath.

He didn’t expect Captain Zolt to actually rely on the compass to find the so-called underwater city of Argos.

Moreover, the large amount of mithril on the ship was obtained from there.

According to the description in the log, this amount of Mithril was only broken down from one of the hundreds of Mithril Pillars.

Such an astonishing amount of Mithril was enough to make any native force go crazy.

However, the final outcome was both laughable and heartbreaking.

After traversing countless seas and discovering Argos aboard the Far Ocean Adventure, they were not deterred by the arduous journey, nor were they defeated by storms or marine creatures. Yet, it was on their way back, on the verge of reaching land, that they struck a reef and sank.

Such is the irony of life.

However, it was through this unfortunate event that they made the discovery and obtained information about the lost civilization of Argos.

Argos... alchemical technology... mithril columns...

A glimmer of excitement flickered in Ji Chen's eyes as his thoughts began to take shape..

Chapter 117: Alchemy Handgun, Boundless Travels (1)

According to Zolt's journal, the underwater city of Argos was located in the eastern Central Ocean.

Unlike the previous voyage that took a dozen days, traveling from the Western Central Ocean to the Eastern Central Ocean would have taken months, if not longer.

A round trip alone would have taken at least one or two months, and time would have passed quickly.

It would have been best to wait for a suitable time in the future to consider this matter.

Shifting his focus, Ji Chen closed the journal and turned his gaze to the alchemical handgun in the box.

This was the handgun Zolt had mentioned, discovered near Argos in the depths of the sea.

Its design resembled a compass, resembling a flintlock pistol and a revolver. Through several transparent crystal pieces, he could see the intricate gears and crystals fitting together, emanating a strange and captivating beauty.

[Alchemy Handgun]

[Level: Three-star treasure]

[Effect: An alchemy musket that can shoot metal bullets.]

[A standard alchemy handgun produced from Argos' standard production line. It has extraordinary damage.]

It looked unfamiliar but impressive.

But the words below shocked Ji Chen.

This was just an alchemical handgun produced on an assembly line, yet it was a three-star treasure.

From this, one could speculate on the level of alchemical technology in Argos and how they could mass-produce three-star treasures like this.

This gave him another reason to search for the underwater city in the future.

Putting aside the possibility of obtaining other things, with this alchemical handgun and the hundreds of secret silver pillars, it was enough for him to spend time searching and exploring.

There was a leather holster hanging on the side of the barrel that could hold five round-headed bullets. One of them was already empty, most likely used by Zolt, leaving only four silver bullets.

Ji Chen's excitement grew as he fumbled, taking one bullet off and starting to load it.

After a firm push, he heard a "click" sound as the bullet was pressed into the chamber, then he closed the safety mechanism similar to a Blue Star pistol and adjusted the chamber to the correct firing position.

He set up a thick wooden plank as a target for the pirates on the ship.

This was Ji Chen's first time using such a handgun, and he felt a slight thrill.

Considering that he might miss his first shot, he positioned himself at a distance of ten meters from the target.

Holding the handgun with one hand, he aimed slightly and abruptly pulled the trigger.

Whoosh...

Thunk...

A faint drizzle-like sound echoed, and immediately he saw the wooden target ten meters away as if something had collided with it. Half of it instantly disappeared, leaving the remaining edges filled with irregular jagged marks.

The pirates who were watching around couldn't believe their eyes as they exchanged glances.

"Was that... shot by the captain?" one pirate asked.

"...Seems like it." The companion next to him gulped.

Not just the pirates, even Ji Chen was astonished by the power of this alchemy handgun.

After all, the target, which was a wooden board, was a full twenty centimeters thick.

If the bullet had simply pierced through, it would have been acceptable since it was an alchemical creation in this fantasy world.

But for half of the target to vanish completely was truly terrifying.

Moreover, Ji Chen had intentionally aimed slightly off target. If he had hit the bullseye, the entire target would likely have disappeared.

If this were to hit a person, they would probably be instantly killed.

"This is..." Alice, with sharp eyes, pointed behind the target. "Look, Captain."

Ji Chen bypassed the target and focused his gaze.

A hole about ten centimeters wide appeared in the thick railing at the stern, revealing the open sea beyond.

Well, after shattering the target, the bullet even pierced a hole in the railing.

Ji Chen estimated that this alchemy handgun was equivalent to two rounds of water arrows from the sea pixies. It was quite powerful.

Furthermore, it had excellent endurance, as long as there were enough bullets, it could keep firing continuously.

If they could distribute these alchemical handguns to the pirates, it would be a great advantage.

Just imagine, pirates boarding a ship to plunder merchant vessels, and as the guards drew their swords for close combat, they suddenly found the pirates brandishing alchemy handguns, easily taking down one after another, while saying, "Times have changed, my friend."

That would be quite amusing.

He tossed the handgun into his backpack.

Estimating that the Naga warriors had almost finished excavating, Ji Chen walked to the ship's railing and leaped back into the sea, once again diving underwater.

Anina sat on the mast of the sunken ship, looking bored.

But her spirit instantly lifted upon seeing Ji Chen.

"How's the digging going?" he asked.

"Um... I don't know." The dragon whale girl looked confused, clearly not paying close attention to the task.

Well, he would have to see for himself.

With a sigh, he swam towards the sunken ship.

The Naga warriors were the most loyal soldiers. Since Ji Chen instructed him to excavate, they hadn't stopped. Now, most of the Mithril had been dug out.

After about fifteen minutes, the last wooden crate filled with Mithril was cleared from the mud.

Ji Chen looked at the massive pile of Mithril before him, suppressing his excitement, and began to collect it.

"Ding- You have obtained 8000 units of Mithril."

8000 units of Mithril, the harvest was excellent, enough for him to continue with the next steps.

Seeing that the sunken ship had been thoroughly searched, he didn't linger any longer. He left with the Naga warriors and called Anina to return.

Back on the ship, they immediately set sail to return to the New Moon Islands.

By the time the sun had set, the group had returned to their territory.

Under the twilight, Wilus approached them.

"Has something happened?"

"Master, the task you assigned to me has been completed. The path to the mountain peak has been cleared." He pointed towards the towering mountain in the northeast direction..

Chapter 118: Alchemy Handgun, Boundless Travels (2)

Ji Chen narrowed his eyes and nodded.

After defeating the Kobolds and taking over the underground cave, he discovered that the passage leading to the mountain peak had long collapsed.

Now, after more than half a month of digging, it was finally dug through.

In the entire New Moon Islands, only the mountain peak had not been explored. However, through the information of the natives and the Kobolds, he was 100% sure that there was a dragon nest on the mountain peak.

That was a dragon, one of the most powerful magical creatures.

Even if it abandoned its nest, there was a high chance that it would leave behind some valuable items.

For example, the dragon scales that had fallen, the dragon blood left behind by her period, and the remaining treasures.

Every dragon nest was a treasure trove waiting to be excavated.

Ji Chen looked at the darkening sky and said to Wilus, "It's getting late. You should go and rest."

"However, this subordinate still has some matters that I have yet to complete..."

"There's no end to this matter. Don't ruin your health, or I won't be able to find another internal affairs officer as capable as you." Ji Chen smiled.

He was still very tolerant of the old man, Wilus, who looked after his territory.

As he had said, if Wilus were to tire out, he would never find another person capable of managing internal affairs like him. And managing it himself was even more impossible.

Just thinking about all those trivial matters gave Ji Chen a headache.

"Yes," Wilus hesitated for a moment before responding.

Seeing this, Ji Chen didn't say anything more. He waved his hand, allowing Wilus to rest, and walked back to the Lord's Manor.

For the past ten days, Jichen had been tirelessly working and running around, without getting a chance to properly rest and recuperate.

Even though the conditions on the ship were decent, they couldn't match the comfort of his own territory.

He was eager to get a good night's sleep.

After finishing the dinner brought in by the maid, he lay his head on the pillow and instantly fell asleep.

The following morning, Jichen woke up feeling refreshed and stretched lazily before leaving the Lord's Manor. He knew there were still tasks to be completed that day.

The Hero Altar.

Yesterday, they obtained a large amount of Mithril from the sunken ship, completing the final part of the required resources. Today was the perfect day to summon the blue-tier excellent-grade hero.

Summoning Alice and Anina, along with the Naga warriors and the Shallow Water Murlocs, they headed towards the northwest sub-island.

They crossed through the jungle and plains, arriving at the original location of the native tribe.

Without stopping, they continued forward.

Facing the water in front of them, the passage of time had changed. At this moment, Ji Chen no longer needed to ride in the native canoe. He directly walked on the surface of the sea, manipulating the power of water as if he were the controller of the water element.

They arrived in front of the Hero Altar half an hour later. There was not much difference from when they left.

There was even a large hole in the ground where the Earth-drilling Dragon Lizard had been hiding, but it had been filled with water.

Ji Chen waved his hand as he looked at the Hero altar.

“Everyone spread out and guard the surroundings. Be wary of monsters approaching.”

The Naga warriors growled respectfully and spread out to stand guard. Shallow Sea Murlocs also carried their tridents and swaggered through the parts that they did not recognize.

Alice and Anina stood beside him.

Ji Chen nodded and slowly walked up to the altar.

With a wave of his hand, he placed the 3000 units of Mithril, 3000 units of Crystal, and 3000 units of Mithril on the altar.

The altar, which was not very big, was instantly filled with all kinds of glittering resources.

Ji Chen threw out the last piece of Mithril, clapped his hands, and left.

“Ding! Do you wish to activate the Hero Altar?”

“Yes.”

As the words fell, as if detecting the presence of these resources, the patterns and designs on the top of the altar and the twelve stone pillars began to emit bursts of light.

Like vibrant colored clouds, they gradually grew brighter.

A faint glow shot up into the sky, instantly dispersing the clouds.

Within the radiance, the piled-up resources melted away like ice, their colorful meltwater flowing into the patterns on the surface of the altar.

Soon, energy began to accumulate, surging outward from the altar, forming concentric waves.

Ji Chen squinted his eyes, patiently waiting.

After more than ten minutes, as if it had absorbed enough energy, a blue beam of light shot up from the top of the altar like a fountain.

The energy surged as if it could tear through space.

Within the beam of light, a figure appeared, descending through the cracks in the pillars and stepping down from the altar.

Ji Chen stared closely, his face filled with surprise.

The summoned hero turned out to be a Murloc!?

With tendrils resembling dragon's whiskers, scales akin to a general's armor, a catfish-like head, and a glimmer of intelligence and brilliance in its fish-like eyes, it stood out from ordinary Murloc.

In its hand, resembling the claw of a wild beast, it held a gleaming trident with a circling current, clearly not an ordinary weapon.

Filled with curiosity, Ji Chen checked its information panel.

[None [can be named] (Hero)]

[Race: Murloc]

[Level: 10]

[Current Tier: Blue (Excellent)]

[Potential Tier: Blue (Excellent)]

[Skill: Surge (blue skill, has a certain water control ability, reduces water damage by 30%)]

Giant Throw (Blue skill. Gather all your strength and throw out a trident. Increases the penetration of the trident by 30%. Additional AoE splash damage)

Advanced Murloc Body (Blue Skill, Immune to some curses and viruses, increases 20% Magic Resistance and Physical Resistance)

Ocean Murlocs (Blue skill, movement speed increases by 150% when moving in the ocean, and the Murloc army under your command will enjoy a 50% bonus)

[Military characteristic: Murloc commander (When leading the Murlocs, it will increase morale by 30 points. It will not be afraid of battle or run away. All attributes of the Murlocs under its command will be increased by 50%, and they can communicate with each other telepathically)]

[This is a Murloc hero who has lost his memory.]

[Guagua – Guagua!!]

Murlocs, your boss is coming!

The Murloc hero standing before him, in terms of strength, was certainly not on par with purple-grade heroes like Alice or Anina.

However, it possessed a unique advantage that neither of them could match.

That advantage was the boost it provided to leading a Murloc army.

In addition to the speed boost from the Murloc's aquatic skill, its unit characteristics were perfect for commanding a Murloc army.

What does a 50% increase in overall attributes mean?

Taking the current 3-star third-tier Shallow Sea Murloc as an example, a 50% increase in overall attributes would bring it close to the level of a fourth-tier hero.

Ji Chen let out a sigh, feeling an intangible connection being established between him and the Murloc hero.

This was the power of a contract.

Seemingly aware of this connection, the Murloc hero gazed thoughtfully and slowly approached, planting its trident into the ground and bowing its head.

"My Lord, I thank you for awakening me. I shall forever be loyal to you."

The fact that this Murloc hero could speak left Ji Chen stunned.

Accustomed to Murlocs making their signature "GuaGua" sounds, hearing one speak in human language was quite unexpected.

"Welcome. Hmm? It seems you don't have a name?" Jichen inquired.

The Murloc hero's face displayed confusion. "I believe I had a name before, but I cannot recall it."

Unable to remember it?

Jichen pondered for a moment, a mischievous smile forming on his face.

"Since you've forgotten your name, then I shall give you a new one. Let's call you... Benbol"

"Benbo... Benbo, I shall be known as Benbo from now on!" the Murloc hero repeated, then expressed excitement. "Thankyou, master, for bestowing a name upon me!"

Uh, alright..."

Jichen fought to contain his laughter.

No laughing, he mustn't laugh, or else he would compromise his dignity as a lord.

Finally managing to suppress his amusement, Ji Chen pointed to the nearby Shallow Sea Murlocs and said, "Henceforth, you shall command these Shallow Sea Murlocs and the Murloc Rangers within the territory. I hope you can lead them well in the battle for me."

"Yes, sir! Benbo will never let you down!"

Seeing this scene, the surrounding shallow-sea Murlocs also became excited.

They could feel that the person in front of them could make them stronger..

Chapter 119: Territory Upgrade, a Sinister Plan (1)

Since Benbo was summoned from a different dimension and descended into this realm, the Hero Altar had fulfilled its purpose.

In a matter of moments, it seemed as if it had endured the erosion of thousands of years, rapidly crumbling into pieces of broken stones.

With the addition of Benbo, Jichen now had four heroes under his command: one green, one blue, and two purple.

And their races were diverse, including humans, murlocs, a siren, and a deep sea dragon whale.

But the strangest thing was that the more harmless their appearances, the stronger their power.

Without showcasing their terrifying abilities, Anina would appear as a lovely young girl, and Alice would be seen as a sweet silver-haired girl.

Murloc had a distinctive appearance, but its naturally idiotic dead-fish eyes served as a perfect disguise. As for Sparrow, he was just a slim young man.

One could say that the group lacked the typical appearance of heroes.

With their current mission accomplished, Ji Chen wasted no time and waved his hand, leading the group to continue forward.

Advancing through the water, they soon arrived at the second nearby sub-island.

This sub-island housed a broken Warning Lighthouse left behind by an ancient civilization. Having obtained enough crystals during their previous sea voyage, it was a convenient opportunity to repair it.

Passing through the coconut grove and ascending the towering cliffs, they reached the ruins before them.

“Do you wish to consume 10,000 units of stone, 5,000 units of clay, and 1,000 units of crystal to repair the Warning Lighthouse?”

“Yes.”

“The repair will take 1 hour. Please be patient.”

Observing the information displayed before him, Ji Chen nodded inwardly.

One hour wasn't too long, and he could easily pass the time.

Returning to the coconut grove, he let the Naga Warriors grab a few coconuts to feast upon.

Time passed quickly.

“The broken Warning Lighthouse has been repaired and is now connected to the territory...Connection successful.”

On the territory panel, the words “Warning Lighthouse” appeared in the building column. There was no need to come to the lighthouse personally. One could check the lighthouse's detection status at any time in the territory.

Ji Chen looked at the cliff. A tall tower had appeared on the previously barren cliff. A large lamp was slowly rotating on top of it.

Because it was daytime, the headlights were not on, but the detection ability was still there.

Circles of invisible energy fluctuations spread out in all directions from the lighthouse, detecting the sea and the air within ten nautical miles of the defense.

Success!

With the Lighthouse, he could predict the enemy's invasion in advance and would not be caught off guard.

Ji Chen nodded in satisfaction.

Seeing that his two goals had been achieved, he did not stay any longer. With a wave of his hand, he led the group back to the territory.

Two hours later.

The territory came into view.

Jichen unlocked his troops and walked alone to the central square of the Lord's Manor.

As he looked at the thatched-roofed Lord's Manor in front of him, and then glanced at the villas and cottages of the residents on the side, he shook his head in disappointment.

Why did the Lord's dwelling look worse than the residents'?

To change the appearance of the Lord's Manor, he needed to upgrade the territory to a higher level.

Specifically, from Village Level to Town Level, or from Town Level to City-State Level.

In the past, the lack of resources was a valid reason, but now that they were becoming prosperous, the Lord's Manor needed to be improved.

However, it had been a while since then, and he became curious about the progress of other players' territories.

He casually opened the Territory Rankings.

Upon seeing the rankings, a smile formed on his face.

Previously, his Crown of the Ocean ranking was around 60,000, but now he was in the top 900.

The "Level 2 Village" label next to his name stood out among the many Town Level territories.

Although his territory's level was low, its prosperity exceeded 15,000.

This achievement was attributed to the territory's formidable military capabilities.

Even though the military aspect did not contribute significantly to the territory's prosperity, he managed to elevate it through various units and heroes.

Now he wondered how his ranking would change once the territory level increased.

Ji Chen wanted to have some fun, so he decided to level up his territory.

He began to check the resources needed to level up.

Upgrading from a Level 2 village to a Level 3 village required 1250 units of wood, fiber, and clay. Looking at the interface, all the requirements were met, so he immediately began to level up.

“Territory level increased from 2 to 3.”

The process of leveling up was silent and there was no big movement.

Looking at the changes in the territory, the most obvious change was the size.

The length and width of the territory had increased from 200 x 200 (m) to 300 x 300 (m), and the area had increased from 4 square kilometers to 9 square kilometers. It had more than doubled.

In addition, he also unlocked some Village-level buildings. However, they were all very basic buildings, so there was nothing worth paying attention to.

He continued to level up.

To upgrade from a Level 3 Village to a Level 4 Village, he needed 1,500 units of wood, fiber, and clay, which coincided with his previous calculations.

Following the same pattern, upgrading from a Level 4 Village to a Level 5 Village would require 1,750 units of each resource, and from a Level 5 Village to a Level 1 Town would require 2,000 units.

Jichen didn't pay much attention to the details of these upgrades. He quickly progressed to a Level 1 Town.

“Territory level successfully increased (Level 5 Village —> Level 1 Town).”

“Ding- Town-level buildings have been unlocked.”

After the upgrade, the territory's prosperity was recalculated, and it increased by an additional 2,000 prosperity points..

Chapter 120: Territory Upgrade, a Sinister Plan (2)

Currently, the Crown of the Ocean Prosperity Level had reached 17,000, and its ranking had risen from 900 to 32nd place. The Level 5 Towns ranked ahead of him all had relatively high Prosperity Levels.

However, what surprised him was...

At this moment, the first place on the leader board was already a level 2 city. It was a whole level higher than him and a small level higher than the second place.

It seemed that the lord of this territory had spent a lot of effort on upgrading the territory.

Shaking his head, Ji Chen wasn't in the mood to fight for the rankings.

He only sighed slightly and did not care anymore.

However, he did not know that his upgrade had attracted the attention of many players.

“Did you see that? A person named Ji Chen on the territory ranking suddenly rose to 32nd place!”

“It’s only a Level 1 town, but its Prosperity Level is 17,000? What kind of joke is this? I feel like my Level 2 Town is fake...”

“Doesn’t this mean that others have obtained more prosperity in other aspects...”

“I don’t think so. He probably used some kind of trick to forcefully obtain it. Is there a need for this?”

“Don’t be sour. I can smell the sourness coming from you through the screen.”

“I think he can’t compare to the ‘Lonely Islander.’ Who agrees, and who disagrees?”

“I agree. The ‘Lonely Islander’ has a purple-grade hero and a powerful army. Plus, they’ve obtained so many crystals. He must be well-known in the rankings! I just wonder what their real name is...”

At some point, the title of the ‘Lonely Islander’ had spread among the player community along the coast of the Western Central Ocean and various islands. They had gained quite a reputation.

Most of these players had experienced the Blood Sea Mystic Realm firsthand and knew that breaking through the Holy City was made possible with the help of the ‘Lonely Islander.’ This made a deep impression on them.

However, other players couldn’t understand why there was such excessive praise for the ‘Lonely Islander’ and started to argue, sparking a heated debate.

The conversation gradually shifted from Jichen’s prosperity to the ‘Lonely Islander.’

Little did they know that these two individuals were the same person.

Ji Chen naturally had no idea about the discussions happening in the chat channels, and even if he did, he would simply brush it off with a smile.

“Who is the ‘Lonely Islander’? What does it have to do with me, Ji Chen?”

At the moment, Jichen was busy selecting a suitable location for a Large Water Fort.

A Large Water Fort had certain requirements for its placement. The water needed to be deep enough for ships to enter without running aground, and it was best to have a sheltered harbor.

After upgrading to a Level 1 Town, the area of Crown of the Ocean had expanded to 600×600 meters, approximately 3.6 square kilometers. It seemed quite large, but compared to the main island, which spanned over hundreds of square kilometers, it was relatively small.

From an aerial view, one could see that the Crown of the Ocean occupied a small square area in the southeast of the main island.

To the north was the jungle, to the south was the ocean, to the west was the rainforest, and to the east was the tidal flat.

Ji Chen was currently searching for a suitable location for the water fortress near the eastern tidal flat.

Although Crown of the Ocean was very close to the beach in the south, the water there was flat sand and shallow corals. The water depth was only three to four meters. It was fine to park small boats, but it was impossible to park large ships.

After some inspection, he found that the beach from the southeast to the east of the main island was a good location. It was only a few meters into the water, but the water depth was already more than ten meters.

As long as there was a suitable dock, not to mention two-masted merchant ships or three-masted warships, even the New Moon could dock there!

In addition, the terrain of the main island, with its tall cliffs protruding in the southeast corner and the rocky walls extending north-eastward from the north, formed a natural sheltered harbor in the curved area spanning several kilometers.

Moreover, the tidal flat was not only spacious but also flat, making it convenient for construction.

With these three conditions combined, it became a valuable and excellent harbor.

After finalizing the specific construction site, Ji Chen returned to his territory and handed over the blueprint for the Large Water Fort to his subordinates, instructing them to start construction as soon as there were enough resources, especially wood.

Just as he finished dealing with this matter and was about to take a break, a warning came from the alert lighthouse.

A ship appeared on the sea surface, about ten nautical miles southwest of the lighthouse, slowly heading towards the New Moon Islands.

Jichen was momentarily surprised, then suddenly realized.

Raymond had arrived!

Onboard White Sands Princess, Willow looked at the calm sea around him, feeling a sense of disbelief.

It was as if the towering waves and thunderstorms from two hours ago had been nothing but a dream.

But when he looked at the chaotic mess on the deck, he realized that it wasn't a dream.

A week ago, he had been ordered by his master to embark on Princess White Sands and set sail for the Stormy Seas.

At first, when they entered the outer periphery of the stormy seas and saw the towering waves, he had deeply doubted the truthfulness of Raymond's words. He wondered if Raymond was deceiving them.

But what he didn't expect was that after gritting their teeth and forcefully traversing the outer periphery of the sea, the surrounding sea conditions suddenly stabilized.

It was as if a switch had been flipped.

The sky instantly cleared, and there was not even a ripple on the sea surface. Whales and schools of fish leaped above the water, creating a peaceful atmosphere.

“Raymond’s words turned out to be true...” Willow murmured to himself. “Does that mean there really is an archipelago here?”

At that moment, his expression became instantly excited..