

Ocean Lord 141

Chapter 141: Floating Skyrider (1)

Ji Chen instructed Wilus to temporarily restrict the residents from leaving the territory and led his army to rush towards the northeast secondary island, vowing to annihilate the scouting team of sea heirs.

He had a vague premonition that if he couldn't resolve them properly this time, he might have to face a sea heir army numbering in the thousands in the next encounter.

After learning that they were the culprits responsible for the destruction of the ancient civilization on the New Moon Islands, Ji Chen set aside his arrogance and dared not underestimate them.

They raced all the way, crossing shallow beaches that exposed the sea surface, and arrived at the northeast secondary island.

By this time, the warning lighthouse had already detected the invaders, working in conjunction with the omniscience map.

It was easy to spot more than twenty red dots arranged in a line on the second secondary island. They were wandering along the coast of the secondary island, hunting fish and sea creatures in the vicinity.

Wherever they passed, the clusters of red dots on the map quickly disappeared, forming a huge void centered around them.

They took all kinds of life as they passed, perfectly illustrating what was known as the "Three Lights Policy" policy.

Ji Chen and his people cautiously hid behind the remnants of the city walls, peering out to observe.

Floating on the sea were a group of repulsive-looking Deep Sea Impalers, recklessly shooting their sharp spikes from their mouths, continuously killing the creatures around them.

Any living being struck by their spikes would either die on the spot or become paralyzed as the toxins infiltrated their bodies.

After killing their target, the Deep Sea Impalers would use their tentacles to retrieve and store them in the empty cavity in their abdomen.

It looks like they're bringing food back?

Despite not knowing whether the Deep Sea Impalers, with their petal-like heads, possessed visual capabilities, Ji Chen persisted in covert observation.

However, they clearly possessed a precise method of sensing the enemy's position. When Ji Chen saw them hunting several high-speed swordfish, the spikes on their heads seemed to have eyes, accurately predicting the swordfish's movements and hitting them with precision.

This made Ji Chen feel a slight sense of relief.

Fortunately, he had previously stunned them into submission and swiftly defeated them, denying them any opportunity to retaliate. Otherwise, judging by their formidable attacking prowess, even the prospect of losing half of his army would be viewed as optimistic.

Therefore, this time, Ji Chen planned to repeat the same strategy in dealing with these sea heirs.

He would have Alice directly control them, leaving them no chance to counterattack or transmit information.

However, a sudden realization struck him, recalling that Alice had already attained the purple-tier level with her Temptation Song.

Could he try to manipulate the sea heirs?

Alice's song was essentially a form of mental attack, invading the target's mind and soul, thereby achieving control.

The sea heirs had a hive-like mindset, similar to a mental network connecting them. They were linked to each other.

Therefore, could he use this mental network to not only control the sea heirs on-site but also control the other sea heirs within this group?

As this idea appeared in his mind, Ji Chen couldn't help but be tempted.

He shared his thoughts with Alice and Anina, but it was quickly met with objections.

Anina looked at him with a gaze that seemed to say, "Are you an idiot? If your idea were true, the Sirens would have already ruled over all the sea heir groups, so why would they cause such a headache for countless marine creatures?"

She continued, "Your idea is not without merit, but the problem lies in the fact that a sea heir group is controlled by a Sea Heir leader. To control the sea heirs under its command, you would have to compete for control with the Sea Heir leader. Naturally, you would need greater and stronger mana and spiritual power than the Sea Heir leader. Considering that any leader among the Sea Heirs is deemed, at the very least, a red-tier heroic figure, do you believe Alice possesses the current capability to contend with them?"

Anina spoke with a sarcastic tone, casting a glance at Alice standing beside her.

Alice also honestly said, "My current strength is not enough."

Ji Chen was immediately disappointed but then quickly regained his composure.

It was just a red-tier heroic figure, and it wouldn't be long before Alice advanced to that level.

As he spoke, the group of sea heirs approached the vicinity, completely within Alice's spell range.

Seeing this, Ji Chen didn't miss the opportunity and decisively ordered Alice to take action.

Her song echoed.

All the sea heirs were controlled.

Under Alice's manipulation, they began to attack each other.

The Deep Sea Impalers had high attack power; their spikes pierced through bodies like bullets, splattering dark green blood in the sky.

Ji Chen couldn't help but feel that the defense of this group of Deep Sea Impalers seemed to have increased a bit.

In no time, only one remained out of the twenty-plus sea heirs, and it was swiftly taken down by the Shallow Sea Murlocs with their tridents.

"Ding-... You have gained 3000 experience points."

Looking at the shattered tentacles floating on the sea's surface, Ji Chen suddenly realized that something was amiss.

The last time, over two hundred sea heirs were killed on the mudflat. But this time, why were there only twenty-plus?

Weren't they here to offer themselves?

Realizing that two hundred sea heirs were killed in an instant, if the sea heir leader had sufficient intelligence, even if they were just here for reconnaissance, they wouldn't have dispatched such a small number of sea heirs. At the very least, there should have been a larger quantity...

Ji Chen's expression froze.

No, they must have already sent out a large number of sea heirs, and this small team was just one of them.. The rest of them should be nearby, conducting reconnaissance!

Chapter 142: Floating Skyrider (2)

He quickly activated the warning lighthouse for detection and expanded the viewing range.

After a while, he indeed discovered eight or nine small squads of sea heirs around the New Moon Islands, scattered in various positions in the northeast sea.

Fortunately, it seemed that no sea heirs had invaded the main island yet. They were all hunting in the nearby waters.

However, realizing that this squad of sea heirs had already been wiped out, the rest of the sea heirs were rapidly converging towards this location, and the nearest squad would arrive soon.

"Everyone, hide!"

With his command, all the troops retreated into the overgrown ruins of the city walls, concealing their presence amidst the debris.

In just a few minutes, fifty or sixty sea heirs emerged from the sea and rushed onto the beach.

The grotesque creatures with petal-like heads swayed, seemingly perceiving their surroundings.

Ji Chen hid in the absolute secrecy of the ruins and vegetation, gazing at the group of sea heirs.

A sense of unease swept over him.

Once all the sea heirs gathered, he would annihilate them all at once!

As time passed, more and more sea heirs landed from the sea, crowding the narrow beach. Their numbers had reached three to four hundred.

Compared to the previous encounter, their numbers had significantly increased, and not only that, but their strength had also skyrocketed.

[Deep Sea Impaler I

I Race]: Sea Heir

[Tier]: Tier 3, 6 stars

[Skills]: Spine Attack (purple skill, capable of launching highly penetrative spines from its mouthpiece)

Neurotoxin (blue skill, spines coated with a potent neurotoxin capable of affecting movements)

Resilient Epidermis (blue skill, increases defense by 30%)

[Unit Trait]: Hive Mind (mental interconnection among themselves)

Adaptive Evolution (can continuously adapt to the environment and evolve in a favorable direction)

[A mid-tier force among low-level sea heirs]

In just a little over a month, these sea heirs had evolved at a much faster rate than Ji Chen's units. Currently, only the Dragon Blood Muriocs, his main force, had a higher tier than them. The Naga Warriors, Pure Water Sea Pixies, and others were already significantly lagging behind.

However, the number of Dragon Blood Muriocs was far fewer than the sea heirs, and a direct confrontation would not necessarily give Ji Chen a significant advantage.

It seemed that his unit strength was still far from sufficient...

Snapping back to reality, Ji Chen noticed that the sea heirs gathered on the beach had reached five to six hundred.

This made him feel uneasy.

If their numbers grew even larger, it would be beyond his control.

Fortunately, the appearance of sea heirs seemed to be slowing down, and the number stabilized at over seven hundred.

He could still handle this quantity.

At that moment, hundreds of dark dots appeared in the distant sky.

At first, Ji Chen thought they were seagulls or falcons, but as they approached, he realized they were flying sea heirs!

Unlike the Deep Sea Impalers crawling on the ground, these airborne sea heirs had slender bodies with bubbles inside them. They had sharp bone beaks resembling bird beaks and a pair of white horn-like wings on their sides.

Ji Chen suddenly realized that these were the flying sea heirs that the ancient civilization had enhanced.

But in his opinion, rather than saying they could fly, it was more like they floated in the air and used their horn-like wings to move slowly.

Just like a small boat that can float on the water but requires oars to assist in moving, though at a slow speed.

He speculated that these sea heirs had probably hunted birds, which led to the evolution of this unit capable of flight.

[Floating Skyrider]

[Race]: Sea Heir

[Tier]: Tier 3, 7 stars

[Skills]: Acid Spray (Purple Skill, capable of launching highly corrosive liquid that can dissolve rocks)

Neurotoxin (Blue Skill, the acid is coated with a potent neurotoxin that affects movement)

Levitation (Blue Skill, pouches grow in the body, allowing them to float in the air)

[Unit drafts]: Hive Mind (Mental connection between individuals)

Adaptive Evolution (Capable of continually adapting to the environment and evolving towards advantageous directions)

[Low-level flying force among the sea heirs]

They were only one star higher than the deep sea impalers, but their level had also increased.

However, Ji Chen regarded them with extreme caution.

The reason was simple -they could fly.

Flying meant that these floating skyriders could soar over the islands, overlooking the ground from the sky.

In this way, the vast jungle would no longer be an obstacle for the sea heirs' advance. They could easily discover the Crown of the Ocean and resource points hidden in the jungle, which was not what Ji Chen desired.

"Alice, control those flying ones from the beginning, make sure they don't discover the Crown of the Ocean and our location!"

"Anina, when the time comes, take the Naga Warriors and quickly deal with the deep sea impalers."

"Benbo, shoot down those flying things with the Dragon Blood Muriocs, not leaving a single one!"

"The rest of the units, give it your all!"

He immediately issued orders, assigning tasks to each unit and hero.

Seeing his serious expression, the heroes responded solemnly.

Ji Chen nodded and, as a precaution, took out a Mana Pendant from his backpack and handed it to Alice. If anything unexpected happened, it could quickly replenish mana and turn the tide.

Turning to look at the Floating Skyriders approaching in the distance, Ji Chen said in a low voice, “Attack!”

In an instant, Alice took control of all the deep sea impalers and Floating Skyriders, with a tremendous mental pressure instantly weighing on her, as if a mountain was pressing down on her body.

But Alice gritted her teeth and persisted, tightly grasping the Mana Pendant and using it as needed. Seeing this, the heroes led their units and rushed into the battle.

Anina led the Naga Warriors, charging directly towards the group of Deep Sea Impalers.

Wielding the Dragon Slayer Great Sword, although it was broken, its power was still immense. With a swing, she could kill one, and with a slash, she could cut off a cluster of tentacles.

The Dragon Slayer Great Sword was not only effective against dragons but also worked well against these creatures.

However, the Naga Warriors confronted Deep Sea Impalers that were a whole tier above them and had undergone evolutionary enhancements to bolster their defenses, thereby reducing the agility of the battle. It often required three or four strikes to eliminate a single impaler, resulting in a noticeable decrease in their overall speed.

On the other side, led by Benbo, the Dragon Blood Muriocs transformed into anti-aircraft artillery, tridents soaring into the sky.

These clumsy and sluggish Floating Skyriders were easy to deal with. Their horn-like wings were not resilient and rather fragile, almost like glass. Ji Chen couldn’t understand how the sea heirs had evolved into this state.

One after another, the Floating Skyriders fell from the sky, landing on the ground and in the sea, mingling with the remnants of the Deep Sea Impalers.

Ji Chen watched as the number of sea heirs gradually decreased, and the crease on his forehead relaxed.

But what he didn’t know was that hundreds of kilometers away from the New Moon Islands, within an underwater cave, an extremely bloated monster suddenly expanded and contracted.

Some strange information entered its mind and began to be deciphered.

On the cave walls, the eggs that nurtured the sea heirs emitted a blue light, undergoing an unknown transformation.

“Ding- You have achieved a glorious victory, earning 108,000 experience points, leveling up (13—15).”

“Siren: Alice (Hero) leveled up (13—15).”

“Deep Sea Dragon Whale: Anina (Hero) leveled up (20—>21)/

Murloc: Benbo...”

The level-up notifications flooded the screen, and the generous experience rewards caused all units and heroes to gain two levels.

Only Anina, with her higher level, gained just one level, but she was still delighted as she had been stuck at level 20 for some time.

Ji Chen looked at the battlefield where the smoke had just dissipated.

On the beach and in the sea.

Sea heir corpses and wreckage covered every inch of land, and the ink-green liquid almost completely covered the nearby sea, clinging to the water like oil. It contaminated the water, causing many fish to float belly-up with a strange hue on their bodies.

After the sea heirs died, they dealt one final blow to this land and ocean.

No wonder Anina had mentioned that one of the best ways to deal with sea heir corpses was to burn them with fire. Otherwise, with such contamination, the ocean would eventually become lifeless and stagnant..

Chapter 143:1,500 Kilograms per Acre Yield (1)

After the brief excitement of leveling up, Anina looked at the scattered corpses and filth, with a hint of worry on her face.

“All, so many dead again. It seems that more sea heirs will attack soon. Big trouble is coming,” she sighed.

Curious, Ji Chen asked, “If that’s the case, how did you manage to evade the sea heirs before?”

“Of course, we fought and then ran. Each time the sea heirs come, they are stronger and their numbers increase. Who can withstand that? As long as we don’t get caught by them, there won’t be any problems,” Anina explained casually.

A somber expression fell upon Ji Chen’s face. Individuals may flee, but their territory cannot escape.

Facing an enemy that could become stronger, the best approach was to take the initiative and completely eliminate the sea heir group’s leader. As creatures with hive-minded thinking, individual common sea heirs were meaningless. Each one represented the whole, and if the sea heir leader was killed, the rest would wither away like rootless duckweed.

Unfortunately, they still didn’t know the location of this sea heir group’s habitat or the position of their leader. They had no direction for an offensive.

This left Ji Chen with a headache.

During this period, he needed to expedite resource acquisition and continue to unlock the military talent tree. Currently, besides the Dragon Blood Murlocs, the rest of their main force units had lower tiers compared to the sea heirs. If it weren’t for Alice’s exceptional contribution this time, there would have been significant casualties upon contact.

This realization made Ji Chen aware of his overreliance on Alice during this period and his neglect of unit development.

No matter how powerful Alice was, she was still only one person. Even if she advanced to the Red Tier, she could only control a few thousand ordinary units at most, and even fewer if they were high-tier units.

What if they faced tens of thousands of enemies in the future? The thought of facing sea heirs in the four or five-digit range instantly overwhelmed Ji Chen, leading him to silently complain.

With a sigh, he waved his hand, instructing the army to collect the sea heir corpses and liquid from the beach and sea. Afterwards, he ordered them to set everything ablaze, completely eliminating the remains. The burning pyre resembled a volcano, spreading a foul odor.

Summoning the others, Ji Chen embarked on the journey back.

Along the way, he pondered how to properly respond to the upcoming sea heir attacks.

Upon returning to their territory, Ji Chen finally snapped back to reality.

“My Lord, have you dealt with those sea heirs?”

“Yes, they have been taken care of. But the situation is not optimistic. Sea heirs capable of flight have emerged.”

“Flight-capable sea heirs? Doesn’t that mean our territory will be easily discovered?”

“At this point, we have no other choice. We need to accelerate the construction of various buildings.” Ji Chen shook his head. “Additionally, I will search for blueprints for anti-aircraft buildings to defend against their airborne forces.”

“Alas, that’s the only way.” Wilus sighed, mentally preparing to lead the residents of the Crown of the Ocean personally in battles against the sea heirs. The Crown of the Ocean had become their home, and they were determined to defend it, even if it meant giving their lives.

After bidding farewell to Wilus, who hurriedly left to expedite the construction of various buildings, Ji Chen’s entire team became busy under the pressure of long-lost survival. They intensified their efforts in all aspects.

Raymond, who had just come out of the house, looked around at the bustling activity and the sense of an approaching storm, and froze.

He quickly walked over, saluted, and asked, “My lord, what’s happening?”

“Nothing much... Are you ready to set off?” Ji Chen nodded, realizing that Raymond probably had an idea of what was going on.

“I am prepared and can depart at any time,” Raymond promptly replied.

Once again, Ji Chen nodded with a sense of urgency, fully aware that the imminent threat of the sea heirs demanded swift action. He understood the need to expedite all preparations and muster all his strength for the forthcoming battle.

“Very well, you shall depart tomorrow morning. Sell the specialty products for resources as soon as possible and return,” Ji Chen instructed.

Small boats shuttled between the merchant ships and the main island, carrying precious processed jungle wood and iron boxes filled with golden bass fish into the cargo hold.

The premium coffee beans had also been dried and stored in containers that could extend their shelf life, ready to be shipped.

These specialty products would become the first batch of goods exported by the Crown of the Ocean, marking the first step in gaining recognition!

One day, the name of the Crown of the Ocean would resound far and wide.

At noon the next day, the group stood on the beach bidding farewell to their departing companions.

“My Lord, this journey will take at least twenty days, maybe even a month, before I return. I will bring back what you desire,” Raymond, patting his ball-like belly, exuded confidence.

“I have confidence in you. Set sail,” Ji Chen replied, waving his hand.

Seeing this, Raymond didn’t linger any longer. He turned around and waved goodbye to the remaining crew members, then proceeded towards the distant fleet of four ships.

Halfway there, he stood up and bid farewell to Ji Chen once again, knowing that something must have happened..

Chapter 144:1,500 Kilograms per Acre Yield (2)

As the ships sailed into the distance, gradually fading from view, Anina took a seat.

The fleet set sail, heading towards the stormy seas beyond, gradually disappearing above the horizon.

The four ships carried a total of 200 elite pirates, 150 Murloc Rangers, several enslaved creatures serving auxiliary roles, and five giant octopuses that had just been recruited the day before, lurking beneath the sea’s surface.

In addition, Sparrow accompanied the fleet as the overseeing hero, ensuring surveillance.

Aside from selling the two ships’ cargo, Sparrow would also take the opportunity to plunder other merchant vessels to supplement their resources.

With this configuration, Ji Chen believed that the fleet would safely reach its destination and return with the desired resources.

After bidding farewell to Raymond and the others, Ji Chen had other plans.

He intended to set sail again in a couple of days.

The goal was the lair of the Black Skeleton Pirate's treasure map.

After the battle outside the Mystic Realm Gate last time, the Black Skeleton Pirate Crew suffered heavy losses and hurriedly retreated to their headquarters to lick their wounds. They were currently at their weakest.

The Bauhinia Alliance and several commercial alliances wanted to take advantage of this opportunity to annihilate the pirates who had caused them so much trouble, once and for all.

However, the Black Skeleton Pirate Crew could roam the Western Central Ocean not only because of their powerful warships but also due to their well-hidden lairs, allowing them to elude pursuit.

Fortunately, the elite pirates that Ji Chen had recruited knew the location of their headquarters.

As their lord, it was only natural for Ji Chen to share this information and reveal the specific region of their base.

Although the Black Skeleton Pirate Crew had suffered heavy losses, they still had several intact pirate ships. Going there would not be fruitless.

Coincidentally, after the departure of the ocean fleet, only the New Moon and a three-masted warship remained on the New Moon Islands, making the place feel rather empty.

This was a perfect opportunity to seize those pirate ships.

Wait, why did I say "perfect opportunity" again?

But that didn't matter. What mattered was that Ji Chen was wary of the numerous warships of the Black Skeleton Pirate Crew in the past, but now that they had suffered heavy losses and only had a few ships left...

The saying "to kick a dog when it's down" applied perfectly.

Naturally, this opportunity couldn't be missed.

Furthermore, there were rumors that the Black Skeleton Pirate Crew had plundered a treasure ship bound for a northern continent principality two months ago. Inside, there was a batch of precious resources that hadn't been sold yet, including mithril and precious metals.

If the rumors were true, then Ji Chen had even more reason to make the trip.

After all, with so many people eyeing them, it was only a matter of time before someone else took those rare resources. In that case, it was better to take advantage of them himself.

According to the pirates, the Black Skeleton Pirate Crew's headquarters was located between the northwest of the New Moon Islands and the northeast of the Silver Islands, in the sea region between the two.

If they encountered no obstacles, it would take three to four days to arrive.

With the round trip and the time needed for the attack, it would take at least ten days, a quite lengthy period.

So Ji Chen decided to first take care of the affairs of the Crown of the Ocean before setting off.

After contemplating for a moment, he decided to check on the progress of the sea rice cultivation.

He swiftly traversed the path opened in the jungle.

Half an hour later.

The continuous jungle disappeared, and a vast lowland appeared before them.

Across the lowland, patches of vibrant green ocean thrived. Salty seawater flowed into the lowland through open channels, converging into fields ideal for cultivating seaweed.

The sea rice cultivation was thriving, with strands of rice-like seaweed hanging down, emanating a lush green color.

The vibrant scene was truly pleasing to the eye.

Some natives moved about the rice fields, diligently taking care of the sea rice. It was believed that before long, the fields would turn into a golden ocean.

At this moment, one of the natives spotted Ji Chen and hurriedly approached, bowing and asking, "My Lord, why have you come here?"

"I just came to see how things are going here. The sea rice is growing well. You have all worked hard," Ji Chen said kindly, patting the native's shoulder.

"It's not difficult at all, My Lord. It's our duty," the natives quickly replied, their faces filled with sincere smiles.

Receiving praise from their lord and seeing their work acknowledged, they suddenly felt invigorated, as if their fatigue had disappeared.

"Now, how many acres of sea rice have been planted? How much longer until it's ready for harvest?" Ji Chen asked, patting the shoulder of one of the natives amiably.

"Begging your pardon, My Lord. We have already planted over 500 acres of sea rice, and it will take a little over a month to mature. If we use the highly nutritious bird droppings as fertilizer, the yield could reach 1,400 to 1,600 units."

Over 500 acres... with an average yield of 1,500 units per acre, that's a total of... 750,000 units of food!?

Ji Chen was shocked by this conclusion.

That's 750,000 units of food!

Considering the residents' daily consumption of three units per person, it would be enough to feed around 2,000 people in the Crown of the Ocean for 125 days.

If they factored in the military units, it would be even more, at least over 100 days.

However, the sea rice only took two months, 60 days, to mature in one cycle. Almost enough time for two harvests within 125 days.

In other words, the Crown of the Ocean had finally entered the stage of self-sufficiency.

This realization filled Ji Chen with joy.

Finally, there was no need to worry about food!

“Keep expanding the seawater rice cultivation area. More individuals will join in due course. These seaweed fields are vital to the survival of our territory, and we must not make any mistakes! If we achieve a plentiful harvest in the future, I will reward you accordingly based on the circumstances. Do not let me down; meet my expectations,” Ji Chen said.

“Yes!”

Upon hearing this, the natives earnestly responded.

Satisfied, Ji Chen nodded and let them return to their work.

Then he looked up at the clear sky.

The weather was good today, so he decided to go around the island and its surroundings, hunting down beasts and monsters. It had been a while since he had gone hunting, and there was nothing else to do today...

With that in mind, he waved his hand and set off with his army.

They began clearing the wild creatures and beasts around the New Moon Islands.

The creatures and monsters that had finally found peace for a few days were now panicking again, as the terrifying upright apes had returned!

For the entire day, not only the island’s creatures and monsters suffered, but the marine life near the coastline also faced the same fate.

Their screams and howls echoed throughout the area.

It was only after nightfall that Ji Chen returned with his troops, carrying a multitude of prey, which piled up like mountains in the square.

The residents cheered upon seeing such a large quantity of game and eagerly began carrying and processing the meat.

Even Wilus, burdened by various affairs and filled with worries, couldn’t help but smile.

With so much food coming in, the morale of the residents was lifted.

The captive members of the Chamber of Commerce, who had been working with tools, were wide-eyed, almost drooling, eager to rush forward and start devouring.

During their captivity, they had not tasted meat for days. They had been surviving on dry rations and vegetarian food, making their taste buds go numb.

Just as the captives stared longingly, the residents poked them with sticks and sneered, “What’s the matter? Craving for meat? If you work harder, the kind Lord might show mercy and reward you with a meat feast.”

Being poked, the captives seethed with anger but dared not show the slightest hint of it.

In the past few days, they had experienced the consequences of anger—a whole day without food and having to do twice the work the next day.

As for resistance and escape? Several individuals who had taken substantive actions had already been pierced by the spears of the Murloc Rangers and met a swift demise.

The grindstone of life had long dulled their sharp edges.

They sighed and wondered when they could leave this place!

Chapter 145: Black Skeleton Pirates, Night Attack (1)

The day of departure came quickly.

It happened to be the beginning of a new week, and Ji Chen arrived early in front of the military recruitment camp to recruit the new units that refreshed this week.

Five Giant Octopuses, ten Deep Sea Rangers, one Tidal Sea Spirit, fourteen Dragon Blood Murlocs, fourteen Naga Warriors, twenty-one Pure Water Sea Pixies, and fifty-six Murloc Rangers were recruited.

After recruiting all of them, the number of units is as follows:

Ten Giant Octopuses, Tier 4, 8 stars.

Twenty Deep Sea Rangers, Tier 4, 1 star.

Two Tidal Sea Spirits, Tier 4, 1 star.

Eighty-one Dragon Blood Murlocs, Tier 4, 3 stars.

Seventy-six Naga Warriors, Tier 3, 5 stars.

Ninety-eight Pure Water Sea Pixies, Tier 3, 3 stars.

Two hundred and sixty-six Murloc Rangers, Tier 2, 5 stars.

In addition to the 270 Elite Pirates, there is a total of 823 units.

The increase in the number of Dragon Blood Murlocs and other main units gave Ji Chen more confidence for the upcoming voyage. The defense vulnerability caused by Raymond taking most of the Murloc Rangers had also been alleviated with the recruitment of more of them. The Kobolds have completely submitted and can be managed without the need for additional units.

However, the Chamber of Commerce guards, who had previously been captives, were not so honest. Even after being disarmed and their Tier lowered to just above Tier 2, they still harbored some desire to escape. Therefore, it was necessary to assign at least fifty Murloc Rangers to monitor them. If they made significant attempts to escape, the Murloc Rangers would ensure they experienced the excruciating pain of a thousand swords through their hearts.

At noon, the massive ship, New Moon, which had been anchored at sea for several days, raised its sails and lifted the heavy anchors under the control of the Tidal Sea Spirit. It slowly started moving towards the stormy sea outside.

Ji Chen stood on the deck of the New Moon, watching as the New Moon Islands gradually faded into a silhouette, then turned and returned to the cabin.

It would take some time to arrive at their destination.

During this time, they would have to endure the boredom of the journey. But to be honest, Ji Chen didn't find it too boring. When he was in the mood, he would lean against the railings and fish with a fishing rod. When they encountered marine creatures or monster units in their path, he would use various water-based weapons to slay them. In the morning, he would lie on a lounge chair, basking in the sun while reading the chat channel where the online friends chatted nonsense. In the quiet of the night, he would stay in his room and play poker with Alice.

In this way, time passed joyfully.

The weather was clear all the way, with calm winds and waves. They were carried by favorable winds, which reduced the estimated travel time.

Two days later, in the evening, the New Moon arrived at an unfamiliar sea area, sailing slowly. The orange sunset illuminated a large group of islands in the distance, resembling a chessboard filled with pieces.

"Is this the location of the Black Skeleton Pirate Crew's stronghold?" Ji Chen's eyes deepened as he pointed to the complex islands.

"Yes, the stronghold is located within this group of islands with complex terrain. We can't be wrong!" said a few former members of the Black Skeleton Pirate Crew, pointing to the peripheral islands.

"However, they have set up hidden outposts on the islands surrounding this group. If we enter recklessly, it will surely draw their attention and alertness." Ji Chen frowned. He wanted to approach their stronghold without alerting the Black Skeleton Pirate Crew, so he could launch a surprise attack.

Otherwise, once the Black Skeleton Pirate Crew was alerted, they would mobilize pirate ships and activate the cannons on each island. In a direct confrontation, unnecessary casualties could occur.

But suddenly, Ji Chen had a realization.

With such a large group of islands, the Black Skeleton Pirate Crew couldn't possibly have outposts on every route into the islands. There should be unguarded entrances...

Ji Chen looked at the pirates and asked, "Since you were originally part of the Black Skeleton Pirate Crew, you should know the entrance that can be entered without alerting them, right?"

The pirates immediately showed a bitter expression. "My Lord, you don't know. Although not every island has outposts, the positioning of outposts on each island is personally decided by the Captain. The shift change time also changes periodically, and we don't know the pattern."

This made things a bit difficult. Ji Chen didn't expect a mere pirate crew to have such reconnaissance awareness. They truly deserved their reputation for being able to dominate the sea for more than a decade, despite being surrounded by multiple forces.

But Ji Chen just asked out of curiosity. In fact, he had already come up with a countermeasure.

The outposts set up on the islands could monitor enemies above the sea surface, but they certainly couldn't monitor enemies below the surface.

Fortunately, most of his units were amphibious and didn't require bringing the New Moon directly into the islands, which would alert the pirates.

With this thought, Ji Chen raised his right hand.

A large mass of seawater rose against gravity, forming a staircase leading to the surface. Under the constraint of magic, the water condensed into a pathway, and he led the units step by step down the stairs.

Now, they couldn't just jump off the deck like before. After all, the former Whitebeard's ship and current New Moon's first deck had a height of more than ten meters from the sea surface. Jumping directly would be no different from jumping off a building.

Walking up the steps to the surface of the sea, Ji Chen had a thought and generated an air-filled water bubble around the pirates who were guiding him..

Chapter 146: Black Skeleton Pirates, Night Attack (2)

“Go in and show us the way to the Black Skeleton Pirate Crew.”

The pirates nodded without hesitation. They immediately plunged into the water bubble.

Ji Chen shifted his gaze toward the New Moon, specifically the Tidal Sea Spirit tethered to it, and spoke, “Once we depart, take command of the ship to explore this archipelago freely. When I call upon you, respond promptly to offer assistance.”

In response to his words, the sails of the New Moon lowered abruptly and then swiftly rose again, signifying their comprehension.

Without further delay, Ji Chen firmly pressed his hand, causing the water bubble enclosing the pirates to sink into the sea. Following suit, he and the rest of the troops descended into the water as well.

Following the guidance of the pirates, they headed towards the island where the Black Skeleton Pirate Crew's main stronghold was located.

Unbeknownst to the peripheral Black Skeleton Pirates responsible for monitoring, more than 200 troops were swiftly advancing towards their stronghold under the calm surface of the sea, carrying a sense of killing intent and destruction.

The group maneuvered through the waters between the islands, occasionally resurfacing to allow the pirates to identify the direction.

At long last, after navigating through tumultuous waters and resurfacing, the pirates indicated an island ahead.

“That island, My Lord, is the main stronghold of the Black Skeleton Pirate Crew. Most of the pirate ships are anchored at the port here,” one of the pirates explained.

Ji Chen floated on the water surface, gazing ahead.

The island boasted a crescent shape, with a majestic mountain commanding its entire expanse. Yet, nestled within the concave portion of the crescent, a natural sheltered bay unfolded, housing a port spacious enough to berth a dozen imposing warships.

But at the moment, only seven pirate ships were docked there, leaving the rest of the berths empty.

Ji Chen also noticed something else.

Embedded in the cliff facing the sea, on the mountain, were several artillery platforms that covered the nearby waters and the port within their firing range.

It could be imagined that if an enemy ship rashly approached this area, these artillery platforms would unleash a fierce barrage of attacks.

It seemed that he made the right decision to leave the ship outside cautiously and choose to infiltrate underwater.

As dusk approached and the sun gradually descended, darkness slowly spread across the horizon.

Strangely, except for the port and the artillery platforms, the entire island seemed devoid of any signs of fire.

This piqued Ji Chen's curiosity, and he inquired with the pirate guiding them.

"The Black Skeleton Pirate Crew utilized natural caves in the mountains to establish their stronghold. Most of the pirates live inside these caves. The only way to enter is through the port, and there are passages connecting the artillery platforms and the stronghold within the mountains. If we don't capture the port quickly and enter the caves, they can use these artillery platforms to attack us at the port!" the pirate explained.

Listening to the pirates, Ji Chen's expression became slightly serious.

He was not worried about breaking into the mountain caves; rather, he was concerned that once they seized the port, the pirates might use the artillery to destroy all the pirate ships, which would greatly affect his gains from this operation.

It seemed he needed to find a way to disable these artillery platforms...

Ji Chen observed the cliff and the artillery platforms within the mountain. Due to the angle, there were four platforms capable of attacking the port.

If it were broad daylight, he would have had no way to deal with them, but now it was already night, and darkness enveloped everything. This tight network of firepower and surveillance would have vulnerabilities and blind spots.

Since these four platforms were causing trouble, he would start by dealing with them.

With his plan in mind, he submerged into the water once again, accompanied by his troops.

When they resurfaced again, they were positioned beneath one of the cliffs.

Above the cliff, an artillery platform was embedded, and dim light spread out through the gunports. It seemed that pirates were stationed inside...

After glancing a few times, Ji Chen raised his hands.

Powerful magic energy shot out from within him, swiftly swirling into the sea.

A large amount of seawater was drawn up and slowly condensed into a giant palm facing upward.

“The Dragonblood Warriors, Naga Warriors, and Pure Water Sea Pixies divide into five groups,” he commanded.

He wasn’t worried about being heard by the pirates in the platform because the sound of the waves masked any noise.

With the command given, the three types of troops quickly split into five groups, with each group consisting of around 16 Dragon Blood Murlocs, 15 Naga Warriors, and 19 Pure Water Sea Pixies.

Seeing this, Ji Chen nodded and continued, “One group will climb up.”

“When the giant hand reaches the same height as the platform, launch the surprise attack immediately.”

“After killing the pirates in the platform, hold your position and wait for my signal to advance through the passage towards their stronghold!”

This was Ji Chen’s plan. Each group would seize one artillery platform. After capturing control of all four platforms, he would lead the final group to launch a frontal assault through the port.

At that time, the other four groups would attack simultaneously from the inside, breaking through and completely defeating the Black Skeleton Pirates in their caves, achieving a great victory.

This was the only way to avoid damaging the pirate ships and minimize casualties.

Upon hearing this plan, the troops nodded in agreement.

One group, consisting of 50 troops, began climbing or flying up the water-formed giant hand.

When they all reached the platform, Ji Chen raised his hands, and the giant hand rose up, reaching the same height as the gunports.

From this point on, he didn’t need to worry.

The pirates stationed in the platform had no idea that enemies had appeared out of thin air beneath the dozens of meters high cliff.

One by one, they were caught off guard and their heads exploded from the tridents of the Dragon Blood Murlocs, unable to utter a scream.

The group that completed their mission surfaced from the gunports.

Seeing this scene, Ji Chen immediately understood.

Without hesitation, he led the remaining troops to the next platform and easily seized the second one.

They continued in the same manner, capturing the last two platforms.

An unexpected incident occurred while they were taking the last platform. One trident of a Dragon Blood Murloc slightly missed its target and struck the chest, not instantly killing the pirate but causing him to emit a miserable scream.

This sudden noise disrupted the tranquil night, alerting the pirates at the port and inside the caves.

Upon witnessing this, Ji Chen decided to reveal his presence and confront them directly.

He led the final group and rushed towards the port.

A group of mere second-tier pirates couldn't pose a threat to him!

Seeing Ji Chen leading dozens of troops emerging from the water onto the port, the pirates stationed there immediately shouted in despair.

"Enemy attack!!!"

"We have enemies!!"

Pirates ran out of the caves, their torches forming a fiery dragon. In the illuminating glow, they witnessed the fierce and terrifying alien warriors wielding dreadful weapons.

Though their numbers were only a few dozen, the ruthless and cold gaze of these warriors chilled them to the bone, as if they had entered a freezer.

However, bolstered by their numerous companions, they gathered their courage, wielding their weapons and charging forward.

The Naga Warriors, who were still at the forefront, cast a disdainful glance. They raised their bone blades high.

With a swift strike, the sound of tearing fabric echoed as the pirates were cleaved in half.

With a horizontal swing of another bone blade, another pirate was cut in half at the waist.

The group of Naga Warriors, consisting of only a dozen individuals, prevented the pirates from advancing and forced them to retreat.

When it came to melee combat, they were the true kings!

But the Dragon Blood Murlocs, at the fifth tier and five stars, were even more formidable. One trident thrown, and whether it was an armored pirate or a crossbow-wielding one, they were all easily dispatched.

The output of the Pure Water Sea Pixies was also remarkable, each arrow capable of sending several pirates flying with blood and flesh splattering.

Some pirates attempted to sneakily climb aboard their ships from the sides, intending to use the cannons to attack.

However, under Ji Chen's omniscient map, each of them was singled out and killed.

Realizing that they couldn't win, the belated pirate leader roared in frustration.

"Are all the people at the artillery platforms dead? Use the cannons to blow them up!"

But soon, bad news reached his ears.

The four platforms capable of targeting the port had already been taken over at some point, and enemies were advancing through the passage towards the interior of the caves!

Chapter 147: Unethical Behavior

“What? You bunch of idiots! You didn’t even notice the loss of the cannon tower! What use are you to me?”

“Go and stop them, or I’ll throw all of you into the sea to feed the sharks!”

The pirate leader shouted angrily at his subordinates.

This was their last stronghold. The port was gradually being taken over, and their chance to escape by ship was lost. If the caves were breached as well, he would probably die here today.

And it seemed that the lord of these ferocious attackers was the man behind them.

“Your Excellency, what have my Black Skeleton Pirates done to offend you? Why are you attacking us without cause!?”

The pirate leader asked Ji Chen, his deep voice carrying across the battlefield.

“What have we done to offend me?” Ji Chen’s face showed a hint of curiosity. He thought for a moment and said loudly, “Actually, I have quite a history with the Black Skeleton Pirates.”

He looked at Ji Chen’s face with a puzzled expression, trying to remember if he had ever encountered this man before.

Seeing the confusion on the pirate leader’s face, Ji Chen grinned and said, “It was outside the Mystic Realm Gate in the Silver Islands. You chased after me then.? ”

After a moment of thought, the pirate leader’s face suddenly changed dramatically, and he blurted out, “You’re the one who stole the Black Widow!?” “Exactly!” Ji Chen snapped his fingers and smiled. “Please refrain from using the term “stole” in such a severe manner. Your men abruptly trespassed into my territory, forcing me to defend myself. I also seized the opportunity to retain that ship as rightful compensation. Oh, by the way, I also accepted two other pirate ships from you. Don’t misunderstand, those pirates on those ships chose to join me when they saw my greatness and strength. I hope you don’t mind.”

The pirate leader’s face grew dark.

Join? I don’t believe a word of it!

He knew very well that his pirates were a group of ruthless and cunning individuals. There was no way they would submit unless their lives were threatened.

Although he was furious and wanted to kill the man in front of him, he tried to calm himself and gritted his teeth, “If Your Excellency came here to pursue our previous rudeness, you can leave. After all, you have already gained three pirate ships from my Black Skeleton Pirates. These matters should be settled.”

“Although that’s true...” Ji Chen smiled. “I heard that you recently seized a treasure ship bound for a certain principality in the Northern Continent. If you hand over the valuable resources from that ship and give me the several pirate ships docked here, then I might consider it.”

The pirate leader’s face grew even darker as if covered in ash.

So that’s how it is. He thought Ji Chen had come for revenge, but he didn’t expect him to be after the valuable resources.

But once something entered his belly, there was no way he would spit it out.

Moreover, after the previous battle, the Black Skeleton Pirates suffered heavy losses, and their strength was only one-fifth of what it used to be.

He had planned to wait for the situation to calm down and sell off the resources, recruit new pirates, and rebuild the Black Skeleton Pirates. Giving those valuable resources away was out of the question.

Thinking of this, the pirate leader remembered the Krieg warships and felt a surge of anger.

If it weren’t for their sudden attack, the Black Skeleton Pirates wouldn’t have fallen so low!

“I’m sorry, but I cannot agree to Your Excellency’s request. I have use for these resources.”

Ji Chen shrugged. He didn’t expect them to willingly hand them over anyway.

The other four groups of troops were advancing rapidly towards their destination. It wouldn’t take long to break through the mountain caves.

Looking at the distance between himself and the pirate leader, Ji Chen’s mind stirred, and his mana surged as he began to communicate with the seawater.

Under the unilluminated sea surface, the water surged and hundreds of water blades slowly formed in the dark sky.

While manipulating his mana, Ji Chen pretended to continue the conversation to buy some time.

“We can talk about something else...,” he said.

At that moment, the pirate leader suddenly felt a chilling sensation throughout his body. The hairs on the back of his neck stood up as if a great terror was about to descend.

Danger!

Extreme danger!

If he didn’t leave now, he would die!

Years of evading pursuit and sharpening his instincts and combat skills compelled him to swiftly pivot and flee without hesitation.

He had just taken a step when a moment later, a multitude of water blades descended from the sky, fiercely piercing into the ground and cutting through the surrounding pirates, tearing their bodies apart.

The water blades were swift and covered a large area.

Even though he had escaped early, the pirate leader's leg was still pierced by a water blade, and blood flowed freely.

But the pirate leader gritted his teeth, enduring the excruciating pain in his leg, and limped his way into the cave.

Seeing the pirate leader fleeing into the cave like a bolt of lightning, Ji Chen was momentarily stunned, then shook his head with a smile.

He's quite fast, I didn't even have time to react.

"My Lord, should we pursue him immediately? Leave him to me, I can definitely catch up and smash him into a pulp!"

Ji Chen smiled and pressed down Anina, who was eager to try. "No need to rush. He can't escape."

Now that they had taken control of the port and all the pirate ships, they could turn this island into a prison with no way out.

Both the pirate leader and the pirates inside the cave were trapped, unable to escape unless there was some secret passage..

Chapter 148: Unethical Behavior (2)

Seeing their leader fleeing, the remaining pirates at the port lost their will to fight.

Either they surrendered and dropped their weapons under the persuasion of Ji Chen and his group, or they retreated back into the cave, intending to make a last stand.

Leaving a third of their troops to guard the defeated enemies, Ji Chen led the rest of his forces into the cave.

On the rocky ground, a splash of red blood stood out.

Well, that mark must belong to the pirate leader. No other pirates were injured because they were already dead.

A smile appeared on Ji Chen's face.

It was a smile of a cat playing with a mouse, calm yet filled with killing intent.

It was said that anyone who could become a pirate leader was not an ordinary existence; they were a hero.

[Robert Wardes (Hero)]

[Race]: Human

[Level]: 18

[Tier]: Blue Excellent Tier

[Skills]:...

[Leader of the Black Skull Pirate Crew, cunning and ruthless, but now seemingly devoid of the desire for battle]

Damn it, damn it, damn it!

That man actually possessed such terrifying power.

From the moment he launched his attack, Robert felt that this was a hero far stronger and higher-tiered than himself.

It was highly likely that he was of Purple-Rare Tier, or even Red-Legacy Tier!

But aside from being so powerful, Ji Chen didn't even follow the code of conduct. He even wanted to ambush Robert! Ji Chen had no semblance of a strong warrior!

Seeing how ruthlessly Ji Chen attacked, it seemed that he not only wanted the precious resources but also wanted his life!

Thinking about this situation, Robert couldn't help but curse the ancestors of those pirates on the Black Widow.

These incompetent individuals, who were more prone to causing trouble than achieving success, not only failed to seize the merchant ship but also brought such a big mess to his stronghold.

If this news were to be exposed, Robert Wades' reputation would be severely damaged!

At this point, all he could do was run. As long as he could escape with his trusted followers, he could start anew with the several batches of treasures he had secretly hidden over the years.

As for the other pirates?

A cold smile appeared on Robert's face. He would leave them behind to delay the enemy, giving him time to escape.

Obviously, the leader of the Black Skeleton Pirate Crew wouldn't place the only escape route at the port.

With his familiarity with this cave, he led his trusted followers to evade the two enemy forces that had already entered the cave and arrived at an inconspicuous entrance.

He used the key he carried to open the iron gate at the entrance of the cave.

Passing through the corner, the cave ahead was filled with shining rare resources.

Mithril and Adamantium filled the corners, various weapons that greatly enhanced pirate combat prowess, a batch of construction blueprints, and various exquisite jewelry.

If he could convert these items into combat power, then perhaps he wouldn't have fallen to this point today.

Robert looked at these things with a tinge of heartache but resolutely gave them up. He started instructing his trusted followers to gather the piled-up mithril and adamantium and dig out the hidden door in the rock wall.

Although these treasures were extremely precious, the attack had come too suddenly, and there was no time to transport them now.

As each layer of mithril and adamantium was excavated, Robert felt along the rock wall behind him until his fingers grasped a depression.

Click.

The originally seamless rock wall suddenly opened inward, revealing a dim passage.

Robert's face lit up with joy. He had secretly excavated this secret passage a few years ago, and no one knew about it except him. It was meant to be used as an escape route in case of an unstoppable danger.

At the end of the passage, there was a hidden dock where a ship was moored, ready to take him away quickly.

Robert turned to the more than twenty followers behind him, who had looks of surprise, and said sternly, "Today, the Black Skeleton Pirate Crew has encountered a great calamity, and I have to abandon this place. Follow me through this secret passage to escape. Start everything from scratch with me. But I guarantee that the Black Skeleton Pirate Crew will rise again, and you will all be honored. I won't treat you unfairly."

Upon hearing this, the followers nodded in agreement.

"We will wholeheartedly assist our leader and let the Black Skeleton flag fly once again on the Western Sea, making everyone tremble in fear!"

Satisfied with their response, Robert added with a cold smile. "Also, remember the man who attacked us today. We will definitely seek revenge from him..."

"You won't have a chance to seek revenge on me."

As soon as the words fell, Robert's face turned pale, and he looked towards the entrance of the cave.

Ji Chen stood there, wearing a mocking expression on his face.

Behind him stood a multitude of troops.

This couldn't be!

How did he find this place so quickly!?

Let's go back to over ten minutes ago. Ji Chen followed the blood trail and entered the cave, but lost track of Robert after reaching a large hall.

As he looked at the maze of passages, trying to decide which one to search, two pirates carrying white flags suddenly emerged from one of the tunnels.

Ji Chen was about to have the Dragon Blood Fish throw his trident when these two peculiar pirates suddenly shouted, "Brother! We're innocent civilians! Don't kill us!"

Huh?

These didn't seem like native pirates but... players?

Looking at the two players crouching on the ground, Ji Chen's expression became a bit strange.

“What are your names?”

“I’m Han Dameng, and he’s Zhang Xiaotian.” The two of them honestly replied.

“How did you end up becoming such worthless pirates? What happened to your territory?”

Upon hearing this, Han Dameng and Zhang Xiaotian looked embarrassed. “Our territory was breached by wild troops shortly after the end of the novice period. All our troops were killed, so we became refugees and ended up becoming pirates just to survive..”

Chapter 149: Evil God Alexei

“Damn it, how did you find this place so quickly?” Robert exclaimed in astonishment, but upon seeing Han Dameng and Zhang Xiaotian beside him, he instantly understood.

Glaring at them, he exclaimed, “You two traitors, you actually led the enemies here!”

Han Dameng and Zhang Xiaotian exchanged a glance and sneered, “Traitors is such a harsh word. We prefer to call it switching sides!”

“Besides, you’re just a mere pirate. You’re not worth our loyalty anymore.”

“Damn it, aren’t you both pirates too!?”

“Sorry, not anymore from now on.”

Seeing that Robert still wanted to say something, Ji Chen interrupted him and signaled the troops to deal with the remaining pirates.

Anina charged forward with her greatsword, her face filled with excitement as she swung the blade with immense force.

Clang!

The greatsword, filled with tremendous power, instantly shattered the pirate’s scimitar. The broken tip of the blade flew into the sky while the force of the swing cleaved the pirate in half.

At the same time, her empty left hand formed a fist and lightly collided with another pirate.

In the next moment, the pirate was sent flying as if struck by a battleship, his body severed into two pieces, with blood splattering everywhere.

In the cave, a rain of flesh and blood suddenly fell.

Ji Chen furrowed his brow and pulled Alice behind the sturdy body of the Naga warrior for cover.

Robert, the other pirates, and the two players stood dumbfounded, their eyes filled with disbelief.

Even though their skin was splattered with blood, they couldn’t snap out of their shock.

What kind of monster was this!?

To punch someone into two pieces, is this the strength that a human could possess?

They watched Anina, standing in the center of the battlefield, ruthlessly slaughtering her foes.

If they weren't mistaken, she was the one who delivered such devastating blows—a petite girl with such power?

Could she be the incarnation of an ancient giant whale?

“Ah!”

“Run, she's a monster!”

The screams of the pirates jolted them back to reality. They didn't know when, but out of the initial twenty pirates, only two remained alive.

The rest had become scattered bodies lying on the ground, broken and lifeless.

With the last two screams, the cave suddenly fell silent, except for the sound of heavy breathing.

The scent of blood filled their nostrils—a scent that used to exhilarate them but now sent chills down their spines, causing their bodies to tremble uncontrollably.

Seeing the cold, fierce gaze from the girl with the large sword, Robert suddenly woke up from his stupor.

He forcefully opened his shirt and tore off the pendant hanging around his neck, a pendant adorned with an eerie wooden carving.

Observing this scene, Ji Chen felt a sense of foreboding and immediately exclaimed, “Stop him!”

Upon hearing this, Anina rushed towards him, ready to strike him down within seconds.

But it was already too late.

Robert, as if resolute, bit his lip and pulled out a dagger, slicing his left hand's palm. The fresh blood instantly enveloped the sinister wooden carving, which absorbed it in an instant.

In the next moment, waves of tangible black energy emanated from the wooden carving, knocking Anina away as she charged forward.

Evil, sinister, and dangerous.

An ancient malevolence seemed to break through the void and descend upon them.

It placed tremendous pressure on everyone, even causing the Tidal Lord, a Red-Legacy Tier profession, to tremble involuntarily.

Apart from Alice and Anina, who gritted their teeth to withstand it, the others, including Benbo, were crushed to the ground, unable to move.

Ji Chen struggled against this pressure, tightly fixating his gaze on the eerie wooden carving.

What on earth was this!?

The carving depicted a beast with two horns, wings, and sharp fangs, crouching down. Even though it was made of wood, the cruelty and eeriness in its eyes were still clearly visible. As it absorbed the blood, it became increasingly blood-red, giving it a vivid and lifelike appearance.

“Hahaha! Now you know the power of the wooden carving! You can’t kill me! Once I escape and rise again, I will seek revenge on all of you for today!” Robert laughed triumphantly, his laughter filled with delight.

During his early sailing days, he had obtained the wooden carving and regarded it as his secret weapon. Now, at last, he could put it to use.

Now that everyone was suppressed, as long as he commanded the wooden carving to stop them, he could escape without a trace.

However, he realized that he couldn’t remove the wooden carving. It clung to his left palm as if glued, becoming an inseparable part of his body.

Moreover, it continued to absorb his blood at an alarming rate!

“Damn it, stop it! I am your master, I command you to stop!” Robert grimaced as he tried to pry the wooden carving off, but it absorbed even faster, turning blood-red.

His face visibly grew paler.

Endless fear surged within him.

In just half a minute, he transitioned from arrogance to terror.

No matter how hard he struggled, the wooden carving couldn’t be removed. It was as if it had become a part of his body.

Robert felt his body growing weaker and weaker. He picked up a scimitar from the ground and, with determination in his heart, swung it down onto his left hand, where the wooden carving was.

But in the next moment, a pitch-black hand emerged from the wooden carving, grabbing hold of the scimitar.

Narrowing his eyes, Ji Chen watched the hand with the highest level of vigilance..

Chapter 150: Evil God Alexei

At this point, even an average individual could discern that there was something gravely amiss with this wooden carving. It certainly did not bode well!

As the black hand extended, the wooden carving absorbed with increased intensity, even assimilating the blood of the fallen pirates.

Everyone present could feel their blood pumping faster as if it was being drawn away.

The thick, abnormal scent of blood permeated the entire cave.

In the midst of Robert’s despairing gaze, his body was reduced to a dried-up husk, with only bones remaining.

The wooden carving emitted a blood-red glow as if it had absorbed enough energy.

A thick, black mist emanated from the wooden carving and condensed into a human face in mid-air.

The pressure in the surroundings reached its peak.

Even Alice and Anina couldn't resist and were instantly pinned to the ground.

Ji Chen felt every cell in his body being crushed, bearing an unimaginable burden. His veins and muscles bulged, and his face twisted in agony.

Perhaps noticing his abnormality, the blood-red eyes of the face turned towards him.

A terrifying pressure descended as if a mountain was crashing down.

He could even hear his spine creaking, and his waist and legs involuntarily bending.

This thing wanted him to kneel and surrender!

A mere unknown entity, expecting him to kneel?

Dream on!

Ji Chen gritted his teeth and tried to mobilize the slightest trace of his mana, struggling to resist the pressure.

But even with the help of the mysterious evil entity that arrived through the wooden carving, the released pressure was beyond what Ji Chen could withstand.

Even the toughest body couldn't help but bend.

At this moment, a surge of deep blue energy surged from within him, relieving the pressure released by the wooden carving.

It was the power of the Tidal Lord profession!

It appeared when the host sensed danger!

At this point, the face of the entity revealed a hint of curiosity and stared directly at Ji Chen.

Reeking of boundless evil.

In a hoarse and somewhat interested voice, it spoke, "Oh? Interesting... Insignificant human, if you offer your soul to me and believe in me, I shall spare your life."

With the assistance of the Tidal Lord profession, Ji Chen felt the pressure lessen and had enough strength to speak.

Upon hearing the face speak, he forced a smile and said, "I don't even know your name, how can I believe in you?"

The mouth of the face opened and closed as if uttering an indescribable name.

"I am one of the twelve evil gods, the Blood God Alexei. Those who have faith in me shall attain the ultimate power to manipulate blood! Those who reject my existence shall perish as their life force is drained, plunging into the depths of the Blood Hell."

The words were filled with irresistible temptation and wickedness.

Control blood?

Isn't that something like vampires or bloodsuckers?

And Alexei...

An evil god...

Definitely not something good.

To offer one's soul and faith? Only a fool would do so.

Putting aside the vampire-like blood-sucking ability, just the belief in an evil god would be enough to attract the forces of justice and light to come and hunt him down.

Believing in such a thing was impossible, but for now, he couldn't show any sign of it and had to find a way to escape.

Ji Chen tried to stall for time.

"I need some time to consider."

"Ignorant mortal, do not dare to deceive the mighty Alexei! Though I am currently confined to this vessel, my true authority is merely a fraction of its full potential. However, the power of a deity surpasses your feeble comprehension. It is more than enough to effortlessly extinguish your life, imprison your soul, and subject it to eternal anguish within the blood-soaked depths for countless millions of years..."

"We... are willing to believe in you! Become your... faithful followers!"

At this moment, Han Dameng and Zhang Xiaotian, who had been pinned to the ground, found the courage to speak up.

"Oh?" Alexei looked at them. "While your power pales in comparison to this human, I, being temporarily present here today, will grant you an opportunity if you can withstand my divine authority."

Han Dameng and Zhang Xiaotian's faces immediately brightened.

Although believing in this Blood God seemed like a bad idea, it was not an unacceptable price to pay in order to survive today.

"We are willing..."

A wave of authority and pressure instantly descended upon them.

Boom...

Boom...

Two explosive sounds rang out as Han Dameng and Zhang Xiaotian exploded into a shower of blood and flesh.

Obviously, unlike Ji Chen, they couldn't withstand the pressure.

"They have not passed my test and are not qualified to become my followers," Alexei said emotionlessly, as if two ants had died, then he turned his gaze to Ji Chen. "Now it's your turn. Are you willing?"

His tone remained unchanged, but if Ji Chen refused, he would probably explode into a shower of blood and flesh just like the others.

Did he really have to believe in this Blood God nonsense?

And what about the claim of only temporary presence?

How long has it been already, and it still hasn't left!?

Ji Chen cursed silently in his heart. He knew that stalling for time probably wouldn't work.

What should he do?

He couldn't win the fight, couldn't escape, so what's next?

"It seems that you, a lowly human, are unwilling to believe in me, Alexei. Very well, you shall suffer the same fate as those two humans..."

At this moment, a vast power surged in like warm air into a cold room, suppressing Alexei's authority and causing the pressure on Ji Chen's shoulders to disappear.

Just when he was puzzled, an astonished and angry voice came from Alexei. "This power... is it you?... I have no grudge against you, why do you obstruct me?... I understand now, you are this human... damn it, if I hadn't temporarily descended through this token, how could you have stopped me..."

An overwhelmingly immense power surged in.

In a breath, Alexei's face was forced back into the wooden carving, and the pressure that pervaded the cave disappeared in an instant.

Not only that, but the wooden carving was also shattered into powder by this power, and then the power itself vanished.

The entire cave, except for the corpses on the ground, returned to its previous state.

All of the recent events unfolded rapidly.

From the moment when the evil god Alexei was on the verge of attacking, to the sudden arrival of a mysterious power that assisted in suppressing Alexei back into the wooden carving and subsequently obliterating it, before disappearing without a trace.

The entire sequence transpired within a mere half-minute.

In the present moment, Ji Chen's mind was brimming with perplexity and uncertainty.

Who was this power that helped him?

From the overwhelming situation just now, it might be at the same level as Alexei or even stronger.

But why would this existence help him?

Could it be because he looked handsome?

Ji Chen couldn't fathom a reason that would make this existence actively assist him.

He had to temporarily set it aside and look at Robert's dried-up corpse.

A magnificent Blue Excellent-tier hero, reduced to a dried-up husk simply from having his blood drained. It was a pitiful death.

He had assumed that whatever had rescued him was benevolent in nature, but he never anticipated that it would enable the temporary manifestation of the Blood God, causing his appearance to undergo such a transformation.

Ji Chen shook his head and looked at the recovering army.

Though the Naga warriors and other units were completely suppressed earlier, fortunately, Alexei didn't kill them first.

Otherwise, he would have suffered heavy losses.

But thankfully, they had narrowly escaped. Apart from the two players, no one died.

"My Lord, what was that just now..." Alice asked with lingering fear.

Everything from the evil presence to the subsequent help from another entity made her feel insignificant.

Faced with such power, she didn't even have the ability to stand up and fight. She could only watch as the danger of death loomed over her...

Upon hearing her question, Ji Chen simply shook his head.

God-level power was still too early for them.

What level could a god be, based on the known information? The highest level was 79, the highest level attainable by Tier 7 units, and the current highest level reachable by players.

But what lay beyond that? Was there a higher level?

Ji Chen couldn't know for sure.

However, he already had a vague guess in his mind.

The power he just witnessed was probably beyond what a level 79 could reach....