

Ocean Lord 171

Chapter 171: Tower of Secrets: Arrival at the Northern Continent (2)

Powerful water arrows surged forward, launched at point-blank range towards the enemy. Upon impact, they detonated with the force of deep-sea bombs, generating violent pressure waves that reverberated through the water.

Visible cracks appeared on the bodies of the affected Ocean Guardians, and their auras dimmed significantly, clearly suffering heavy damage.

What an exceptional result!

Ji Chen couldn't contain his astonishment as he witnessed the outcome.

Choosing the Pure Water Sea Pixies for the upgrade was undoubtedly the right decision. A Tier 3 with three stars had the combat power of a Tier 4 with three stars!

In the future, they might not even need to detonate the enemies. Simply relying on the water pressure would be enough to turn them into mincemeat!

At this moment, the Dragonblood Murlocs also demonstrated their formidable combat abilities. Compared to their land-based counterparts, their agility in the water increased several-fold, making them unreachable even by these Ocean Guardians.

Underwater, their fighting style underwent a remarkable change. They no longer hid behind Naga warriors and threw tridents. Instead, they relied on their agility to maneuver behind the enemies and launch surprise attacks.

After each strike, regardless of the outcome, they chose to retreat temporarily.

With a swift flick of their fins, they darted away to a safe distance, leaving the Ocean Guardians yearning to launch a counterattack but unable to even graze their elusive adversaries.

If the Naga warriors excelled at frontal attacks and breaking through enemy lines as heavy infantry, then the Dragonblood Murlocs were adept at pulling and maneuvering as light cavalry.

If the Ocean Guardians had emotions and lives, they would probably have gone mad by now.

Being constantly attacked from behind without the ability to retaliate was simply too unfair!

At this moment, the three units once again demonstrated their powerful coordination. The Naga warriors defended against the enemy's attacks, the Dragonblood Murlocs launched surprise attacks from behind, and the Pure Water Sea Pixies provided ranged support.

The number of Ocean Guardians, which exceeded two hundred, rapidly decreased during this assault.

Before they could even celebrate, another large wave of Ocean Guardians appeared in the distance.

Unlike the previous levels with a fixed number of enemies, as long as the time hadn't run out, they would continue to appear until the Nexus was destroyed.

The previous wave of Ocean Guardians combined with the subsequent wave, surpassing the Naga warriors by several times, intensifying the pressure.

Even though the Dragonblood Murlocs and Pure Water Sea Pixies fought valiantly, it was still difficult to stop the onslaught for a while.

The army gradually suffered casualties.

One Naga warrior was surrounded by four Ocean Guardians, with two biting onto the bone blades from the left and right, immobilizing their arms and body.

The other two Ocean Guardians swiftly thrust their tails, piercing the head and heart respectively.

Being struck in two vital areas, even with their formidable life force, the Naga warrior couldn't withstand such injuries at this moment. They lost their resistance and their body was subsequently torn into pieces.

This scene played out repeatedly along the defensive line.

Seeing this, Ji Chen knew that he couldn't just watch anymore.

He signaled Anina and Alice to strike with full force.

A whale returned to the ocean, its combat power would only become even more terrifying.

Countless Ocean Guardians were sliced in half by a single sword swing or had their bodies shattered by a single punch.

Alice's Enchanting Song couldn't affect these alchemical creations, but her War Song, which provided buffs, was her specialty.

Underwater, Alice's singing manifested as a form of energy transmission, passing through layers of ripples and reaching her allies.

[War Song (Purple skill, using singing to inspire allies, increasing attack speed and movement speed by 70%, while eliminating pain during the duration)]

The War Song at the Purple skill level could significantly increase the attack speed and movement speed of allies by 70% while eliminating pain.

This effect was akin to bestowing the characteristics of a berserker.

In an instant, the resilient Naga warriors experienced a significant increase in combat power. They ignored the pain of being attacked and wielded their bone blades, forming a web of swords with greatly enhanced blocking capabilities.

With the addition of Anina and Alice, the pressure on the defensive line greatly diminished.

Seeing this, Ji Chen suppressed his urge to personally take action. He needed to conserve his mana for where it was most needed and avoid unnecessary consumption.

Time slowly passed as wave after wave of Ocean Guardians appeared and were annihilated.

Until the countdown reached zero.

No more Ocean Guardians appeared in the distance.

With the defeat of the final attacking Ocean Guardian, struck down by Anina with a punch and sinking into the deep sea.

The ocean regained its tranquility.

“Ding- Illusory Realm Trial, Level 6, completed. Nexus integrity: 100%.”

Level 6 successfully cleared!

Ji Chen breathed a sigh of relief and resurfaced with the army.

They began to assess the casualties.

The Pure Water Sea Pixies, who were casting spells from the rear, had no deaths or injuries.

The Dragonblood Murlocs had about ten individuals who had been wounded during the surprise attacks and were unable to retreat in time. Among them, two were struck in vital areas and died.

As for the frontline Naga warriors, their situation wasn't good. They were surrounded and outnumbered by the Ocean Guardians, and almost all of them were covered in scales, with many losing their arms and snake tails.

Among them, over twenty were torn into pieces, and there were about ten who were injured and temporarily lost their combat power.

This battle was no longer as unscathed as the previous levels.

In the previous encounters with over a thousand Ruins Guardians, due to the terrain of the gorge, Ji Chen could withdraw the injured Naga warriors and replace them with unhurt ones. However, this time, with the unobstructed ocean, casualties were inevitable.

Fortunately, all injuries sustained within the Illusory Realm could be healed upon leaving.

Otherwise, with such significant losses, Ji Chen would have been heartbroken for a while.

The sixth level resulted in the loss of over twenty frontline Naga warriors, and the following stages would only become more challenging to deal with.

However, from another perspective, they had cleared six levels with only these casualties, which was quite remarkable.

Challenging the same level again without personally taking action might not yield the same results.

They had to take it one step at a time.

While Ji Chen and his army were battling in the High Tower Illusory Realm, the ocean expedition fleet that set sail from the New Moon Islands finally reached the coastline of the Northern Continent after several days of sailing.

The fleet followed the coastline and slowly anchored in a bustling port, dropping anchor and docking.

Raymond, standing at the ship's railing on the White Sand Princess, looked at the bustling port with joy on his face.

After sailing for so many days, he could finally take a hot bath on land, and enjoy fresh, warm food.

After eating dried meat and rations for four or five days, he was on the verge of constipation.

“Is this the Northern Continent?” Sparrow asked curiously as he looked at the bustling port.

Seeing Sparrow’s arrival, Raymond smiled and said, “Yes, this is one of the most prosperous ports on the Northern Continent, attracting many merchants who come to purchase goods.”

“We don’t have to venture deep into the continent. We only need to sell our goods to these merchants, and they will distribute our specialties throughout the Northern Continent. Similarly, we can also purchase goods from various parts of the Northern Continent here.”

In his words, Raymond showed no signs of negligence.

Although officially he was the consul of this ocean expedition fleet, in charge of buying and selling goods with the highest authority, he knew that all the armed forces on the ship answered to Sparrow, and his position was extraordinary.

Raymond was well aware that Sparrow was sent by the Lord as a monitor for him.

But he didn’t mind.

After all, he had just joined the Crown of the Ocean, lacked qualifications, and was previously a member of the Hanseatic Chamber of Commerce.

Even the most trusted Lord couldn’t simply let him leave with such valuable goods.

In fact, Raymond felt quite at ease.

With Sparrow, a green-ranked elite hero, and so many armed forces, he didn’t have to worry about that inconspicuous guy attempting to hijack the ship.

Now it was time for him to play his part.

Seeing the prosperous trade in the port, Raymond felt the blood of a merchant in his veins boiling.

He recalled the rewards promised by the Lord, and he was instantly filled with motivation.

This time, he was going to make a big profit!

Chapter 172: The Ninth Level

“Ding- Illusory Realm Trial Level Seven passed, Nexus integrity 100%.”

Upon hearing the system prompt, Ji Chen couldn’t help but relax, feeling the exhaustion of half of his mana and a tinge of bitterness on his face.

He surveyed his surroundings.

Centered around the Nexus, the broken bodies of numerous Ocean Guardians covered the surface of the sea within a hundred meters, bobbing with the undulating waves.

Although devoid of a bloody atmosphere, the intensity of the battle was evident.

An hour ago, Ji Chen had initiated the seventh level of the Illusory Realm. Despite being mentally prepared, the difficulty of this level exceeded his expectations.

Similar to the sixth level, the objective was to protect the Nexus from harm, but the time limit had been extended to one hour from the previous 30 minutes.

Right from the start, they were assaulted by over five hundred Ocean Guardians, attacking from all directions, numbering more than twice that of their entire army.

Thus, they found themselves under tremendous pressure from the outset.

Ji Chen could only form their troops into a circular formation centered around the Nexus, resisting the relentless waves of Ocean Guardians.

Although they managed to pass the level, the casualties were severe.

More than one-third of the Naga warriors perished, and a quarter of the Dragon Blood Murlocs were lost.

The Pure Water Sea Pixies suffered the most, as they were breached by several Ocean Guardians during a near-collapse of their defenses, resulting in the loss of over ten of their kind.

Now their entire army had suffered heavy losses, with almost every unit bearing injuries, either missing limbs or depleted mana.

If it weren't for the option to choose when to start the next level and enough time for the units to recover and restore their mana, Ji Chen would have considered starting over.

Having reached the seventh level, the number of remaining trials in this Divine Realm Trial remained unknown.

At this moment, Ji Chen began to assess the number of surviving troops.

35 Naga warriors.

60 Dragon Blood Murlocs.

85 Pure Water Sea Pixies.

A total of 171, a decrease of one-third compared to the initial count.

Most importantly, with only a handful of Naga warriors remaining as frontline shields, it would be impossible to protect the backline in the upcoming levels.

This situation made Ji Chen curse inwardly.

How could they continue like this?

The assault in the eighth level would undoubtedly be fiercer, and without an adequate frontline, once the defense line was breached, the fragile backline would be torn apart like watermelons, helpless to fight back.

At this point, Ji Chen made a firm decision.

Afterward, he must go out and search for more Naga warrior recruitment camp cores.

Acquiring dozens of them at once, perhaps even hundreds in a week.

If he could amass such numbers.

He thought of the numerous players on King Kong Island.

He decided to entrust “I_Love_Black_Sockings” to check if the island’s players had any recruitment camp cores for Naga warriors, Dragon Blood Murlocs, Pure Water Sea Pixies, and the like.

If they did, he would purchase them directly with gold coins.

After making up his mind, Ji Chen focused on restoring his mana to its fullest.

Preparing for the eighth level.

Several hours later.

The injured army had mostly recovered, and their conditions were at their best.

At Ji Chen’s command, the entire army submerged into the sea once again, keeping a vigilant eye on the surrounding waters.

Ji Chen’s gaze became resolute, and with a single thought:

“Ding- Illusory Realm Simulation Level Eight initiated. Protect the Nexus from destruction for three hours.”

In the distance, thousands of Ocean Guardians appeared within their field of view, their large fins adorned with numerous white lines, eagerly heading towards the Nexus.

Within the pre-programmed instructions, their sole objective was to destroy the crystal buoy, tearing apart any living being that stood in their way!

Ji Chen narrowed his eyes as he observed the enemy closing in from all sides.

The mana within him boiled like molten lava.

The surrounding seawater surged and roiled from the overflowing mana.

The enemies were now less than four hundred meters away, and their ferocious mouthparts seemed poised to bite.

Ji Chen had yet to issue the attack command.

The Dragon Blood Murlocs had a maximum throwing range of approximately two hundred and fifty meters.

The Pure Water Sea Pixies had a range of about two hundred meters.

This distance allowed them to unleash their maximum killing efficiency.

This was knowledge gained through multiple battles.

At three hundred meters, Ji Chen gave the command to prepare for combat.

At a distance of two hundred and fifty meters, a group of sixty Dragon Blood Murlocs swiftly hurled their tridents, leaving behind trails of white water as the projectiles streaked toward the enemy ranks.

With deadly precision, they shattered an equal number of adversaries in an instant.

However, for the thousands of Ocean Guardians, this was merely a drop in the ocean.

It couldn’t even slightly impede their charging momentum.

At two hundred meters, eighty-five Pure Water Sea Pixies simultaneously cast their spells, firing hundreds of water arrows that shot forward like torpedoes.

The chaotic currents produced by the explosions of the water arrows jostled the enemy's forms, causing many Ocean Guardians near the blast points to be crushed by the surging water pressure, turning them into fragments.

But more Ocean Guardians continued their charge.

In the blink of an eye, the distance of two hundred meters had shrunk to less than a hundred.

With over eight hundred Ocean Guardians, they were practically upon them.

At this moment, Ji Chen raised both hands, and a surging mana burst forth.

The oncoming enemies didn't see it coming. The seawater beneath them surged upward, reaching their position within half a breath's time. Carrying its momentum, it forcefully propelled them out of the sea and into the sky.

The Ocean Guardians, who were agile in water, were now like ducks stranded on land, helplessly flapping their large fins, their gazes fixed on their own ascent into the air..

Chapter 173: The Ninth Level (2)

Ten meters.

Twenty meters.

Fifty meters.

Eighty meters.

Until reaching a hundred meters high, their inertia was depleted, and they began freefalling.

Falling from a hundred meters high onto the sea surface was almost the same as falling onto the ground.

With a "plop" sound, they fell into the sea like dumplings.

Even the bodies of the Ocean Guardians made of special alchemical materials couldn't withstand such a fierce impact.

The moment they touched the sea surface, their bodies shattered into pieces.

Seeing this scene, Ji Chen smiled.

This was his newly developed tactic, simple and brutal.

Using seawater to send enemies flying into the air and then using gravity to harm them.

This method consumed less mana than using water blades to kill enemies and had excellent results.

This wave only consumed a quarter of his mana but managed to kill over eight hundred Ocean Guardians.

After this one-time strike, it took half an hour for the next wave to appear.

There were still over a thousand Ocean Guardians in the new wave.

The battle began.

High above the sea, remnants of the Ocean Guardians' bodies occasionally surfaced, some propelled into the air before crashing back down onto the water's surface. Alongside them were the lifeless forms of Naga warriors, Dragon Blood Murlocs, and Pure Water Sea Pixies, all floating aimlessly.

Under the silent sea surface.

The battle continued incessantly.

Controlling the water blade, Ji Chen shattered the Ocean Guardian in front of him.

He felt relieved, but there was also a hint of exhaustion in his eyes.

No matter how strengthened his body was as a Tidal Lord profession, commanding the army and fighting with all his might for several hours still made him feel tired.

During these two hours, the number of Ocean Guardians he had slain remained unknown, as their shattered bodies blanketed the entire expanse of the sea surface, forming a layer several meters thick over an area spanning tens of meters, transforming the ocean into a graveyard of their remains.

At present, only a handful of Naga warriors lingered, a mere fraction of their former presence.

These loyal guards were still fighting fiercely despite being severely injured.

If their bone blades were bitten off, they used their arms; if their arms were broken, they used their mouths until they were torn apart and their bodies sank into the deep sea.

Only a few Dragon Blood Murlocs remained as well.

Each Dragon Blood Murloc had killed at least ten times the number of enemies, but their individual combat power, although strong, couldn't withstand the siege of enemies several times their number, and they fell one by one.

Among the Pure Water Sea Pixies at the rear, only about ten remained.

All three units were almost completely wiped out.

At this point, among the three heroes, only Anina still had some combat power, but she also sustained injuries.

Alice had already depleted her mana and had a pale face as she leaned on the Nexus, her eyes filled with frustration.

Benbo was also covered in wounds, looking weary. In a previous defensive line, he almost collapsed, and when the Nexus was about to be attacked, he used Dragon Blood Murlocs as human shields to block the attack, severely injuring himself in the process.

Seeing the approaching Ocean Guardians in the distance, Ji Chen looked at the remaining time.

Less than ten minutes left until the end.

As long as they could hold on for these ten minutes, they would pass the eighth level.

Ji Chen held the mana pendant tightly in his hand, trying to restore his mana as quickly as possible.

The scarce tridents and water arrows shot out, shattering dozens of Ocean Guardians, but more were quickly approaching.

Anina rushed out, her slightly chubby face filled with determination.

This young girl, who appeared to be only in her teens, had already experienced countless trials and battles, honing her combat skills to be invincible.

Her fighting spirit was also unmatched, standing fearlessly in front of hundreds of enemies, vowing to stop them.

She managed to block one-third of the Ocean Guardians, but the rest bypassed her and headed straight for the Nexus.

Facing the overwhelming enemy force, they were like a lone boat in a storm, on the verge of capsizing at any moment.

All remaining troops charged out and, after killing the last batch of enemies, got submerged in the enemy swarm.

Hundreds of Ocean Guardians did not hesitate, charging towards Ji Chen.

Ji Chen ignored the imminent attack, manipulating the water blade while absorbing the final bit of mana from the mana pendant into his body.

His eyes suddenly brightened.

He raised his right hand.

Once again, he manipulated the seawater, sending the approaching Ocean Guardians into the air.

After sending them out of the sea surface, Ji Chen's face instantly turned extremely pale, and the mana pendant in his hand finally lost its radiance, depleting all the stored mana.

Feeling the emptiness inside him, the complete depletion of mana, Ji Chen's face showed a hint of bitterness.

At this point, he was completely exhausted, and he couldn't maintain a floating state in the water anymore.

When he was about to fall into the deep sea, his arm was held.

Turning his head, he saw Alice tightly gripping him, her face filled with concern.

Ji Chen's heart warmed, shaking his head to indicate that he was fine.

Time passed, and the countdown finally reached zero.

Until a pleasant system notification sounded in his ears.

"Ding- Illusory Realm Trial eighth level passed, Nexus integrity 100%."

Ji Chen finally showed a relieved smile on his face.

Although he knew they couldn't continue to challenge further, he was still delighted to have passed the eighth level.

At this point, it was not so much about seeking the rewards of the elusive divine beings but rather wanting to see how far he could push himself, where his limits lay.

From the current situation, he estimated that he could only stop at the eighth level.

All the troops had been annihilated, and now only he and the three heroes remained alive. No matter how optimistic he was, it was impossible to pass the higher difficulty of the ninth level.

Although he couldn't proceed, it didn't hinder his curiosity to see what the ninth level was like.

Two hours later.

Adjusting himself to the peak state and looking at the remaining three heroes, Ji Chen resolutely started the challenge of the ninth level.

However, instead of encountering any enemies, a flash of white light suddenly appeared.

They returned to the stone hall where they started.

Just as Ji Chen was somewhat puzzled, suddenly hundreds of beams of light descended, and all the dead units reappeared.

At this moment, the system notification resounded.

"Congratulations on passing all the trials."

Passed?

Ji Chen was dumbfounded.

But I haven't even seen the ninth level yet!

As if sensing his inner doubt, the system notification continued.

"The High Tower Illusory Realm has a total of nine levels. The first eight levels are normal trials, while the ninth level is a test of courage. As long as the challenger opens the ninth level with the intention of challenging their limits, it will be considered a pass."

"The rewards of the divine beings can be collected on the platform on the other side of the hall."

After a while, Ji Chen finally snapped out of his daze.

His face looked somewhat strange.

How should I put it? It somehow feels like child's play.

But no matter what, he still had some expectations for the so-called rewards of the divine beings.

Being bestowed with the name of divine beings, they shouldn't be ordinary things, right?

As the system prompts ended, the white barrier on the other side of the hall's passage quietly disappeared.

Suppressing his excitement, Ji Chen walked briskly towards it.

At the end of the floating passage was a high platform.

Ascending the steps onto the platform, Ji Chen saw three stone pillars.

Upon closer look, each stone pillar had something on it. On the left stone pillar, there was a diamond-shaped blue crystal.

It emitted a strange energy.

What is this?

Curious, Ji Chen picked it up and examined it.

[Control Crystal]

[Level: Special]

[Effect: 0 By refining it with mana, you can control all the Ruins Guardians and Ocean Guardians in the entire ancient land of the divine realm. @ After fusing the Control Crystal into the territory, it can automatically guard the territory with Ruins Guardians and Ocean Guardians.]

“Holy shit!”

Ji Chen couldn't help but swear, feeling an overwhelming excitement.

As for the Ruins Guardians and Ocean Guardians scattered across the vast ancient land of the divine realm, the exact number remaining eluded his knowledge, but it was certain that a significant quantity still persisted.

He had been coveting these two types of guards for a long time!

As the numbers of Ruins Guardians and Ocean Guardians grew, he would be forced to retreat. However, if he could successfully bring them back to his territory and harness their inherent alchemical abilities, configuring their settings accordingly, he would have an indefatigable and formidable group of guardians who could safeguard his territory ceaselessly.

As he thought about it, Ji Chen suddenly felt a pang of regret.

He had killed so many Ruins Guardians before, how many allies had he lost!?

Regret filled his heart, intense regret.

But with the excitement brought by the first reward, Ji Chen was eagerly anticipating what would come next.

He put the control crystal into his backpack and looked at what was on the middle stone pillar.

His eyebrows furrowed involuntarily.

Was this still a crystal?

Chapter 174: The Fourth Reward, Dragon Transformation

In the middle of the stone pillar, there were eleven blood-red square crystals, gleaming like rubies. Within their coagulated blood-like texture, a sense of nobility emanated, with golden threads branching out like tree branches, adding a touch of elegance.

Among the eleven crystals, one was larger than the rest, with denser golden threads spreading across it. Suppressing his emotions, Ji Chen picked up one of the smaller crystals.

[Advanced Crystal]

[Tier]: 5-star treasure

[Effect]: It can directly upgrade a military recruitment camp with a tier no higher than Tier 4 to Tier 4.

In this world, the tiers of military units were relatively fixed, and only a few methods could allow them to advance. The Advanced Crystal was one such method.

There were a total of ten of these Advanced Crystals, which meant that he could upgrade ten military recruitment camps to Tier 4. This was enough to elevate the majority of his military units to Tier 4!

Even though Ji Chen had the Military Talent Tree, seeing so many Advanced Crystals at this moment brought a smile to his face. Upgrading with this thing didn't require any resource consumption! Isn't it great to save a large amount of resources?

Indeed, it was a reward befitting a deity, incredibly generous.

Ji Chen had no doubt that if these ten Advanced Crystals appeared in the outside world, they would drive all players crazy!

These ten smaller Advanced Crystals could be used to upgrade to Tier 4. Then the larger crystal in the middle, which was even more exquisite...

[Advanced Crystal]

[Tier]: 6-star treasure

[Effect]: It can directly upgrade a military recruitment camp with a tier no higher than Tier 5 to Tier 5.

Sure enough, it could directly upgrade to Tier 5!

Ji Chen couldn't stop smiling. This was Tier 5!

Even he didn't have any Tier 5 military units at the moment. The highest he had was a Tier 4 8-star Giant Octopus.

What a bloody profit!

Ji Chen carefully gathered all the Advanced Crystals, ensuring not a single one was left behind, and stowed them away in his backpack. A sense of great satisfaction washed over him. It was now clear to him that the rewards grew increasingly generous as he ventured towards the rightmost stone pillar.

The left pillar held a Control Crystal, and the middle had eleven Advanced Crystals, so what was on the right pillar?

Could it be some kind of artifact?

With a hint of excitement, Ji Chen approached the right stone pillar.

Hovering above the pillar was a golden energy cluster, exuding a faint light. Upon closer inspection, there were no information panels or a way to put it into the backpack. Ji Chen looked puzzled.

What is this thing?

After some thought, he reached out and tried to touch it.

When his fingertip made contact with the energy cluster, it absorbed the energy like a sponge absorbing water, instantly flowing through his finger and into his body.

The energy was gentle and flowed from his finger to his arm, then spread throughout his entire body, like basking in warm sunlight on a winter's day.

He looked bewildered but quickly realized that it was similar to when he obtained the Tidal Lord's inheritance. This energy was strengthening his physique!

Once he understood, Ji Chen relaxed and fully absorbed the energy. Every cell in his body rejoiced and absorbed the gentle energy, growing stronger.

After half an hour, he felt a surge of vitality throughout his body.

He could sense that his physical strength and mana capacity had grown significantly.

If his previous mana capacity was like a lake, it was now equivalent to ten lakes, more than ten times larger.

However, the golden energy cluster before him had only reduced in size by a small margin.

It seemed to be an endless source of energy, continuing to flow into his body without any sign of stopping.

As the saturation of energy increased, Ji Chen could almost hear his cells crying out to stop. It was too much, too full!

Although the energy was incredibly gentle, it was simply too abundant. The continuous influx of energy into various parts of his body made him feel like he was being inflated like a balloon.

This divine power left behind was truly profound. Even after dissipating for countless ages, what remained was still immeasurable.

Ji Chen worried that he might burst from absorbing it all.

The passage of time became indiscernible as the saturation level of energy seemed to transcend a certain boundary.

In an instant, a distinct cracking sound reverberated in Ji Chen's ears, piercing through to the very core of his being.

Suddenly, a profound transformation was unfolding within him, with intensity beyond measure.

"Ding- Due to your absorption of abundant energy, the Tide Lord profession is undergoing evolution."

The echoes of the sound dissipated, resembling the resonance of a subtle notification. It was as though the tranquil surface of a water-filled lake had ruptured, unveiling a pathway that delved into

an expansive subterranean realm. The energy surged and whirled, akin to a vortex eagerly absorbing everything in its path, saturating the previously empty expanse.

During this process, an immense sense of enjoyment and exhilaration overwhelmed Ji Chen. Waves of satisfaction surged through his heart, surpassing the thrill of even the most triumphant victories.

Just as Ji Chen was soaring with delight, lost in his ecstatic state, another system prompt echoed in his mind.

“Ding- Due to the influence of your Lord Talent: Favor of the Sea, you will gain additional skills.”

Ji Chen was instantly awakened from his daze, filled with a sense of pleasant surprise.

Could there be such a stroke of good fortune?

He truly was the chosen one!

Several hours passed, and the influx of energy gradually ceased, reducing to a gentle trickle. Even if he were to continue absorbing, it would merely be an embellishment, as any excess would slowly dissipate over time.

Realizing this, Ji Chen decisively ended his absorption, retracting his fingers..

Chapter 175: The Fourth Reward, Dragon Transformation (2)

“Ding- Due to your absorption of abundant energy, your Tidal Lord (Red-Legacy Tier) class is evolving into Tidal Dominator (Orange-Legendary Tier), and you have acquired a new skill: Tide Domain (Orange-level skill).” Tidal Dominator, Orange-Legendary Tier!

Tide Domain, an Orange-level skill!

These two revelations hit Ji Chen like a heavy blow, causing his heart to race uncontrollably.

This is a bloody windfall!

Taking a deep breath, he suppressed the excitement in his heart and checked his current status.

[Name]: Ji Chen

[Level]: 17 (29%/100%)

[Identity]: Lord of the Ocean

[Main Class]: Tidal Dominator (Current class tier: Orange-Legendary Tier)

[Subclass]: Fisher (Novice [Proficiency: 274/500])

[Class Skills]: Tide Domain (Orange-level skill, can deploy a Tide Domain with a radius of 500 meters, reducing enemy attributes by 0-70% depending on the power gap, reducing physical and magical damage by 30%, reducing mana consumption by 30%)

Tidal Control (Orange-level skill [Red-Legacy -?Orange-Legendary], omitted), Towering Waves (Orange-level skill [Red-Legacy —>

Orange-Legendary], omitted), Aquatic Armament (Orange-level skill [Red-Legacy -> Orange-Legendary], omitted)

Tidal Power (Red-Legacy skill [Purple-Rare -> Orange-Legendary], increases magical damage and mana regeneration speed by 300% in the ocean and nearby)

Tidal Aura (Red-Legacy skill [Purple-Rare —> Orange-Legendary], increases magical resistance of oneself and nearby units by 50%)

[Lord Talent]: Grace of the Sea II (Purple-level talent, omitted)

Who else has six Orange-level skills!!!

He could proudly announce that he is the most remarkable handsome man in the Western Seas!

The newly comprehended core skill, Tide Domain, was incredibly powerful. Within its domain, it could reduce enemy attributes by up to 70%, comparable to severing both arms of the enemy. It also reduced physical and magical damage by 30% and decreased mana consumption by 30%.

Undoubtedly, this skill elevated his combat power to a whole new level.

It was undeniably his trump card!

In addition, the other five original skills had all evolved, each reaching Orange-level proficiency, significantly enhancing their power.

The current him compared to yesterday's self was like the difference between day and night, with a power gap of more than tenfold.

Now, he could take on ten of his former self!

He felt great pleasure!

With just this evolution, this adventure in the Ancient land of the Divine Realm had been more than worthwhile!

Ji Chen took a deep breath and looked at the stone pillar.

The golden energy sphere, once the size of a head, had now shrunk to the size of half a fist, but the energy contained within it should not be underestimated.

However, turning Alice and Anina, those Purple-Rare Tier heroes, directly into Red-Legacy Tier would be a bit challenging.

But there shouldn't be a problem to further enhance Benbo, who is currently Blue-Excellent Tier.

Realizing this, he turned to Benbo, his voice resolute.

"The remaining energy shall be bestowed upon you."

Upon hearing this, Benbo became extremely excited, nodding eagerly.

This Murloc hero, summoned from ancient times and experienced through countless ages, could not contain the excitement in its heart at this moment, despite its usually calm demeanor.

Being able to evolve to a higher hero tier was its lifelong dream.

Benbo extended its hand to touch the energy cluster and began absorbing it with its whole being.

Absorbing the energy would take some time. Ji Chen descended from the platform with his army and waited patiently.

During this time, he took out the Control Crystal and began refining it with mana.

A few minutes later.

“Ding- You have successfully refined the Control Crystal.”

With this crystal, the Ruins Guardians and Ocean Guardians outside would now obey his command.

The true Divine Realm, the main Ancient land of the Divine Realm, would also become his backyard.

Ji Chen pondered the possibility of establishing a separate territory in this location, considering the advantageous terrain and the plentiful guardians available. Despite its current distance from the New Moon Islands, he was unable to expand his influence to this area at present.

But no one could predict that in the future when he becomes powerful enough, the one-acre-three-corner land on the New Moon Islands might not be enough to satisfy his ambitions.

At that time, expanding his territory to King Kong Island, with abundant resources and a vast area, might be a good target...

Various thoughts filled Ji Chen’s mind for a moment.

Two hours passed.

At the top of the platform, Benbo finally absorbed the golden energy cluster completely.

“Ding- Your Murloc hero, Benbo, has evolved into a Purple-Rare Tier hero and has acquired a new skill due to its dragon bloodline.”

Oh? Acquired a new skill?

Could it be that the energy bestowed by the deity not only triggered evolution but also allowed heroes to comprehend new skills?

It seemed there were indeed some unique aspects to it.

Benbo, extremely respectful, approached Ji Chen with a gesture of reverence, offering a golden key.

“My Lord, I found this within the energy cluster after absorbing it.”

Upon hearing this, Ji Chen’s face immediately showed curiosity.

Found within the energy cluster?

This was somewhat unexpected.

Curiosity sparked within him as he accepted the key and examined it carefully.

[Divine Realm Key]

[Tier]: Demi-Artifact

[Effect]: Can open a spatial passage to the true Divine Realm, breaking through the void.

[Note]: The Divine Realm is extremely dangerous. Remember to enter only when your strength is sufficient.

What a surprise! Can anyone just call this a surprise?

This is an absolute surprise!

So the rewards from the deity weren't just limited to three items, but four!

Looking at the listed effect, Ji Chen realized that the land outside was not the true Divine Realm. It was probably just a place given by the deity for the believers to reside. The tower itself was not the dwelling place of the deity either, merely a trial ground.

The true Divine Realm is hidden within the endless void.

Previously, Ji Chen mentioned that there were immeasurable realms beyond the main world.

Realms could be natural or artificial.

In ancient times, some immensely powerful beings or races would create a unique realm exclusive to themselves or their race.

Realms could vary in strength, and the most powerful among them is the Divine Realm of the deities.

And this key was the key to accessing that deity's Divine Realm!

Countless treasures seemed to be beckoning right before his eyes.

Ji Chen calmed his thoughts and placed the key into his backpack.

Now was not the best time to enter the Divine Realm. Opportunities and dangers coexist, and he considered that a proper defense within a genuine Divine Realm would be as strong as this Ancient land of the Divine Realm.

Moreover, who knows... the departed deity might still be in the Divine Realm.

With these thoughts in mind, Ji Chen shook his head and dismissed these distractions.

He looked at Benbo, who was still respectful.

Having evolved into a Purple-Rare Tier existence, Benbo's strength should have increased significantly.

With a single thought, Ji Chen immediately checked.

[Benbo (Hero)]

[Race]: Murloc

[Level]: 16

[Current Tier]: Purple (Rare Tier)

[Potential]: Purple (Rare Tier)

[Skills]: Dragon Transformation (Purple-level skill, can transform into a dragon, increasing all attributes by 50% during the duration and possessing a trace of dragon aptitude)

Tidal Surge (Purple-level skill), Mighty Throw (Purple-level skill), Dragon's Might (Purple-level skill)

Dragonblood Murloc Body (Purple-level skill, immune to some curses and viruses, increases magical and physical resistance by 40%)

Marine Murloc (Purple-level skill, increases movement speed by 200% when active in the ocean, and Murloc troops under command enjoy half the bonuses) [Unit Trait]: Murloc Commander (Provides an additional 30 morale to Murlocs, never panics or retreats, and increases all attributes of murlocs under command by 75%, and they can communicate through their minds)

[This is a Murloc hero absolutely loyal to you]

Dragon Transformation?!

Ji Chen's gaze changed instantly.

At this moment, he noticed that this Murloc hero exuded a unique aura belonging to dragons.

Most notably, two small bulges appeared on the originally flat fish head.

This turn of events made Benbo's rise absolutely astounding..

Chapter 176: PennyWise, Pound Foolish: Ji Chen's Helplessness

But Ji Chen suddenly thought, if Benbo really evolves into a dragon in the end, then wouldn't he be able to ride a dragon?

Although he wouldn't be a proper Dragon Knight, it wouldn't stop him from showing off while riding one.

Benbo suddenly felt a chill all over its body and looked around in confusion.

A sense of being watched crossed its mind, but soon, Benbo's joy overcame any lingering doubt.

The transformation not only bestowed upon it immense power but, more importantly, provided an opportunity for a significant breakthrough. This was an achievement that eluded its grasp no matter how hard it tried.

The lowly Murloc race, born from the mud, had lofty ideals of transforming into dragons.

Even after countless ages, this ideal was still deeply ingrained in their genes, inspiring countless Murlocs to strive for it.

A Murloc that didn't want to become a dragon was not a good Murloc!

Ji Chen looked around. He had already obtained several rewards from the trials, so naturally, there was no reason for him to stay here any longer.

With a wave of his hand, he led his entire army back through the floating passage, returning to the Waterwave Gate.

Looking back at the still starry sky, he left without hesitation.

In a flash of white light, he returned to the stone bridge.

After all the soldiers came out of the gate one by one.

The Waterwave Gate slowly disappeared, revealing the wall behind it.

Perhaps the tower's trial had been completed, and the rewards had been taken, so it had lost its purpose.

But it was also possible that it was temporarily sealed and would reopen at some point in the future, waiting for the next challenger.

But Ji Chen no longer cared about these things. He was in a great mood at the moment.

He had gained so many benefits from the trials, making this trip worthwhile!

With a big wave of his hand, he took the two Dragon Blood Murlocs who had been guarding outside and led the group to leave along the stone bridge.

When they reached the middle of the bridge, the lakes on both sides suddenly began to ripple.

With a series of muffled explosions, water splashed into the sky on both sides of the bridge, and the stone bridge shook violently.

Was the stone bridge going to collapse?

Ji Chen's face changed slightly as he maintained his balance, naturally gathering his mana and preparing for a plunge into the water.

Crack!

Cracks appeared on the bridge surface in front, and with the intense shaking, the cracks quickly spread in all directions like a spiderweb, covering the entire front end of the bridge.

Boom boom boom!

The bridge pillars started to collapse, and the bridge deck began to collapse layer by layer, falling into the water piece by piece.

Once the trembling ceased, the bridge surface ahead and the section connecting to the shore had vanished, plummeting entirely into the depths of the lake.

Perhaps the collapse had alarmed the existence beneath the lake's surface, and the water in the lake surged again, with thousands of Ocean Guardians appearing on the water's surface.

At this moment, a large group of units appeared on the opposite shore, and three players walked out among them.

Ji Chen narrowed his eyes and seemed to realize something.

These three people were none other than Sima Chuxi and his two lackeys. At this moment, they looked at their masterpiece with smug expressions on their faces.

Yesterday, they waited for this unfamiliar player to enter the tower and secretly sent out their troops to install explosives at the bridge piers. They intended to blow up the stone bridge after he came out and alarm the Ocean Guardians in the lake, making it impossible for him to leave.

When he saw the player trapped and helpless, Sima Chuxi felt even more delighted.

What if he had a purple-rare-tier hero?

He could only wait there obediently for death.

And the treasures obtained from the tower would eventually fall into his hands!

By then, with those treasures, he would truly dominate the entire King Kong Island!

“Boss, you’re brilliant! You’re currently the most powerful player on King Kong Island!”

“That player is done for now. The divine treasures will end up in the hands of our guild leader!”

Listening to his lackeys’ flattery, Sima Chuxi became even more proud.

Standing on the shore, facing Ji Chen on the broken bridge, he slowly raised his right hand to his neck and smirked.

Ji Chen looked at Sima Chuxi provokingly and a strange expression appeared on his face.

He also understood that these three little brats must have been luring monsters to obstruct him all along, trying to prevent him from entering the tower.

Afterward, when they couldn’t stop him from entering, they changed their plans and waited for him to come out, then blew up the stone bridge and alarmed the Ocean Guardians in the lake, making it impossible for him to leave.

He thought for a moment and had to admit that the plan was quite thorough.

After the stone bridge collapsed, if he wanted to leave, he had to go into the water, but the water was filled with so many Ocean Guardians.

According to the general theory, unless he could fly, the chance of escaping was almost zero.

But nobody knew what he had obtained from the trials...

Ji Chen smiled.

He took out the Control Core from his backpack and began to communicate with it using his mental power.

The Control Core acted like a signal amplifier, transmitting his mental power in all directions.

In an instant, all the Ocean Guardians in the lake were connected to him.

With a single thought, he controlled all the Ocean Guardians, making them follow his every command.

They were no longer in chaos.

They swam from all directions and floated on the water’s surface below the broken bridge, forming a bridge-like structure, resembling a human centipede..

Chapter 177: PennyWise, Pound Foolish: Ji Chen’s Helplessness

The journey extended all the way to the shore.

In just a few minutes, a bridge formed by Ocean Guardians appeared on the surface of the lake.

Ji Chen jumped into the water with a calm expression and walked towards the shore, stepping on the broad backs of the Ocean Guardians, his hands casually at his sides.

Sima Chuxi and the others were already in a state of endless shock.

What did they see?

The guards defending this place had actually formed a bridge, allowing the player to walk on their bodies?

This was impossible!!!

Weren't these guards left behind by the gods?

He rubbed his eyes as if he couldn't believe it and looked again.

In the distance, the man strolled along the "bridge", while the rest of the Ocean Guardians stood at attention, as if they were looking at their master.

And he saw the deep eyes of that man.

In the next moment, his shock turned into fear and panic.

He had to leave immediately!

Otherwise, when that player arrived, he would die here!!

Without a moment's hesitation, Sima Chuxi swiftly pivoted and led his army in a hasty retreat.

Knowing that preserving his own life was paramount, he understood that as long as he survived, he would have the opportunity to stage a comeback.

With the vast expanse of King Kong Island at his disposal, he found solace in the fact that once he managed to escape, he would be safely out of harm's way. He didn't believe that the player would search the entire island!

When Sima Chuxi's lackeys saw their leader running away, they didn't hesitate either. They fled with their armies in a dejected manner.

After running for a while, Sima Chuxi turned his head and looked back. He found that the player was still walking calmly, seemingly not interested in chasing him, and he breathed a sigh of relief.

But the next moment, a sense of shame surged in his heart.

Along with the shame came waves of anger.

The face of that player was firmly engraved in his mind.

Sima Chuxi was ashamed that he was forced to retreat because of that man. He swore to seek revenge in the future!

"Captain! Look ahead!!!" a lackey's voice came from his ear, filled with desperation.

Sima Chuxi looked ahead and his face turned pale in an instant. Fear once again surged within him.

Ahead... hundreds of Ruins Guardians were charging at them!!!

Like tanks, a large wave of Ruins Guardians rushed into their formation, their sturdy bodies knocking them aside, their huge fists turning them into minced meat, and their heavy footsteps crushing them into a pulp.

Like a fierce tiger entering a flock of sheep, they mercilessly slaughtered these weak creatures.

When Ji Chen arrived at the battlefield, he calmly strolled through the scene.

With only the Ruins Guardians remaining, their bodies adorned with severed limbs and pulverized flesh, the scene was devoid of any other living creatures standing upright.

The ground was littered with unrecognizable bodies.

Seeing this scene, Ji Chen frowned slightly.

While he had merely commanded the Ruins Guardians to attack, he had not anticipated the extent of the resulting carnage and brutality.

After all, it would be undesirable if it frightened the innocent and vulnerable.

However, witnessing this spectacle, the soldiers and heroes in attendance displayed no signs of unease. They had witnessed even more thrilling scenes in the past, and the Dragon Blood Murlocs' eyes gleamed with excitement, their mouths watering with anticipation.

Amongst these gruesome bodies, Ji Chen searched for a while before finally finding the three players.

They looked miserable, one with a crushed skull, another with a severely caved-in chest, probably killed by a punch, and the third had no visible injuries, but both legs were completely broken, either dying in pain or from excessive blood loss.

None of them had a good ending.

Ji Chen sighed at "them" and his face showed helplessness.

If you don't court death, you won't die.

Why did they have to fight and kill?

He considered himself a friendly person.

After all, they were all players, and under normal circumstances, there was no need to kill each other.

But should they initiate an attack against him, he would have no choice but to escort them on a one-way journey to heaven, where they could peacefully sip their tea.

He would forgive them this time, but they should pay more attention in their next life.

Ji Chen started collecting the spoils of these three players.

After searching, he harvested some worthless junk. Not a single item caught his eye.

These three were probably players from King Kong Island, but he didn't know where their territory was. Ji Chen had no way to plunder their resources, so he waved his hand, letting the Ruins Guardians clean up the scene, while he returned to the lakeside.

He could find out through the Control Crystal.

At present, the Divine Realm was under the protection of both the Ruins Guardians and Ocean Guardians.

Even after his initial purge, approximately 800 Ruins Guardians remained standing.

In addition, the dormant Ocean Guardians within the lake numbered well over 2,000.

This formidable force ignited a sense of exhilaration within Ji Chen.

These were all Tier 3, 8-star and 9-star units!

Although they were just Alchemical Creations, their numbers were enough to overwhelm everything.

But unfortunately, they couldn't be taken out of this Divine Realm.

[Guard Order (Purple Skill): Due to the rules of the gods and the program settings within the Alchemical Bodies, Ruins Guardians and Ocean Guardians cannot leave the Divine Realm or their territories. They cannot venture beyond a radius of twenty kilometers from their territories.]

Even so, they were more than enough to defend the territory.

With 800 Ruins Guardians, each standing at three meters tall, they could easily break through the frontlines of an entire legion.

And within the ocean, with 2,000 Ocean Guardians, they could form a tight defensive net.

Suddenly, Ji Chen thought of a problem.

Since they couldn't leave this Divine Realm by themselves, how could he bring nearly 3,000 Alchemical Creations back to the New Moon Islands?

Should he carry them on his back?

He looked at the Ruins Guardians with their heavy, rock-like bodies and dismissed the idea.

Let alone carrying them, even if he had nine ships, they couldn't transport these giants back. Besides, there were dozens of kilometers from here to the coast.

It would be impossible to move fifty of them at once, let alone all of them, with just his manpower. Ji Chen gave up the thought and immediately contacted the Control Crystal. As expected, he found a strange flash in the spiritual connection network.

This flash didn't represent any Ruins Guardian or Ocean Guardian; it seemed to represent a certain location.

It was located to the west.

After making up his mind, he set out with a few heroes and squads.

Half an hour later, they arrived at the location represented by the flash.

It was an entrance to an underground space, but the entrance had collapsed.

Nevertheless, undeterred by the challenge, Ji Chen swiftly summoned fifty Ruins Guardians to the entrance, tasking them with removing the obstructing rocks. Among them, he instructed one to sit down, seeking respite in the shade of its robust legs, shielding himself from the sun's rays.

The forty-nine Ruins Guardians worked like excavators, digging tirelessly. Soon, they cleared a hole in the collapsed entrance big enough for two people to enter. Ji Chen didn't think too much and led a few heroes and squads inside.

As they entered the tunnel, the inside was brightly lit, with crystal lamps evenly spaced on both sides of the walls, illuminating the passage like daylight. Ji Chen looked slightly surprised.

These crystal lamps were interesting; they could still be lit after so many years.

He made a mental note to take them with him when they left. The Crown of the Ocean currently relied on torches and candles for illumination.

Walking along the passage towards the depths of the underground, after descending about fifty meters, they reached a spacious area.

It resembled a laboratory, filled with various strange instruments and alchemical machinery.

But due to the passage of time, they had mostly malfunctioned and decayed, crumbling to dust at the slightest touch.

“Spread out and search here, find anything valuable.”

With a command, the army dispersed and began searching everywhere.

Searching for valuable items was simple.

If it turned to dust with a touch, it was worthless. If it didn't, it was valuable.

Anything that could survive for such a long time was undoubtedly a treasure.

Unfortunately, as item after item turned to dust, nothing good appeared.

Just as Ji Chen was feeling a little disappointed, Alice's pleasant voice sounded. “My Lord, I found something!”

Chapter 178: Sky Guardian, Half-Orc

Found something?

Ji Chen walked over, and Alice stood in front of a crystal platform.

On the crystal platform was a fist-sized round metal object that looked somewhat like a Poke Ball in shape.

[Space Storage Sphere]

[Tier]: 6-star treasure

[Effect]: 0 Can contain Ruins Guardians, Ocean Guardians, and other alchemical creations @ Provides energy to slowly restore the stored alchemical creations

[Capacity]: 40/3000

[A product of the Divine Realm's inhabitants, used to store and transport alchemical guardians]

It really is a Poke Ball!?

Ji Chen secretly mocked in his heart.

But now, he finally had a way to take away all the Ruins Guardians and Ocean Guardians.

But why were forty positions occupied in this Space Storage Sphere?

Could it be that there were originally forty Ruins Guardians inside?

He picked it up, intending to release what was stored inside and take a look.

“Ding- Insufficient space. Please provide a larger space.”

Insufficient space?

Ji Chen’s face revealed some interest as he looked around.

This underground space was neither large nor small.

It was about a hundred meters long and fifty to sixty meters wide, so the area should be large enough to accommodate it.

So it must be a height issue, but the height here was also four meters.

Could it be that the Ruins Guardians inside were taller than four meters?

Thinking of this, his interest grew even more.

The larger the size of the Ruins Guardians, the stronger their power.

Recalling during the trial, the Ruins Guardians that were over two meters tall were Tier 2, 8-star, and those over three meters tall were Tier 3, 8-star.

So if they were taller than five meters, wouldn’t they be at the level of Tier 5?

If this guess was correct, then this wave would be truly surprising.

Ji Chen felt delighted in his heart and ordered the army to continue searching here to see if there were any other Space Storage Spheres.

He casually put the crystal platform that the Space Storage Sphere was on into his bag.

This large platform was also worth quite a few units of crystal.

Although his crystal reserves were extremely rich, every little bit counts, right?

“Ding- You have obtained 135 units of crystal.”

After collecting the crystal platform, Ji Chen returned to the surface with the Space Storage Sphere in his hand.

He arrived at a spacious open space.

Next, he wanted to see what was inside. The underground space couldn’t accommodate it.

He held the upper and lower parts of the Space Storage Sphere with both hands and twisted them in different directions.

At the same time, he covered his mental power and had a thought.

A tall alchemical guardian suddenly appeared before his eyes. Its massive body cast a shadow, blocking the sunlight and creating irregular patches of shade.

However, to everyone's surprise, this alchemical guardian was neither a Ruins Guardian nor an Ocean Guardian.

It was a type of alchemical guardian they had never seen before!

Its appearance resembled a falcon.

Standing tall, it was four meters three in height.

Although its body was huge, it didn't appear cumbersome at all. Instead, its streamlined figure made it seem quite agile.

Between the silver body made of an unknown material and the bionic wings, there was a seamless connection of blue light. If these bionic wings were fully spread out, they would have a wingspan of at least seven meters.

At the tail end of the folded wings, there was a triangular protrusion, narrow at the front and wide at the back.

The blade on the front side radiated a cold light under the sunlight, giving off an extreme sense of sharpness. Just looking at it made the hairs on the back of the neck stand up.

With its sharp beak, sharp claws deeply embedded in the ground, and blade-like tail feathers and feathers, everything about this alchemical guardian spoke of its terrifying killing power.

From head to toe, the entire body was created for slaughter.

Ji Chen looked at this dormant killing machine that still emanated a terrifying aura and felt ecstatic.

He always wondered why there were alchemical guardians that walked on land and swam in the sea but none that flew in the sky.

Alright, the territory's guardians were complete with the addition of the Sky Guardian!

[Sky Guardian]

[Race]: Alchemical creature

[Tier]: 20

[Level]: Fourth Order, 8-star

[Skills]: Guardian Command (purple skill, omitted)

Death Dive (purple skill, dives from the sky, causing massive damage, significantly increasing dismemberment chance)

Resistance (purple skill, special alchemical materials increase physical and magical resistance by 30%)

Search (purple skill, visual and reconnaissance range increased by 200%, able to detect energy fluctuations)

Agility (blue skill, 80% increased movement speed and agility while flying)

[Unit Characteristics]: Alchemical creature (Alchemical creatures have no fear or emotions)

[A guardian of the ancient land of the Divine Realm, preserved in the Space Storage Sphere to maintain its power]

Wow-

In addition to its powerful killing power, the Sky Guardian also had another important significance.

It could fly!

Whether used for reconnaissance or transportation, its role was not to be underestimated.

Its broad back was capable of carrying other units, ignoring most of the obstacles on land, and allowing it to reach the destination more quickly and directly, resisting enemy attacks.

It could also serve as a valuable asset in the battle against the Sea Heir.

It had the capability to eliminate and obstruct the Flying Skyrider creatures within the Sea Heir, preventing them from infiltrating the New Moon Islands from the sky.

The arrival of the Sky Guardian greatly relieved the pressure in the air for the Crown of the Ocean.

But the only thing that made him feel somewhat regretful was that there were only forty Sky Guardians.

This number was still too few. If there were hundreds of Sky Guardians, he had the confidence..

Chapter 179: Sky Guardian, Half-Orc (2)

Ji Chen circled around the Sky Guardian, carefully observing it, and then stored it back into the Space Storage Sphere.

Returning to the underground space, Ji Chen asked, "Any other discoveries?"

Benbo, who stayed behind to search, shook his head, "My Lord, there haven't been any other discoveries since you left."

Ji Chen felt a tinge of disappointment but quickly realized that he had already gained a lot from this expedition. It would be greedy to expect even more.

Back on the surface, he called all the Ruins Guardians to gather by the lakeside.

Arranging them in neat rows of five, he packed them into the Space Storage Sphere, one row at a time, as if packaging them for transport.

After over an hour, all eight hundred Ruins Guardians were safely stored.

Next were the Ocean Guardians residing in the lake.

Again, he organized them into rows of five, but with their numbers reaching two thousand, it took him three hours to store them all.

With the mission accomplished, Ji Chen gestured with a wave of his hand, leading the entire army back to the opening of the cliff.

As soon as everyone stepped into the range of the gorge, the rocky wall behind them rumbled shut.

Ji Chen didn't linger and immediately led the army back through the gorge, retracing their steps.

Along the way, he pondered the rewards of this expedition.

Firstly, his Tidal Lord profession had evolved into Tidal Dominator, granting him a domain ace skill and significant improvements to all his abilities.

Secondly, he obtained a total of eleven Advanced Crystals. This meant that the Crown of the Ocean would give rise to ten Tier-4 military recruitment camps and one Tier-5 military recruitment camp, upgrading the quality of his troops by a significant margin.

Then, Benbo successfully evolved, becoming the third Purple-Rare Tier combat hero of the Crown of the Ocean and gaining the opportunity to transform into a dragon.

Including Wilus, the internal affairs hero, Ji Chen now possessed four

Purple-Rare Tier heroes, a number that others could only dream of achieving through arduous efforts.

Lastly, there were nearly three thousand Alchemical Guardians and a Space Storage Sphere. This force of guardians would fortify the entire New Moon Islands, creating a tightly-knit defense across land, sea, and air, ensuring no enemy could breach their defenses.

Just as Ji Chen delighted in the bountiful rewards of this expedition, the crowded gorge reached its end, revealing a dense forest ahead.

The lush greenery uplifted everyone's mood, bringing Ji Chen's thoughts back to the present.

He wondered how l_Love_Black_Socks was doing now. She should still be in the process of capturing the resource points from those four players, right?

After returning, he also planned to utilize her territory temporarily, gathering the players from King Kong Island for a trading event to purchase Dragon Blood Murlocs, Naga Warriors, and Pure Water Sea Pixies—core units for the military recruitment camps.

At the same time, he intended to inquire about the locations of the territories belonging to the three players who had been eliminated by the Ruins Guardians, as well as absorb their resources and population.

Just as he contemplated these matters, his Omniscience Map, which had returned to normal, displayed four to five hundred red dots scattered along his return path.

Judging by the distribution of the red dots, it wasn't a roaming monster group but rather intelligent beings with order and organization.

Observing this, Ji Chen instructed the army to stay put while he, accompanied by the three heroes, went to investigate.

They passed through the dense foliage until an open space emerged before them—a crude campsite.

Wooden stakes unevenly erected around the perimeter served as makeshift walls, and inside stood dozens of tents made from wood and tattered cloth, exuding a rugged and barbaric aura.

Ji Chen glanced left and right, confirming that he hadn't taken the wrong path. This was the same route he had taken before.

If that was the case, then this shabby camp must have been established after he passed through here.

Based on the architectural style, it resembled a certain race...

Just as Ji Chen entertained these thoughts, two burly figures emerged from the campsite.

Anyone familiar with them would immediately recognize them as half-orcs upon seeing their towering two-meter-tall frames.

Ji Chen observed these half-orcs, piquing his curiosity. In the chat channels and forums, discussions about half-orcs were common, but this was his first encounter with them in reality.

Human-like facial features with fangs protruding from their mouths, chests bearing numerous scars, and bodies covered in dense fur—holding crude and brutal spiked clubs in their hands, exuding a wild, rugged, and violent aura.

It perfectly matched his preconceived image of half-orcs.

But were these half-orcs simply carefree, or did they have enough confidence in their own strength?

The biggest question, however, was: How did half-orcs end up here?

After a moment's thought, Ji Chen decided to assess the capabilities of these half-orcs.

Taking cover behind a tree, he squinted his eyes and observed.

[Half-Orc Warrior]

[Race]: Half-Orc

[Level]: 15

[Tier]: 3rd Tier, 6 Stars

[Skills]: Totem Power (blue skill), Rampage (blue skill), Strength (blue skill), Bloodline Recovery (blue skill)

[Unit Traits]: Quick to Anger (easily provoked, reduced rationality by 30% when provoked, combat power increased by 30%)

[Half-orcs are never slaves... unless...]

3rd Tier, 7 Stars....

Chapter 180: Sky Guardian, Half-Orc (3)

Not bad. The combat power should not be much different from that of the Naga Warrior.

These two Half-Orcs rushed out of the camp in a hurry, anxiously looking around, as if searching for something.

Finally, they ran towards the hiding place where Ji Chen and the others were.

Anina was about to rush out with her great sword, but Ji Chen stopped her and gestured to leave the place.

Just a few seconds after they walked away, there was a hissing sound from that direction, accompanied by comfortable moans.

Then, the two Half-Orcs started urinating and talking.

“Why does Lady Irona want us to do it outside the camp? Can’t we do it inside? I almost suffocated just now.”

“Fool! Are you questioning Lady’s orders? Stop asking so many whys, just listen. Whatever Lady Irona say is right!”

“I... I was just asking, I definitely believe in Lady. Without Lady Irona, the tribe would have been destroyed long ago, and we wouldn’t have survived until now.”

“Well, although that’s true, the tribe has already lost almost half of its warriors, and we’re severely lacking in food. The children are almost starving. Even if Lady Irona is clever and can help us hide from enemies, she can’t instantly produce so much food.”

“Gosh... When you say that, I’m getting hungry again. I really want to eat a big piece of roasted meat... Who is it?!”

The two Half-Orcs looked alertly at the nearby bushes, quickly pulled up their pants, and grabbed their clubs from the ground to be on guard.

Ji Chen led Alice and the others out of the bushes, wearing a friendly expression on his face.

“Don’t be nervous, we are not enemies. We come in peace.”

Upon hearing this, the two Half-Orcs didn’t relax at all. One of them picked up the wooden whistle hanging around his neck and blew it forcefully.

Woo-woo...

The sharp whistle echoed through the forest, startling countless birds into flight.

The remaining Half-Orcs in the camp were instantly alerted, rushing out with various primitive-style weapons, surrounding Ji Chen and the others from three sides, glaring at them.

Growling and showing their teeth, they emitted threatening low growls.

After a moment, one of the hissing Half-Orcs spoke slowly.

“Human, leave this place, or the Toothwood Tribe will tear you to pieces.”

Their words were full of threats.

Ji Chen repeated his words, but these Half-Orcs remained unmoved and even more cautious.

Seeing this, Ji Chen sighed inwardly, knowing that he couldn’t communicate with these single-minded Half-Orcs with words.

Having lost his patience, he changed his approach.

“Bring your leader out to speak with me.”

His tone was calm but carried an unmistakable hint of refusal.

These Half-Orcs were infuriated by Ji Chen's "arrogant" and "audacious" tone. Originally, they had hot tempers, and now, this tiny human dared to speak to them like this, igniting their anger.

"No one survives after provoking the Toothwood Tribe!"

"Kill this human who insults our great Lady Irona!"

"Ura!"

More than thirty Half-Orc warriors charged toward Ji Chen.

Helplessly shaking his head, Ji Chen said, "Anina, I leave it to you. Don't take their lives, but give them a little taste of suffering."

"Understood!"

Anina, who had been eager for action, planted her Dragon Slayer Great Sword into the ground. With a powerful push of her feet, the ground formed two craters as she rushed forward with a gust of wind..