

Ocean Lord 421

Chapter 421: Human Kingdom, Royal Token, One of the Biggest Gains (2)

As they drew closer, Ji Chen couldn't help but feel a tinge of disappointment upon seeing the panicked soldiers at the harbor.

These soldiers were at most Tier 2, level 20, and their combat abilities were sorely lacking.

There was no nation was immune to external challenges or dangers.

It seemed that over the millennia, with the closing of the Mystic Realm Gate, these human inhabitants not only lost their land but also their fighting prowess.

The arrival of the Crown of the Ocean army naturally drew the attention of this human kingdom.

More than a hundred human soldiers in cotton armor rushed out to the harbor upon receiving news of the enemy invasion.

However, when they saw that the Crown of the Ocean forces outnumbered them by more than tenfold, fear gripped their legs, and they showed no inclination to fight. Instead, they scrambled back into the city and closed the gates.

Inside the cramped royal palace, the general rushed in, panicking, to the king's chamber.

"Your Majesty, I have urgent news!"

The overweight king, who was playing blindfold hide-and-seek with his concubines, impatiently removed his blindfold. "Speak quickly; don't interrupt my enjoyment!"

"We have an enemy invasion, and there are at least three thousand of them!"

The king's face turned pale instantly.

Three thousand? His kingdom's army consisted of only four to five hundred soldiers!

Where did so many enemies suddenly appear from!?

"Where have they reached?"

"They've already reached the harbor! But they seem to be like some marine creatures, perhaps only capable of staying in the water and not coming ashore?"

The overweight king breathed a sigh of relief upon hearing this, returned to his throne, and wiped the sweat from his forehead with a handkerchief provided by one of his concubines. "That's good, that's good..."

However, at that moment, panicked voices from outside reached their ears.

"Your Majesty, the enemy has come ashore! They are heading straight for the city gates!"

The overweight king slipped off his throne and fell to the ground, his eyes vacant, muttering to himself, "It's over, my kingdom is doomed..."

Ji Chen observed the terrified soldiers on the low city walls and turned to Sonia.

“These Mystic Realm humans are the descendants of those humans from the past, and it seems they have completely deteriorated.”

Sonia wore a complex expression. “The rising seawater has been pressuring their living space, and without land for cultivation, their population has dwindled... But I didn’t expect them to have fallen to this extent. They can’t even muster a thousand soldiers for their entire country.”

“Lord, I have one request.”

Sonia implored with sincerity.

“If they choose to surrender the dimensional key, may we spare their lives?”

After a brief contemplation, Ji Chen nodded.

“Yes, I agree to your request.”

“I do not relish bloodshed; my intention is solely to acquire the dimensional key.”

Upon hearing this, Sonia expressed her gratitude and respectfully bowed.

“Thank you for your mercy, my Lord. I am willing to go and persuade them on your behalf.”

On the city wall, the overweight king, seeing the formidable enemy forces waiting outside, turned even paler. His legs almost gave way, but the general quickly caught him.

At that moment, they saw a woman who looked as beautiful as a celestial being stepping out from the enemy ranks.

She spoke coldly, “Surrender your royal token, and we may spare your lives.”

The overweight king was momentarily stunned. Surrender his royal token?

Although he didn’t understand why, he suddenly felt a surge of courage and asked through gritted teeth, “May I ask who you are?”

“I am Lady Sonia, subordinate to Lord Ji Chen, the Lord of the Crown of the Ocean.”

“Crown of the Ocean? Sonia?”

The overweight king found these names somewhat familiar as if he had heard them somewhere before. He looked at the woman’s face, so cold and noble, with a few white scales on her forehead, and suddenly recalled.

In an ancient royal tome passed down through the royal family, there was mention of a time when the kingdom’s territory was countless times larger than it was now. In those ancient days, their ancestors had two powerful sea allies, one being the Dragon King, and the other, Coral.

The images in the tome seemed to bear some resemblance to the woman before him!

The overweight king swallowed hard and cautiously asked, “Do you happen to know Coral?”

Sonia’s expression darkened, “Coral was my name in the past. This, your ancestors should know.”

The overweight king's mind was in turmoil. Could this sea woman be Coral?

That would mean she must be at least a thousand years old!

He looked towards the human man standing at the center of the unfamiliar army, obviously their leader.

To be able to subdue a sea woman who had survived for over a thousand years, and to command such a formidable army, this man must be an extremely terrifying presence.

"Have you made your decision? Surrender the royal token, and we will leave."

The overweight king wasn't foolish; he just needed something of symbolic value. If giving it away meant they would leave, then so be it.

"I agree!"

Soon, the city gates opened.

The overweight king, with his protruding belly, walked out, holding a wooden box in his hands. He trembled as he approached Sonia.

With a flattering expression, he said, "Inside this box is the royal token. Please accept it."

Sonia casually opened the wooden box, and a white crystal lay peacefully on a red silk cloth, emitting a faint glow.

After confirming its authenticity, she nodded and closed the box.

The overweight king looked around and cautiously asked, "Lady Sonia, may I know where Lord Ji Chen comes from? Is it from the depths of the ocean?"

"You don't need to concern yourself with that. Just know that this world now belongs to Lord Ji Chen. You only need to advise your descendants and subjects to live peacefully as they did before, and you won't have to worry about any harm coming to you."

Sonia's cold words left him pale, and he quickly nodded, saying, "I will remember that!"

In any case, he wasn't particularly interested in these matters. As long as these formidable armies wouldn't return here in the future, that was enough for him.

Sonia watched as the overweight king, who could barely walk, returned to the city and closed the gates. Then, she turned to Ji Chen and presented the dimensional key.

"My Lord, mission accomplished."

Ji Chen nodded slightly, suppressing his inner excitement. He picked up the dimensional key, placing it alongside the one he had obtained earlier, and examined them together.

Faintly, he could sense a connection forming between these two dimensional keys. By placing them separately at the arch and the outside world, he could establish a stable link between this mystic realm and the main world.

At this moment, he finally let go of all his worries, and a smile crept onto his face.

The entire Great Luminescent Sea was about to become the territory of the Crown of the Ocean. Inside it lay wealth, both known and hidden, from a complete mystic realm. It would all belong to the Crown of the Ocean.

Regarding the tiny human kingdom, just as he had previously assured, as long as they didn't stir up any problems, he had no interest in bothering with them.

Ji Chen put away the two dimensional keys and didn't waste any more time. With a wave of his hand, he commanded, "Let's go!"

At his command, the army returned to the sea, retracing their path through the underwater cave. Back in the Luminescent Forest.

"When the mystic realm connects to the main world, it may cause some anomalies. Sonia, I want you to stabilize the hearts of the people in the Coral Palace's army.

This place will be an important reserve base for the Crown of the Ocean in the future, and I won't tolerate any mistakes.

This is the task I'm giving you."

Sonia nodded with a serious expression.

She had completely embraced her role as a subordinate, and when she heard the orders, she felt a sense of familiarity, as if she had returned to the time when humans ordered her to do things thousands of years ago.

It left her feeling a bit nostalgic and also pleased.

After going through this period of experiences, Sonia was certain that Ji Chen was an ambitious lord with a far-reaching vision and remarkable abilities. Encountering such a talented and strategic lord was a stroke of luck. Naturally, she intended to make the most of this opportunity.

Seeing Sonia's complete lack of arrogance, Ji Chen nodded in satisfaction. A Red-Legacy Tier heroic unit was one of the biggest gains of this journey.

Moreover, she was a hero with extensive experience in management, leadership, and combat—a priceless asset that couldn't be bought with money..

Chapter 422: Underwater Cave, Mystic Realm Anchored

Watching Sonia hastily leave, Ji Chen waved his hand and led the army through the dense sea of grass, arriving at the metal archway.

Some time passed, and the archway remained the same as before, except that there were some wild creatures wandering in from other places around it. Sensing their approach, they were frightened and fled.

Ignoring these insignificant creatures, he approached the metal pillar on the left side of the archway and took out a dimensional key, slowly placing it into the groove.

As soon as the dimensional key touched the groove, it stuck to it as if glued, and then emitted a white light, dazzling like a moon, causing everyone to involuntarily take a few steps back and squint their eyes.

Ji Chen knew that the first step in opening the gate to the mystic realm was completed.

Next, with a thought, he took out a golden gem the size of an adult's head from his backpack. Even under the dazzling white light, this gem still emitted a captivating and brilliant light.

Energy gem.

This was obtained from the gnome merchant Ernesto, who had once visited the Crown of the Ocean but was ultimately dealt with by Alice.

According to Ernesto, this energy gem was capable of providing a massive and stable source of energy for an alchemical workshop, making it invaluable.

Although he didn't have a specific concept of this, he believed that it must contain extremely remarkable energy, perhaps serving as the energy source to open the gate to the mystic realm.

At this point, he had no other options and no more time to obtain a reliable source of energy from elsewhere, so he decided to give this a try.

With a single thought, he held the energy gem in his hands and approached slowly.

Like iron sensing a magnet, the energy gem left his hands and floated towards the metal archway.

Sensing something, Ji Chen immediately ordered, "Everyone, retreat a hundred meters!"

At his command, the Crown of the Ocean's army quickly stepped back to the edge of the square.

By now, the energy gem had floated to the top of the archway, and strands of golden energy were drawn out and absorbed into the archway.

The metal archway, which had been silent all this time, began to tremble. The runic patterns on it lit up with red light from the center at the top and extended to the sides until they disappeared at the bottom.

The red light contrasted sharply with the pale silver metal, resembling a creation of future technology on Earth.

But Ji Chen knew that this was a product of alchemical technology.

In ancient times, the alchemical technology level of various races was sufficient to create devices that could generate gates to mystic realms, allowing people from the main world and countless mystic realms to travel freely.

But as the gods gradually disappeared from the world, this alchemical technology gradually faded, leaving behind scattered devices hidden all over the world, which had also worn down and become damaged over time.

Thinking of this, he remembered the experiment notes he obtained from the secret chamber of the Lich Krieg's laboratory.

The Lich Krieg, according to Elin, had lived for at least tens of thousands of years.

With such a long lifespan and being a Lich skilled in alchemical technology, there might be a method for creating the alchemical device that generates the gate to the mystic realm hidden in those notes.

Unfortunately, he hadn't found an alchemist yet and could only let the notes gather dust. But it seemed that he needed to prioritize this now.

As the energy was absorbed, the patterns on the archway became even more vibrant, and the surrounding seawater gradually began to boil.

Boom—

With a muffled roar, a wave of energy spread out from the center of the archway, raising countless underwater dust. The powerful shockwave even lifted the paved bricks on the square.

When the dust gradually settled, everyone looked closely.

The square that had been paved with bricks had disappeared, revealing a metal base below covered in crimson patterns.

It turned out that the alchemical device that generated the gate to the mystic realm not only consisted of the archway but also had a base with an area of thousands of square meters underneath!

The metal archway had also undergone a change. The energy gem had been completely broken down, transformed into pure energy that merged into the device. The entrance of the archway was now filled with a rotating, pitch-black vortex.

Dark, mysterious, and ominous.

Ji Chen's expression slightly tightened; that was... the void.

Due to the fact that only one dimensional key was in place, even though the archway had started, it was still connected to the void. If someone accidentally got caught in it and was banished to the void, it would be a dire situation.

The void was filled with endless corrosive energy, and ordinary creatures entering it would die instantly, not even lasting a millisecond. Only a few top-tier experts could move through the void.

At present, Ji Chen's strength was not enough for him to operate within the void.

What was even more terrifying, according to Elin's description, there were the horrifying void creatures within the void.

If luck was on his side, these void creatures might detect the opened gateway as they passed by. They could potentially break in, wreak havoc before the world's rules expelled them, and turn the surroundings into a death zone.

Realizing the immense danger, Ji Chen's expression turned serious, and he immediately gave an order.

"Herald, you, along with the Naga Legion and the Guardian Legion, will stay here to prevent any creatures from approaching until I return."

Herald nodded in silence, but the determination in his eyes showed his resolve.

Now, everything was almost complete.

Ji Chen set out once more, leading the remaining army out of the Luminescent forest and returning to the basin. However, he found that the catfish village that had stood in the center of the basin had turned into a death zone..

Chapter 423: Underwater Cave, Mystic Realm Anchored (2)

The village made up of giant coral had completely collapsed, reduced to a desolate grey, and the remnants around hinted that a massacre had occurred here not long ago.

Upon sensing that something had gone wrong with the army guarding the Mystic Realm Gate, the Dragon King's City evidently dispatched another army to investigate. Naturally, they found their way to the catfish village, which lay on the path in and out of the basin.

Clearly, the Dragon King's City had vented their anger on the catfish villagers, killing them.

However, without paying much attention and after a quick look, they passed by from the side.

Advancing through the narrow underwater canyon, they quickly arrived at the end of the canyon, where the Mystic Realm Gate still stood silently before the rock wall.

Without hesitation, Ji Chen urged the Tyrant Azure Dragon and was the first to step through.

Upon entering, the surroundings instantly came alive, a gentle sea breeze brushing against their faces, and the sunshine exceptionally bright.

After scanning the area, there were no enemies in sight.

Once the Crown of the Ocean's troops had all emerged from the Mystic Realm Gate, the group continued their journey.

As the saying goes, "Delay leads to changes."

They were at least two days away from the Crown of the Ocean, and not a moment of time could be wasted.

At this point, he was left with only three legions: the Dragonblood Legion, the Azure Dragon Legion, and the Soul Servant Legion.

The other three legions each had their own tasks. The Knight Legion was guarding the Dragon King's City's treasury, while the Naga Legion and the Guardian Legion were protecting the archway.

Without the burden of these legions, their travel speed increased significantly.

In just over a day, they returned to the New Moon Islands.

Wilus had received word of their return through the warning lighthouse and was waiting at the harbor in advance.

"My Lord, didn't you say you'd be away for quite some time this time? Why have you returned so soon?"

"How many days have I been away?"

"Approximately ten and a half days," Wilus replied.

“Ten days?” Ji Chen was secretly surprised. Excluding the three and a half days of travel, he had spent a full seven days in the Great Luminescent Sea Realm?

But then he thought about it. The Great Luminescent Sea was located in the deep sea and relied solely on fluorescent plants for illumination. There was no distinction between day and night, so not feeling the passage of time was entirely normal.

Back to his senses, Ji Chen gave an order.

“Later, I intend to permanently anchor a Mystic Realm Gate near the New Moon Islands. Do you know of any suitable places to place it?”

“A Mystic Realm Gate?” Wilus was momentarily puzzled. He certainly knew what a Mystic Realm Gate was, but he had never heard that a Mystic Realm Gate could be artificially anchored.

Seeing his puzzled expression, Ji Chen briefly explained.

Wilus suddenly realized, and a look of admiration appeared in his eyes. He hadn’t expected that in such a short period, Lord Ji Chen would actually conquer an entire realm. He truly deserved to be their lord!

He quickly began to think, and after a moment, he nodded in agreement.

“My Lord, since this is intended as a backup base, the entrance and exit should be placed in a relatively hidden location, not easily discovered.

Considering the possibility of future discovery, we should choose a location that is easy to defend and difficult to attack.

Furthermore, since most of the realm is filled with seawater, it should be placed underwater, preferably in the ocean.

And there happens to be a suitable location near the New Moon Islands!”

Wilus, as the steward of the Crown of the Ocean, was well-informed about the Crown of the Ocean and the New Moon Islands. After a brief moment of thought, he quickly came up with a solution.

“It’s located beneath the cliffs on the north side of the main island. According to the investigations of the Guardian Legion, there is a large underwater cave in that area that is exceptionally well-hidden. It connects to several different entrances at different locations.

Regardless of the direction, you can access it through those underwater caves, making it an ideal placement for the Mystic Realm Gate!”

Upon hearing this, Ji Chen didn’t hesitate and immediately said, “Take me there.”

“Please wait for a moment. I will have Lord Daro of the Guardian Legion accompany you...”

Soon, a group of soldiers from the Guardian Legion arrived, escorting Ji Chen to the north side of the main island.

The north side of the main island was mostly dominated by steep cliffs, and the area was filled with numerous rocks and treacherous sea waves. Due to the terrain and the strong sea winds, the waves here were extremely turbulent, and there were many hidden underwater currents. One small mistake by a ship could result in it being smashed against the rocks and cliffs, utterly destroyed.

Any ship that saw this place would instinctively steer clear of it.

With their familiarity with the area, the Guardian Legion was able to dive underwater at an inconspicuous spot, avoiding the invisible yet dangerous underwater currents, and descended to a depth of four to five hundred meters underwater.

This depth was sufficient to isolate most non-aquatic creatures from prying eyes.

They entered a dark underwater cave in a black rock wall, and after descending about a hundred meters, they arrived in a space the size of several football fields. There were a dozen or so openings of varying sizes on the surrounding rock walls, leading to different places.

Ji Chen looked around and was very satisfied with the location.

This place was extremely hidden, and without the guidance of the Guardian Legion, it would be very difficult to find, even with the omniscience map.

The only minor drawback was that it was a bit too dark, but once the Mystic Realm Gate was anchored, they could transplant some bioluminescent plants from the Great Luminescent Sea to solve that issue.

Standing at the central position, Ji Chen took out another dimensional key.

These two dimensional keys were like twin siblings. As soon as this dimensional key appeared in the main world, it faintly established a connection with the Great Luminescent Sea realm drifting in the endless void.

A nearly invisible “ribbon” floated between them, allowing them to be connected.

The key emitted a brilliant white light, illuminating the entire cave as if it were daytime.

After a moment, the white light gradually dissipated, and a slowly forming arch-shaped Mystic Realm Gate emerged, its rippling color not black but a deep blue.

At the same time, the Great Luminescent Sea suddenly began to violently tremble, the seawater roiled intensely, and giant rocks fell, terrifying countless aquatic beings and leaving the human kingdoms staring at the sea with immense fear as massive waves surged.

Sonia, who was stationed at the Dragon King’s City, watched as the buildings in the city shook violently, her expression turning solemn.

“Has it begun...”

A soldier from the Coral Palace exclaimed in panic, “Lord of the Coral, the entire Great Luminescent Sea is suddenly trembling, and many buildings in the Dragon King’s City have collapsed!”

“Don’t panic; this is the commotion caused by Lord Ji Chen’s connection between the Great Luminescent Sea and the main world. It will soon be over.”

A Coral Palace soldier hesitated for a moment and asked, “My Lord, do we really have to submit to that human Lord? Can’t we remain independent?”

After all, the Great Luminescent Sea belongs to our aquatic race, not that human Lord’s...”

Sonia shook her head. “Who the Great Luminescent Sea belongs to is no longer something we can decide. Without Lord Ji Chen’s intervention, the Coral Palace might have already been destroyed by the Dragon King’s City.

And don’t forget, the power of Lord Ji Chen... He alone is capable of destroying half of the Coral Palace.”

Upon hearing this, the Coral Palace soldiers recalled the invisible currents outside the Coral Palace that had routed the Dragon King City’s army, and they shivered in fear, no longer daring to speak.

Dragon King City’s prison.

Diago watched the constantly shaking buildings, his face filled with a hint of despair.

He knew that the Great Luminescent Sea had already connected to the main world, and there was nothing that could stop that human from ruling over the Great Luminescent Sea anymore.

Thinking about this, he glared at Andar in the opposite cell and cursed vehemently.

“You fool! Look at what monsters you’ve brought in!

If I ever get out of here, I’ll drag you to the tomb of the Water Dragon Kings from all eras and beat you to death!”

Andar was already at a loss, and he began to regret his actions.

If he hadn’t asked that human for help in the first place, perhaps none of this would have been discovered, but there were no “ifs” now...

Underwater cave near New Moon Islands.

Looking at the fully formed Mystic Realm Gate in front of him, Ji Chen’s face showed a trace of joy. He waved his hand and had Alice control one of the Soul Servant Ocean Guardians to enter and test if it could pass through.

The Soul Servant disappeared into the gate and reappeared after a moment.

At this point, it was almost certain that the Great Luminescent Sea had connected to this place.

Seeing this, he confidently stepped inside.

Before him were Herald, the Naga Legion, and the Guardian Legion who had been guarding the gate, and he finally let go of his worries.

He almost wanted to laugh out loud.

Looking at everything around them, it seemed somewhat unreal.

Did this incredibly rich realm really belong to the Ocean Crown?

Thinking about the immense resources contained within, Ji Chen's mood was ecstatic.

This was far better than the Skeleton Realm with just a bunch of skeletal sticks, by a factor of tens of millions..

Chapter 424: The Treasure Vault of Dragon King City: Sonia's Vow to Ensure This Little Bastard Doesn't Fare Better Than Herself!

The stable Mystic Realm Gate appeared, and the Great Luminescent Sea returned to stability.

Returning once more to Dragon King City, to the secret vault.

The Knight Legion had been stationed here all along, with scattered Sea Clan bodies on the ground.

The elite Lobster Guardian Knight hero, who was in charge, saw Ji Chen's arrival and quickly approached.

"Lord, not long ago, several remnants of the Dragon King City's forces attacked here, but we managed to repel them all. To ensure the safety of the vault, we didn't pursue the remaining enemies and have been waiting here for you."

Ji Chen nodded. "Your judgment was correct. What's your name?"

The Lobster Guardian Knight hero, who was of excellent tier, replied with awe, "I am called Wilun."

"Very good. In the future, I will prioritize helping you advance to an elite-tier hero as a reward."

Wilun was excited and immediately saluted, "Thank you for your generosity, my Lord!"

As a qualified Lord, having a clear system of rewards and punishments was the most basic trait. After taking the resources from the Dragon King City's Mystic Realm vault, cultivating a few elite-tier heroes was a minor issue.

Ji Chen patted his shoulder and gestured to open the vault door.

Previously, Anina had entered the vault to retrieve the dimensional key, so the vault door was only partially closed. The traps and hidden decorations had already been destroyed, but the heavy stone door was not easy to open.

With the joint effort of over ten Lobster Guardian Knights, the stone door slowly opened, revealing a passage embedded in the cliff.

After entering the passage for several hundred meters, there was another stone door. However, both doors had fallen to the ground, broken into several pieces. The dense fist imprints on them seemed to narrate how they were destroyed.

Stepping on the stone door and entering, a spacious area measuring two hundred meters in width and three hundred meters in length appeared. On the left side, numerous resources such as crystals were piled up into several small mountains.

Seeing so many resources, Ji Chen's heart beat a bit faster.

The wealth accumulated by ten generations of Water Dragon Kings was all here, like a delicate beauty clad in a thin veil lying in front of him, waiting to be picked.

This was what he called, “After the storm comes calm.”

All the fighting and killing before, wasn’t it all for the harvest now?

In these “small mountains,” there were crystals, mithril, and adamantite, rare third-level resources, as well as a small pile of extremely rare spirit crystals, totaling 700 units.

This made Ji Chen’s heart instantly burn with excitement.

He wasn’t surprised that the Mystic Realm could produce rare resources like crystals, mithril, and adamantite. Soon, the Mystic Realm would produce them all.

But spirit crystals, a top-tier fifth-level resource, weren’t guaranteed. In a hundred realms, you might not find even one.

Finding them in the vault here, did that not mean there was a vein of spirit crystals somewhere in this realm?

This was a huge win!

After calming down his excitement, he looked to the other side.

On the right side of the vault, there were fifteen military recruitment camps.

It seemed that this vault was not only used to store resources but also served as a base prepared by the Water Dragon Kings of past generations, in case Dragon King City faced a major crisis and needed the capital to rise again.

Unfortunately, in this generation, the only two heirs, Diago and Andar, had already been imprisoned, and there was no chance for them to rise again.

Now, these things would fall into his hands, becoming nourishment for the development of the Crown of the Ocean.

Ji Chen walked over to inspect these military recruitment camps.

[Dragon Horn Catfish Recruitment Camp]

[Tier]: Tier 5, 4 stars

[Recruited Unit Type]: Dragon Horn Catfish (Tier 5, 4 stars)

[Weekly Recruitment Limit]: 14

[Current Recruitment Availability]: 14

[Recruitment Cost]: 650 units of crystals, 650 units of mithril, 650 units of adamantite

[Click to Recruit]

Among the fifteen military recruitment camps, ten of them were Dragon Horn Catfish Recruitment Camps.

The Dragon Horn Catfish belonged to the lineage of Diago and Andar. They possessed remarkable spell damage capabilities, specializing in red lightning spells that combined control and damage.

Based on the previous battle between Diago and Sonia, no matter how hard he attacked, he couldn't defeat her.

However, there was no doubt that Diago's ability to overthrow his father and rise to power was due not only to his cunning and strategy but also to his impressive strength.

His gaze shifted to the other five recruitment camps.

[Blank Seal Recruitment Camp (Recyclable)]

[Tier]: None

[Effect]: You can transform other unit types into this recruitment camp by using seals.

Such a good thing exists?

Ji Chen's mind quickly spun. There were a total of five Blank Seal Recruitment Camps here, which meant he could create ten military recruitment camps in total.

Whether it was imprinting Naga Guardians, a tanky and damage-dealing unit, or imprinting Dragon Blood Murlocs, a unit with control and mobility, both were excellent choices.

However, it was clear that the Crown of the Ocean had a unit in greater need.

[Tyrant Azure Dragon]

As the main unit of the Crown of the Ocean advanced to Tier 5, this unit found itself in a somewhat awkward position.

It wasn't because it wasn't strong; the Tyrant Azure Dragon had individual strength that ranked at the top among all units. Its icy breath could overpower anything that dared to challenge it, and its massive body possessed formidable vitality.

It was a perfect unit, capable of both taking damage and dealing it.

However, the awkwardness lay in the fact that only three of them could be produced each week, which made its numbers increase very slowly.

These five Blank Seal Recruitment Camps undoubtedly came as a timely boon.

Feeling satisfied, Ji Chen decided to bring all of these recruitment camps back to the Crown of the Ocean.

Returning to the left side of the treasury, standing beneath the piles of resources like small mountains, a slight smile appeared on the corner of his mouth.

With a wave of his hand....

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"Get all these resources back to the Crown of the Ocean, not a single unit should be left behind!"

"Yes!"

The mighty army of the Crown of the Ocean behind them transformed into porters, starting to move large quantities of rare resources away.

Between the Dragon King's Treasury and the Archway, a long line appeared, carrying away everything from the treasury bit by bit, like ants.

Ji Chen stood aside, in a very good mood, thinking that the resources needed for recruiting troops over the past few weeks had found their place.

Exploring dangerous yet treasure-filled realms, defeating powerful enemies, obtaining treasures with abundant resources, and recruiting even stronger troops – every step was filled with excitement and thrill, bringing a tremendous sense of accomplishment.

It was this sense of accomplishment that drove him to keep adventuring and striving for more.

Sonia noticed the commotion and rushed over.

Upon seeing Ji Chen, she saluted and said, "Congratulations, my lord, for successfully connecting the Great Luminescent Sea with the main world, allowing the sea clan of the Great Luminescent Sea to no longer be confined to their own realm.

With the treasures you've gained from the Dragon King's Treasury, my lord will undoubtedly be able to strengthen the Crown of the Ocean and lead us to conquer even stronger enemies."

Ji Chen smiled and nodded. Although he didn't pay much attention to the congratulatory words, it was still nice to hear them occasionally.

"We don't need to dwell on these words; I have a question for you."

"My lord, please ask."

"Is there a Spirit Crystal vein within the Great Luminescent Sea?"

"Spirit Crystal vein?" Sonia looked a bit puzzled at first, but upon seeing the long line of resource porters, she quickly understood. "My lord, did you find Spirit Crystals in the Dragon King's Treasury?"

Ji Chen nodded without hesitation.

"Within the territory of the Coral Palace, there is no Spirit Crystal vein, but the Dragon King's Treasury might have one... However, we'll need to interrogate Diago, the former ruler of the Dragon King's Castle, for that."

When it came to who knew the Dragon King's Castle best, it had to be the last Water Dragon King, Diago.

This matter was of great importance. After instructing Alice to oversee the resource transportation, Ji Chen took Sonia to the prison in the Dragon King's Castle.

Seeing his arrival, Diago's face became incredibly dark, and his gaze was filled with malice.

"What are you doing here, human? Are you here to mock me?"

I'll tell you, even though I've become a prisoner, you won't get the satisfaction of humiliating me!"

He shrugged, "I don't have such a perverse taste, and you're not worth coming here to mock.

A mere underling who can't even defeat my subordinates wants me to taunt him?"

Ji Chen's indifferent attitude precisely hit Diago's sore spot, making him tremble with anger.

He could be killed, but he wouldn't allow himself to be ignored in such a manner.

"I'm here to ask you a question."

"Want to ask me a question? You must be dreaming; I won't answer any questions!"

Diago's first instinct was to reject without hesitation because answering Ji Chen's questions, his arch-nemesis, felt like surrendering to his own demise.

Ji Chen remained unfazed and said calmly, "If your answers satisfy me, perhaps I can let you leave this place... at least not to stay cooped up in this cramped cell, but to live in better accommodations and eat better food?"

Diago had originally intended to reject immediately, but then he stopped abruptly.

His small eyes glanced at the cramped prison where he had been stuck for days and remembered the pig slop he had been eating recently. Surprisingly, he felt a bit tempted.

However, he quickly regained his resolve and silently cursed himself.

Diago, oh Diago, you are the descendant of the Water Dragon King's bloodline; how could you be tempted by these things!?

If you're like this, how can you restore the glory of the Dragon King's Castle?

"Are you really determined to stay quiet?"

"I won't answer!"

"Then I'll start by killing your brother."

Diago's face lit up with joy. "Sure, go ahead!"

In the neighboring cell, Andar cursed loudly, "Diago, you son of a bitch! If anyone's going to die, it should be you first. The Dragon King's Castle was lost under your rule, you should pay with your life!"

"You goddamn idiot, without you leading the way, how would the Dragon King's Castle have been destroyed? If it weren't for this incident, I would have led the Dragon King's Castle army to flatten the Coral Palace and unify the Great Luminescent Sea long ago!"

"Violence and slaughter lead to no good results; only peace is the future of the Great Luminescent Sea!"

“You dumbass, don’t spout this nonsense theory to me. If I hadn’t sent people to protect you in secret, you would have been eaten by the savage sea clans long ago!”

“¥ …%&#%*!”

Watching the sudden argument among the Water Dragon King’s descendants, Ji Chen felt that they might have a talent for comedy.

He sternly said, “Shut up! Otherwise, I’ll kill both of you!”

Diago and Andar were not happy about it, but they remained quiet. Nobody wanted to die.

“I found some Spirit Crystals in the Dragon King’s Treasury. Do you know where those Spirit Crystals came from?”

“Tell me, and one side will get an upgrade in cell conditions and better food.”

“On the other hand, the other side will get downgraded.”

Upon hearing these words, Diago and Andar exchanged knowing glances, a hint of envy evident in their eyes.

They both had one thought in mind.

I can’t let this little brat live better than me!

“I’ll talk! I am the Royal Father’s most favored son. He once told me that the Spirit Crystals in the treasury were found in the Abyssal Layers of Darkness!”

Andar was the first to speak up, looking smugly at Diago, making the latter grind his teeth in anger.

Ji Chen stroked his chin, the Abyssal Layers of Darkness? Could it be what Sonia mentioned before, the layer of water located between a thousand meters below the sea surface and above the sea floor, filled with primitive sea clans?

“Tell me more.”

“Royal Father once sent several exploration teams into the Abyssal Layers of Darkness, but almost every time, there were heavy casualties, and only a fraction of the troops that went could return.”

“In the last exploration, the returning expedition brought back a batch of resources, including those Spirit Crystals.

However, it’s more accurate to say that most of the resources in the treasury were brought out from the Abyssal Layers of Darkness. After all, the Great Luminescent Sea itself hardly produces such resources.”

Upon hearing this, Ji Chen furrowed his brows and looked at Sonia, who nodded in agreement.

So, there might be a rare resource vein, perhaps even a Spirit Crystal vein, within the Abyssal Layers of Darkness? Or maybe it’s something left behind by the human civilization of the Mystic Realm due to their migration?

Regardless of the possibility, it hinted at significant wealth.

Even Sonia, who had survived from that time until now, didn't know for sure. After all, she had come to establish the Coral Palace in the Great Luminescent Sea and rarely left. She only knew that the human civilization of the Mystic Realm gradually migrated to higher places, and she wasn't well-informed about the events that occurred in between.

“Do you know where the last Dragon King's Castle exploration team is now?”

If this expedition team could lead the way, it would be quicker to find the Spirit Crystal discovery site, instead of searching blindly in the vast sea.

“I know about this!”

Ji Chen looked at Diago, who had volunteered to answer first. The latter had a somewhat strange expression on his face.

“They were killed by you with a hidden current outside the Coral Palace several days ago. If you go now, you might still find their bodies.”

F*ck!

Ji Chen silently cursed in his mind.

Damn it, did I just dig a pit for myself?!

It seemed that the exploration of the Abyssal Layers of Darkness would have to be undertaken by the Ocean Crown itself.

With a heavy heart, Ji Chen turned to leave, but before departing, he made sure to upgrade the imprisonment conditions for both Diago and Andar.

Leaving the prison, Ji Chen instructed Sonia, “I will return to the Ocean Crown in a few days. During this time, focus on having the Coral Palace forces deal with the remaining Dragon King's Castle stragglers.

I want a completely stable and absolutely safe rear base, understood?”

“I will not disappoint your expectations, my lord. I will personally lead the troops to eliminate them.”

Sonia responded with solemnity.

Ji Chen felt reassured by her response. A hero of Red-Legacy Tier leading the way should be more than capable of handling the remnants of Dragon King's Castle.

“Very well, in a little while, I will take you to the main world. The Coral Palace and the Great Luminescent Sea will participate in the Ocean Crown's external campaigns.

As long as you remain loyal to me and the Ocean Crown, whether human or sea creature, I will treat everyone equally.”

Sonia half-knelt, placing her right hand over her chest. The V-shaped collar revealed a captivating whiteness, and her elegant and dignified face showed her seriousness.

“Sonia, the Coral Palace and the Great Luminescent Sea eagerly anticipate the arrival of that day.

We will follow your lead in battle, wherever your sword leads!”

Chapter 426:1.5 Million Rare Resources, Sea Beast Tide

This time, from the Dragon King’s treasury, a total of one and a half million units of rare resources were harvested, which was more than double the yield from the previous expedition to the Northern Continent. Ji Chen couldn’t help but exclaim that the rewards from this expedition were truly remarkable!

The influx of these resources significantly enriched the stockpile like never before.

Sticking to his original idea, he opted to relocate the ten Dragon Horn Catfish Recruitment Camps to the Crown of the Ocean. Additionally, he chose to transform five of the empty Recruitment Camps into Tyrant Azure Dragon Recruitment Camps.

With a mighty roar, five imposing golden pyramids abruptly emerged on the southern shoreline.

This brought the total count at the Crown of the Ocean to six, each capable of enlisting 18 units of Tyrant Azure Dragons per week.

Not only could they recruit on a large scale, but the expansion rate had also increased several-fold.

With the conclusion of the Great Luminescent Sea expedition, about ten days had passed. There were now some matters in the Crown of the Ocean that required his personal attention.

Upon his return, Ji Chen immediately began his work within the Lord’s Manor.

Wilus reported in detail, “The post-war reconstruction work has entered the middle phase. Seventy percent of the residential houses have been repaired and rebuilt. Functional buildings like the blacksmith’s workshop are more than halfway restored...”

The prisoners of war from the Bass Kingdom have been allocated to various resource points and are under strict control. There is not much resistance...

The sea rice harvest has been completed, and we can begin planting again. Leysha’s vineyard has expanded its cultivation scale, and the first batch of grapes is in the growing stage. The crops in the jungle plantation are also about to enter the harvest season...”

Various matters, big and small, from the Crown of the Ocean were first gathered by Wilus, and then, based on their significance and importance, a selection of valuable reports was presented to Ji Chen for judgment and decisions.

However, this was only a small part. With his support, Wilus selected some talented individuals from the refugees and residents, forming the initial administrative team, which laid a solid foundation for the future development of the Crown of the Ocean.

Most of the trivial matters in the Crown of the Ocean were handled by Wilus and this group of administrative personnel.

“The cultivation area of sea rice needs further expansion. It is currently one of the main sources of food for the Crown of the Ocean

Of course, we can also have the residents go fishing outside. The stormy sea area has abundant seafood, enough to meet a significant portion of our food needs. However, we should be careful not to deplete the resources thoughtlessly. Even the richest of seas will eventually run dry if not managed properly.”

Despite having the fluorescent mushrooms from the Lizardmen as a reliable food source, Ji Chen believed it was necessary to regulate the dietary structure reasonably to maintain high morale.

Wilus nodded earnestly, taking note of this.

“Lord, I have made a new discovery,” Wilus continued.

“I’ve heard that the fluorescent plants produced in the Great Luminescent Sea are also suitable for human consumption.”

Ji Chen was taken aback. It was the first time he had heard of this. He had only known that the Sea Clan in the Great Luminescent Sea used fluorescent plants as food. Could humans really consume those underwater plants that emitted their own light?

However, he didn’t mind and promptly said, “If that’s the case, then you should conduct a taste and texture test. If they meet the standards, we can promote large-scale cultivation. After all, the Crown of the Ocean is abundant in seawater.

After some time, I will have the Sea Clan from the Great Luminescent Sea expedition come out. With their involvement, planting fluorescent plants on the seabed won’t be a problem.”

“Understood!”

Afterward, Wilus continued to seek guidance on a few more matters. Once he received clear responses, he excused himself.

Watching Wilus disappear behind the door, Ji Chen leaned back in his chair, not having a moment to relax before another guest arrived.

From afar, the booming voice of Thotmudo could be heard. Ji Chen saw his stocky figure emerge from behind the door, striding confidently toward a nearby chair, where he plopped down without ceremony.

“Kid, I heard you’ve got a prosperous ocean realm? You’re really lucky, living in the favor of the heavens,” Thotmudo exclaimed without any pretense.

Seeing Thotmudo’s casual demeanor, Ji Chen didn’t mind and smiled as he asked, “Thank you for your praise. How are those apprentices doing in their studies?”

While Thotmudo was busy forging defensive alchemical apparatuses, he also served as an instructor, teaching a group of apprentices the art of blacksmithing.

Upon mentioning this, Thotmudo started grumbling, “Those fools are too slow in their learning. If I had such dim-witted apprentices back in Black Iron Fortress, I would have kicked them out long ago.

At their current rate of learning, when will they ever finish mastering the basic dwarven blacksmithing techniques? There are even more challenging skills ahead!”

Clearly, humans and Lizardmen couldn’t compare to Dwarves in terms of blacksmithing. Dwarves were like blessed individuals when it came to forging, with natural talent and genius bestowed upon them.

Among the top ten renowned blacksmiths, seven were Dwarves.

“If you want to forge top-quality weapons and equipment quickly, you’ll need to recruit more Dwarves. Oh, by the way, when are you going to help me gather other Dwarf tribes?”

Ji Chen shook his head and replied, “This matter will likely be postponed for a while. The war between the Kingdom of Bass and the Lienhardt Grand Duchy may start at any moment, and we must be prepared.”

Through reports from players in chat channels and on forums, Ji Chen learned that there had been increasing friction between the two sides in the past half month. Both public opinion and military movements seemed to be hinting at an impending conflict..

Chapter 427:1.5 Million Rare Resources, Sea Beast Tide (2)

Additionally, in these past few days, players hailing from the Kingdom of Bass and the Grand Duchy of Lienhardt had received camp missions from both nations. The missions shared similar objectives, emphasizing that players would be required to join the war when it erupted between the two nations.

By gathering intelligence and defeating enemies, they could earn contributions in exchange for rewards.

This immediately excited players from both nations, leading to lively discussions on the forums. They began to deliberate whether they should collaborate to accumulate war achievements and exchange intelligence to gain various advantages.

Seeing this, Ji Chen shook his head.

These players seemed to be underestimating the two nations. If they were issuing camp missions to players, they had undoubtedly considered the player’s situation during a war.

However, players might come up with some tricks and find loopholes in the missions.

“The Western Continent is quite far from the New Moon Islands. After landing, it will take a considerable amount of time to reach the Dwarven gathering place. With a round trip, if everything goes smoothly, it will take at least half a month. I need to stabilize everything before I can handle it.”

Hearing this, Thotmudo nodded and understood that this matter couldn’t be rushed. His tone also softened.

‘I trust you, kid, but I hope you won’t disappoint me.”

“I will do as I promised.”

Hearing this, Thotmudo nodded in relief, jumped off his chair, put his hands behind his waist, and walked away casually. Just as he was about to reach the main door, he seemed to remember something. “The second of the three blueprints you gave me will be able to produce a sample soon.”

“When the production is complete, I will personally come to see it.”

Watching Thotmudo leave, Ji Chen stood up and stretched lazily.

At this moment, a shrill alarm suddenly rang from outside.

The highest-level alert!

Another enemy invasion?

Ji Chen twitched at the corner of his mouth. It hadn’t even been half a month since the last invasion by Ferode’s fleet. The collapsed buildings hadn’t even been rebuilt, and now another wave of enemies was coming!?

What was this? Scheduled monster spawn?

Hastily walking out of the Lord’s Castle, the residents were evacuating in an orderly manner, the Guardian Legion was heading to their posts, and the main legions were entering a state of readiness as quickly as possible.

Soon, a soldier came forward to report the situation.

“My lord, a large number of unidentified enemies are approaching from the south near the Stormy Sea. Based on their trajectory, it is certain that some of them will enter the sea area and pass by the New Moon Islands!”

After the previous lesson, the Crown of the Ocean had expanded its warning range to the edge of the Stormy Sea. Patrol teams were patrolling irregularly to guard against unexpected enemies from outside the sea.

This time, it was evident that a patrol team had detected the danger in advance.

“What are the enemies, and how many are there?”

“They are various sea creatures, and their numbers are so vast that we can’t see the end. They have covered almost the entire sea surface, with at least a million or more!”

A million?

What kind of joke was this?

If a million sea creatures surged up, even one spit from each of them would be enough to submerge the Crown of the Ocean.

But thankfully, the soldier continued, saying, “However, this wave of sea creatures spans hundreds of kilometers of sea, and there are about two hundred thousand that will directly hit the New Moon Islands.”

Upon hearing this, Ji Chen breathed a slight sigh of relief. Two hundred thousand, while a significant number, was not impossible to handle.

However, even if it were two hundred thousand pigs, it would still take several days to slaughter them all. This quantity of enemies, even if the army could eventually eliminate them all, would still deliver a heavy blow to the recovering Crown of the Ocean.

The highest-level alert sounded, and all the heroes arrived one after another.

Anina hurriedly came forward and exclaimed, “My Lord, this must be a sea beast tide!”

Seeing Anina’s serious expression, Ji Chen knew that these attacking sea beasts were not ordinary and asked, “What is a sea beast tide?”

“A sea beast tide is a rare phenomenon that occurs in the middle ocean. In simple terms, it happens when an extremely powerful sea beast appears in a certain area, forcing nearby sea beasts to migrate. The mass migration of sea beasts gradually forms a sea beast tide.

In some part of the ocean, there must have been the birth of a terrifying sea beast to cause such a large-scale sea creature tide.”

Ji Chen instantly understood that these sea beasts were not specifically targeting the Crown of the Ocean. The Crown of the Ocean just happened to be in their migration path.

“Sea beast rides typically come in multiple waves. The stronger the fearsome sea beast, the more it compels other sea beasts to migrate, resulting in each successive wave having more creatures than the one before it.

My mother once told me about a sea beast tide that covered hundreds of sea areas in the Eastern Middle Ocean, with a total number reaching billions in the nine waves of sea beast tides.”

When Ji Chen heard that sea beast tides often consisted of multiple waves, his expression turned serious.

Now, the sea beast tide had already reached beyond the Stormy Sea, and the first wave confronting the Crown of the Ocean numbered as many as two hundred thousand. That meant the subsequent waves would be even larger.

Thinking about this, he had a headache.

The Crown of the Ocean had not fully recovered from the previous war, and now it was facing such a disaster. It was truly beset by numerous challenges.

But given the circumstances, they could only face the sea beast tide head-on.

With this in mind, Ji Chen immediately gave the order.

“All personnel, enter combat readiness mode. Deploy all combat legions to a position 500 meters south of the main island’s beach, to defend against the sea beast tide!

Get those steel warships and wooden vessels moving for me! Park them in front of the beach as obstacles and gun emplacements!”

The use of the steel warships from the Bass Kingdom in this manner was out of necessity. The Crown of the Ocean hadn’t trained crews capable of handling them perfectly yet, and using the

prisoners of war to operate them was not a reliable option. Therefore, they had no choice but to repurpose them as artillery platforms.

Taking advantage of the fact that the sea beast tide hadn't fully arrived, Ji Chen hurried to the recruitment camps and filled the recruitment quotas for the week.

The Crown of the Ocean's military forces saw another increase in size.

"Ding- A total of 1,271,100 units of rare resources were consumed, recruiting a total of 1,006 units of troops."

Fifth-tier troops indeed consumed resources like this, depleting a significant portion of the resources obtained from the Great Luminescent Sea. Their inventory now held less than 230,000 units of rare resources!

War was all about resources!

But Ji Chen believed it was worth it. With over a thousand additional troops, the Crown of the Ocean's military strength had significantly increased.

The entire Crown of the Ocean entered a state of readiness. Residents evacuated to the caves in an orderly manner, and the military was deployed systematically along the eastern stretch of the southern beach, constructing a defensive line spanning roughly three kilometers.

Ji Chen stood on a high point of the southeastern cliff, looking out at the distant sea.

In his line of sight, a long, dark line suddenly appeared on the distant horizon. As it drew closer, it became clear that this dark line consisted of ferocious sea beasts, roaring and surging with terrifying momentum.

He squinted his eyes.

The ranks of these sea beasts varied, ranging from fourth-tier to first-tier, but overall, there were more low-tier sea beasts, primarily first and second-tier, with very few fourth-tier ones.

However, no one could ignore their sheer numbers; a momentary lapse in concentration could lead to their overwhelming force scattering the defenders.

The sea beast tide gradually approached the New Moon Islands. These sea beasts, forced to migrate and hungry, quickly spotted the living presence of the New Moon Islands.

Their blood-red eyes were filled with madness and hunger, and their speed increased, closing the gap further.

When the sea beast tide entered a range of 1,500 meters from the beach, more than ten Black Hawk Arrow Towers standing behind the beach had already preset their parameters. The firing mechanisms within the towers worked frantically, and a swarm of arrows shot out from the honeycomb-like firing ports, numbering in the hundreds.

Over a thousand arrows formed a wave of projectiles, instantly killing hundreds of sea creatures.

The Alchemy Death Cannons, which had been repaired and restored, erupted with flames as well. Bombs exploded among the sea beast tide, sending nearby creatures flying and creating a rain of blood and flesh.

The ten Ripper Alchemy Cannons that Thotmudo had manufactured in recent days also fired under skilled operation, unleashing tongues of fire. Each fist-sized alchemical bomb caused considerable damage.

The steel warships opened fire, and powerful shells shattered sea beasts. Even the old-fashioned cannons on wooden vessels roared to life—there was hardly any need for precise aiming due to the overwhelming number of sea beasts; a casual shot could hit its mark.

However, the vacant spaces left by the slain sea creatures were quickly filled by those behind them. The scent of blood only fueled their animal instincts further, and some even resorted to tearing apart the corpses of their fallen comrades.

The battle had already entered a state of intense ferocity from the very beginning..

Chapter 428: Dragon-Horned Catfish's Performance, Glorious Achievements, Meat Harvest

Outside the southern beach of the main island of the New Moon Islands.

The sky had unknowingly gathered a mass of dark clouds, turning the daylight abruptly dim, with the rumbling of thunder echoing through the clouds.

Beneath the black clouds.

A fleet of warships spanned the coastline, their decks and gun barrels protruding from the cabins spitting flames, sending cannonballs into the midst of the sea beast tide, each blast causing water to splash several meters high, with large-caliber shells even stirring up waves tens of meters high.

Amidst the sky of splashing water, the broken bodies of sea beasts and vivid blood were intermixed. Outside the range of the explosions, many sea beasts were stunned by the blasts, only to be engulfed in an instant.

In everyone's eyes, under the dim sky, the entire sea area was filled with pairs of blood-red pupils, their madness and bloodlust chilling to the bone, with their fierce roars seeming to resound right beside one's ears.

Behind the area bombarded by artillery, several main force legions stood solemnly on the sea surface, facing the approaching sea beasts without a trace of fear.

For them, recruited from the endless void, the mission of battle had been their burden since the moment of their birth.

To die in battle was not the end, but a rebirth, an honor!

Everyone could see the tall figure standing on the cliff, their eyes gradually igniting with fervor and the will to fight.

Woo woo—

The sound of a giant conch horn, made from a sea snail, emitted a deep, resonating sound, echoing through heaven and earth.

This seemed to become the signal for the attack.

Following the commands of various hero units, under the crisscrossing artillery fire, the main force legions charged towards the enemy.

Ji Chen, from atop the cliff, watched as the Crown of the Ocean champion team and the sea beast tide merged into one massive entity below.

Meanwhile, the artillery fire also adjusted its parameters, targeting the sea beasts further back.

A single sea beast was undoubtedly very weak, but thousands of them together were terrifying, swarming like locusts across the sky, capable of overwhelming a smaller number of enemies in an instant.

This was the terrifying aspect of the Sea Beast Tide.

The sky had unknowingly started to drizzle, making the already dim light even more gloomy, and the sea surface, no longer calm, began to churn with waves.

But amidst these layers of waves, slaughter was constantly unfolding.

The sea beasts surged forward, initially driven by expulsion, but now driven by a hunger-induced frenzy, each craving to take a bite of their prey.

Among the Sea Beast Tide, many were entire tribes migrating together. The sea beast monsters leading these tribes possessed considerable intelligence, not blindly charging forward but constantly restraining their kin, observing the battlefield situation, looking for weak points in the defense line to viciously bite into their enemy.

However, to their disappointment, the defense line formed by the Crown of the Ocean champion team appeared weak but was incredibly resilient.

The main force legion, all of Tier 5, now became a battlefield meat grinder.

The immensely strong and robust Naga Guardians, even in front of sea beasts of waterfall-like size, still appeared quite large, their heads resembling dragons, imposing and awe-inspiring.

Their hands, evolved into heavy bone swords, were like flesh-cutting machines, their alien bloodlines granting them almost endless strength. With one swing, a sea beast was beheaded, swift and efficient.

This scene of slaughter could be imagined as over a thousand enhanced versions of Dwayne Johnson wielding chainsaws amidst a horde of zombies.

And the Dragon Blood Murlocs, vastly different in stature from the Naga Guardians, presented a different style. With their Dragon Might skill, they easily suppressed the lower-bloodline sea beasts, calmly using their tridents to kill.

The Guardian Legion's Water Nymph Archers and Silver Sea Pixies, under the protection of the Crab Guardians, calmly shot volleys of arrows, their terrifying output clearing swathes of sea beasts.

The Silver Sea Pixies were still okay, having reached a number over a thousand. A round of their spells could at least kill two to three thousand sea beasts.

But the voice of the Water Nymph Archers was somewhat lower, the flaw being that their numbers were still too few. Archers as a military unit needed to be numerous; only with sufficient numbers could they shoot more arrows and exert enough suppressive force.

Ji Chen still remembered watching a movie called “Hero” back on Earth, where the Qin army launched a magnificent volley of arrows while attacking an enemy city, a sight truly terrifying.

He thought that no enemy would want to face such a horrifying barrage of arrows. Just a few rounds before the battle could probably plummet the enemy’s morale to rock bottom.

Maybe he should seize the opportunity to buy a few more cores for recruiting Water Nymph Archers?

But then Ji Chen thought about the millions of rare resources needed for each recruitment round and quietly dismissed the idea.

Having resources for one meal but not the next, even with many recruitment camps, wouldn’t be effective.

Other legions were also fighting fiercely.

The Dragonblood Guardian Knights used their mobility advantage on the edge of the battlefield, frequently attacking the fringes of the battlefield, slicing through the sea beast horde like a knife cutting through dough, then devouring them with their charge.

In this way, the output of these sea clan knights, clad in armor and wielding spears, was surprisingly no less than that of other legions standing on the front line. Their armor and bone spears were continuously stained red with blood, then washed clean by the rain and seawater.

Just as he was observing the overall situation of the battlefield.

A flickering red light on one side of the battlefield caught his attention. Looking closely, it was the Dragon-Horned Catfish, a new unit type of the Crown of the Ocean, accumulating energy.

As a new unit type of the Crown of the Ocean, Ji Chen was extremely interested in them..

Chapter 429: Dragon-Horned Catfish’s Performance,

Glorious Achievements, Meat Harvest (2)

The Dragon-Horned Catfish, a Tier 5, 4-star unit, commands a recruitment price of a staggering 1,950 units of rare resources per unit, double that of the Water Nymph Archer, and only slightly less expensive than the mightiest unit, the Tyrant Azure Dragon.

Just the first wave of recruitment, bringing forth one hundred and forty Dragon-Horned Catfish, amounted to a total of 273,000 units of rare resources. Such a hefty expense was exchanged for an extremely terrifying spell output capability.

Unlike the Silver Sea Pixies, the Dragon-Horned Catfish couldn’t cast spells immediately after a short chant. They often required a significant amount of time to prepare their magic.

Red lightning orbs, twinkling on their crystalline horns, grew larger as energy accumulated. In watery environments, their lethality was greatly amplified.

Once the energy was fully charged, red lightning orbs, over a meter in diameter, were launched, evenly landing amidst the sea beast horde.

After a brief delay, over a hundred circular red electric fields suddenly appeared on the battlefield. Lightning, with a voltage reaching up to a million volts, rapidly spread from the explosion points. The high-energy current instantly turned the surrounding sea beasts into charred remains, and not even the increasingly intense rain could prevent the smell of scorched flesh from spreading.

After killing the nearby sea beasts, the electric current continued to spread through the seawater, paralyzing and causing convulsions in the bodies of more distant sea beasts.

A single lightning orb could kill dozens of sea beasts and paralyze and rout hundreds more.

Just one round of attack from the one hundred and forty Dragon-Horned Catfish temporarily incapacitated tens of thousands of sea beasts.

Ji Chen, standing atop the cliff, witnessed the entire process and couldn't help but nod in approval at the output and battle achievements.

He thought to himself that this expenditure of resources was incredibly worthwhile. By comparison, the Silver Sea Pixies, the traditional magic wielders of the Crown of the Ocean, seemed somewhat inferior.

After a long battle, the sea beast horde on the ocean surface finally thinned out a bit, no longer giving that suffocating, overwhelming feeling.

And the defensive line, from the start of the battle, had not retreated an inch, showing remarkable resilience.

This sight brought great satisfaction to Ji Chen.

This battle undoubtedly showcased the formidable military strength of the Crown of the Ocean. Although their numbers were far fewer than those of kingdom-level powers, the quality of each unit had caught up remarkably.

Such a performance bolstered his confidence for the upcoming battle with the Bass Kingdom.

Previously, the Bass Kingdom's fleet had nearly destroyed a large part of the Crown of the Ocean, a devastation from which they had yet to fully recover. Ji Chen had etched this grudge deep in his heart.

When the time came for the Lienhardt Grand Duchy to wage war against the Bass Kingdom, the Crown of the Ocean would seize this opportunity for revenge... perhaps even utterly crushing the Bass Kingdom to the point of no return!

His thoughts whirled and turned.

From day to night, the battle raged on.

The situation on the battlefield became increasingly clear.

The onslaught of the sea beast horde was terrifying, but the troops of the Crown of the Ocean were even more fearsome. Like an unyielding wall, they repelled every assault, resulting in countless deaths and injuries among the beasts.

Amidst such horrific casualties, many sea beasts regained their senses, fear gradually appearing in their eyes, hesitating to advance.

Roars and howls echoed.

The leaders of various tribes standing behind the sea beast horde, witnessing the inability of so many beasts to break through and instead being slaughtered in large numbers, began to contemplate retreat.

After hearing weird roars, the sea beasts that were now fully awake started biting the dead bodies of their own kind. They followed their leaders and went around the New Moon Islands to make their escape.

Before long, the crowded battlefield thinned out further. Apart from a few sea beasts that had lost their sanity in the killing frenzy, the rest had all departed.

When the Naga Guardian split the last beast into two, there were no more living sea beasts in the ocean. Only a mass of corpses were floating on the water.

However, Ji Chen's expression remained tense. As he looked at the sky, which was becoming darker and more oppressive instead of clearing, he felt a deep sense of seriousness.

It seemed this was only the first wave of the Sea Beast Tide. At least a second wave was imminent.

And in this second wave, both the number and quality of the sea beasts would significantly increase.

The Sea Beast Tide was so named because they surged like waves, one after another. If one wave couldn't be withstood, it would engulf everything, leaving not even bones behind.

But now, it seemed that the Crown of the Ocean still possessed considerable resilience in resistance.

Soon, reports on military casualties and material consumption were presented.

"Naga Legion: 4 dead, 6 critically injured, 297 lightly injured; Dragon Blood Murlocs death is... The main army corps in total... 35 dead, 98 critically injured, 468 lightly injured."

"The Guardian Legion, having not engaged in battle yet, suffered no casualties."

"Various types of alchemical ammunition have depleted two-thirds of our stockpile, and the Black Hawk Arrow Towers have used up a third of their arrows."

After hearing the report, Ji Chen breathed a sigh of relief.

These casualty figures were nothing short of remarkable.

Over six thousand troops of the Crown of the Ocean faced two hundred thousand sea beasts, yet only thirty-five had died, with just over a hundred critically injured and less than a thousand lightly wounded.

And they had slain at least one hundred and eighty thousand sea beasts.

Estimating roughly, the casualty ratio was an astonishing 1:5142. Such a figure, if released, would likely be met with disbelief.

But upon careful consideration, Ji Chen found all this to be quite reasonable.

Firstly, this wave of defense wasn't solely reliant on the military. Various defense installations, dozens of wooden warships, and several steel warships also contributed significantly to the offensive, accounting for a large number of slain sea beasts, not much less than the army.

Secondly, the participating troops were all from the main army corps, averaging Tier 5, with levels reaching 35, except for the Dragon Horn Catfish.

It was like an army of all strong men.

An organized scale, coupled with excellent coordination and rich combat experience, facing a sea beast horde of mixed quality, unorganized and relying solely on brute force, with the highest only at Tier 4, was like a dimensional strike.

If they had suffered more casualties under these circumstances, he would have started to question life itself.

Thinking of such a splendid victory, Ji Chen couldn't help but smile.

But then, remembering the thirty-five fallen units, each worth tens of thousands of rare resources, his smile gradually faded.

However—with the existence of the Resurrection Altar, this issue was no longer a problem.

The Resurrection Altar, although not labeled as divine, was undoubtedly a divine-level structure, its formidable nature becoming increasingly apparent in the later stages.

For a mere few thousand resources, one could resurrect units worth tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, or even millions of rare resources. This was truly a blessing for lords following the elite troop strategy.

With the ability to resurrect up to ten thousand units of troops twice a month, its value was comparable to that of a divine artifact!

With this thought, Ji Chen refocused on the present situation.

“Issue my command: all troops are to rest temporarily, recover from injuries, and reload the alchemical ammunition!

Dispatch scouting teams to locate the next wave of sea beasts!”

“Yes!”

After a moment's thought, Ji Chen added, “Send someone to the Great Luminescent Sea Mystic Realm, and instruct Sonia to lead the Coral Palace troops for support if necessary!”

“Understood!”

Although the Great Luminescent Sea was not yet completely stable, with remnants of the Dragon King City still lurking and waiting for opportunities, Ji Chen couldn't concern himself with that now. If the Crown of the Ocean were to be breached by the sea beast tide, the stability of the Great Luminescent Sea would be meaningless.

Over ten thousand Coral Palace troops, averaging around Tier 4, 9-star level, would be a formidable force anywhere, capable of turning the tide of battle.

However, if possible, he didn't want to deploy them just yet.

But having such a force as a backup gave Ji Chen some peace of mind.

Scouting teams hurriedly set out to locate and assess the scale of the next wave of the sea beast tide.

After half a day of fierce battle, the New Moon Islands suddenly entered a brief period of calm.

The Guardian Legion, which had stayed in the rear until now, took on the role of cleaners, beginning to clear the sea beast corpses floating on the sea. Over a hundred thousand sea beast bodies densely covered the entire southern sea area of the main island, their blood staining the water red for several meters deep.

The task of clearing so many bodies was extraordinarily difficult, but Wilus, the chief steward, was incredibly excited upon hearing the news.

Such a large number of sea beast corpses were all food, and moreover, they were a type of meat supply that was not abundant in the Crown of the Ocean.

With Ji Chen's permission, Wilus immediately led a large group of physically strong residents to hastily clear the abandoned Kobold caves, digging new ones to serve as storage for the meat. Otherwise, given the climate of the Stormy Sea, the meat would spoil and rot in just a couple of days.

The Kobold caves, located underground with low temperatures, served as a natural cold storage, suitable for temporarily storing the meat.

After the battle was over, it wouldn't be too late to excavate a proper cold storage facility..

Chapter 430 - 430: The Second Wave of Sea Beast Tide, Combo Punch

The threat of the Sea Beast Tide had not subsided, leaving everyone in the Crown of the Ocean on edge, even the usually carefree Daro, who now showed signs of worry.

After half a month of recuperation, Daro's injuries had largely healed.

However, as the main battlefield this time was at sea, he, being a landlubber, could only stay on the island with Verena, preparing for a possible land battle.

Verena's level had recovered to thirty. Although her strength had not fully returned to its peak, she was already capable enough to take on significant responsibilities. A legendary hero unit was not to be underestimated.

Ji Chen gazed towards the southern seas, feeling somewhat anxious.

According to Anina, the Sea Beast Tide had emerged due to the birth of a powerful overlord sea beast, prompting other sea beasts to migrate en masse for survival.

This first wave of the Sea Beast Tide alone amounted to a million beasts, suggesting that this overlord sea beast was extraordinarily powerful.

What worried him was whether this overlord sea beast would follow the Sea Beast Tide to the Stormy Sea in search of food.

The sea beasts could flee, but his territory could not.

The more he enhanced his strength and the longer he stayed in the ocean, the more he felt the immeasurable vastness of the sea.

The ocean was mysterious, and even though he had mastered some tidal powers, he still worried about what might be hidden in the unexplored deep seas and far oceans – terrifying marine behemoths, remnants left by long-gone deities, or ancient evil artifacts lost by old gods.

The ocean was too vast. So far, the Crown of the Ocean had only explored the Stormy Sea and a few adjacent areas, a fraction so small compared to the entire Mediterranean that it didn't even amount to one ten-millionth.

As he pondered, the pride that had swelled due to the continuous victories of the Crown of the Ocean's army and his rare opposition since becoming the Tidal Dominator began to subside.

At this moment, his arrogance, which had been inflated by his rare defeats since becoming the Tidal Dominator, gradually subsided, and he slowly regained the reverence he had when he first entered this world.

His entire demeanor seemed more restrained, and the previously unrestrained aura and fluctuations of his spells were now all drawn in.

He appeared like an ordinary lord with a somewhat handsome face, but a closer look revealed eyes as deep as an unfathomable ocean.

Alice, who had been quietly following by his side, keenly sensed this subtle change in Ji Chen and couldn't help but take a few more glances. "My Lord, you..."

Ji Chen shook his head and touched her hair, which was brighter than the sun, "Alice, will you stay with me until we reach the end of this world and uncover the truth behind it?"

"I will always follow you, even if the world ends," Alice replied earnestly.

Ji Chen said nothing more, just smiling and nodding his head.

Looking towards the distant sea again, a scout team was rapidly returning.

"Report, my Lord, the second wave of the Sea Beast Tide has reached twenty kilometers outside the Stormy Sea. It is estimated that it will pass through the Stormy Sea in eight hours.

About 350,000 of them are heading towards the New Moon Islands, with their tiers leaning towards higher levels. A large number of fourth-tier sea beasts have been spotted, and the presence of fifth-tier sea beasts cannot be ruled out.

Moreover, we've discovered that this wave of the Sea Beast Tide is not as chaotic as the last one. A significant part of it consists of organized sea beast tribes, commanded by numerous sea beast leaders."

Three hundred and fifty thousand – that's a whole one hundred and fifty thousand more than the first wave, creating a formidable numerical advantage.

By this calculation, the more than six thousand units of the Crown of the Ocean's army would have to face about 58 sea beasts each, including fourth and even fifth-tier sea beasts.

Not just in numbers and quality, but the defensive difficulty of the second wave of the Sea Beast Tide would also climb several levels.

The reason why the first wave could be crushed with low casualties was that most sea beasts charged forward mindlessly, like the undead, without any organization or strategy, directly clashing with the defense line.

However, this wave, according to the scout team's findings, included a considerable number of sea beast tribes. These tribes, possessing certain organization and intelligence, would be much more troublesome and might bypass the frontline to attack the hinterlands of the Crown of the Ocean.

This pinpointed a weakness of the Crown of the Ocean – insufficient army numbers. Even with high-quality individual units, most of the forces had to be deployed on the frontline.

Ji Chen stroked his chin, deep in thought. How should he respond?

Should he really call out the Coral Palace army?

As he pondered, a voice rang out.

“My Lord, leave those sea beast tribes to me. I can handle them.”

Turning to look, Alice's expression was serious but filled with confidence.

Ji Chen frowned slightly, quickly understanding the source of Alice's confidence.

The sea beast tribes posed a threat because of their leader units. If they could capture the leader first, neutralizing the leader units, then the remaining ordinary sea beasts would be less of a concern.

Alice's mind control had the ability to disrupt souls. With the cover of soul slaves, intervening and interfering at critical moments seemed like a good approach.

“Alright, I'll leave them to you and the Soul Slave Legion.”

Hearing the response, a look of joy appeared in Alice's eyes. Alleviating the Lord's worries was her greatest desire..