

Ocean Lord 601

Chapter 601: Victory Day Celebration

The celebration for Victory Day was in full swing, and the entire Crown of the Ocean was immersed in a whirlwind of festivity and busyness.

As the initiator and advocate of this festival, Ji Chen had a short two-day break after the war ended.

As the saying goes, even the toughest ropes can break under prolonged pressure, so he felt justified in enjoying this brief respite.

During this time, he used the recruitment quotas for the five recruiting camps he had newly acquired to recruit a total of fifty Sea Crystal Wynns.

It's worth noting that recruiting Sea Crystal Wyrms, a sixth-tier unit, required the consumption of extremely rare resources called Spirit Crystals. Each Sea Crystal Wurm required 20 units of Spirit Crystals, and recruiting fifty of them would cost 1000 units.

His inventory of Spirit Crystals was only 3500 units, so he was just two rounds of recruitment away from running out of resources.

It seemed that his upcoming journey to the Maple Principality would need to focus on finding more Spirit Crystals.

The day of the Victory Day celebration banquet arrived quickly. It was called a dinner, but it had actually started since noon. The streets were adorned with colorful decorations, red fabrics, red lanterns, and various festive items were hung everywhere. Even the residents were dressed in red clothing to some extent.

It looked quite festive.

Originally, in this world, there were no customs or traditions of wearing red items to celebrate special holidays.

However, at some point, Ji Chen mentioned to Wikis that the color red symbolized celebration in his homeland. Wilus remembered this and told the residents, suggesting that the Crown of the Ocean should incorporate red elements into its future festivals.

This made Ji Chen somewhat amused but also pleased.

Being able to see a glimpse of his homeland in this foreign world seemed like a good thing.

Even more importantly, this could bring people long-lasting, beautiful memories that could inspire and motivate them to move forward.

In comparison to pure force and violence, Ji Chen believed that this could create a powerful territory. A powerful territory was not solely determined by absolute military strength; civilian development was also an indispensable component.

Standing by the window and looking at the residents on the street, who wore genuine smiles on their faces, Ji Chen smiled knowingly.

“My lord, the Victory Day celebration banquet is about to begin, and it’s time for you to make the opening speech,” Alice said in a low voice.

Ji Chen withdrew his gaze and nodded gently.

Under the gaze of thousands of people, he stepped onto the stage set up at the main venue.

Looking at the thousands of eyes staring at him, those eyes filled with hope, joy, gratitude, excitement, and respect, Ji Chen spoke loudly in a relaxed and gentle tone.

“My people, once again, the Crown of the Ocean has triumphed over its enemies.

Since its establishment, we have defeated countless ambitious enemies who sought to claim our home for themselves. But without exception, they were all defeated by our unity and our courage to stand up to formidable foes!

During this time, we have painstakingly built a dazzling pearl in this vast and desolate ocean! Even the elves in the far North Continent have recognized our unity and courage!

Our territory continues to expand, and the number of like-minded friends grows. The Starshine Islands joined us not long ago, the honorable lords of King Kong Island are now our friends, and even the Lienhardt Grand Duchy, thousands of miles away, has gifted us land to show their friendship!

Let us celebrate loudly!

We are witnesses to all of this, and we deserve this honor and celebration!”

With the last sentence delivered in an impassioned tone, the venue erupted into a deafening cheer. The residents, with faces flushed red, seemed eager to unleash the emotions they had been suppressing, shouting at the top of their lungs.

“Long live the Crown of the Ocean!”

“Hail to our Lord!”

After finishing his speech, Ji Chen descended from the stage and mingled with the crowd. A warm smile graced his face as he moved through the path the residents spontaneously made for him. He watched their excited, red faces, some of which were so overwhelmed with emotion that they couldn’t even speak.

Suddenly, a fire ignited within him.

It seemed that in this world, he had found a new purpose.

The elves of Vale watched all this unfold in silence, their eyes filled with emotions that indicated their inner turmoil.

Beside Marianne stood Arlin, who involuntarily clenched her hands as if something was surging within her.

She didn’t know what it was, but at that moment, she envied the residents. The smiles on their faces were genuine because they had a wise lord, a guide who sincerely led them in creating a better life with their own hands.

She liked it here because the residents, regardless of their races, had joined hands to create their own paradise.

Marianne noticed Arlin's unusual state and asked, "Arlin, what's wrong?"

Arlin, somewhat bewildered, shook her head and said, "Great Elder, I..."

Marianne looked at her for a moment, then suddenly smiled kindly, patting her head and speaking gently, "If you want to stay here, then stay. I will support you."

"I'm not..."

Arlin instinctively tried to deny it, but Marianne shook her head with a smile and said, "Elves should confront their own inner selves. We have long lifespans, but as a cost, we've cultivated arrogance, selfishness, disdain, and greed over the centuries. It almost led to our extinction.."

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"But there is one thing we must insist on, to confront our inner selves and take that brave step at a certain moment.

Just like tens of thousands of years ago, we elves set aside our arrogance and chose to ally with humans, resisting the invasion of the Barbaric Divine Lineage. Just like our Vale bowed our heads and sought help from Lord Ji Chen, breaking free from the barren frozen wilderness. We may not always make the right choices, but as long as we take the right path at the most crucial moments, it will suffice.

Lord Ji Chen is a far more enlightened lord than we could have imagined. If you were to follow him, perhaps you can have a different life and future," Marianne paused and added, "and give the elves a different future."

Arlin didn't fully understand, but she nodded in the end. "Elder, I will request Lord Ji Chen to allow me to stay."

"So be it."

After leaving the gathering, Ji Chen went to the underground lizardman world to find the dwarf Thotmudo.

Initially, he had invited Thotmudo to join the banquet, but Thotmudo had declined, citing the strong stench of elves on the surface that was worse than breathing the iron fumes underground. Ji Chen had no choice but to let it go.

Ji Chen carried two large barrels of liquor that he got from Lienhardt and found the dwarf who was hammering away at the alchemical submarine with a wrench in the workshop.

"Sir Thotmudo."

Thotmudo turned to look, his small eyes scanning Ji Chen and the two barrels of liquor. He sniffed hard, and his expression suddenly became animated, breaking into a rare smile.

"Young man, what kind of liquor is this? It smells pretty good."

Ji Chen patted the two barrels of liquor with a smile. “I brought them back from Lienhardt. Today, I’ll let you taste this liquor.”

Thotmudo removed the barrel stopper and took it in his mouth, gulping down one-third of it in one go.

“Good liquor!”

Thotmudo drank the rest of the liquor, looking satisfied. “I heard you defeated an enemy called Lord of the Waves this time?”

“Yes, a snake-person from the Death Sea to the north.”

“The Death Sea...”

Seeing Thotmudo deep in thought, Ji Chen couldn’t help but ask, “Do you know what the Death Sea is like inside?”

“Well, I know some things about it. That place isn’t where ordinary people can stay...”

Thotmudo began to explain what he knew.

The Death Sea was formed due to the prolonged and devastating divine war tens of thousands of years ago. Various dispersed divine powers caused its environment to become extremely harsh and desolate.

What was known was that the orderly divine lineage, barbaric divine lineage, and chaotic divine lineage once engaged in a large-scale and brutal battle there, resulting in the downfall of at least five or more deities. The powers they erupted with after their deaths extinguished all vitality at the time.

Due to this harsh environment, the Death Sea remained isolated from the world year-round, with no signs of life.

However, just like the resilient grass that grows from concrete, even in desolation and decay, life can still sprout from the muck, from the corners, gradually forming powerful marine communities over time. These communities resemble warlords’ sea forces, occupying various locations in the Death Sea, engaging in wars and conflicts with each other for thousands of years, vying for scarce resources and limited living space.

At this point, Ji Chen understood that Lord of the Waves, Victor, was probably one of the warlords in the Death Sea, likely driven out due to his weakness.

“...But I’ve only heard about it, never been inside. The ocean is not the dwarf’s domain.” Thotmudo took another sip of his drink. “But you are as comfortable as a fish in the ocean. You might consider taking a look sometime. I’ve heard there are quite a few rare resources in the Death Sea.”

“I’ll consider it.”

Thotmudo waved his hand. “If you have nothing else, you should go. Your subjects are still waiting for you.”

Ji Chen nodded and left.

Back on the surface, the residents were still in the midst of revelry and celebration. The streets were filled with a continuous flow of people, humans, sea creatures, and lizardmen, crowded together with no signs of discord or conflict. Even the half-orcs with hidden violent genes wore smiles, mingling with other residents, drinking beer after beer.

Wilus stood on the side, watching them drink alcohol like water, and sighed.

He pondered how many resources this banquet would likely consume.

In the evening, a giant bonfire was lit in the open space, extending the joy from the day into the night.

A few days ago, the merchant Lein had mistakenly entered the Stormy Sea due to Lord of the Waves, but now he was marveling at the residents of the Crown of the Ocean dancing around the bonfire.

In these days on the New Moon Islands, he had truly opened his eyes.

He had witnessed the harmonious coexistence of various races, the cohesion of this territory, and the strength of its lord.

This place seemed like a paradise amidst the perilous sea, making people want to linger.

As he sipped on a small drink and enjoyed some barbecue, watching the residents dancing in a peculiar but unexpectedly charming manner around the bonfire, a voice came from beside him.

“Lord Lein, have you been enjoying your time on the New Moon Islands these past few days?”

Lein was surprised, and when he saw the person, he couldn’t help but look flattered. “Lord Ji Chen, do you remember my name?”

Ji Chen looked at the only merchant poisoned by Lord of the Waves and said with a smile, “Of course, you are one of the few merchants who have come to the Crown of the Ocean.”

“So you mean there were other merchants who entered the Stormy Sea before?”

Ji Chen nodded, recalling Raymond, who was now overseeing the trade between the Crown of the Ocean and the Northern Continent in the Maple Principality.

Lein didn’t give it much thought and remarked with a touch of nostalgia, “In a stunning and thriving place like this, and with such a prime location, it’s hard to believe there aren’t any merchants who’ve heard about it.

Lord Ji Chen, I know many merchants who engage in trade between the Maple Principality and Lienhardt, as well as across the Western Continent. When I reach my destination, I will definitely tell them about the existence of the New Moon Islands and encourage them to stop here for supplies and rest.”

“In that case, I thank you, Lord Lein.”

This was exactly what Ji Chen had in mind. As they say, quality will always find its audience. If nothing unexpected happened, the merchant ships on these trade routes probably wouldn’t even know that this island existed.

To quickly spread the reputation and location of the Crown of the Ocean, he would need the help of well-connected merchants like Lein.

Lein quickly shook his head and said, “Having a place like the New Moon Islands for supplies and rest along the way is what makes us long-distance merchants feel fortunate.”

After a night of revelry, Ji Chen was about to set out on his journey to the Maple Kingdom.

Taking advantage of the fact that a week had just passed, he carried out another round of recruitment, recruiting another fifty Sea Crystal Wyrms, forming a squadron of one hundred Sea Crystal Wyrms.

These Sea Crystal Wyrms, each the size of a small truck, looked extremely majestic when soaring in the sky. Their take-offs and landings around the giant turtle were reminiscent of aircraft on an aircraft carrier.

Due to the need to build a camp and magical artillery platforms on the turtle’s back, the giant turtle remained at the Crown of the Ocean. Ji Chen, on the other hand, departed with a fully organized Naga Legion, Dragonblood Legion, and this squadron of one hundred Sea Crystal Wyrms.

It’s worth mentioning that about three hundred elves chose to stay on the New Moon Islands last night and pledged their allegiance to him. The leader of this group was the elven warrior Arlin.

Ji Chen welcomed this development, as the residents of the Crown of the Ocean already comprised multiple races, and he didn’t mind having more elves. It also gave Elisya some elven companions.

Moreover, elves seemed to have a unique expertise in improving plant cultivation, which could provide valuable assistance and advice for the agricultural development of the Crown of the Ocean.

Under the watchful eyes of many of his subjects, with the sound of a loud steam whistle, Ji Chen and his group set off..

Chapter 603: Meeting Miligas Again

The clear sky bathed in sunlight, with a few lazy clouds drifting by, and the gentle rolling of the waves. Occasionally, flying fish leaped out of the sea next to the fleet, creating a soothing and tranquil scene.

After the fleet left the stormy sea, it followed a route that converged around the south end of the Death Sea and headed northeast from the southwest.

With Ji Chen’s presence, the Ocean Crown fleet would never encounter storms. Even the prevailing winds were in their favor, and the sea remained calm.

After sailing on the sea for several days without any mishaps, the fleet safely reached the Maple Principality.

As soon as they anchored, Ji Chen dispatched someone to inform Raymond, the portly man who handled trade affairs for him in the Maple Principality.

Raymond quickly appeared in his sight, his belly noticeably larger than the last time they had met.

Ji Chen couldn’t help but tease him. “Raymond, it seems like you’ve been living well here.”

“Hehe, I’ve been eating quite a bit lately,” Raymond replied somewhat awkwardly, scratching his head.

Ji Chen chuckled but didn’t dwell on the topic. He got straight to the point.

“I’ve come to the Maple Principality this time to send a group of lost elves back to their homeland. Is Sir Black, the official dealing with matters in Maple City, still here?”

Raymond was momentarily surprised. How could his Lord find elves every time he went out?

However, he didn’t ask any more questions and nodded. “Sir Black is indeed still in Maple City, but he’s probably quite busy right now, especially considering the serious incident involving the elves that occurred recently.”

Ji Chen furrowed his brow. He had only been gone for two or three months, and the elves were already causing trouble again?

Seeing Ji Chen’s concerned expression, Raymond quickly explained, “It’s about the incident on the Elf Queen’s birthday. A few days ago, during the celebration ceremony in Silvermoon City for the Elf Queen’s birthday, a group of criminals infiltrated the procession of envoys from various countries who had come to congratulate her. They launched a violent attack at the celebration ceremony. Although they were quickly captured and killed by the Elven Guard, this incident undoubtedly severely embarrassed the elves and the Silvermoon Dynasty.

The Elf Queen was furious about it and ordered a thorough investigation to find the culprits and those behind the attack. Preliminary investigations suggest that some of the criminals may have come from the Maple Principality. As a result, the elves from the Maple Principality are now fully engaged in searching for clues and leads. Ambassador Miligas and Consul Black are both overwhelmed by this situation.”

Ji Chen nodded in understanding. He had heard about the Elf Queen’s birthday celebration when the Fifth Fleet returned to the capital.

As the capital of the elves, Silvermoon City naturally had tight security measures in place. The celebration ceremony for the Elf Queen’s birthday should have been even more cautious and vigilant, yet such a major breach had occurred.

Ji Chen had a nagging feeling that something was amiss.

After a moment of contemplation, he decided to first find Miligas and resolve the matter concerning the elves from Vale Village.

“You handle this shipment for now. I’m going to Maple City.”

“Yes,” Raymond replied respectfully.

Ji Chen had only brought two heroes with him, Alice and Anina, and left the elves from Vale Village on the ship.

He hired a carriage to enter Maple City.

Upon entering the city, he immediately sensed a tense and solemn atmosphere. Pedestrians hurried along the streets, and fully armed soldiers patrolled in squads. Many shops along the streets were closed.

For the Maple Principality, the Silvermoon Dynasty was like their parent.

Nearly half of their prosperity relied on the elves, and a significant portion of elven goods flowed through the hands of the Maple Principality to other places, bringing them enormous profits.

Politically, they were fully aligned with the elves. The ruling Gremolagen family of the Maple Principality was essentially a lapdog of the Silvermoon Dynasty and the Elf Queen, obediently following the elves' commands.

Culturally, any aspect of Silvermoon Dynasty's culture that arrived here would instantly become the fashion and trend in Maple City, whether it was good or bad.

All of this was attributed to the elves' strength and their long-standing influence, making the Maple Principality a complete puppet under their control.

In this stark disparity of status, it was evident that the elves could act with impunity here, even bypassing Maple Principality's soldiers to directly arrest suspicious individuals within the city, and the Maple Principality soldiers could only watch in silence.

Apart from the Maple Principality, several surrounding nations near the Elven Empire were in similar situations, resembling puppet states.

After crossing the streets and reaching the embassy district, teams of elven warriors guarded the front of the Elven Embassy, scanning pedestrians with a vigilant gaze.

When they saw Ji Chen's carriage approaching the Elven Embassy, their eyes were fixed on it as if they were looking at a criminal. Several elven warriors approached and halted the carriage.

"Stop right there in front of the Silvermoon Dynasty's Embassy in Maple City!"

The captain leading the team spoke in a solemn tone. However, when he saw Ji Chen getting out of the carriage, his expression changed, and he respectfully said, "Lord Ji Chen, my apologies, I didn't know it was you."

Ji Chen looked slightly surprised at the elven captain. "How did you know it was me?"

"Commander Black instructed us to look at your portrait and told us that if it was you, there was no need to stop you, and you should be allowed inside."

Ji Chen nodded in understanding and didn't waste any more time. "In that case, please lead me inside. I have a matter to discuss with your Ambassador.."

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The elven squad leader nodded and instructed the other warriors to guard the entrance. Then, with Ji Chen and the others, he entered the embassy, arriving in the reception hall they had visited before.

In just a few minutes, Miligas and Black, who they hadn't seen for a long time, walked in from outside. Miligas greeted Ji Chen with a hearty handshake and a smile, "Lord Ji Chen, you've finally

come to visit me again. Why didn't you tell me earlier? I would have prepared a banquet to welcome you."

"I just arrived in the Maple Principality a while ago and came here as soon as I got off the ship."

"Oh? Is there something urgent?"

Ji Chen smiled and nodded.

At this moment, Black, who was standing nearby, spoke in a solemn tone, "In just a few months, it seems that your strength has increased."

Miligas was slightly surprised and secretly delighted. The fact that Ji Chen was becoming more powerful indicated that his earlier investment had been wise.

Ji Chen waved his hand with a smile, "I've had some opportunities in these few months, nothing worth mentioning."

After some casual conversation, they got to the point.

"Sir Miligas, some time ago, while exploring a sealed ancient battlefield of the gods, I accidentally discovered some elves who were stranded there..."

Ji Chen briefly recounted the events that had occurred in the frozen wilderness, but he omitted the details about Elisya and her connection to the ancient elven bloodline and the power of the ocean.

"So, there's still a group of our kin trapped in that ancient battlefield." Miligas expressed his gratitude, "Thanks to your help, I, on behalf of the Silvermoon Dynasty, am grateful for everything you've done."

"Where are these elves now? Didn't they come with you?"

"I've left them on the ship for now because there are quite a few of them."

Miligas asked in surprise, "How many are there?"

"Close to five thousand elves."

"Five thousand...? Let me send a few carriages to pick them up... Wait, five thousand!?"

Miligas was dumbfounded, and his mind seemed to have been swept away by a tidal wave. He couldn't find words to express his shock. Five thousand elves, what kind of concept was that? The entire Maple Principality didn't have five thousand elves!

Ji Chen nodded, "That's correct. If I remember correctly, Lady Marianne told me it was five thousand."

Miligas controlled his astonished expression, but his mind was still reeling. When reason and wisdom regained the upper hand, he quickly realized the significance of this matter.

The return of a full five thousand elves was a momentous event for the dwindling elven population, struggling to reproduce.

Most importantly, if these five thousand elves were returned to the dynasty through his efforts, it would be a significant achievement.

Seeing Ji Chen's half-smile, Miligas quickly realized that this achievement was specially delivered to him. He felt grateful and satisfied with Ji Chen.

The last time Ji Chen had sent the Deep Sea Merfabric, he had made quite a splash in front of his colleagues during the queen's celebration ceremony and even earned the queen's approval. If he could achieve such a significant political achievement this time, perhaps he could earn the queen's appreciation and even further advancement in his position.

Ji Chen smiled and said, "Lord Miligas, do you think this achievement I've brought is substantial enough?"

"It's more than substantial; it feels like a dream come true," Miligas replied with a hearty laugh. "You personally bringing our fellow kin back to the embrace of the Empire is a testament to the great friendship between you and the elves."

As an elven ambassador stationed outside the Silvermoon Dynasty, he was no stranger to the intrigues, negotiations, and exchanges of interests with other races and nobles. He understood the nature of Ji Chen's act of delivering this achievement very well.

This actually made him feel more at ease because only relationships based on mutual benefit were dependable.

He was most afraid that Ji Chen would be a single-minded brute who only sought to become stronger, much like those foul-smelling dwarves.

After silently looking down on the dwarves for a moment, Miligas led Ji Chen to sit on the sofa. He clasped Ji Chen's hand with both of his, his gaze gentle as he said, "If you have any needs, please don't hesitate to tell me. I will do my best to assist you."

Seeing Miligas' "affectionate" expression, Ji Chen suddenly felt a chill and discreetly withdrew his hands, coughing lightly. "Do you know where there's a large quantity of Spirit Crystals?"

"Spirit Crystals?"

Miligas hesitated for a moment. He certainly knew what Spirit Crystals were. These high-grade resources had a wide range of uses, but they were most commonly used as the necessary resource for recruiting Tier 6 units.

Unexpectedly, in the short time since his return to Silvermoon City, Ji Chen had already reached the level of recruiting Tier 6 units. His judgment was indeed accurate.

After a brief pause, Miligas said, "Spirit Crystals are more advanced and, naturally, rarer than Mithril Crystals. They have always been in high demand, even among us elves. The quantities are limited, and they are tightly controlled.

If you want to acquire a large quantity of Spirit Crystals in a short period, besides regular purchases, I suggest you visit the Irante Temple on the eastern coast."

"Irante Temple? What is that?" Ji Chen asked curiously.

Miligas explained, "The Irante Temple was left behind by the gods of the Orderly Divine Lineage tens of thousands of years ago. It is a special area used to test our people and promote strong individuals. It is also a place where Spirit Crystals are naturally abundant.

There are many challenges left behind by the gods at that place, and the more challenges you overcome, the greater the rewards. It's a place that's very suitable for you and other honorable lords."

Such a place existed?

The eastern coast was not far from Maple City, which was located to the east. Perhaps he could visit it sometime.

"Thank you for your suggestion; I will consider it."

"Besides that, I also know of another way to acquire a large quantity of rare resources and Spirit Crystals in a short period."

Miligas picked up the teacup on the table, took a sip, and casually continued, "I believe you've heard about what happened at the Queen's birthday celebration ceremony, right?"

"I heard about it from my subordinates stationed in the Maple Kingdom."

"That saves me the trouble of repeating it." Miligas paused and said, "The Queen has ordered us to investigate the mastermind behind this, but to be honest, for the past few days, both me and Black, as well as our colleagues from the Maple Kingdom, have been clueless. However, the pressure from Silvermoon City is increasing..."

Ji Chen raised an eyebrow. "What do you mean?"

"If you could help us find the hidden mastermind in the Maple Kingdom, I can reward you with the Spirit Crystals stored in the kingdom's reserves.

And this amount is at least in the five digits,"

Ji Chen looked at Miligas with a hint of cunning in his eyes, asking in confusion.

"Even someone like you can't find any trace of that elusive mastermind, how can you expect me to find him?"

Miligas shrugged. "Perhaps it's possible? There are many things in this world that I cannot predict. Just like a few months ago when the Lords of the Glory descended, I never thought you could grow so rapidly, to the point where you single-handedly defeated the tens of thousands of armies of the Bass Kingdom and helped Leinhart overthrow the Bass Kingdom."

Ji Chen was slightly surprised and then chuckled.

It seemed that everything he had done in Leinhart had already caught the elves' attention. He wasn't sure if they had deliberately investigated or simply stumbled upon the information.

But he didn't mind. With a relaxed tone, he said, "I can give it a try, but I can't guarantee success."

"Of course, I won't rely solely on you," Miligas laughed heartily.

“But if you really find the mastermind, perhaps Her Majesty the Queen will summon you. What I mean is, after I present the Deep Sea Merfabric you brought to Her Majesty the Queen as a tribute, your name has already caught Her Majesty’s attention.”

Ji Chen was slightly stunned, feeling a bit displeased.

The Elven Queen wanted to meet him? It depended on whether he was willing or not. He wasn’t her subject!

However, he was curious about this Elf Queen, known for her power and influence in the world, who ruled the Elven Empire with an iron fist.

After all, in some colorful stories on Earth, the Elven Queen was often associated with orcs, green-skinned beings, and dark creatures.

Curiosity was a part of being human, right?

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Miligas had no idea what Ji Chen was thinking in. When he saw a hint of curiosity on his face, he thought he really wanted to meet Her Majesty the Queen and smiled.

“If you really help us find those rats hidden in the sewer, there might be a chance to meet Her Majesty the Queen.”

Ji Chen didn’t argue and nodded without denying it.

Miligas suddenly became serious and looked at Ji Chen, saying, “Since you’ve brought me such a merit, I should offer something of corresponding value.

I intend to submit an application to the council to grant the title of ‘Silvermoon Dynasty Friendly Territory’ to your territory, the Crown of the Ocean.”

Ji Chen paused for a moment and asked hesitantly, “What does this title mean?”

Miligas explained, “This is a title based on a comprehensive assessment in various aspects, including economics and politics... It is a certificate with certain efficacy, representing the recognition of the Silvermoon Dynasty for a particular territory.”

Upon Ji Chen’s inquiry, he understood the purpose of this title.

In simple terms, it was similar to a Michelin restaurant evaluation list on Earth. Entering this list meant that the territory had been recognized by the elves.

As one of the wealthiest and mightiest nations at the time, the Elven Silvermoon Dynasty’s business ventures stretched well beyond the Northern Continent. Elf caravans, along with those hired by the elves, traveled through mountains, rivers, and oceanic canyons to reach different parts of the world. However, since the elves’ main base was in the Northern Continent, their power couldn’t always reach every far-flung corner, whether it was thousands or tens of thousands of miles away.

If an elf caravan entered a territory that appeared to be a legitimate one but was actually a den of bandits, it would be like walking into a trap.

Therefore, this title, resembling the Michelin Guide, was born over a thousand years ago under the advocacy of the previous elf queen. Obtaining this title meant that the elves recognized the value of this territory. It also implied that it was safe enough for trade caravans to visit and stay on their way, avoiding walking into a bandit's lair.

In addition to elves, caravans from other races frequently consulted this list as well. After all, earning the approval of the proud elves, who were known for their high standards, wasn't a simple feat and demanded some expertise.

Of course, to apply for this title, one must be a certain level of elf, at least a noble or a high-ranking official in an embassy or consulate, and the elf applying for the title would act as a guarantor.

Each year, there were countless territories hoping to obtain this title, but only a few could make it. After all, requiring a high-level elf as a guarantor meant that one needed to be cautious and thorough in their assessments.

If Ji Chen hadn't brought such a generous gift and demonstrated his abilities, Miligas wouldn't have taken this risk.

After Miligas finished explaining, Ji Chen's eyes were shining like light bulbs.

This was like receiving a pillow when you were feeling sleepy!

What the Crown of the Ocean lacked right now was fame, wasn't it?

With the help of the elves in building a reputation, he could save a lot of effort.

"Of course, if you want to obtain this title, you need to provide the specific location of your territory. It depends on whether you're willing."

Ji Chen didn't hesitate and replied, "Of course, that's no problem."

The Crown of the Ocean was no longer weak like it used to be. It now had over fifteen thousand fifth-tier units, dozens of warships, and an increasingly sophisticated city defense system. It had the power to protect itself and was no longer afraid of outsiders discovering or coveting it.

"The location of the Crown of the Ocean is in the central part of the Western Mid-Ocean, within the Stormy Sea. You can reach it by sailing towards the center of the Stormy Sea for dozens of miles."

Miligas was momentarily stunned. He had heard of the Stormy Sea, which seemed to be a place that made sailors turn pale at the mere mention of it. He didn't expect the Crown of the Ocean to be located there.

Could it be that the most dangerous place is also the safest?

"All right, in addition to that, we also need to mention some of the specialties of the Crown of the Ocean as references for commercial activities on the list. We can't let those who guess what goods you have there blindly..."

Ji Chen nodded and began listing the specialties of the Crown of the Ocean. "In addition to the goods we previously traded, such as timber, coffee beans, Deep Sea Merfabric, we also have high-quality weapons, equipment, and military supplies. We have luminescent mushrooms that can

quickly satisfy hunger, various types of ores, various marine products, and soon-to-be-launched premium wines...”

Miligas adjusted his gold-rimmed glasses on the bridge of his nose and said with some surprise, “It seems that the Crown of the Ocean has quite a few specialties. It’s clear that you manage it with great care.”

Ji Chen smiled and felt a sense of satisfaction in his heart.

The Crown of the Ocean was like his child, growing step by step from a toddler who could barely speak into a warrior capable of defending itself. The tremendous sense of achievement brought about by watching her grow up was beyond words.

This was probably the happiness brought by farming, right?

The extraordinary result of farming!

Ji Chen and Miligas didn’t talk much longer and Ji Chen took the initiative to bid farewell.

As he watched Ji Chen’s carriage gradually disappear at the street corner, Miligas looked thoughtful and sighed, “This cunning little fox.”

Although he had paid a certain price, he had still obtained this merit.

After a moment of contemplation, he turned and asked.

“Black, how is Ji Chen’s current strength?”

Black’s expression gradually turned serious, and he shook his head..

Chapter 606: Cultivating Fields, Extraordinary Excellence

“I can’t see through him anymore. Lord Ji Chen, even though he doesn’t exhibit any outward momentum right now, appears like a vast ocean, mysterious, powerful yet not overt, hidden and restrained, naturally evoking a sense of reverence.”

Pausing for a moment, he added, “I’ve only felt this way from members of the Judgment Temple.”

Miligas felt somewhat surprised. The Judgment Temple was one of the Silvermoon Dynasty’s high-end combat organizations. Its members were, without exception, at least of the Red-Legacy Tier, with an average level of sixty. How could a human like Ji Chen, who had only arrived a few months ago, compare to them?

Ji Chen appeared to be in his twenties or thirties, but those temple judges were all at least two or three hundred years old!

Miligas pondered, recognizing that in just a few months, Ji Chen had established a flourishing territory and possessed the strength of at least a temple judge. Ji Chen couldn’t be viewed with ordinary eyes anymore.

He needed to raise his level of attention.

Ji Chen hadn’t been back at the port for long when he saw a procession of carriages arriving at the dock, stopping beside the Ocean Crown’s ships.

Elven warriors jumped down from the carriages, forming battle formations with great coordination. They cleared the area, removing any unrelated bystanders.

Ji Chen quickly spotted a familiar face among them.

A female elf, exuding a sense of authority and determination, jumped down from a carriage and soon fixed her gaze on him. Surrounded by several other elves, she walked over.

“Lord Ji Chen, we meet again!”

The female elf was none other than Kris, and she approached him with warmth.

Ji Chen nodded with a smile and, noticing the elven officials accompanying Kris, asked with curiosity, “It seems you’ve been promoted again?”

Kris chuckled, “Thanks to your help, I’ve achieved some accomplishments over the past few months. I’m now a Centurion.”

The speed of her promotion was astonishing.

Just a few months ago, Ji Chen had sent Kris back to the Maple Principality. Now, she had rapidly risen from a regular soldier to a Centurion.

This was quite unusual among the long-lived elves, where high-ranking positions often had terms of several decades or even centuries. Kris was only in her sixties or seventies, making her promotion quite remarkable. After all, elves typically had a much longer lifespan, and her swift rise was a testament to her luck in outlasting her predecessors.

Ji Chen thought about it and didn’t expect Kris to suddenly come closer and whisper in his ear, “Please don’t tell anyone, but a significant reason for my rapid promotion is my distant relative. One of my distant relatives is a council member of the Silvermoon City Elven Council.”

Ji Chen was genuinely shocked.

It turned out she had powerful connections in her family! He had overlooked that fact.

He had to apologize for underestimating her.

Kris had come to pick up the elves from Vale, and Marianne couldn’t hold back her tears of joy as she descended from the ship.

After enduring so many trials and tribulations, they finally reunited with their kindred from the main world, returning to the embrace of their tribe.

Ji Chen didn’t witness the deeply moving scene of their reunion.

He discreetly left, changed his attire, donned the Illusory Mask, and transformed into Young Master Zhao, heading back to the Black Gold District of Maple City.

His return to the Black Gold District immediately caused a stir. After the last auction, most players in Maple City had become familiar with this extravagant and wealthy super tycoon.

As he entered the Black Gold District, many players eagerly surrounded him, greeting him.

“Hello, Young Master Zhao, long time no see!”

“What brings you here?”

Ji Chen fanned himself with an antique folding fan, wearing a silk outfit worth thousands of gold coins. He adorned five or six gemstone rings on his fingers, giving off the appearance of a nouveau riche tycoon.

Following him were Alice and Anina, both wearing masks but unable to conceal their graceful figures, making him look like a dandy.

Upon hearing the players' greetings, Ji Chen casually nodded and maintained an indifferent expression as he walked into the Cat Tail Tavern, where Luo Yang hurriedly descended the stairs to welcome him.

"Young Master Zhao, a pleasure to have you back!"

"Boss Luo, long time no see," Ji Chen greeted with a nod and a slight bow.

"Please follow me; let's talk upstairs."

As they entered an office on the upper floor, Luo Yang's demeanor immediately turned respectful.

"Young Master Zhao, is there something you need me to do this time?"

"There is indeed something. Do you know anything about the Elf Queen's birthday ceremony?"

"Of course, this matter has already spread throughout Maple City," Luo Yang quickly replied.

Ji Chen nodded and said without haste, "I'm here this time because of that. The elves have tasked me with investigating this matter, finding the mastermind behind it. I need you to rally the players of Maple City to search for clues."

Luo Yang frowned. "Even the elves couldn't find any clues. Can players find them? Those culprits who dared to disrupt the Elf Queen's birthday ceremony must have hidden themselves well."

Ji Chen nodded in agreement. "Exactly, that's why the elves have likely searched every place they consider suspicious. Our task is to search the places they don't find suspicious."

Luo Yang shook his head. "These past few days, the elves have turned Maple City and Maple Port upside down. They've searched everywhere."

"No, there's one place they haven't searched yet." Ji Chen looked through the glass window, gazing toward the center of Maple City.

Luo Yang looked puzzled but then his expression changed abruptly. "Are you saying the Gremolagen family is behind this? But the Gremolagen family is a loyal ally of the elves. The prosperity and decline of a nation depend entirely on the elves, so they have no motive to do such a thing."

Ji Chen shrugged. "I don't know either, but that doesn't stop us from investigating quietly. In fact, there doesn't seem to be any other direction to explore, and it seems to be the reason why Miligas specifically entrusted me with this task."

Luo Yang hesitated for a moment, then realized something and swallowed hard. “Isn’t it too dangerous for us to get involved in the affairs between the elves and a principality...”

Until now, Luo Yang was aware of Ji Chen’s considerable power but had no inkling of his real identity as Ji Chen and his connection to the Crown of the Sea. From his perspective, getting involved in the affairs of two native factions as a Lord of Glory didn’t appear to be a wise decision.

Ji Chen spoke slowly, “That’s why everything must be done covertly. Right now, you should go and find players who have had contact with the Gremolagen family. I will cover all expenses.”

Unable to resist Ji Chen’s insistence, Luo Yang reluctantly agreed.

Over the next two days, Ji Chen continued to play the role of Young Master Zhao in the Black Gold District, spending money lavishly. His portrayal as a wealthy playboy was so convincing that even Alice and Anina, who were aware of the ruse, almost believed it was real.

Soon, a player who claimed to have information approached Luo Yang.

On the third floor of the Cat Tail Tavern.

Ji Chen sat casually in a chair, looking at the young male player with a fresh face. He casually raised an eyebrow and asked, “Do you have any connections with the Gremolagen family?”

The good-looking young player, who could easily be called a “pretty boy” on Earth, nodded immediately.

“Young Master Zhao, I have some connections with a noblewoman from the Gremolagen family. I know some of their internal secrets.”

“Some connections with a noblewoman?”

The young player scratched his head somewhat awkwardly. “Well, you could say it’s that kind of connection.”

Ji Chen raised an eyebrow, his expression slightly strange. Well, this player was apparently living off a noblewoman!

But living off a noblewoman from a principality’s family wasn’t something just anyone could do. It required a certain level of skill and charm.

“I don’t care about the gossip. I want to know if there have been any unusual activities within the Gremolagen family recently.”

“Unusual activities?” The young player hesitated for a moment, seemingly recalling something. However, instead of immediately revealing it, he extended his index and middle fingers and nervously rubbed them together.

Ji Chen immediately understood and gestured to Luo Yang.

The latter nodded knowingly and took out a bag containing at least a thousand gold coins, placing it in front of the young player.

The young player's face lit up with a smile, happily accepting the gold coins, and then cleared his throat before speaking seriously, "If we're talking about something unusual, that woman mentioned something about the elves about a month ago..."

Elves?

A glint of interest flashed in Ji Chen's eyes..

Chapter 607: Setting the Dark Scheme, Irante Temple

The young player nodded and said, "One time, after we finished... you know, the deed, perhaps because her mind was relaxed, she started complaining about the elves, saying they treated her Gremolagen family like dogs, looked down on them, and expressed her hatred. She also mentioned that if there was a chance, she would definitely settle this score."

Complaining about the elves?

Ji Chen nodded inwardly, realizing that the Gremolagen family wasn't as loyal to the elves as the outside world portrayed them. At least this noblewoman seemed quite dissatisfied with the elves.

He signaled to continue.

"In addition, about half a month ago, when I visited her mansion, I heard her arguing with her elder brother in her room. I didn't catch exactly what they were arguing about, but I vaguely heard words like 'ritual' and 'reckless'. That's all I know."

The young player shrugged nonchalantly.

Ji Chen nodded, his face showing no special expression. He simply gestured for Luo Yang to give the young player another bag of gold coins and then sent him away.

While the information was limited, it hinted at something the Gremolagen family might have been planning during the recent Elf Queen's ritual.

Soon, more players arrived, all of whom had some form of contact with the Gremolagen family, including tasks they had undertaken or relationships with family members, and they shared what they knew.

Most of the information was sparse, consisting of fragmented details.

But as they say, every little bit helps.

The clues weren't complete; they were laid out for all to see.

Moreover, it required piecing together tiny fragments of information, like solving a jigsaw puzzle.

It involved a series of steps: searching, assembling, combining, analyzing, supplementing, and more, to gradually bring these pieces together, like fitting them into a puzzle until the final picture emerged.

After a whole day, Ji Chen extracted a crucial piece of information through the contributions of dozens of players—

That was the first player's target of freeloading— Ivana Gremolagen.

In the information provided by many players, without exception, they all had some level of connection with this lady. Ivana Gremolagen seemed to be plotting something in the recent past.

Ivana Gremolagen had quite a reputation within the Maple Principality. She was the fifth daughter of the Gremolagen Duke. She was married off to the eldest son of a vassal when she was young, but her husband met a tragic end on the battlefield just one year into their marriage. Furthermore, the vassal and his wife both fell seriously ill and passed away without leaving any heirs with inheritance rights several years later.

Thus, the hereditary title, which had been passed down for centuries, dramatically passed to Ivana Gremolagen, granting her a vast territory and a river valley castle.

Although Ivana Gremolagen possessed these lands, she spent most of her time in the luxurious mansion in Maple City, maintaining a lavish lifestyle filled with banquets, entertainment, and debauchery.

On the surface, she appeared to be a noblewoman who enjoyed life and accomplished little else. However, it seemed that her true nature might be quite different.

Ji Chen decided to focus on Ivana Gremolagen.

Of course, he wouldn't personally undertake this task.

He had Luo Yang call back the young player who had shared information about Ivana Gremolagen, but the player seemed hesitant about infiltrating Ivana's circle to gather information.

After all, she was a native aristocrat, a member of the ruling Gremolagen family in the Maple Principality, and wielded immense power within Maple City. If she were to discover their motives, it could lead to major trouble.

However, Ji Chen noticed that the young player neither outright refused nor readily accepted the task. His tone and attitude indicated something else entirely.

He wanted more money!

So, Ji Chen decisively unleashed his financial power.

With a sweeping gesture, he placed a wooden crate containing thirty thousand gold coins onto the ground.

"This is the down payment. If you provide essential information and if the mission succeeds, there will be extra rewards. Moreover, if you're concerned about any risks afterward, I can arrange for your safe departure from the Maple Principality."

In an instant, the young player's demeanor changed completely. He patted his chest and looked resolute. "Leave it to me. I'll do my best to extract the information!"

It wasn't that he was willing to betray the wealthy woman; it was just that the young aristocrat had offered him an incredibly generous sum. Moreover, Ivana had more than one lover, and there was fierce competition among those living off her. Who knew when she might tire of him, and then he would be left with nothing!

Seizing the opportunity to make a big score was what truly mattered!

He consoled himself with this thought.

While thirty thousand gold coins was a substantial sum, it paled in comparison to the five-digit spirit crystals promised by the elves.

Ji Chen also understood why Miligas had entrusted him with this investigation. It was because of his status as the Lord of Glory.

Miligas undoubtedly knew that this matter was closely tied to the Gremolagen family. Only the Gremolagen family had the power to conceal events within the Maple Principality to the extent that no clues could be uncovered.

However, due to their status, they couldn't openly investigate without concrete evidence linking the Gremolagen family to the case. It wouldn't be wise to confront an organization that appeared outwardly loyal and practically fatherly, especially without solid evidence..

Chapter 608: Setting the Dark Scheme, Irante Temple (2)

Well, for the five-digit crystals, Ji Chen felt that it was worth investing some effort into the investigation. This could be considered an exchange of interests with Miligas.

After all, Miligas must have had a reason to present these supposedly eleven spirit crystals to him as a reward.

As for how long it would take to gather intelligence, he couldn't just wait around. During this time, Ji Chen decided to visit the Irante Temple that Miligas mentioned.

He had a significant interest in this temple established by the gods of the Orderly Divine Lineage.

The power of the ocean within him was indirectly bestowed by a god from the Orderly Divine Lineage. Perhaps he could learn more about this power within the Irante Temple.

On the third day of his arrival in Maple City, Ji Chen led his heroes and army of the Crown of the Ocean to the border of the Maple Principality.

The Irante Temple was located on the eastern coast of the Maple Principality and could be quickly reached by sea. Although Ji Chen didn't know the exact location, he didn't need to search meticulously. Along the way, there were many player-owned ships heading to the Irante Temple, so a little inquiry would reveal the way.

The Irante Temple had a reputation throughout the Northern Continent.

To begin with, it was due to the divine gifts left behind, and secondly, because numerous beings had received the blessings of the gods for hundreds of thousands of years, resulting in their swift ascent.

Thirdly, when challenging the Irante Temple, units wouldn't truly die; they could be resurrected after exiting, which attracted many players.

Many players sustained their lives by continuously challenging the temple to receive rewards.

When Ji Chen arrived at this massive temple built of white stone on the coast, the square in front of the temple was bustling with activity, with people flowing like a market.

Among them, one could easily spot players sitting on the ground and shouting, wearing all sorts of mismatched equipment.

“Looking for a team, three people to challenge the tower, small-scale war scenario! At least three hundred Tier 4 1-star units needed!”

“Two-person tower challenge, large-scale war scenario, hilly terrain, need a partner with a lot of tank units! I have plenty of powerful ranged units, absolutely reliable!”

“City defense mode, medium-scale war scenario, need three more for a ten-person team, looking for someone with strong ranged harvesting units, a rare opportunity, hurry!”

This scene of players shouting to form teams made Ji Chen feel like he had entered a scene from an online game dungeon group.

The Irante Temple had special rules; creatures entering the nearby area couldn't use any mana or energy, and unit troops could only be stored in a few special unit storage areas around; they couldn't enter the square.

This is to prevent fighting and overcrowding issues.

Ji Chen didn't bring his army with him, but he still attracted the attention of many players, who looked at him with either surprise or envy—

Of course, this was a given. Anyone surrounded by so many powerful hero units would elicit such reactions, especially when they couldn't even see the panel information of these heroes; it was all question marks.

It was obvious that he was not an ordinary person.

At this moment, Ji Chen wasn't wearing a mask but had voluntarily hidden his panel information—this was the effect of a high-level character.

However, his handsome face and extraordinary aura caught the attention of some female players involuntarily.

“This guy looks so handsome. I wonder if he's a player or a native?”

“He must be a native! Players don't have hero units that look this strong, do they?! He might even be a member of an indigenous noble family that has been around for tens of thousands of years...”

Once this was said, the surrounding players nodded in agreement, and one player breathed a sigh of relief.

“That's great then. My position as the most handsome player is secured.”

Several female players nearby looked at the male player with a sly grin, feeling dumbfounded. How could this sneaky guy have the courage to say something like that?

While there was talk and speculation about Ji Chen, no one dared to approach him, given his imposing presence and unknown background.

Ji Chen continued to approach the massive temple, pondering how to enter and start the challenges within.

As he stood there contemplating, a mature-looking male player, surrounded by a few younger players, came over and greeted him with a slight bow.

“Player, is this your first time at the Irante Temple?”

Ji Chen looked at him in surprise and asked, “You know I’m a player?”

In general, if there was a significant level difference between the two parties, the lower-level player wouldn’t be able to see any information about the higher-level player unless the higher-level player was willing to share it.

Ji Chen had already reached the high level of 48, so logically, those below level 40 shouldn’t be able to peek at his information.

The mature-looking player explained, “As I entered, I happened to notice you placing your army in the unit storage area, which gave away that you’re a player.

My forum name is Tian Shu, and I’m the captain of this team.”

Ji Chen finally understood and nodded, saying, “My forum name is Islander.”

“Oh, Islander. Are you the same Islander who goes by the title of the number 1 player in the Western Mid-Ocean on the forums?”

Tian Shu was stunned, and his face displayed astonishment as he quickly asked, leaving the other six members of his team equally shocked.

Ji Chen gave a faint smile and nodded, “That’s just a nickname bestowed upon me by some well-meaning individuals; it’s not that significant..”

Chapter 609: Setting the Dark Scheme, Irante Temple (3)

He was essentially confirming the question with his words.

Tian Shu’s expression changed, no wonder there were so many powerful hero units around him. If it was Islander, then it wasn’t surprising at all.

He looked at Islander with some respect and said, “I can’t believe our luck today, meeting the legendary Islander in person. This trip was definitely worth it.”

A young and inexperienced-looking player in the team was also excited and said, “I’ve heard about the big boss appearing near the Maple Principality before, but I never thought we’d actually meet you! I’m your fan! If it weren’t for the posts you made on the forums in the early days, helping us with survival issues, we might not have made it!”

It was the first time Ji Chen faced his fans in person, and he couldn’t help but smile and say, “It’s great to be able to help you all. We’re all players, and helping each other is only natural.”

Seeing that Ji Chen didn’t have a hint of arrogance and was friendly, Tian Shu couldn’t help but sigh.

“Indeed, Islander is worthy of being a legend. The stronger a person is, the more humble they tend to be.

Islander, this is your first time at the Irante Temple, so let us introduce it to you.”

Ji Chen smiled and said, “That’s great because I was just wondering how to enter the temple for the trial.”

Tian Shu nodded and began to explain, “The Irante Temple was left behind by the gods of the Orderly Divine Lineage. Only races from the Orderly faction can enter and participate in trial challenges.

It has various challenge modes, such as siege battles, field encounters, and more. You can personally join the battle or command from the rear.

The field encounters have different terrains, such as deserts, oceans, swamps, plains, and more. If you choose randomly, the final rewards will be greater. You can also choose the scale of the war, whether it’s a small-scale battle or a large-scale one, from hundreds of units to millions of units.

Each level will be more challenging than the previous one, but the rewards will be richer. However, if you fail midway, the accumulated rewards will be reset.

This is the basic challenge mode. In addition to the challenge mode, there’s a special dungeon mode. Only by collecting special dungeon keys can you unlock these special dungeons within the temple. These are the places that truly contain treasures and opportunities.”

At this point, Tian Shu looked around to make sure no one was too close before lowering his voice and saying, “We accidentally obtained a dungeon key before, which can accommodate eight people. If Islander wants to, we have seven members here, and with you, we would have a full group of eight. We can try to complete this dungeon together.”

Ji Chen raised an eyebrow and curiously asked, “Do you really trust me that much? Are you willing to give me the last spot?”

Tian Shu smiled bitterly and said, “Well, the truth is, we’ve tried that dungeon many times before, but we’ve never lasted more than ten minutes. Plus, the use of the dungeon key is limited, so we need someone strong enough to help us get through it. Fortunately, we met you today...”

Ji Chen nodded slightly, and it made sense.

He was quite interested in this so-called dungeon, and without hesitation, he immediately agreed.

“Alright, I agree to join you.”

Tian Shu and his group’s faces lit up with excitement.

“This dungeon is called the Battle of Panas, which is about a divine war that took place tens of thousands of years ago...”

Listening to Tian Shu’s explanation, Ji Chen finally understood the reason they had failed so many times in their attempts..

Chapter 610: Battle of Panas Instance, These Annoying Elves Appreciates Good Looks

[Instance: Battle of Panas]

[Difficulty]: 7 Stars

[Terrain]: Coast, Ocean

[Races]: Humans, Elves, Orcs, Demons, Sea Clans

[Average Tier]: Tier 5,1 Star

[Average Level]: Level 40

[Instance Background]: This is a massive-scale naval battle that took place after humans joined forces with elves against the Orcs and Demons belonging to the Barbaric and Chaotic Divine Lineages. The defenders on the Panas Coast were clearly unprepared and gradually fell into a significant disadvantage against the incoming Orc fleet and the lurking demon army hidden in the shadows.

[Maximum Participants]: 8

[Completion Requirement]: Help the humans and elves stationed at the Panas Coast win the war.

[Hint 1]: If assistance can be obtained from the neutral Sea Clans, it may help to turn the tide to some extent.

[Hint 2]: The instance will not lead to real deaths; all troops that die during the instance will be resurrected at the end.

[Hint 3]: In the normal course of events, hundreds of thousands of human and elf troops will be completely wiped out in the Battle of Panas. The Orcs and Demons will establish a forward base on this coast, using it as a springboard to attack the core of the Orderly Divine Lineage's territory. The focus of this operation is to stop the Orc army from successfully landing on the coast while facing the harassment of demons.

[Hint 4]: Since the human-elf alliance has formed not long ago, the elves still have some disdain and wariness towards humans. In this instance, humans will be somewhat excluded by the elves.

[Hint 10]: Instance rewards depend on completion rate; the higher the completion rate, the richer the rewards.

After reading the information shared by Tian Shu, Ji Chen gained a rough understanding of this instance.

With a 7-star difficulty, it was one of the highest-level instances among players, and none of the other 7-star instances that had appeared had been completed by players.

Based on the instance background and hints, it was clear that this was a massive battle involving hundreds of thousands of soldiers that took place hundreds of thousands of years ago. The average strength of Tier 5,1-star, and level 40 units made most players hesitate. However, it was evident that this instance was not limited to Tier 5,1-star enemies...

No wonder Tian Shu and the others looked so grim.

After a moment of contemplation, Ji Chen looked at them and asked, "How did you fail in your previous attempts?"

Tian Shu sighed and said, "Some were turned into sieves by the Orc fleet's ballistae, some were overwhelmed by the Orc landing forces, and some were devoured in one bite by the sea beasts tamed by the Orcs. There were various ways to die.

The longest we held out was a little over fifty minutes.”

As he spoke, a look of indignation suddenly appeared on Tian Shu’s face, and he glanced around before speaking softly.

“There were even those killed by those proud elves.”

Ji Chen hesitated for a moment and asked, “Aren’t the elves supposed to be allies? How could they be killed by friendly forces?”

A young female lord in the team frowned and said indignantly, “The elves in the instance are much more arrogant than they are in reality. Big Boss, you must have seen the hints, right? At that time, the elves had just formed an alliance with humans, but internally, they still looked down upon the relatively weaker humans.

On our fourth attempt in the instance, we were finally making some headway. However, out of the blue, we received news that the elven commander and over ten of his subordinates had been brutally killed by a formidable Demon Hunter. This shocking event threw the elven army into disarray, and before we knew it, the Orcs had launched a swift invasion.

During our fifth try, we had the intention to offer a friendly reminder to the elves. However, before we could even get close to them, we were wrongfully charged with neglecting our duties and executed immediately. This left us feeling incredibly frustrated, and for nights on end, we lay awake, gnashing our teeth in frustration.

The most infuriating part is that after so many deaths, our completion rate is still not even 0.1%!”

Ji Chen struggled to maintain his composure.

“If you want to laugh, Big Boss, you can go ahead.”

Tian Shu sighed again. “In this instance, the elves and humans were weaker than the enemies, and yet, they still rejected each other during the crucial battle. It’s no wonder they were easily defeated by the Orcs and demons.

To be honest, we couldn’t think of any methods to change the course of the instance in just one hour before the battle began.”

Indeed, they could only enter the instance with eight people and their respective armies, but they would have to face a powerful, fanatical Orc and demon army numbering in the hundreds of thousands, unafraid of death and guided by prophecies. They didn’t even know if they could survive.

In addition, the completion requirement for the instance was to help the human and elven armies stationed at Panas Coast win the war. According to common sense, this difficulty was far from ordinary.

“Alright, let’s enter the instance and give it a try. Let the Big Boss get familiar with it first.”

Tian Shu clapped his hands, and the team members all rallied.

“That’s right, with the Big Boss Islander faction, maybe we can complete it before our usage limit is exhausted. The rewards will definitely be amazing!” “Exactly!”

Tian Shu and the others appeared quite optimistic, which brought a smile to Ji Chen’s face. “I’ll do my best.”

Tian Shu nodded and took out the instance key. After a brief pause, they were enveloped in a beam of light descending from the sky, disappearing from their original location.

The next moment, they found themselves in a circular floating plaza, surrounded by the vast expanse of stars. Eight smaller circular floating platforms were suspended around them, resembling the interior of the Irante Temple or a preparation hall of some sort.

“Big Boss Islander, you just need to silently focus on placing the selected army units on the platforms in your mind..”