

Ocean Lord 61

Chapter 61: Anina's Journey

After the first wave of white skeletons was killed, a wave of black skeletons crowded in front of the defense line.

Compared to the white skeletons, the black skeletons had sturdier bodies.

When the tridents and bone blades struck them, it produced a harsh metallic clash.

With a single blow, several ribs of the dark skeletal bodies were shattered.

However, there was no significant structural damage as a whole, showing their resilience.

The black skeletons, upon being attacked, had the flickering soul flames in their eye sockets violently shaking, and their bone hands fiercely clawed out.

Scratch—

The claws clashed intensely with the scales of the Naga warriors, leaving visible white marks.

Although the attack didn't break through their defense, after dozens of relentless and painless frenzied attacks in succession, the Naga warrior's scales were slightly pierced, oozing a hint of blood.

And with the opening, the corpse poison took advantage of the opportunity to invade.

“Ding- Naga warrior infected with corpse poison. Attributes reduced by 5%, the effect will strengthen over time.”

Corpse poison infection.

The longer it lasted, the stronger the reduction effect.

The longer it dragged on, the more disadvantageous it would be for them.

Ji Chen narrowed his eyes.

It seemed like they needed to resolve this quickly.

He looked towards Anina, who was already rubbing her fists in anticipation, unable to contain her eagerness.

With a faint smile, he said, “Then I'll leave it to you.”

The Dragon Whale girl's eyes instantly brightened, leaving with a “Leave it to me” and charging forward with her massive sword.

Like a war machine, she directly plowed into the midst of the skeleton horde, sending several skeletons flying high into the air.

Anina's actions revealed to him:

If the Naga warrior couldn't handle it, she would take over.

Facing the stronger black skeletons, her strength was more visibly demonstrated.

With a single blow, the Naga warrior could only break a few ribs of the black skeletons.

Under the mighty swing of Anina's massive sword, it felt as if they were being struck by drilling impacts. The majority of the skeletons shattered instantly, while the remaining bodies flew out as if defying gravity.

As for the white skeletons, it was needless to say. They fell like harvested wheat, one after another.

The efficiency of the slaughter was extremely high.

In a trance, it seemed as if Ji Chen saw a giant whale twisting its colossal body, each strike carrying an immense force.

However, after watching for a while, Ji Chen suddenly sensed something was amiss.

How come they had killed so many skeletons, but their numbers hadn't diminished in the slightest? They had even increased slightly.

He immediately opened the map.

Soon, he discovered the clue.

On the map, a large number of red dots were continuously appearing in the northeast direction, pouring in from another city gate ruins.

The northeast direction led to the second secondary island.

It seemed that these three secondary islands had been completely occupied by the skeletons.

In that case, he would follow this direction today and attempt to clear the way.

Boom-

Under the fierce participation of the Dragon Whale girl, waves of incoming skeletons fell.

One hour later.

Finally, no more skeletons appeared.

The ground was covered with a thick layer of white bones. Stepping on it, one would at least crush the bones belonging to five skeletons.

"Ding- You have achieved a victory filled with honor. You have gained 7,200 experience points..."

Ji Chen let out a slight sigh of relief.

The sheer force of the undead army's numbers proved to be formidable.

If it weren't for Anina's presence, Ji Chen would have expended considerable effort in dealing with them.

Anina stood tall, wielding her colossal sword, without a trace of exhaustion on her face. She exuded confidence and proclaimed, "These skeletons are far too weak. They barely serve as a warm-up for me."

"You truly are extraordinary, Anina. Facing a thousand enemies would be a mere triviality for you," Ji Chen praised, engaging in some well-deserved flattery.

An amused smile played across Ji Chen's lips as he observed the scene. Anina was certainly easy to handle...

Curiosity piqued, Ji Chen decided to ask a question that had been lingering in his mind. "You always mention being a Dragon Whale, but I haven't seen any of your family or fellow creatures around. Where are they?"

Upon hearing this, Anina's countenance suddenly darkened, her mood shifting. "Ever since my mother sacrificed herself to protect me, I haven't encountered any other Deep Sea Whales."

"I call out to them, but the ocean remains silent, devoid of any response..."

Ji Chen's brows furrowed as he realized the implications. Whales are known to be highly social animals, rarely seen alone. Anina must have endured a prolonged period of solitude, burdened by her loneliness.

Just as Ji Chen contemplated how to console her, Alice stepped forward and, to Anina's surprise, enveloped her in a gentle embrace. With tender strokes on her head, Alice uttered comforting words, "You poor child, from now on, I am your kin, and this place shall be your home."

Alice's heartfelt gesture was truly remarkable—a magnificent assist!

Overwhelmed by the unexpected display of affection, Anina quickly extricated herself from the embrace, her face flushed with a mixture of confusion and concern.

She struggled to find words and exclaimed, "Who, who said you're the same as me? You're a Siren, and I'm a Dragon Whale. We have nothing in common!"

Alice maintained an expressionless face and replied, "Those who are conflicted are often not well-liked."

"What do you mean conflicted? Explain yourself!"

Seizing the opportunity, Ji Chen swiftly intervened, "It's time to move on. Let's continue forward."

Anina turned her head away without uttering another word, but her trembling arms revealed her inner turmoil.

Ji Chen shook his head, stepping over the scattered white bones to approach the resource chest. He casually opened it.

Ding- You have unlocked a medium-sized resource chest. Obtained 3000 units of each basic resource.

After a brief rest, they resumed their journey.

They departed through another ruined city gate, realizing that this cluster of buildings was a large-scale facility rather than just a single city.

Beyond the city gate, they were greeted by a stretch of ruined city walls and towers that extended along the island's path.

Not long after leaving the training ground, they encountered another formidable wave of skeletons.

Once again, they emerged from the northeast.

This time, even more powerful skeleton creatures appeared.

Skeleton hounds with four legs and eerie blue flames were swiftly and agilely charging toward them.

Ji Chen quickly realized the gravity of the situation and shouted, “Form up and brace for the attack!”

[Netherfire Skeleton Hound]

[Race: Undead]

[Level: 11]

[Tier: 3, 3 stars]

[Skill: Undead Body (Blue skill, immune to most curses, poisons, and other negative effects, speed increased by 30%)]

Corpse Poison Curse (Blue skill, the corpse poison attached to the claws can infect the enemy, causing the attributes to decrease by up to 20% over time)

Revival (White skill, can repair oneself by piecing together white bones)

[Military characteristic: Fearless (does not know what fear and death are)]

[When infected by something, the speed has increased.]

Each subsequent undead creature they encountered proved to be more formidable than the last.

The previous black skeletons were only Tier 3,1-star, but the current spectral fire skeleton hounds were already Tier 3, 3-star.

Could there be even stronger ones deeper inside?

These subsidiary islands were definitely not ordinary. Something must have happened!

Ji Chen’s mind raced with anticipation and caution as they ventured further into the islands..

Chapter 62: Four-Dimensional Stomach

In the blink of an eye, the sea of skeletons surged forward once again.

Ji Chen clenched his teeth. “Shallow Sea Murlocs, throw at those Skeletal Hounds!”

Behind him, a volley of tridents was launched, soaring through the air.

The fiery-eyed Skeletal Hounds flickered with flames and swiftly evaded, using the remnants of the buildings to flank and launch their attack from the side.

Only about six or seven of them were caught off guard and impaled by the tridents, pinned to the ground.

However, there were still fifty or sixty more Skeletal Hounds relentlessly approaching!

Considering the performance of the Black Skeletons, the attacking capabilities of these hounds were certainly not to be underestimated.

They couldn't allow them to reach their position!

Ji Chen urgently called out to Alice, "Stop them!"

The Siren nodded earnestly and quickly cast her spell.

The power of her singing remained as formidable as ever.

All the skeletons were instantly under control.

"Concentrate fire! Take down the Skeletal Hounds first!"

Upon hearing this command, both the Sea Nymphs and the Shallow Sea Murlocs redirected their attacks towards the Skeletal Hounds.

These creatures had mediocre defenses, typical of high-damage, low-defense monsters.

Even the Sea Pixes were capable of inflicting significant damage upon them.

Once all the Skeletal Hounds were eliminated, Ji Chen instructed Alice to halt and conserve her mana.

He ordered the units to engage the remaining skeletons.

After half an hour, the wave of thousands of skeletons had finally been completely cleared.

However, at this point, even the sturdy Naga Warriors were starting to feel the strain, panting for breath.

Only Anina, with her exaggerated unit characteristics, had a slight glisten of sweat as if she had just completed a light jog.

[Unit Trait]: Battle Endurance (Restores stamina for every enemy killed)

As long as she could kill enemies, she could sustain her stamina indefinitely.

Dealing with the countless skeletons, who served as mere cannon fodder, was like a walk in the park for Anina.

At this moment, Anina also realized that something was amiss.

"Are there too many skeletons here? It's as if there's a nest continuously producing them," she remarked.

Ji Chen's gaze hardened as he shook his head firmly.

"Regardless, we must eliminate all these skeletons here. We cannot let them leave this place."

He couldn't help but feel a sense of unease.

With such a large number of skeletons, they should have easily made their way to the main island through the marshes.

Yet, they all seemed to have converged here, as if waiting for something.

Something was off.

Very off!

After a brief respite, they continued their advance.

Having defeated several waves of skeletons, they traversed through a forest and wreckage of buildings, revealing a clear view ahead.

They arrived at the beach.

Looking around, they were at the other end of the first subsidiary island.

Not far ahead, there was another narrow marsh extending towards the second subsidiary island in the distance.

Upon closer inspection, Ji Chen's eyelids twitched.

On the second subsidiary island, skeletons were tightly packed together, shoulder to shoulder, heads colliding.

The density was extremely high, and at a rough estimate, there were at least thousands of them.

In addition to the common white skeletons, there were also significant numbers of black skeletons and skeletal hounds.

He even spotted new variations.

Skeletons wielding bone staffs... skeletal birds perched on treetops...

He couldn't help but curse inwardly.

These few small islands couldn't possibly support the birth of so many skeletons.

Where on earth did all these skeletons come from?

After a faint sigh.

With a hint of unwillingness, he waved his hand, signaling the others to retreat.

The number of skeletons was not something they could handle now. Even if Anina was willing to help, he didn't want to take too many risks.

Who knew if there were even more powerful undead inside?

Coincidentally, they were about to enter the next week.

Not only could he harvest resources from the resource points, but the recruitment camp for units would also refresh.

He could recruit more troops and increase their numbers before confronting these skeletons again.

Returning to the main island, a small team of ten Shallow Sea Murlocs was left behind to monitor the movements of the skeletons.

The rest of the units returned to their territory.

On the way back, Anina kept muttering why they didn't charge straight through...

Ji Chen simply smiled and shook his head.

Perhaps this Dragon Whale girl could rely on her unit traits and overwhelming strength to enter and leave the skeleton horde unscathed.

But that didn't mean they could do the same.

With such a large number of skeletons, their meager forces would soon be overwhelmed.

He now realized that even a mighty warrior like Anina would grow tired after swinging her bone blades hundreds of times.

And as sharp as the tridents of the Shallow Sea Murlocs were, piercing through four or five skeletons in one strike was already their limit.

The efficiency of killing was limited.

Until their own units reached a sufficient scale in numbers,

when dealing with a sea of skeletons like this, widespread AoE attacks would be more effective.

At the moment, the only unit with any connection to AoE attacks was the Sea Pixes.

"After collecting the resources tomorrow, I will strengthen the Sea Pixies again..."

He retracted his thoughts.

When he returned to his territory, Ji Chen saw a group of newly migrated natives. Under Wilus' lead, they were being assigned houses.

He shouted loudly for this dedicated middle-aged man to come over.

"Which batch of natives migrated here?"

"How many batches of native people have migrated here?"

Wilus quickly answered, "My Lord, this is the third batch. Currently, a quarter of the native people have migrated to the territory."

"How well have they integrated with the original residents?"

"Very smoothly, My Lord. The native people are eager for exquisite food, proper clothing, and well-preserved dwellings."

"The original residents also remarked on the increased liveliness and popularity of the territory."

"They are all singing praises of your generosity and kindness, My Lord."

It seemed that there were no issues of mutual exclusion between the two groups, which was exactly what he hoped to see.

Ji Chen pondered for a moment. "Try to allocate the migrated native people to the cultivation of sea rice as much as possible. They are experienced in this area and it is currently the most important task in the territory."

"I understand," Wilus nodded. "My Lord, I have something to report."

"Hmm? What is it?"

"It's about the guest with the giant sword."

Ji Chen glanced sideways and looked at Anina, who was standing with Alice in the distance.

Wilus's face showed a hint of surprise. "That guest seems to have a large appetite."

"What does that matter?" Ji Chen waved his hand dismissively. "Let her eat whatever she wants."

Even if her appetite was big, so what?

With such a vast territory, could they not afford to feed one person... no, a single whale?

"But she consumed the amount of food that would feed thirty people in one meal!" "What? The amount for thirty people?" Ji Chen was taken aback.

"And she said she was only half-full..."

Thirty people's worth of food and still only half-full... it was simply terrifying.

He recalled Anina's flat stomach, finding it hard to imagine how such a small belly could accommodate so much food.

Could it be a fourth-dimensional stomach?

As a whale, her true nature was not in vain.

Even in human form, her appetite was truly astounding..

Chapter 63: Pure Water Sea Pixie

The time came to the third week.

"Ding- The recruitment camp has refreshed and recruitment is available."

"Hahaha, I'm back as Hu Han San! Most of my troops died last week, and with only a few soldiers left, I could only tremble in the territory. Let's recruit a new batch of troops and continue our adventures!"

"But recruiting too many soldiers isn't a good thing either. It consumes food at a faster rate. Let me check how much food I have left... Oh no, we'll run out of food tomorrow."

"Our undead troops don't need any food, they only require provisions for the inhabitants. However, those native settlements seem to despise the undead. They won't allow me to bring them in. What should I do..."

"I finally completed a mission for a native noble and obtained a sailboat! I'm going to become the Pirate King!"

“How big is the boat?”

“Well, it’s about six to seven meters...”

“Are you kidding me with a boat that small? You dare to become the Pirate King? The waves in the Central Ocean are no joke.”

Watching the players boasting in the chat channel, Jichen leisurely finished breakfast.

He led his army and calmly headed to each resource point to collect the resources accumulated over the past week.

Two small crude iron mines and two micro crude iron mines.

One micro mine operated for a full week, while the others only operated for four days.

A total of 3500 units of crude iron were harvested.

Three small clay mines.

One operated for a full week, while the other two operated for four days.

A total of 4500 units of clay were harvested.

One medium-sized stone quarry and three small stone quarries.

One small quarry operated for three days, while the others operated for four days.

A total of 8100 units of stone were harvested.

Two micro mithril mines.

One operated for a week, while the other operated for four days.

A total of 1100 units of mithril were harvested.

Currently, he had the following resources:

Wood (4600 units)

Fibers (5400 units)

Stone (12110 units)

Clay (8216 units)

Iron (7180 units)

Mithril (1100 units)

The inventory was unprecedentedly abundant.

Other than the stones and clay obtained from the resource points.

There were also more than a hundred Kobolds logging and collecting wood day and night, working 16 hours a day.

This allowed the wood and fiber resources to accumulate very quickly. In just over a day, they had accumulated more than 1,000 units each.

He had to thank the Kobolds for their “selfless dedication ”.

He saw that the resources were abundant.

Ji Chen opened the military talent tree and flipped to the Sea Pixies page.

[Sea Pixie (Tier 2, 3-Star)]

[Unlocked node A-2: Water Arrow Rain (Green Skill -> Blue Skill)] [Requires 600 units of wood, 800 units of clay.]

[Unlocked node B-2: Son of the Ocean (Green Skill —? Blue Skill)] [Requires 600 units of wood, 800 units of clay.]

[Unlocked nodes C-2, C-3]: Explosive Casting (White Skill —* Blue Skill) [Consumes 1200 units of Heavy Iron]

[Unlocked node D-2: Mana Body (Military characteristic weakened/enhanced)] [Requires 800 units of crude iron, 800 units of clay.]

[Unlocked node S-1]: Increase production (14 —>21)[Requires 300 units of Mithril]

[Unlocking any node can increase star level or tier.]

There was an unexpected unlocked node.

The production of units was increased!

This was indeed a pleasant surprise.

The importance of having a sufficient number of units could not be overstated.

Having an additional 7 Pure Water Sea Sprites was a force to be reckoned with.

Without hesitation, Jichen quickly unlocked all five nodes.

“Consumed... Unlocked A-2, B-2, C-2, C-3, D-2, S-1.”

“The Sea Pixies (2nd Tier, 3-star) evolved into Pure Water Sea Pixies (3rd Tier, 3-star).”

“Military recruitment camp production increase (7 ->)”

A deep blue radiance enveloped these adorable creatures, pulsating with peculiar energy.

After the radiance dispersed, the Sea Pixies evolved from the 2nd to the 3rd Tier, becoming Pure Water Sea Sprites.

Their two pairs of wings had transformed into three pairs, with water droplets swirling around their bodies.

The energy and aura emanating from them had become several times more formidable.

The Sea Pixies transformed again.

[Pure Water Sea Pixie]

[Level: 8]

[Tier: 3, 3 stars]

[Skill: Water Arrow Rain (blue skill, condense mana to shoot a dozen penetrative water arrows)]

Ocean (Blue skill, spell power increases by 35% when near the ocean)

Explosive Casting (Blue, can cause spells to produce a violent explosion effect in an area, causing additional splash damage)

[Military characteristic: Magic Body (No need to eat, only need to absorb free magic energy to survive, and increase mana recovery speed by 35%)]

[I'm not weak...Please think before you hit me]

Hmm, not bad.

Three blue skills.

The main damage skills had also increased by several times.

The number of spells increased from one Water Arrow to more than ten Water Arrows.

If dozens of pure water sea pixies launched a rain of water arrows together, the scene would be no different from rain.

The recruitment of units for this week was about to begin.

A Murloc Statue recruited 14 Shallow Sea Murlocs.

A Naga Warrior Recruitment Camp recruited 14 Naga Warriors.

An Pixie Fountain recruited 21 Pure Water Sea Pixies.

Two Murloc Arches recruited 42 Murloc Skirmishers.

In total, the recruitment cost amounted to 2905 units of wood, fiber, and clay.

With this round of recruitment,

the current military strength was as follows:

Shallow Sea Murlocs (39 units)

Naga Warriors (34 units)

Pure Water Sea Pixies (35 units)

Murloc Rangers (98 units)

Elite Pirates (80 members)

Altogether, there were approximately 300 units of different units.

This combined force might be able to contend with the thousands of skeletal forces in the Skeletal Sea.

Especially with the enhanced Pure Water Pixies, they were now a formidable asset.

In terms of combat prowess, they might even surpass the Naga Warriors.

Using powerful area-of-effect spells to deal with the skeletal creatures, who had almost no magic resistance, was as easy as a walk in the park.

Now they finally had some confidence in facing those skeletons.

Quickly, the Elite Pirates were called upon to join the battle, along with half of the Murloc Rangers.

The Elite Pirates and Murloc Rangers dealt with the White Skeletons.

Meanwhile, the Naga Warriors and Shallow Sea Murlocs focused on the Black Skeletons and the Netherfire Skeleton Hound.

With clear roles and responsibilities, the efficiency of their kills greatly improved.

After assembling the army,

Just as Jichen was about to leave,

The Dragon Whale girl, carrying a giant sword, hurriedly approached with an anxious expression.

“Why didn’t you wait for me?”

He smiled and replied, “We’re going to have a decisive battle with those skeleton monsters. Anina, you should stay in the territory.”

Anina was taken aback and instinctively said, “You’re not counting me in?”

“This is the matter of the Crown of the Ocean, and ultimately, we need to resolve it ourselves,” Jichen shook his head.

“But I helped you yesterday, didn’t I?”

“You are our guest. I already felt a bit ashamed that I needed you to help us yesterday. If I were to let you do so again today, it would go beyond what we agreed upon.”

“After all, what we discussed was protecting the territory, not having you help us exterminate monsters.”

Seeing that Anina wanted to say something more, Alice gently shook her head at her.

“Let it be.”

Jichen quickly made the final decision and left the territory with the army.

However, what they didn’t see was

Anina, with a look of disappointment, lowered her head, standing there all alone.

It was as if she were a forsaken little whale..

Chapter 64: A Small Surprise

The group marched forward in a mighty formation, accompanied by the ten Shallow Sea Murlocs stationed there. They crossed the shallow waters and arrived at the second mini-island.

Similar to before, the skeletons were roaming only within the first mini-island, without crossing the shallow waters to the main island. It was as if someone was controlling them from behind.

Fortunately, the efforts they made yesterday to clear the area had some effect. The number of skeletons roaming the first mini-island was now less than one-twentieth of yesterday's count.

Jichen led his army to sweep through the area without much resistance. Soon, they reached the far end, gazing upon the second mini-island.

However, compared to yesterday, the density of skeletons seemed to have increased. Moreover, there was a higher proportion of Black Skeletons and Fiery Skeleton Hounds, which were more formidable forces.

Seeing this, Jichen felt a sinking feeling. If left unchecked, it wouldn't take long for the number of skeletons here to exceed five digits. It would truly become a catastrophe of overwhelming undead.

“Roar!”

A horde of hundreds of White Skeletons crossed the shallow waters and approached. Upon seeing them, the horde let out a piercing roar, immediately alerting the other skeletons on the second mini-island.

In an instant, the Skeleton Sea erupted like a hornet's nest. White Skeletons, Black Skeletons, Skeleton Hounds—thousands of them swarmed towards them.

His eyes were filled with flickering flames, and his ears were filled with the sound of bones grinding against each other.

Ji Chen's scalp went numb when he saw this spectacular scene.

Gritting his teeth, he quickly deployed his army.

On the narrow beach connecting the two sub-islands, a defense line of about 50 meters long was built.

The Naga warriors were in the middle, responsible for resisting the pressure head-on.

The pirates stood on both sides, responsible for supporting.

A great battle was about to break out.

Rather than saying that the skeleton monster was rushing over, it was more accurate to say that it was being pushed forward by the skeleton monster behind it.

Many skeleton monsters were accidentally pushed to the ground by their own kind and were instantly drowned.

The air was filled with flickering flames, and the sound of bones rubbing against each other echoed in their ears.

Seeing this spectacular scene, Jichen felt a tingling sensation on his scalp. Clenching his teeth, he quickly deployed his troops.

On the narrow strip of land connecting the two mini-islands, they constructed a defensive line that stretched for about fifty meters. The Naga Warriors stood in the center, bearing the brunt of the enemy's assault, while the pirates flanked them, providing support.

The imminent battle was about to begin. Rather than saying that the skeleton monsters charged forward voluntarily, it was more accurate to say that they were being pushed by the skeletons behind them.

Many skeletons accidentally stumbled and were instantly engulfed by the oncoming horde, trampled into pieces. Not even a complete bone could be found.

The ferocity generated from their self-inflicted carnage was astonishing. They surged like a white tsunami, instilling a sense of fear in everyone's hearts.

Their speed was extremely fast, and in the blink of an eye, they were less than a hundred meters away from the defensive line.

Observing the scene, Jichen squinted his eyes and whispered, "Alice, proceed with the plan."

The young Siren nodded and immediately unleashed her melodious voice.

"Laa—"

However, her singing only lasted for three seconds before abruptly stopping. Even though the singing only lasted for a brief moment, it had an impact on the leading part of the horde of skeletons.

These undead creatures, with poor mental resistance, were instantly immobilized upon hearing the song, losing control over their bodies.

But the sudden halt created a major problem.

How could a horde of skeletons, moving at high speed and standing in tight formation, stop all at once?

While the skeletons in the front halted upon hearing the song stop, those behind them didn't hear it and continued to charge forward recklessly.

It was like a chain reaction.

The skeletons in the back crashed into the ones in the front, causing chaos and sending them sprawling in all directions.

The scene was filled with flickering flames and the scraping sound of bone-on-bone friction.

Witnessing this spectacular sight, Jichen couldn't help but feel a shiver down his spine.

Without hesitation, he quickly deployed his army, constructing a defensive line along the narrow strip of land connecting the two islands.

Naga Warriors took the center position, bracing themselves for the frontal assault, while the Pirates flanked them, providing support.

The impending battle was about to begin.

Rather than the skeletons actively charging, it seemed like they were being pushed forward by the ones behind them.

Some skeletons stumbled and fell as they were unintentionally pushed by their comrades, instantly swallowed up by the masses.

Their bones were trampled upon, unable to find a complete piece.

In the chaos of their self-destruction, a formidable force emerged.

They resembled a white tsunami, surging towards the defensive line at an alarming speed, instilling fear in anyone who witnessed it.

With limited distance left for a second charge, the time was ripe.

Narrowing his eyes, Jichen raised his arm and shouted, "All ranged units, open fire!"

The newly added Murloc Rangers wasted no time, crouching down and using their muscles as bowstrings, and their bone spines as arrows.

Their back muscles squirmed rapidly, forcefully propelling the sharp bone spines outward.

Splat!

Dozens of bone spines shot through the air like projectiles, leaving behind colorful streaks before descending with a resounding impact.

Covering an area of marshland in front of the defensive line, it was akin to a tempest, overwhelming the skeletons.

These bone spines, sharper than knives and faster than the chilling wind, pierced through skulls, pinning bodies down, and extinguishing the essence of countless souls.

However, there was more to come.

The Murloc Rangers extended another wave of bone spines from their backs.

Another round of projectiles was unleashed.

The remaining skeletons, struggling to rise after evading vital areas, were once again met with the forceful impact of the bone spines, rendering them motionless.

And then, another round was unleashed.

The horde of skeletons suffered another devastating blow.

Three successive waves of bone spines were launched.

Over a thousand bone spines were now embedded in the mass of skeletons, the marshland, and even submerged in the seawater, creating a surreal and haunting scene.

The densely packed bone spikes covered the enemy group like cluster bombs.

If the enemies were not skeletons but flesh and blood creatures, it would have become a living hell.

Ji Chen's eyes were filled with surprise.

He did not expect that these Murloc Rangers, who were only Tier 2 5-star, could actually display such shocking lethality under such circumstances.

This wave of attacks had killed at least four to five hundred skeleton monsters!

“Ding- Murloc Rangers have entered a weakened state and are temporarily unable to move.”

After three successive rounds of projectile launches, the Murloc Rangers appeared depleted, showing signs of exhaustion. However, their performance far exceeded Jichen’s expectations. Today’s main event was not about them but the enhanced Sea Pixies.

The skeletons, having recovered their mobility, charged once again after breaking free from the quagmire. Yet, they were met with a barrage of spell arrows brimming with explosive energy.

Boom!

The water arrows pierced through their bodies, detonating upon impact in dense clusters. The surging energy tore their bodies apart, leaving no white skeletons, black skeletons, or skeleton hounds unscathed.

Spell damage was simply ruthless!

Under the same tier and level, the offensive capabilities of spellcasting units surpassed their physical counterparts by several times, or even tenfold!

Once the Sea Pixies had launched three consecutive rounds of water arrows, Jichen waved his hand to signal them to stop. It was time to conserve their mana.

At this moment, the recovering horde of skeletons finally reached the defensive line. However, due to their repeated disruptions, their speed was sluggish, and their once-tight formation became loose and disorganized.

They weakly crashed into the defensive line, unable to unleash the full force of their charge. In contrast, the Naga Warriors and Elite Pirates stood firm like an unyielding fortress.

This was exactly the effect Jichen desired.

A single powerful surge, followed by a decline and eventual exhaustion.

By neutralizing the most intense initial wave of the skeleton horde, the subsequent encounters would become more manageable.

No further warm-up was needed.

The atmosphere of the battle had reached its climax the moment the two sides made contact.

The Naga Warriors let out resounding roars, the friction of tridents tearing through the air, and the wild screams of the pirates.

Each sound reverberated.

The fearless skeletons relentlessly assaulted the defensive line.

What made the undead formidable was their lack of fear and the absence of any concept of life and death. Regardless of the number of enemies or the extent of casualties, their morale remained unwavering at 100 points.

However, Jichen’s army was no pushover.

The absolute rank suppression endowed them with soaring morale and formidable combat prowess. Even though the enemy outnumbered them by dozens to one, not a single soldier showed any signs of fear. They valiantly fought, undeterred by the prospect of death.

Now, it was only through individual strength and effective coordination among the soldiers that they could withstand the onslaught of the skeleton horde!

Chapter 65: Mystic Realm Gate

Jichen stood on a boulder, closely monitoring the battle.

At times, he commanded the Sea Pixies to focus their attacks on the tougher black skeletons and skeleton hounds, easing the pressure on the Naga Warriors and pirates.

Several skeletal eagles swooped down, flapping their bone wings, attempting aerial assaults.

However, they were frightened away by the tridents of the Murloc warriors and could only hover from a distance.

On this narrow stretch of land, only slightly over fifty meters wide, the two sides engaged in intense combat.

One side had fewer numbers but stood resolute like a towering mountain.

The other side swarmed like ants, in staggering numbers, attempting to break through the mountain's defenses.

At this moment, Jichen and his comrades were like the three hundred Spartan warriors defending the Thermopylae Pass, repelling the relentless tide of skeletons.

The corpses of fallen skeletons gradually piled up, forming a bone hill that sent shivers down one's spine.

Jichen focused his attention on the battle, furrowing his brow suddenly.

He sensed that something was amiss.

Why were the reinforcements consisting mostly of low-level white skeletons? Where were the higher-ranking skeletons that were initially mixed in, such as the black skeletons and skeleton hounds?

The overwhelming sea of skeletons that had emerged before was now mostly a pale mass.

Not only that, the skeletal eagles that had been menacingly circling in the sky had landed on treetops, silently observing without any intention of attacking.

Something was off.

Very off 1

These skeletons were being commanded by someone!

They're trying to exhaust our troops' stamina and mana by utilizing the weakest and largest number of white skeletons!

Jichen's heart sank. Could it be a player?

Quickly, he made up his mind,

Although he didn't know what the opponent's intentions were, if they wanted to drag the battle, he wouldn't play along.

The best defense is a strong offense!

With this thought in mind, he shouted loudly, "Advance!"

The Sea Pixies used water arrows to blast through the mountains of white bones.

The Naga Warriors acted like bulldozers, steadily pushing back the sea of skeletons.

With a methodical approach, they advanced several hundred meters, slaying a large number of white skeletons.

Suddenly, every skeleton's body trembled slightly, their soul fires flickering in their eye sockets.

Simultaneously, they turned around and rushed towards the second island, racing past the Naga Warriors despite their pursuit. They quickly disappeared into the ruins and forests.

"They're retreating, sir," Alice said softly.

Jichen's expression grew serious. He halted the troops and nodded, saying, "It seems they realized their plan was exposed, so they chose to concentrate their forces."

"All units remain in place and rest, replenishing stamina and mana. We'll launch the final battle when the time comes!"

He knew that the upcoming battle would be even more challenging.

Apart from the still abundant white skeletons, the numbers of black skeletons and Netherfire Skeleton Hound are expected to far exceed the previous encounters.

What worried him even more was the absence of a certain type of skeleton monster, wielding bone staves, that clearly belonged to the spellcasting category.

While the Naga Warriors were skilled at withstanding physical attacks, their performance might not be as impressive when facing magical assaults.

It wasn't the frontal confrontation with these spellcasters that concerned him the most, but rather their ability to hide in the shadows and launch unexpected attacks.

That would be a headache indeed.

The Omniscience map could only display the enemy's positions but not their specific types.

Jichen had to rely on the density and locations of the red dots to deduce the most likely spots where these spellcasters might be hiding.

As they advanced, regardless of whether those spots actually held enemies, he decided to bombard those areas.

Adapt with tactics when resources are limited, and annihilate if given the chance.

With the upgraded Sea Pixies, he had the confidence to do so.

“Sir, should I assist immediately afterward?” Alice asked softly by his side.

Jichen pondered for a moment and shook his head, saying, “Your mana can only sustain for about ten minutes against such a large number of skeletons. Save it for crucial moments and act according to my command.”

“I understand.”

Once all units had rested and recovered, with a single command, they boldly advanced towards the direction of the second island, marching in formation.

When they were only about 150 meters away, Jichen raised his arm, signaling the troops to halt.

He commanded the Sea Pixies to fire a round of water arrows at a few suspicious places.

The dense forest and ruins were soon destroyed.

Branches and leaves flew everywhere, and rocks shattered.

“Ding ~ You have killed a group of Skeleton Archers (Tier 2, 7-Star).”

Well, it seemed that the desired spellcasting skeleton monsters hadn’t appeared, but by chance, they stumbled upon a group of skeleton archers.

It was still a satisfactory outcome.

The second-tier 7-star skeleton archers might not be able to harm the Naga Warriors and shallow water murlocs but the elite pirates and murloc ranger might not come out unscathed.

With this in mind, Jichen waved his hand, signaling the Sea Pixies to unleash three rounds of arrow rain, completely covering those areas.

Only when there were no more system prompts did he wave his hand again, indicating the army to continue moving forward.

following the map’s instructions, they cleared scattered white skeletons that charged at them while making their way towards the densely populated central area of the island, marked by the dense clusters of red dots.

Passing through the outskirts of the woods and the ruins, Jichen soon penetrated deeper into the island and came across a large group of waiting skeletons gathered in a clearing.

There was also a red vortex floating on the ground.

The vortex had a diameter of about ten meters, spinning continuously towards the center with flickering red lightning on its surface, exuding an unsettling aura.

Could this thing be the source of these skeleton monsters’ appearances?

He squinted his eyes and read the description:

[Mystic Realm Gate)

I Scale): Small

[Type]: ‘Two-way teleportation gate

| Description):

The current portal is unstable and cannot be accessed by creatures of Tier 3, 6 stars or above. The number of units passing through is limited to 110001 per solar day.

It will stabilize and no longer restrict the entry and exit of creatures based on their tier and quantity after 121 solar days.

Interrupting the energy supply will I close! the Mystic Realm Gate, and permanently destroying the energy core will [permanently close] the Mystic Realm Gate,

It turned out to be a Mystic Realm Gate?

Jichen's eyes were filled with astonishment.

The Mystic Realm Gate was a special teleportation gate in this world, or rather, in the game "Lord of Glory",

It connected to the Mystic Realms.

In simple terms, if we considered the main world as a large sphere, the Mystic Realms would be like small spheres surrounding the main world in astronomical numbers.

Due to certain reasons, a connection was formed between the main world and the Mystic Realms.

At this point, the Mystic Realm Gate served as the channel linking the two.

Each Mystic Realm had its own stable ecosystem, with its own rules, resembling a miniature world.

Some were grasslands with abundant flowers and plants, while others were barren and harsh volcanic realms. There were also ocean realms with azure seas and blue skies.

The variety was vast.

However, one common point was that they all held coveted and thrilling opportunities.

Some Mystic Realms produced rare resources not commonly found in the main world, while others yielded recruitment cores for high-tier units. There were also realms that produced naturally formed treasures.

Obtaining a Mystic Realm was akin to gaining access to a treasure trove waiting to be developed.

Of course, opportunities and dangers coexisted.

The Mystic Realms were inhabited by various creatures and races.

Some of the native inhabitants were friendly, and trade and resource acquisition was possible.

But there were those who viewed intruders as invaders and held hostility towards them.

Furthermore, there were both one-way and two-way Mystic Realm Gates connecting to the Mystic Realms.

The vortex emitting an ominous aura before them was evidently a two-way Mystic Realm Gate.

And its inhabitants, the group of skeletal monsters, clearly belonged to the extremely unfriendly type.

They had already begun invading the main world in the opposite direction.

Jichen couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief.

Fortunately, he had discovered the situation in time. Otherwise, if he had delayed for another two days, this Mystic Realm Gate would have completely stabilized. Countless skeletons would have surged out, engulfing the entire archipelago.

It was fortunate that he could mend the sheep pen even though the sheep had already scattered.

As long as he dealt with these skeletal monsters today, everything would still be salvageable!

Chapter 66: Monster Commander

Jichen's gaze shifted slightly and he saw, in front of the vortex, a peculiar crystal device embedded in the ground.

A red energy stream emanated from it, connecting to the Mystic Realm Gate.

That crystal device should be the energy source of this Mystic Realm Gate.

The skeletal side clearly recognized its importance and dispatched heavy forces to protect it.

Hundreds of black skeletons surrounded it tightly, leaving no gaps exposed.

In addition, there were thousands of white skeletons around, serving as cannon fodder and meat shields.

Within the surrounding ruins and forests, skeletal hounds were igniting fires and moving swiftly, while skeletal eagles circled in the sky.

They were searching for any opportunity to exploit.

And the skeletal mages, who had yet to make an appearance, revealed themselves among the skeletal horde at this moment.

[Skeleton Warlock]

[Race: Undead]

[Level: 12]

[Level: Level 3, 5 stars]

[Skill: Undead Body (Blue skill, immune to most curses, poisons, and other negative effects, mana recovery speed increased by 25%)]

Double Death Arrow (Blue Skill, Fire two Death Arrows with Penetrating Corrosion effect)

Summon Skeletons (Blue skill, can summon a group of white skeletons)

[Military characteristic: Fearless (does not know what fear and death are)]

[When infected by something, the regeneration speed of the spell became faster.]

Tier 3, 5-star.

It seemed that those skeletal sorcerers were the most powerful skeletons capable of passing through the Mystic Realm Gate.

Their strength was within his estimated range and not exaggerated.

As Jichen pondered on how to deal with those skeletal sorcerers effectively, a particularly muscular and towering figure suddenly emerged from the skeletal horde.

Standing at 8 feet tall, its skeletal frame was adorned with a heavy, full-body bone armor, wielding a massive bone axe.

Eerie red flames flickered within its eye sockets.

At first glance, it was clear that it was no ordinary skeleton.

[Styne the Malevolent Wind (Commander)]

[Race: Undead]

[Level: 13]

[Current Level: Green (Elite)]

[Potential: Green (Elite)]

[Skill: Undead Roar (Blue skill, provides berserk effect to surrounding skeletons, increases attack speed and movement speed by 30%)]

Giant Axe Heavy Strike (Blue Skill, Hack with Giant Axe, Deals Huge Damage)

Bone Armor (Blue skill, additional bone armor increases defense by 60%)

Revival (Green skill, can repair oneself by piecing together white bones)

[Military characteristic: Command (has a certain level of intelligence, can command low-level skeletons, and connect the lives of low-level skeletons)]

[The vanguard general of the Skeleton King has descended to the main world with the responsibility of protecting the entrance to the secret realm.]

Tsk!

No wonder these brainless skeletons were so organized.

They could restrain the skeletons, knew how to use cannon fodder, and knew how to hide the skeleton archers in the dark to launch sneak attacks.

It turned out that there was a Skeleton Commander commanding from behind.

On the human side, there were heroes with special abilities and powerful special units.

Then, the monsters and other chaotic factions would also have similar units.

That was the Monster Commander.

They often had high intelligence and could use tactics and strategies like humans.

Among them, the higher-level beings possessed intelligence comparable to that of humans and other races. If they had approached the situation with their usual perspective, they would have likely suffered a great loss.

The level of trouble had now escalated even further.

At that moment, the Mystic Realm Gate suddenly rippled.

Hundreds of skeletons, a mix of white skeletons, black skeletons, and Netherfire

Skeleton Hound, emerged from it and joined the main force.

A serious expression appeared on Jichen's face.

There was no more time to delay.

The longer it dragged on, the greater the numbers would become, making the battle increasingly difficult.

“Full assault!”

“Ding- You have entered battle. Morale checks in progress... Our overall morale is 45 points...”

Fortunately, despite being at a disadvantage in morale, it was still acceptable.

After all, there were just too many skeletons.

The flame in the skeleton commander's eyes flickered as it noticed their advance.

As the vanguard general appointed by the Skeleton King, it did not allow any creature to disrupt the gate and prevent the king's arrival.

Raising its giant axe and pointing it at the enemy, it emitted a harsh grinding sound from its mouth.

In the next moment, a large wave of skeletons surged forward.

Boom-

Water arrows exploded, shattering the skeletons into pieces. Bone spikes rained down, piercing through countless skulls.

However, for the thousands of skeletons, these fallen skeletons were just a drop in the ocean. They couldn't even cause a ripple.

When the numbers reached a certain point, their individual significance diminished.

The surging skeleton sea, like a tsunami, quickly passed through the long-range firepower zone and engaged the Naga warriors in close combat.

With each swing of their bone blades, these fierce warriors with serpent-like bodies swept away a circle of white skeletons, leaving shattered bones in their wake.

As for the cannon fodder, their worn-out weapons couldn't even break through the defense of the Naga warriors. They could only offer their necks to be struck down.

The elite pirates faced the white skeletons with a calm and confident demeanor. They skillfully evaded attacks and struck with precision, using sharp blades to sever the heads of the white skeletons.

These men, accustomed to fighting at sea, had extensive combat experience and were more than capable.

The sea pixies occasionally unleashed spells at the densely packed skeleton horde. Each time, a dozen or more water arrows were released, causing intense explosions and creating a blank space amidst the chaos.

Different units cooperated with each other as the defensive line steadily advanced towards the crystal apparatus.

However, Jichen's expression did not show much satisfaction. He knew that the real challenge lay with the higher-level black skeletons, skeleton hounds, and the lurking skeleton sorcerers.

And there was also the skeleton commander who had been commanding them all along.

"My Lord, we have to pay attention to the sky," Alice suddenly whispered.

Jichen looked up and saw dozens of skeleton eagles diving from above, their eyes fixed on the sea pixies.

Clearly, the skeleton commander had recognized the threat posed by these little creatures and intended to launch a secret attack.

"Murlocs, protect the sea pixies! Use your tridents to shoot those skeleton eagles' asses!"

Upon hearing the command, the Murlocs immediately redirected their aim. Their tridents shot up into the air like anti-aircraft projectiles.

Swish-

More than half of the skeleton eagles were directly struck by the incoming tridents, shattering them into pieces.

But there were still a few descending.

As undead creatures, they had no sense of fear.

Under the command of the higher-ranking skeletons, their focus was always directed towards the enemy.

However, what they failed to see was that after smashing their counterparts, the tridents, under the control of the Murlocs, made a U-turn in the air, rapidly catching up to them.

The remaining skeleton eagles were punctured in their rear ends one by one.

Shattered bones fell from the sky.

The aerial threat was neutralized!

Returning their gaze to the ground, with the coordinated efforts of various units, the mere 1-star white skeletons were no match for them. They fell like wheat.

Although it meant little to the overwhelming numbers of white skeletons, even if they stood there and allowed themselves to be hacked away, it would take an eternity to chop them all down!

But Jichen's objective was never to eliminate them all.

His goal was to reach the crystal apparatus!

If they could destroy or disable the crystal apparatus, everything would become much easier!

Chapter 67: Casualties

If one were to look down from above, one would see Jichen and his group surrounded on all sides.

White skeletons were densely packed around them, forming a ring like a delicious white donut.

However, they were getting closer and closer to the crystal apparatus.

Seeing this scene, the flames flickered in the eyes of the skeleton leader as he swung his huge axe once again.

A wave of hidden skeleton archers emerged, disregarding the presence of their own kind, and unleashed a rain of arrows.

Jichen's pupils contracted.

Damn it, there's another wave of skeleton archers hiding!

Seeing the arrows rain down from above, he didn't hesitate. He urgently shouted, "Stop advancing! Take cover behind the Naga warriors and Murlocs! Avoid the arrow shower!"

After speaking, he pulled Alice and took cover behind the broad back of a Naga warrior.

Upon hearing his words, the sea pixies quickly flapped their wings and cautiously flew behind the Naga warriors.

The Murloc Rangers took cover behind their distant relatives, the sea pixies.

The bony arrowheads couldn't penetrate the scales of the Naga warriors and Murlocs.

Most of the units successfully avoided the arrows, but the elite pirates weren't so lucky.

Their numbers were already considerable, and they were responsible for the rear defense.

The limited time didn't allow them to evade the arrow shower in time.

In a moment of panic, the arrow rain ruthlessly poured down on the terrified elite pirates.

Swish—

"Ah!!"

Screams of agony echoed.

Jichen turned around and couldn't help but clench his fists tightly.

Under the onslaught of the arrow shower, the pirates lay in pools of blood.

Over ten elite pirates, unable to dodge in time, were struck in vital areas and collapsed, riddled with arrows.

There were also over thirty people who suffered varying degrees of injuries.

“Ding – Elite Pirate (LV9) has died.”

“Ding – Elite Pirate (LV9) has died.”

...

“F*ck!”

Ji Chen couldn't help but curse.

These elite pirates were all sailors of pirate ships.

Later on, their ability to set sail would depend on the remaining elite pirates!

If they suffered too many casualties here, his dream of becoming the Pirate King would be dashed!

Suppressing the anger welling up inside, Jichen swiftly located the position of the skeleton archers.

“Sea pixies, unleash two rounds of Arrow Rain to cover the target area!” he commanded urgently.

Boom-

Preventing the skeleton archers from launching a second volley, a torrent of water arrows surged forward, completely engulfing them in a powerful cascade of energy.

Once the area was cleared, Jichen gave the order to advance.

Having learned from the previous encounter, he became increasingly cautious.

Whenever he spotted potential skeleton archer positions on the map, he responded with a swift barrage of water arrows.

The fortunate outcome was that they unintentionally eliminated several hidden waves of skeleton archers.

However, the setback was that the sea pixies were experiencing significant mana depletion.

Fortunately, their progress quickened, and now they were merely a couple of hundred meters away from the crystal device.

Before them stood not the feeble white skeletons, but the daunting figures of the pitch-black, iron-like black skeletons.

Yet, at that moment, all the skeletons abruptly halted their attacks.

The skeleton leader's mouth moved, and to everyone's surprise, a raspy voice emanated from his throat.

“Human, if you retreat now, I can overlook your previous actions. In the presence of our great king's arrival, I can even request the king to subjugate you as a leader of the foreign races and spare your life.”

In response, Jichen's disdainful gaze was the only reply.

“What a bunch of rotten fish and shrimp. You’re talking about me becoming a leader of the foreign races? I suggest you wash your brain with the nearby seawater and see what’s inside. Oh, by the way, you can also tell your so-called king that if he’s willing to kneel down and beg me, maybe I’ll show him mercy and let him be my lackey.”

Jichen’s words dripped with contempt and mockery, instantly infuriating the skeleton commander. It angrily shouted, “Human, how dare you insult the great king! I will tear you to pieces!”

“Once the gate stabilizes, the endless horde of skeletons will engulf this world.”

“On what grounds?” Jichen sneered and made a sarcastic gesture.

The massive horde of skeletons began to stir once again. This time, it was not just the white skeletons but also the black skeletons and skeleton dogs that swarmed forward.

“Murloc Rangers, launch your bone spears!”

Hundreds of bone spears shot out, impaling numerous skeletons to the ground. But when they hit the black skeletons, they simply bounced off.

The attacks from the Murloc Rangers, who were at the second-tier and five-star level, fell short against the formidable defense of the black skeletons.

Jichen glanced at the distance between him and the crystal device. The timing was almost right.

“Alice!”

“Understood!”

The sound of singing filled the air, and the skeletons centered around Alice instantly entered a state of stupor. Even Jichen, the green-elite-ranked skeleton commander, was greatly affected. The flickering flame of the soul in his eye sockets shook violently, and the mental connection with other skeletons was almost severed.

This was the wide-range spell group attack!

This was why Jichen had refrained from using Alice until this crucial moment. He needed to conserve his mana for the most important time.

“Full assault! Target: Crystal Device!”

The sea pixies spared no expense in using their mana as their staves swung repeatedly. Water arrows rained down like rockets, swiftly carving out a path through the advancing horde of skeletons.

Jichen glanced at the nearby skeleton spellcasters, who were also affected by the singing. He commanded the sea pixies to unleash a few rounds of Water Arrow Rain on them as well.

The unfortunate skeleton spellcasters were blown to pieces before even having a chance to join the battle.

In just a few short minutes, they plowed through the sea of skeletons, effortlessly cutting down the defenseless undead creatures. It was much faster than before.

They were now less than a hundred meters away from the crystal device.

He was less than a hundred meters away from the crystal device.

When the Skeleton Commander saw this scene, it roared crazily, resisting the influence of the song.

If humans were allowed to destroy the crystal device, their dream of invading the world would be shattered.

And the king would not let it go!

He would never allow this situation to happen, even if it was at the cost of his soul!

The flames in the eyes of the skeleton commander flickered intensely as it desperately tried to communicate with the other skeletons. But to its despair, no matter how it urged and commanded, all the skeletons remained motionless, as if they had lost their will.

Meanwhile, the human and marine creatures were now less than a hundred meters away.

The skeleton commander gripped its massive axe and boldly positioned itself in front of the crystal device, blocking their path.

Jichen's face showed a hint of astonishment as he saw the skeleton commander obstructing the crystal device. He then glanced at Alice's condition.

Casting the Enchanting Melody on such a large number of skeletons consumed mana at an alarming rate. In a few more minutes, their mana would be depleted.

If they couldn't destroy the crystal in time, they would be trapped in an endless sea of skeletons once again.

Today, they might be destined to stay here.

A determined look flashed in Jichen's eyes. He reached into his backpack and pulled out a blood-red bead.

[Raging Blood Bead]

[Rank]: 2-star treasure (Group)

[Effect]: When used, it allows allies within a range of 100 meters to enter a berserk state for 5 minutes, increasing all attributes by 30%. After 5 minutes, they enter a weakened state for 30 minutes.

[Cooldown]: 3 hours

This was a treasure obtained from the previous expedition to the Kobold Cave.

It could significantly enhance the attributes of all units in a short period of time.

Using it at this critical moment was the most appropriate choice..

Chapter 68: Mystic Realm Crystal

“Ding ~ Troop has entered Berserk state. All attributes have increased by 30%. Lasts for 5 minutes before entering the Weakened state.”

The effective range of the Raging Blood Bead was 100 meters, which was enough to include all the troops.

The Berserk effect was immediate.

The eyes of all units turned blood-red, their blood vessels engorged, and veins bulging.

The efficiency of their slaughter soared.

A Naga Warrior could cleave through a black skeleton with just two strikes.

The entire team advanced at a much faster pace.

At this point, there were less than fifty meters remaining.

The Skeleton Commander, clad in heavy armor and wielding a bone axe, stood in front.

“Human, if you want to destroy the portal, you must first pass through me!”

“You must be the Songstress!” muttered Jichen under his breath.

He waved his hand, signaling the Sea Elves to blast the Skeleton Commander.

“My Lord, my mana is depleted!”

“Mine too, not a drop left.”

Each of the companions paled. Their faces showed exhaustion.

He gritted his teeth and said, “Sea Elves, quickly restore your mana!”

“Naga Warriors, charge and engage the Skeleton Commander!”

The Naga Warriors shattered the remaining few black skeletons and rushed forward with a roar.

The Skeleton commander’s eyes flashed red, swinging his bone axe.

Thud!

The two charging Naga Warriors were sent flying, crashing into several Goblin Rangers.

Jichen gasped in astonishment as he couldn’t believe the commander had such high combat power.

It could easily send two Naga Warriors flying with a single blow?

Since close combat wasn’t working, let’s see how it would handle ranged attacks.

“Goblin Rangers! Shoot it!”

Over a dozen harpoons were fired, and the Skeleton Commander blocked some of them with his axe, but the rest hit their mark accurately.

The harpoons, which could easily tear through white skeletons, only left three dented circles on the thick bone armor.

It couldn’t be said that there was no damage, but it was barely noticeable.

The Skeleton Commander not only possessed astonishing strength but also formidable defense.

Not just the Goblin Rangers, even the Naga Warriors' attacks had limited effect, only causing small cracks with each strike.

"Damn, this thing is too tough. It is indeed a monster leader."

The power gap between ordinary units and leaders is truly vast.

Now he could only rely on the Sea Elves to see if they could inflict any significant damage.

Watching Alice's increasingly pale face as her mana was about to be depleted, Jichen couldn't help but feel anxious.

"Human, your soldiers can't harm me. Give up!"

"The shadow of the king will cast over this world."

After sending another Naga Warrior flying, the Skeleton Commander spoke in a gloomy tone.

Jichen couldn't be bothered with it anymore.

This Skeleton Commander clearly had some major issues, his mind not functioning properly.

The limitations of the Crystal Realm had left them with a narrow perspective, completely unaware of the greater world outside.

For these skeletons to think they could conquer the world was the biggest joke of this era.

The Naga Warriors charged one by one, being knocked back one by one, but their numbers were enough to hold the Skeleton Commander in check.

And the Skeleton Commander, wary of the crystal apparatus behind them, dared not pursue, only passively resisting the pressure.

"My Lord, we have enough mana to cast two rounds of spells now!"

At that moment, the Elf's words brought a smile to Jichen's face, and he immediately gave the order without hesitation.

"Blast this thing to pieces!"

Thirty-five Elves simultaneously cast their spells, and the accumulated energy surged continuously.

With each low chant, over a hundred water arrows suddenly shot out and exploded upon the skeleton commander in the blink of an eye.

Boom!

The concentrated energy even formed a small mushroom cloud, creating a powerful shockwave that made it difficult for Jichen to maintain his footing, and even sent nearby motionless skeletons flying.

As the dust slowly settled, Jichen focused his gaze.

The outer layer of the skeleton commander's bone armor was severely damaged, with skull-sized holes revealing the similarly damaged skeletal structure beneath.

Even the arm wielding the bone axe had flown off somewhere, unbeknownst to the skeleton commander.

Indeed.

While its physical defense was outstanding, it had little resistance to magical attacks.

Finally, they broke through this tough turtle shell!

“Impossible... how could this happen...”

The once-composed skeleton commander couldn't help but panic, and its flickering soul flame betrayed its unease.

Using the remaining mana, they had just recovered, the Elves unleashed a final round of water arrows.

The bone armor was blasted into pieces, completely exposing the skeleton commander's bones.

Now the skeleton commander resembled a turtle without its shell, in an extremely vulnerable state.

As the saying goes, “kicking someone when they're down.”

Jichen wasted no time in giving the order to attack.

This time, the Naga Warriors and Goblin Rangers finally had the opportunity to display their prowess.

Amidst the skeleton commander's despair and unwilling voice, a relentless onslaught ensued.

“Ding – Styne the Malevolent Wind (Commander), you have received 30500 EXP.”

“Your level has increased by 9—10).”

“Shallow Sea Murlocs, Naga Warriors, Elite Pirates, Siren Hero: Alice leveled up (9-40).” “Sea Elves... (8—9), Murloc Rangers... (5—8) .”

Jichen couldn't spare a moment to revel in the joy of leveling up. He quickly ordered his troops to attack the crystal device.

Under the fierce impact of the tridents, the crystal device, which was emitting energy, trembled slightly, and the flow of red energy dissipated.

With the loss of energy supply to the realm gate, it violently fluctuated and gradually vanished, revealing the trees behind it.

At this moment, the units exited their berserk state and entered a weakened state.

Alice's singing also coincidentally came to a stop.

Jichen's face first showed delight, but then his whole body tensed up.

He remained alert, looking around cautiously.

Just as the skeletal horde, which had recovered from its stupor, was about to rush forward, they suddenly stopped in unison.

The soul flames in their eye sockets extinguished without warning, and their bodies disintegrated automatically.

When everything came to a halt, there were no skeletal creatures standing around.

At this moment, Jichen finally let go of his worries completely and sat down on the ground, feeling somewhat drained.

His spirit was slightly weary.

This battle had been extremely perilous.

It was the most dangerous fight he had encountered since arriving in this world.

He had come dangerously close to losing his life here.

All the units had reached their limits and exerted their maximum strength.

Every step had been perfectly timed.

If he were to face another battle like this, he wasn't sure if he could safely overcome it.

It was unknown if these skeletons had committed suicide.

Therefore, apart from the Skeleton Commander, the other skeletons did not receive any experience.

Otherwise, with so many skeletons, it would be enough for him to level up a few more times.

After resting for a while.

Ji Chen got up from the ground and went to the crystal device.

The crystal device had been torn apart by the attack just now.

[Mystic Realm Crystal]

[Status: Medium Damage 80%/100%]

[Effect: Constructs a gateway to a specific realm.]

[Materials required for repair: 3000 units of crystals]

[A special structure left behind by a certain civilization, capable of constructing a gateway to a specific realm.]

The recent attack has caused damage to the crystal, forcefully halting the realm gate.

If one wishes to reopen it, resources must be spent to repair it.

However, this puts the initiative in his hands.

Without the crystal device, the skeletal creatures within the realm will undoubtedly be unable to return here.

But if he makes the necessary preparations, he can calmly open the gateway after repairing the device and lead his troops into the realm.

At that time, it will be their ultimate doom!

Chapter 69: Resurrection Altar Blueprint

“My Lord, take a look at this.”

As Jichen pondered over the crystal apparatus, Alice’s voice came through.

She was crouched in front of the remains of the skeletal commander, holding three items in her hand.

“These were found inside the wreckage.”

One of them was a blueprint for a structure, another was a shimmering crystal, and the last one was a peculiar map.

Could these be... loots?

Jichen’s excitement surged as he casually took the blueprint and examined it.

[Resurrection Altar Blueprint]

[Level: Special]

[Effect: Able to revive troops]

[Usage Limit: 2/2 times per month, 1 to 5000 units per resurrection]

[Resources required for construction: 10,000 units of stone, 10,000 units of crude iron, 2000 units of crystal, 2000 units of mithril.]

[Resources required for activation: 10,000 units of wood, 10,000 units of clay, 10,000 units of fiber, 500 units of crystal, 500 units of mithril.]

[Area: 10×10]

[Remark: Unable to revive hero units]

A building that can resurrect units!?

This is truly a great find.

For most players, when venturing out to battle monsters, their units often suffer some damage. If they’re lucky, they may only lose a few members. But if luck is not on their side, their entire army might be wiped out.

Even Jichen, with Alice by his side, suffered significant losses this time, unexpectedly losing over ten elite pirates.

The resurrection altar can be activated twice a month, resurrecting up to 5,000 units each time. That means they can resurrect 10,000 units every month, which is highly manageable.

However, each activation requires a substantial amount of resources, but it’s definitely less than what recruiting from the barracks would cost.

Looking at it from another perspective, the more units resurrected at once, the greater the profit. And as the game progresses, the resurrection altar becomes more and more valuable.

Just imagine, if the enemy had killed a large number of soldiers the day before. Then, the next day, they wake up only to find that those they had killed the day before are now standing before them, alive and well.

That would be a terrifying and mind-boggling experience.

This move, it's like a resurrection of shadowy soldiers!

Rising up from hell for revenge.

Jichen nodded approvingly and put the blueprint into his backpack. He then took the peculiar crystal in his hand.

[Green Heroic Soul Essence]

[Level: Special]

[Effect: It can instantly promote a potential Aspiring-hero of green elite rank to a green elite hero.]

This was a great find.

I hadn't expected the skeletal commander to possess something like this.

With this soul essence, the native leopard could truly become a hero and exert control over those unruly pirates.

Now, let's look at the last item.

Among the three items, the last sheepskin parchment map was the most special.

It emitted a faint blue light and one could sense the peculiar energy emanating from it. It looked extraordinary at first glance.

I wondered from which corner of the island or from which secret realm the skeletal commander had obtained it.

Jichen stared at it intently.

[Magic Map]

[Effect: Able to lead to a mysterious location.]

[Description: Contains clues related to a special ocean-based main class.]

An ocean-based special main class!?

He felt a jolt in his heart, followed by a wave of excitement.

According to the game information, players could choose regular main classes like warriors, mages, or archers.

However, with enough luck and strength, it was also possible to obtain clues and transition into special main classes.

These special main classes often possessed powers that surpassed regular ones.

His current main class was an apprentice warrior.

It was a fairly average class with balanced bonuses, lacking any remarkable features.

Compared to the defense-focused shield bearers, his survivability was weak. And when compared to archers, he couldn't perform long-range attacks.

As for mages, well, there was no comparison at all.

Therefore, Jichen often wondered deeply about his past self.

Was his mind not functioning properly back then?

Why did he choose such an unremarkable main class?

He opened his personal panel.

Having defeated the skeletal commander, his level had now reached 10.

On the panel, the main class section now had the word "Transition" with an accompanying explanation.

[Main Class]: Warrior (Apprentice) [Could be promoted to Formal Warrior]

[Skills upon Promotion]:

Blood Renewal (Green Skill): Improved the body's recovery ability for a short duration.

Fearless Charge (Green Skill): Increased charging speed, with a chance to stun opponents when equipped with a shield.

War Rhythm (Green Skill): Provided a rhythm effect to allies within a ten-meter radius, increasing attack and movement speed by 10%.

Damn, those skills were idiotic!

The first skill, Blood Renewal, was somewhat useful as a survival skill and had some utility in battles.

But the second and third skills were utterly useless.

Fearless Charge? Did they expect the Lord himself to charge into battle alongside the troops?

They would have been chopped down in the midst of chaos.

War Rhythm? It was almost the same, requiring the Lord to risk his own life.

These skills might not have been a big problem if they were in a traditional adventure MMO.

But in this world where there were groups of monsters everywhere and the main focus was recruiting troops for large-scale legion battles as a Lord.

These two skills were as absurd as having a general, who commanded wars, personally join the frontline for hand-to-hand combat.

Once again, Jichen fell into contemplation.

Back then, why did I choose to be a warrior?

But fortunately, by a fortuitous coincidence, he obtained this magical map fragment with a clue to a special main class in the ocean domain.

There was no need to confine himself to being an ordinary warrior anymore.

According to the information, generally, the best time to switch to a special class was before the main class was officially promoted.

That way, the chances of a successful transition would be higher.

In other words, he needed to keep his level at 10 and wait until he acquired the special main class.

Now, it was time to see where the clue indicated on this magical map fragment was located.

With a thought, the magical map emitted a more dazzling blue light and projected a ray of light onto a map displaying a specific location in the ocean.

An arrow pointed towards the target destination.

“This place is not near the Crescent Islands but rather in the far southwest region of the sea. It’s quite a distance away.”

“In that case, it seems like I have to put aside the tasks at hand and obtain this special main class first. After all, the pirate ship is almost repaired, and soon we’ll be able to set sail...”

“As for the exploration plan of the mountain peak in the northeast of the main island, it will have to be postponed...”

Jichen looked at the location indicated by the arrow on the light map, silently contemplating.

He carefully stored the magical map.

Looking around, he was in a good mood.

The gains from this trip were astonishing.

A rare building blueprint, a soul essence that could promote an Aspiring-hero, a magical map with a clue to a special main class, and a crystal device capable of opening a secret realm.

If these were known in the outside world, any one of them would make other players green with envy.

If they knew how many amazing things Jichen possessed, they would probably say, “The luckiest player strikes again!”

At this point, the exploration of the three northeastern auxiliary islands had been roughly completed.

They were mostly ruins of military facilities, with nothing noteworthy except for the skeletons that once occupied this place.

Without further delay, Jichen cast a deep gaze at the crystal device on the ground.

He instructed the troops to take the corpses of the deceased pirates and return to their territory..

Chapter 70: Sparrow and the New Moon

The villagers saw Jichen returning with his army. Subconsciously, they greeted him, but when they saw the injured soldiers, they became puzzled. And when they noticed the bodies of more than ten pirates on the ground, their confusion grew even deeper.

“Lord, what is this all about?” one of the villagers asked, unable to contain his curiosity.

“Find a flat area and have a few people bury these pirates,” Jichen shook his head and said without further explanation.

The villagers saw that he was in a bad mood and didn’t inquire further. They greeted him and began to move the bodies.

Upon hearing the news of their return, Anina ran out of the house with a look of surprise, holding a roasted meat leg in her hand. But when she saw the scene, she too was taken aback.

She knew these were pirates, the ones she occasionally saw at sea, who liked to raid and plunder, bringing back shiny things. They also enjoyed tying an anchor to people and tossing them into the sea while laughing maniacally. In her eyes, these pirates only burdened the ocean with more waste.

However, earlier in the morning, they were still lively, and now they had turned into lifeless corpses.

Anina, who had a keen sense of perceiving human emotions, felt the somber atmosphere at the scene, and suddenly the roasted meat leg in her hand didn’t seem appetizing anymore.

Jichen smiled reluctantly when he saw Anina and asked, “Is the food here still delicious?”

“Well, it’s very tasty,” Anina replied with a hint of embarrassment, lowering the roasted meat in her hand. “Did you encounter any trouble?”

“Not much trouble. There was a skeletal commander behind those skeletons, and it took quite an effort to deal with it,” Jichen explained.

“I have something I wanted to say...”

Seeing the hesitant expression on the Dragon Whale Girl’s face, Jichen’s curiosity was piqued, and he asked, “What is it?”

“Well... it’s nothing,” Anina hesitated for a moment, then shook her head.

A slight disappointment flashed through Jichen’s mind, but he still smiled and said, “If there’s anything, feel free to let me know. I’m always ready to listen.”

With that, he turned and walked away.

He had a vague idea of what it might be.

However, rushing things wouldn’t be wise in such matters. It required careful planning.

In this battle against the skeletons, 14 out of 80 pirates lost their lives, leaving only 66 remaining.

This further exacerbated the shortage of personnel on the pirate ship.

With just these 66 pirates, they could barely keep the ship afloat, but conducting the complex work of pirate raids would become difficult.

Fortunately, apart from these pirates, he also had amphibious units like the shallow sea Murlocs and Naga warriors under his command.

Having them temporarily join the forces wouldn't be a problem.

He brought the remaining pirates back to the pirate ship.

Then, he summoned Panther and handed over the Green Heroic Soul Essence to him.

With a system prompt, the territory gave birth to a true green hero.

[Panther (Hero)]

[Race: Human]

[Level: 6]

[Current Tier: Green (Elite)]

[Potential: Green (Elite)]

[Skill: Danger intuition (blue skill, has a metaphysical sense of danger)]

Hunting Perception (Blue skill, has a keen perception of prey, can rely on various information to continuously track)

Sailing Talent (Blue skill, completely mastered sailing skills, able to deal with all kinds of unexpected situations when sailing)

Primitive Bloodline (Green) Skill (Extraordinary) Bloodline (Exceptional dexterity) Skill (Extraordinary) Combat Strength (Superior)

[Military characteristic: Primitive faith (Once loyal, they will never rebel, 100% obey orders)]

[This is a good seedling to become a captain, but it's best to change his name.]

Feeling the earth-shaking changes in his body, the Panther looked at Ji Chen with extreme gratitude and knelt down on one knee.

“My Lord, thank you for your generosity and kindness. I will forever serve you faithfully.”

Ji Chen smiled faintly.” You deserve it. Since you've become a hero, you should change your name.”

What should it be called?

On land, they were called Panthers.

But in the sea... how about Sea Panther?

The thought almost made him burst into laughter.

After a moment of contemplation, he settled on a name.

“From now on, you shall be known as Jack Sparrow!”

“Jack Sparrow...” Sparrow murmured, his excitement evident. “Thank you, sir, for giving me a name! Sparrow will spread your glorious reputation throughout the vast ocean!”

Jichen nodded in satisfaction at his reaction.

But then, another thought occurred to him.

Since the captain’s name had been changed, the name of the pirate ship should also be changed.

He pondered for a moment, searching for a name that would suit the ship’s character, and ambition, and sound pleasing.

After some contemplation, a ship name emerged.

New Moon.

Named after his territory, the New Moon Islands.

It had a certain aesthetic appeal and uniqueness.

He believed he still had some sense of propriety.

He didn’t want his ship to encounter all sorts of strange events and crises.

He didn’t choose names like Black Pearl, White Pearl, or Flying Dutchman.

He didn’t want his ship to attract unnecessary attention and trouble.

After instructing Sparrow to bring the remaining pirates to speed up the repairs.

Ji Chen returned to his territory.

Before setting sail, he needed to take care of some matters in his territory to ensure that things would run smoothly in his absence and avoid any major problems.

Firstly, there was the issue of food.

Currently, the territory had enough food to sustain for about seven to eight days. If rationed properly, it could last for ten days.

However, maritime expeditions were unpredictable, and he might be held up by unforeseen circumstances, preventing him from returning in a timely manner.

Therefore, he needed to increase the food storage in the territory as a precautionary measure.

The sea rice cultivation was still in the seeding stage, so it couldn’t be relied upon for now.

The native tribes could contribute to the food supply through hunting and fishing, helping to alleviate the food problem. The sea bass fishery could also provide a stable source of food.

“Increase the food reserves to half a month or even twenty days, that would be much safer.”

“With twenty days’ worth of supplies, no matter what happens, I will definitely be able to return from the outside.”

Accompanied by his army, Jichen ventured out once again to hunt for prey.

They brought back the hunted animals to the territory, and the meat was quickly processed into jerky by Wilus and his team for long-term preservation.

The fishing resources around the New Moon Islands were abundant, with dense schools of fish of various species, often reaching extraordinary sizes.

Ordinary large sea fish weighed around five catties, while fish weighing over ten catties were common.

Jichen speculated that the stormy sea area was enveloped by severe storms, making it inaccessible for ordinary human fishing boats.

Over time, the fishing resources accumulated and reached the current level.

Therefore, he also caught a considerable amount of sea fish and turned them into dried fish to increase the reserves.

For two whole days, Jichen tirelessly gathered food from various sources. The food reserves in the territory grew at a rapid pace and filled the warehouses.

Wilus couldn't help but smile from ear to ear.

For Jichen, a mountain of meat was worth more than gold and silver!

And so, the day of departure drew closer..