

Ocean Lord 681

Chapter 681: Orcs Tribe, A Noble Lady Who Came Knocking

Before many guild members rushed here, Ji Chen had already boarded the alchemical airship heading to the Elven capital.

This alchemical airship had a huge elliptical envelope, with five pairs of propellers on each side of the envelope serving as power, and a gondola below containing very advanced facilities.

On both sides of the gondola, there were also a dozen alchemical cannons, along with a ship escort team, more than enough to deal with flying creatures and birds in the wilderness.

Miligas led them all the way to the cabin, personally opening the door. The room was spacious, luxuriously decorated, not inferior to the opulent mansions on the ground.

“Lord Ji Chen, this is your room.” Miligas nodded. “Sir Lainekel’s room is next door.”

“Thank you for your arrangements.”

Apart from Ji Chen, Patheia, and Lainekel, everyone else on the ship was wealthy elves. There were only so many rooms on the airship, and taking up three at once was not an easy task.

Miligas smiled and said, “This is a small matter, and besides, this is not a leisure trip. We are on an important mission.”

“Lainekel, please try to stay in your room and avoid exposure.”

Lainekel nodded, understanding that appearing in his current state could cause panic, as he had experienced it before.

“The airship will ascend soon and will take about three days to reach the capital. Food will be delivered to your door by servants,” Miligas said, then pointed to the corridor next to them. “My room is the first one over there. Feel free to find me if you need anything.”

Ji Chen nodded and watched as Miligas disappeared into the corridor, then turned to Lainekel.

“For these three days, let’s try not to leave our rooms. Caution is our top priority.”

Lainekel nodded in agreement.

Ji Chen returned to his room, closed the door, and sat down on the soft sofa. He felt a bit impatient.

If it weren’t for Miligas mentioning the need to take the airship to enter the Elven capital, he would have preferred to fly there directly on a Sea Crystal Wurm, rather than slowly floating in this airship.

“Hopefully, everything goes smoothly,” Ji Chen could only mutter to himself.

With a mechanical roar, the airship left the airfield and slowly ascended into the sky.

Propelled by the high-speed rotating propellers, it flew forward steadily.

The room prepared for him by Miligas was located near the edge of the gondola, with a large area of special glass windows that allowed him to see the outside scenery. Clouds were parallel to the airship, and the city had become distant. Continuous mountain ranges and forests passed beneath his feet.

Having seen the monotonous ocean views countless times, Ji Chen was actually quite interested in this change of scenery.

One day passed, and Ji Chen and Lainekel stayed in their rooms without leaving. There were no unexpected incidents along the way, and the journey was calm, which allowed Ji Chen to relax a bit.

During this free time, he came to Lainekel's room and asked about demons.

As the saying goes, knowing the enemy is the key to victory, and his knowledge of demons was limited to what he had learned in the Seven Stars instance. Besides that, he didn't know much more than an ordinary player.

Under the description of the former human strongman who had "served" under the Dreadlord Balzarna for tens of thousands of years as an executioner, Ji Chen gradually formed a preliminary and comprehensive impression of demons.

Demons were just as they had shown in the instance: evil, chaotic, disorderly, cunning... all negative words could be used to describe them.

The organizational and social structure of demons was similar to that of a kingdom with a lord system, and the Dreadlord Balzarna was the "Lord," with hundreds of demon lords under his command.

These demon lords were like lords of human kingdoms, with varying degrees of strength. The strongest among them reached the legendary tier, leading armies of tens of thousands, while the weaker ones were at the excellent tier, with armies of thousands.

But under Balzarna's call, they each led their armies in response to the plan to invade the main world once again, a plan that demons had been preparing for thousands of years.

In addition to the Dreadlord, the other four Demon Lords also responded to the call and, together with Balzarna, launched attacks in five different directions.

"Other four Demon Lords?"

Lainekel nodded and said, "Besides the Dreadlord, the other four Demon Lords are the Greed Lord, the Void Lord, the Decay Lord, and the Undead Lord.

The Void Lord has the largest number of Void demons and is capable of conducting long-distance surprise attacks. His personal strength is also the most formidable among the Demon Lords.

The Greed Lord may have the fewest troops in terms of quantity, but individual demons under his command excel in strength. The Decay Lord is skilled in polluting the environment, creating conditions suitable for demons to survive and fight."

The Undead Lord has the largest number of troops, with countless undead and undead legions under his command. He is also the most adept at legion-level warfare among the Demon Lords.

As for the Dreadlord Balzarna, he has a balanced set of abilities and a high overall level, in other words, he is the most difficult Demon Lord to deal with. Balzarna is also the most cunning of the Demon Lords, and his ruthlessness far exceeds imagination.”

Ji Chen nodded in agreement. He realized that if he hadn’t possessed the Void Ring, he would have been buried along with the collapsing Mystic Realm.

Seeing how they were unable to do anything and had to start destroying the Mystic Realm, which took only half an hour, it was clear how decisive and ruthless Balzarna was..

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“Then do you know from which direction these Demon Lords will attack?” Lainekele replied, “As far as I currently know, there are only two. The Greed Demon Lord will attack the Southern Continent and establish a main base in the Main World. Balzarna, on the other hand, will launch an attack from the ocean direction, clearing any obstacles in the sea and preparing for the Demon Army to cross over to the Northern Continent.”

Well, that means the Ocean Crown, located in the central sea area, will face the first wave of attacks when the demons officially launch their invasion?

Ji Chen only had a moment of worry before putting it aside.

When the enemy were to invade, he would meet them head-on; when the water arrived, he would use the earth to cover it. To capture the Ocean Crown, he would have to break two of Balzama’s teeth!

With a determined heart, Ji Chen also realized that the current strength of the Ocean Crown was still insufficient. Even if you added up the numbers of all the different types of troops, there were only a little over ten thousand. In contrast, the demons could easily muster millions of demons with just a wave of their hands.

He was confident in a one-on-ten battle and could attempt a one-on-fifty battle, but fighting hundreds would be quite challenging, especially since the demons’ tier levels were generally not weak.

The Ocean Crown’s army needed to reach at least fifty thousand and reach a level of tier six across the board to have the preliminary strength to resist the demon army.

However, the resources required to upgrade troop tiers and increase troop numbers were not a small amount. Nevertheless, he had a preliminary plan and perhaps could find a breakthrough during his visit to the Elven Capital.

In a secluded valley hundreds of miles away.

This was a gathering place for a Orc tribe, and in the depths of the valley, an open-air altar stood. The shaman of the Empty Tooth tribe was reciting strange and incomprehensible incantations.

Behind him, two robust Fangtooth Orcs positioned the final pair of captives onto the altar and employed their bone blades to slit the throats of these captives. Although the sacrificial victims had

their hands and feet bound, they made frantic attempts to break free. However, as their blood gushed out swiftly, their resistance gradually waned.

Eventually, they succumbed and lay motionless on the ground.

In the altar, more than a dozen other sacrifices had already been bled, and the thick blood covered the entire altar, seeping into the engraved patterns and grooves, faintly forming a totem symbol.

The priest raised his hands, stained with fresh blood, his pupils turning white as if receiving something. His body trembled like someone with Parkinson's disease.

After a long time, his eyes returned to normal, and his expression became excited, with a hint of cruelty in his eyes.

"Demon, our ancient friends, are about to return to the world."

The two Fangtooth Orcs below the altar were instantly excited. The demons were coming back?

Then they could end this ugly world, reclaim the land occupied by the elves and humans, and make the Orcs great again!

The priest's tone suddenly became intense, full of anger, and he shouted, "But they've run into some trouble and need our help!"

"A few hundred miles to the west, an airship will fly by, and there are traitors to the demons on board!"

"Shoot down that airship, kill the humans, traitors, and elves on it!"

The orcs pounded their chests in anger and roared, "Kill the enemy!"

Woo woo!

The horn representing the battle sounded, echoing throughout the entire valley. Ferocious-looking orcs rushed out of the dilapidated houses in the valley, and sharp-beaked wyverns flew out of the caves on the cliffs.

The orcs blew their unique whistles, calling their mounts. They mounted their saddles and pulled the reins, causing their mounts to take flight.

In just half an hour, the valley saw the rise of five thousand-strong orc riders. The gray-brown flesh wings formed a sea of gray.

"A few hundred miles to the west! Shoot down the airship! Kill the enemy!" Eyes clouded with anger ignited with the roar, arousing their thirst for slaughter and blood.

Under the control of the orc riders, the sharp-beaked wyverns flew like a foreboding dark cloud towards the west in large groups.

On the airship.

Ji Chen knew nothing about all this. At this moment, he stood in front of an open door, looking somewhat speechless at the elven lady in elegant attire before him.

He had originally planned to stay in his room as much as possible during this journey, to minimize the chances of getting into trouble.

However, he hadn't expected trouble to come knocking on his door.

- May I invite you, Human Lord, to have a drink with me?" The voluptuous elven lady with captivating eyes gazed at Ji Chen intently, her heart slightly ablaze.

He was the most handsome human man she had ever seen in her life, even more so than the males in her group of elves.

Especially his mysterious and powerful aura, the indifference in his eyes as if he didn't care about anything, made her feel a flutter of excitement as if her body was tingling just from his gaze.

Being brought on board this airship reserved for elven nobility meant that his status was not ordinary.

She had tasted many elves before, but human encounters were a rarity. If she could have such an experience during this short journey, it wouldn't be bad...

Seeing the increasingly odd look in the elven lady's eyes, Ji Chen felt a shiver down his spine.

Elves have long lifespans, abundant resources, and unparalleled power in the world, which naturally breeds many bad habits. It is rumored that the private lives of some elven nobles are extremely decadent, and they have learned some of the dirty dealings between human lords and nobles.

Never did Ji Chen expect to be targeted by an elven lady. He raised his eyebrows and declined, "I'm sorry, but I have some other matters to attend to, and I can't accompany you, madam."

However, the elven lady seemed to have set her sights on him and extended her hand to block the closing door. She licked her lips, and her desire on her face grew more intense.

"Don't be like this; it's just a simple drink."

Yeah, right!

"Ahem, madam, please restrain yourself."

Just as the elven lady was about to make further advances, a voice came from beside them.

"Lord Ji Chen... Huh!?"

Hearing this voice, Ji Chen secretly breathed a sigh of relief. He gently pushed open the door and smiled.

"Sir Miligas, you've come."

The newcomer was indeed Miligas, and at this moment, he was looking at Ji Chen with an amused look in his eyes.

The elven lady glanced at Miligas and smiled softly, "Sir Miligas, do you happen to know this human lord?"

"Of course, I brought him up here to meet Her Majesty in the capital."

The elven lady's eyes widened in surprise, "Meet Her Majesty?"

Miligas chuckled. “Lord Ji Chen’s territory has a lot of trade dealings with us, and the highly popular Merfabric in the capital is produced in his territory. That’s why His Majesty wants to meet him.”

The elven lady was even more astonished. Merfabric had become extremely popular in the capital over the past few months, and she had gone to great lengths to acquire a piece. She dared not wear the dress made from it to any important events, fearing that she might damage it. She hadn’t expected that such a precious fabric would come from the territory of this handsome human. For a moment, she didn’t know whether to be surprised by this revelation or by the fact that she was about to meet Her Majesty.

Seeing the elven lady, who had initially wanted to savor human cuisine, no longer wearing that enthusiastic look, Ji Chen finally relaxed and said with a smile.

“Yes, what I mentioned earlier is indeed about discussing the preparations for meeting Her Majesty with Lord Miligas.”

Seeing Ji Chen give him a knowing look, Miligas nodded in agreement, saying, “Indeed, meeting Her Majesty requires quite a bit of preparation.”

The elven lady showed a look of understanding and didn’t press further. She simply blinked at Ji Chen and said, “If you have some free time later, you can come to my room for a drink. It’s the last one at the end of the corridor.” Watching her disappear down the corridor, Miligas sighed with a hint of regret, “To refuse such an opportunity that came knocking at the door for free, what a waste.”

Ji Chen rolled his eyes. “It depends on the timing. I don’t have the mind for such things in critical moments.”

Miligas paused for a moment, then nodded. “You’re right. With your abilities, there’s no shortage of women. Just the news that you’re the lord of the territory producing Merfabric has attracted countless aspiring young ladies and noblewomen to your doorstep.”

Ji Chen glanced at him, wondering why he hadn’t noticed before that Miligas could be so unscrupulous at times..

Chapter 683: Fire!

Miligas exclaimed, “Compared to other Lords of Glory I’ve encountered. Lord Ji Chen, you are truly a breath of fresh air and the most restrained Lord of Glory I’ve ever seen.”

“How can you tell?”

“Lords of Glory, when they first arrived, may have appeared somewhat strange, but overall, they were quite earnest in their efforts to progress. However, it’s only been a few months, and a significant portion of them has already fallen into corruption.”

Ji Chen paused for a moment, then realized.

Although most players still appeared to be struggling, they now possessed substantial territories, private armies, and a group of subjects for resource production, wealth creation, essentially becoming no different from feudal lords.

In terms of form, they enjoyed more freedom, not needing to pledge allegiance to a king like feudal lords did.

After the initial struggle to establish themselves, many players quickly became corrupt, no longer as dedicated to searching for resources to make themselves stronger as they were in the early days.

They imitated the luxury lifestyles of the native aristocrats, with wives, concubines, extravagant feasts, and a life of indulgence. They simply lived day by day.

Ji Chen had hoard rumors that many player lords occasionally hosted lavish parties in hidden clubs within the Black Gold District, where they exchanged slaves from their territories, sometimes living even more luxuriously than the native aristocrats.

They say there's no harm without comparison.

Compared to all of this, Ji Chen appeared extremely restrained.

Perhaps that was why so many natives and heroes chose to stay and pledge their allegiance to Ocean Crown after coming to this world.

But if he were to think about it carefully, before coming to this world, players were all different types of people with various professions. Among them were people like Wang Shanyue with grand ambitions and unwavering determination, and naturally, there were also those who were content with a life of leisure and pleasure.

Before this, they could perhaps get by living like that, but the demon invasion had become an urgent matter. If they didn't make themselves stronger, they would sooner or later become victims of the demons' blades.

The most important thing was that he wanted to find out why players had been brought into this "game" world. Was it the work of the gods? Or were there even more secretive things at play?

And then there was the military technology tree that seemed almost like a cheat.

He had a feeling that he was getting closer and closer to the ultimate answer.

Miligas saw Ji Chen seemingly lost in thought and couldn't help but speak, "Your Excellency?"

Ji Chen snapped back to reality and shook his head, "Sir Miligas, there are some things I want to ask you."

"Of course, but this isn't the place to talk. Let's go to your room first."

Ji Chen nodded. He had already noticed some passing elven nobles casting strange glances at him. After all, how could a human be on an elven airship?

The two of them entered Ji Chen's room and sat on the sofa.

"Miligas, when was the last time the Elven Mother Goddess sent down an oracle?"

Although Miligas was puzzled, he still replied.

"Just over a decade ago, why are you asking this question?"

Ji Chen hesitated for a moment and then replied, "I believe the Dark Deity has seemingly broken free from the confines of the Abyss of Chaos."

-What!?”

Miligas exclaimed involuntarily, “That can’t be!”

“Lainckel lived in the Abyss of Chaos for hundreds of thousands of years, and he had even had close encounters with the Drcadlord Balzarna. Various clues and signs support this.

Moreover, the Dark Deity is highly likely to have entangled the Orderly Gods, preventing them from escaping. Otherwise, I can’t imagine why demons are about to invade, and the Orderly Gods haven’t shown any reaction, not even sending down an oracle to alert the races.”

Miligas wore a hesitant expression as if agreeing, but the fact that the Mother Goddess hadn’t sent down an oracle for quite some time now had already led to the conclusion that the demon invasion was imminent. In that case, it made sense to deduce this.

It sounded highly plausible.

Seeing his hesitance, Ji Chon asked again, “Is there a possibility that the demons have already contacted their natural allies from the time of the God War, informing them to cooperate in launching a war together?”

Miligas pondered for a moment and then said, “There’s a certain possibility. If it were me, I wouldn’t overlook these natural allies. They would undoubtedly be informed in advance before launching a war.

Besides demons, the evil alliance during the God War also included races like the trolls, gnomes, goblins, dungeon dwellers, evil orcs, and so on. While these races haven’t been suppressed in the Abyss of Chaos like the demons, they have been driven to remote areas by the Orderly races since the God War.

The trolls were driven by us elves to the polar regions and the Alwin Mountains to the north of the Maple Principality. The dungeon dwellers were banished underground by the gnomes, goblins were sent to the Death Marshes, and the evil orcs were trapped in the central desolate mountains between the Elven Empire and the Maple Principality...”

Ji Chen nodded and then suddenly asked, “Where are we right now?”

“We’re roughly in the middle between the Elven Empire and the Maple Principality, in the barren mountains where the evil orcs are located.”¹

As he spoke, Miligas suddenly realized something, and his expression changed slightly.

Ji Chen sighed and said, “I think it’s best to be more vigilant...”

Before he could finish his sentence, the airship suddenly sounded a piercing alarm.

“Numerous unidentified flying objects have appeared five kilometers to the right of the airship. Preliminary assessment indicates they are the enemy. Please all passengers immediately return to your rooms for shelter.”¹

Chapter 684: Fire!(2)

The broadcast sounded loudly, and the elven nobles rushed out of various entertainment facilities, their faces filled with panic. However, they managed to maintain some composure and returned to their rooms.

Some armed elves emerged with guards, vigilantly scanning the western horizon.

Teams of elven guards quickly reached their respective positions on the airship. The alchemical cannons at the edge of the gondola were adjusted upward, aiming towards the west.

Miligas wore a grim expression, having already guessed who the attackers were. He slammed his fist hard against the wooden wall, producing a loud thud.

“Damn it, these evil orcs dare to attack an airship filled with elven nobles. It’s enough to make them guilty of genocide!”

Ji Chen remained silent, realizing that this attack was likely his fault. It seemed the demons had somehow learned of his and Lainekel’s presence on this airship, bound for the elven capital. In response, they sent their allies, the evil orcs, to intercept.

It was late at night, and the airship was slowly flying below the cloud cover. Thick dark clouds obscured the moon, leaving the surroundings pitch-black with no sign of the enemy.

Only on the alchemical radar carried by the airship could one see a large number of red dots rapidly approaching from the west. The alchemical cannons on the west side of the gondola adjusted their angles and directions. “Adjust firing parameters!”

“Firing parameters adjusted!”

“Load the ammunition!”

“Ammunition loaded and ready to fire!”

The airship’s captain watched the radar with a tense expression. When the mass of red dots entered firing range, he shouted, “Fire!”

Elven gunners pulled the taut ropes, and from the cannon’s muzzle, an orange-red burst of fireworks erupted. A ring of circular white mist billowed from the muzzle and was instantly dispersed by a high-speed flying object, causing the entire airship to shift abruptly to the left by several meters.

The captain looked through the glass, only to see that within the deep darkness, several orange Mandrake flowers suddenly bloomed, illuminating the night sky.

“Target hit; the enemy count reduced by two hundred and ten.”

The first shot had hit the enemy, achieving a significant result. In the past, this would have been cause for celebration, but now they couldn’t afford to smile. The enemy was simply too numerous. On the radar, hundreds of red dots swarmed out like locusts. The first volley had only taken out a negligible portion, and even more red dots appeared at the radar’s edges.

Several alchemical rapid-fire cannons also unleashed a barrage of metal storms, forming several continuous streams of fire dragons.

However, this was just a passenger airship with extremely limited firepower. The most potent armaments were only a few medium-caliber cannons and a few small-caliber rapid-fire guns. It was

not like the war airships, which were bristling with large-caliber cannons and various medium and small-caliber guns.

The cannons kept firing, but they couldn't stop the enemy from approaching.

Soon, in the darkness, orcs riding wyverns appeared.

"Troop, that airship is the one. Use your claws to destroy those little tubes with fire on top! Kill all the livestock on board! Find that human and the traitor!" Excited howls were the response. These seemingly chaotic evil orcs split into groups of a hundred, flying toward various parts of the massive airship.

Some evil orcs leaped onto the top of the gondola in an instant, using all sorts of DIY weapons to break through the ceiling. The elves hiding in their rooms immediately screamed in terror.

The ceiling above the corridor was punctured, and a burly evil orc leaped through the hole, immediately spotting Ji Chen and Miligas who had just emerged from a room not far away.

Excitement and eagerness flickered in the orc's murky pupils.

The human!

"The head of this human shall be claimed by me, Batulu!"

As the evil orc brandished his rusty greatsword, he charged forward aggressively. Miligas, the civil official, instinctively took two steps back in fear. However, when he saw Ji Chen standing unmoved, he suddenly felt relieved. With Ji Chen around, what threat could a mere evil orc pose?

Thud!

The window glass in the corridor shattered suddenly, and an agile and slender figure leaped in from outside. Swinging a longsword, the newcomer beheaded the evil orc in one swift stroke. The headless body of the orc staggered forward a couple of steps before collapsing, blood gushing from its neck in a reckless manner.

Patheia swiftly approached Ji Chen, saluting, "I arrived late to the rescue, please forgive me, Lord."

Ji Chen waved his hand, "No matter."

Before boarding the airship in the Maple Principality, he had instructed Patheia to follow behind the airship with the Sea Crystal Wurm, ready to provide support at any time.

Outside the window, the Sea Crystal Wurm had already begun battling the orcs, with beams of blue light piercing the night sky, shooting down one sharp-beaked wyvern after another.

These sharp-beaked wyvern knights were probably at the fifth-tier, around 8 to 9 stars in strength, numbering at least three thousand. They clung to the airship like ants.

Using their weapons to shatter the glass windows and jumping in, they pursued the elven nobles running amok in the corridor.

These pampered elven nobles were experiencing the most terrifying night of their lives. Yellow-toothed, burly evil orcs leaped in from outside, using rudimentary weapons to kill their own kind before them. The walls and floor were splattered with blood.

The sound of doors being violently torn open echoed from time to time, followed by screams.

The elven soldiers on the airship fought valiantly, but the orcs were increasing at a much faster rate than they could kill. Many of them were even overwhelmed by the orc horde, meeting their end under swords.

Hearing the commotion outside, Lainekel could no longer stay put. He quietly opened the room door slightly and saw a headless corpse lying on the ground, momentarily stunned.

“Lord Ji Chen, what’s happening?”

“In simple terms, demons sent evil orcs to attack the airship, attempting to thwart our journey.”

As Ji Chen spoke, he and Miligas retreated into the room, closing the door to buy some time.

Lainekel’s face brimmed with killing intent. “It’s just some orcs, I can handle them all by myself!”

“As long as you can eliminate them,” Ji Chen shook his head. “The concern is that these orcs might directly attack the airship, causing it to crash. When that happens, I’m afraid not many elves on this airship will survive.”

Note that the “elves” struggling to survive did not imply that Ji Chen and the others couldn’t survive.

The Sea Crystal Wurm was already in position, and they could board it to escape.

Facing so many orcs, the downfall of this airship was only a matter of time.

Miligas clenched his teeth as he heard the cries coming from all over the airship. “Lord Ji Chen, this airship can’t stay any longer. Please leave directly.” “Take the message to the capital; we can’t let the demons’ conspiracy succeed!” Seeing Miligas so resolute, ready to sacrifice himself at any moment, Ji Chen couldn’t help but feel speechless. “We can all leave together on the Sea Crystal Wurm.”

Hearing this, Miligas deflated. “What about the other elves?”

Ji Chen fell silent for a moment and then said, “To escape the pursuit of the orcs, the Sea Crystal Wurm can only rescue a small portion of us. The rest will have to be abandoned.”

This airship carried over a hundred elven nobles, along with various guards, soldiers, and crew members, totaling at least six or seven hundred. The Sea Crystal Wurm could only carry so much.

Miligas sighed and didn’t say anything more.

Outside, the orc knights began cutting the ropes between the gondolas and the gasbags. When they found that their rudimentary weapons couldn’t quickly destroy them, they turned to damage the gasbags.

The gasbags were made of special materials and were very resilient, but they couldn’t withstand the brutal destruction of weapons. Soon, the gasbags were being torn apart bit by bit, and the propellers were firmly entangled by the ropes thrown by the orcs.

The airship slowly lost power and lift, struggling to carry the weight of the gondolas. The deck tilted, causing some elves to tumble down, resembling falling dumplings.

The orcs, upon seeing this, cheered and quickly disengaged from the battle, jumping out of the windows and mounting their mounts to move away.

Amidst the chaos, the Sea Crystal Wurm swiftly glided through the vicinity, saving some elves. Ji Chen, Lainekel, and Miligas boarded one of the Sea Crystal Wurms and quickly turned into a streak of light, flying away into the distance.

A sharp-eyed orc rider spotted this scene and roared in anger, "That human has escaped! Pursue!"

The orc riders immediately urged their mounts and gave chase..

Chapter 685: One-sided Massacre, Ancient Life Tree and Silver Moon Holy City

Miligas lay on the back of the Sea Crystal Wurm, occasionally glancing back at the relentless pursuit of the orcs. He tightly grasped the protrusion on its back, as if it would bring him some comfort.

"Where is the nearest place with water?"

He suddenly heard these words and looked up at Ji Chen with a questioning and uncertain gaze.

"Lord Ji Chen, the airship captain must have already requested assistance from nearby elven cities. As long as we continue flying in the direction of the elven capital, we will surely receive support."

While the words sounded reassuring, the sudden attack by these evil orcs had left Ji Chen somewhat uneasy. Feeling uncomfortable, he felt the need to respond.

"It's only polite to return a greeting. This is a saying from my homeland."

Seeing Ji Chen's expression, Miligas knew he couldn't persuade him otherwise and reluctantly said, "If I remember correctly, there seems to be a large lake nearby, but it's inhabited by many evil orc tribes."

Ji Chen's eyes lit up; this was just what he needed.

The treacherous actions of these evil orcs were already a certainty, and they would eventually go to war with the demons. It was better to start dealing with them now.

"Can you give me the exact location?"

"It's in the northeast direction, but I'm not sure how far it is," Miligas replied honestly.

Without hesitation, Ji Chen commanded the Sea Crystal Wurm to fly rapidly in the northeast direction.

As a sixth-tier military unit, the Sea Crystal Wurm's flying speed was significantly faster than that of the orc riders. It seemed more like the orcs were trailing behind rather than chasing.

The orc riders chased desperately, and every time they were about to reach striking distance, the Sea Crystal Wurm's speed suddenly increased, creating more distance between them. This infuriated them, and they cursed loudly.

“You despicable humans! If you have the guts, stop and face us orcs in a one-on-one battle! Running away all the time is nothing to be proud of!”

Suddenly, they saw the Sea Crystal Wyrms and their pursuers descend without warning, disappearing into the clouds. They quickly followed suit, and soon they saw their quarry heading for a large lake between the mountains.

Their faces lit up with joy.

Along the shores of that lake were dozens of orc tribes, and this human had unwittingly led them straight into their own kind’s stronghold!

Noticing the unusual activity in the sky, the shores of the lake quickly swarmed with orcs. With the evil orc riders pursuing from behind, Ji Chen and his party found themselves caught between two forces, their Sea Crystal Wyrms in danger of being split into pieces.

However, the rapidly moving Sea Crystal Wyrms made a bizarre maneuver, turning at a ninety-degree angle. The orc riders on both sides were like high-speed airships, especially the ones descending from above had no way to stop in a short time. They could only watch as they collided with their fellow orcs below.

Miligas watched the orc riders behind him collide into a mess and couldn’t help but shout in excitement.

“This is so damn exhilarating!”

As a civilian who spent his days sitting in an office chair, Miligas had never experienced such an intense scene up close. The battlefield’s thick atmosphere of battle left him unusually excited.

Ji Chen glanced at him and said, “There’s something even more exhilarating coming up.”

Miligas was stunned for a moment, then suddenly saw the water surface of the lake getting closer and panicked.

“Wait! I can’t swim!”

Ignoring Miligas’s screams, Ji Chen directed the Sea Crystal Wyrms group to crash into the water at an oblique angle, creating a towering splash of water. However, the anticipated impact and suffocation did not occur; Miligas’s body was enveloped by bubbles.

Ji Chen floated in the water as if nothing had happened, smiling as he looked at Miligas. Lainekel was also enveloped in a bubble, and the other elves were concentrated in a few bubbles, looking panicked.

“Lord Ji Chen?”

Miligas whispered, and Ji Chen nodded. His voice, as warm as jade, sounded in Miligas’s ear, “Lord Miligas, will you fight alongside me?”

Without any hesitation, Miligas immediately nodded.

He saw the bubbles carrying him upwards, and his entire body was wrapped in bubbles. Looking around, he realized that he was standing on the shoulder of a water giant.

This water giant was twenty to thirty meters tall, its body entirely made of water, but its body parts were as real as they could be, with clear textures. It had six arms, each holding a weapon, and there were two more in front, forming a water giant with six arms.

Ji Chen looked up at the sky filled with orc riders, and with a slow motion, the six-armed giant also made the same motion, gradually condensing a long spear in its hand.

With a sudden forceful throw, the spear shot into the sky like a rocket, exploding in mid-air, turning into thousands of water blades. The orc riders were instantly engulfed in this water blade storm, their sturdy bodies easily cut apart, and their mounts let out mournful cries.

Moments later, a large amount of blood and flesh rained down, staining the lake red.

This single attack killed more than a thousand orc riders.

The remaining evil orcs were both shocked and angry, their eyes showing a hint of fear.

Damn it, how could this human be so powerful?

Just as they were filled with doubt and fear, the second attack arrived. The six-armed giant produced a giant bow and shot out an arrow as thick as a pillar. In mid-air, the arrow split into thousands of smaller arrows..

Chapter 687: Elf Queen Laphia

Elin watched the carriage as it moved toward the palace, a hint of surprise in her eyes.

Although most of the runes inscribed on the carriage were hidden from view, she could sense an aura of malevolence emanating from it, even more sinister than that of the undead. The fact that a carriage that looked like it had a demon lord hidden inside belonged to the royal elves raised questions.

Could it be that the elven royalty had forged an alliance with the likes of the undead?

Playing such a dangerous game?

Elin blinked and found herself curious about this turn of events.

After all, she was on her way to meet the current Elf Queen, so she might as well see what was going on.

Just as Elin was contemplating this, her body suddenly froze, and she looked back in astonishment at the slowly departing carriage.

Wait a moment, how did she sense a familiar presence??

Meanwhile, inside the carriage.

“Lord Ji Chen, the Silvermoon Holy City is quite prosperous, isn’t it?” Miligas smiled and remarked.

Ji Chen nodded. The specially crafted glass on the sides of the carriage prevented outsiders from seeing inside but allowed those inside to see the bustling streets outside.

Looking from the inside out, the carriage traveled on incredibly wide streets, flanked by prosperous shops. The foot traffic was immense, with most of the inhabitants being local elves, along with a few members of other races.

In terms of prosperity, it far surpassed Maple Harbor and Maple City, akin to the difference between a second-tier city and a metropolis on Earth.

Notably, the demeanor of the elves living in Silvermoon Holy City was entirely different from what Ji Chen had seen in the Maple Principality. It was a powerful self-confidence and a sense of superiority, similar to a mighty empire.

Seeing Ji Chen's agreement, Miligas's face displayed pride and joy, as if he himself were being praised.

"The Silvermoon Holy City was settled by elven ancestors ten thousand years ago. After continuous development and expansion through dozens of generations of elves, its area is equivalent to ten times that of Maple City. There are as many as tens of millions of elven ethnic groups residing here.

Just the elite elven army stationed here numbers as many as three hundred thousand. Here, you are absolutely safe.

As long as you honestly tell Her Majesty about everything you and Sir Lainekel know regarding the demon invasion and persuade her, a million elven troops will undoubtedly respond to the call and drive those foolish demons back to where they belong."

Miligas spoke with confidence, showing no signs of worry.

Ji Chen remained silent. From what he had seen of the methods of the Dreadlord Balzarna, demons were not easy adversaries. In such a harsh environment as the Chaotic Abyss, one would either completely succumb or go completely insane.

And the demons, it seemed, were the latter.

For this day's invasion, they had been plotting for ten thousand years, and even Lainekel didn't fully understand how much power they possessed.

Tens of thousands of years had eroded the memories and vigilance of many races, including the elves, such a large and powerful race, against the formidable enemy that had nearly destroyed the world in the past.

Now it appeared that even elves of the ambassadorial level, like Miligas, had this blindly optimistic demeanor. It was likely that other nobles, soldiers, and commoners were not much different.

This made Ji Chen's heart sink a bit.

Noticing the slight change in his expression, Miligas asked with concern, "Your Excellency, is there a problem?"

Ji Chen shook his head, "No, let's proceed to meet Her Majesty as soon as possible."

Miligas nodded, "The palace is just ahead."

The palace where the Elf Queen resided was situated around the massive ancient tree. White structures encircled the tree roots and trunk in layers, resembling magnificent floating palaces in the sky. Every part of the city had a view of the palace, built high on the tree trunk, and the queen received the purest admiration and faith from her subjects.

The carriage continued along the main road, and as they progressed, elves became scarcer, and checkpoints became more frequent. However, even with the royal carriage and the presence of twenty royal elven knights, the journey was not entirely smooth.

It took at least two hours from entering the city gates to arriving near the roots of the ancient tree, showcasing the vastness of the elven capital.

The carriage came to a stop at an archway near the base of the ancient tree, where a group of veiled elven maids awaited. Ji Chen and his companions disembarked from the carriage, and a gentle-looking head maid stepped forward with elegant steps.

“Lord Ji Chen, Her Majesty has instructed us to welcome you here. Please follow us.”

Ji Chen nodded slightly and, with Patheia and Lainekel, followed behind. It seemed that the queen’s residence was elevated, so the head maid led them up a staircase that circled around the ancient tree.

The elven head maid led the way, her graceful curves accentuating her attractiveness as she walked. Observing this scene brought a sense of pleasure.

Miligas and Lainekel were no exception. Their gazes subtly swept over this beautiful sight, and they exchanged a knowing smile.

Seeing their reactions, Ji Chen shook his head with no small degree of exasperation. However, the elven head maid suddenly stopped, causing Ji Chen to nearly collide with her.

“Lord Ji Chen, please join us in taking the Alchemy Ascension Lift to the reception hall.”

She turned her body around and gestured toward a device on the side.

Ji Chen glanced at it; it resembled an elevator from Earth. A metal rope of an unknown material connected to a cage-like platform inscribed with runic symbols, with the other end disappearing into a high point..

Chapter 688: Elf Queen Laphia (2)

They didn’t have to climb the stairs again, which was a relief. He had been considering earlier that if they had to ascend the stairs one step at a time, it would be exhausting for the maids and guards who had to go up and down every day.

* Click.*

The alchemical elevator, pulled by the metal cable, ascended towards the heights. Their view gradually rose, and half of the Silver Moon Holy City came into sight. After ascending a few hundred meters, it gradually came to a stop, docking on an extended platform.

On both sides of the platform stood rows of fully armed elven soldiers. When they saw Ji Chen and his group, their eyes showed a gaze that was like interrogating criminals, filled with pride and disdain. Especially towards Lainekel, who emitted an evil aura, their hostility was undisguised.

Ji Chen frowned slightly and released a hint of epic-tier aura. These elven soldiers instantly felt as if a heavy stone was pressing on their shoulders, their faces turning red, and their bodies trembling.

Seeing this, the head maid shouted sternly, "These are Her Majesty's honored guests! Put away your disrespectful looks!"

The elven soldiers immediately lowered their heads and apologized, no longer showing the same eyes as before.

The head maid bowed to Ji Chen again and said apologetically, "Lord Ji Chen, it was my negligence. Please don't take it to heart."

Ji Chen dispelled the oppressive aura and said expressionlessly, "Lainekel is my friend, and I don't want others to treat him like this."

"I understand, and I will certainly discipline them more," the head maid said apologetically again.

When Lainekel saw Ji Chen speaking up for him, a trace of gratitude flashed in his eyes.

He hated Balzana even more for transforming him into this monstrous appearance, swearing to make it pay a bloody price.

Seeing that Ji Chen didn't pursue the matter further, the head maid breathed a sigh of relief. She had expected this kind of temperament from a powerful individual. What had happened was considered a minor incident for someone of his stature.

She quickly said, "Please follow me; His Majesty is just ahead."

Passing through an outer stone corridor hanging on the side, they arrived at an open-air garden. Ji Chen quickly noticed a veiled female elf sitting in a pavilion.

Just a glimpse of her side face already surpassed the beauty of any female from any race Ji Chen had ever seen. The magnificent palace attire gently wrapped around her perfectly proportioned body, revealing a hint of flawless, snow-white skin with no imperfections in sight.

Lainekel stared at the sight and gradually went blank, his eyes fixed.

As if sensing their gazes, the veiled female elf turned her head lightly, and a pair of eyes even brighter than gold gazed back.

Miligas and the head maid quickly bowed and said, "Your Majesty Laphia!"

This was the elven queen?

Although the elven race had a long lifespan, their appearance wasn't static. Although Ji Chen didn't know her exact age, according to the information he had gathered, the current elven queen had been in power for three hundred years. Yet, she looked exceptionally young now, her appearance and demeanor resembling a lady in her mid-twenties.

The elven queen stood up, slightly lifting her chin. She didn't speak, but her eyes, as if they could speak, had already provided an answer.

She shifted her gaze towards Ji Chen.

Miligas quickly introduced, "This is Lord Ji Chen, the one you wished to meet earlier, Your Majesty."

The elven queen nodded slightly, her eyes moved up and down, taking a closer look. Handsome appearance, exceptional demeanor, well-proportioned physique – there was an air of mystery and strength about him.

Quite a charming human.

She smiled faintly, her cherry lips parting, "Welcome to the Silver Moon Holy City, Glory Lord of the Ocean Crown, and this... half-human guest."

Her voice was melodious, like a songbird in a secluded valley.

Lainekel was suddenly jolted back to reality and looked embarrassed.

Ji Chen nodded slightly in acknowledgment, "Your Majesty, good day."

Queen Lavifa looked at Ji Chen and continued, "Lord Ji Chen, the Merfabric produced in your territory has become immensely popular in the Silver Moon Holy City within a short period. Countless elves have been vying for it, even the High Priest appreciates it greatly."

"It's because Your Majesty graciously allowed Ocean's Crown products in the city's market that they've become so popular," Ji Chen responded with a smile. "If you and the High Priest are interested, I still have some of the finest Merfabric available as a gift for your visit."

As the influence of Ocean's Crown grew stronger, they gradually found materials to produce top-quality Merfabric. However, they only sold the lower grades, keeping the finest ones for special occasions like this.

Such as the current situation.

Seeing Ji Chen's generosity, Queen Laphia chuckled lightly. "Lord Ji Chen is truly generous. I won't take advantage of you too much. Let's set the purchase price at a thousand units of spirit crystals per piece."

Ji Chen was slightly taken aback but then smiled. "Since Your Majesty is so agreeable, it would be affectingly coy of me to hesitate."

A thousand units of spirit crystals per piece? That was an astronomical profit!

The Merfolk were split into two groups for production. One focused on making the lower-quality Merfabric, while the other specialized in crafting the finest silk. This resulted in a weekly output of approximately fifty pieces, which was equivalent to fifty thousand spirit crystals.

Fifty thousand a week, two hundred thousand a month!

With such rapid accumulation, they could easily max out the military talent tree!

Meeting this wealthy elven queen was truly a rewarding experience!

Chapter 688: Elf Queen Laphia (2)

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Chapter 689: Elf Queen Laphia (3)

Ji Chen always enjoyed doing business with the wealthy, and it was quite evident that the Elven Queen was the wealthiest in the entire Elven Empire.

Of course, this was just an appetizer to start the conversation between them. What followed was the most important part.

Lainekel couldn't help but speak up, “Your Majesty, we have something important to discuss...”

Laphia smiled and interrupted him, “Sit down first, and then we can discuss what comes next.”

Lainekel had no choice but to close his mouth and sit nervously on the stone bench. His clenched fists showed his anxiety, and he couldn't bring himself to look directly at the Queen's face; his expression was full of unease.

However, it was not an admiration for the beautiful opposite sex but a deep-rooted unease from the depths of his soul, a feeling of wanting to escape.

The Elven Queen exuded a tide of power that made even the demonic body tremble with anxiety. Her golden eyes seemed capable of melting him directly, filling him with an uncontrollable fear.

It was like the scorching sun, leaving no place to hide for this sewer rat.

Sensing his discomfort, Laphia gave a slight smile and reassured him, “There's no need to be concerned. Even though I'm not sure about the details of your situation, as long as you're here, speaking and acting like a human, and still considering yourself a human, then you are indeed one.”

Lainekel was momentarily taken aback, then nodded in relief, his demeanor visibly relaxing.

Ji Chen smiled and said, “Thank you for your reassurance, Your Majesty. Regarding our visit this time, it is related to Lainekel's transformation.”

He once again recounted everything they had discovered in the semi-sealed mystic realm and the information Lainekel had provided about the demons.

However, after Ji Chen finished speaking, he noticed that Laphia didn't show much surprise on her face.

Curious, he asked, “Your Majesty, were you already aware of these things?”

“Not exactly.” Laphia shook her head gently. “It’s just that the High Priest has always predicted the coming of a great evil, but he didn’t expect it to be the return of the demons.

However, listening to your account, everything seems to be coming together.”

Ji Chen squinted and spoke, “Including the fact that the orderly gods haven’t responded to their followers, and there have been no oracle warnings?”

A hint of surprise flashed in Laphia’s eyes, “How did you know?”

“I pieced together a series of information fragments and made bold guesses.” Ji Chen smiled. “So, does this mean that even the event where the Elven Mother Goddess descended with an oracle more than a decade ago is also..”

“Yes, I faked it,” Laphia admitted straightforwardly. “The believers need the response and protection of the gods. This is for the stable development of the Elven race and to soothe their souls.”

As a nation that had been under the protection of the gods for countless ages, a kingdom that worshipped the gods, each reigning queen required the oracle of the Elven Mother Goddess to reassure the citizens. If the people ever discovered that the gods no longer favored them, it could lead to unpredictable and severe consequences.

Therefore, when the High Priest failed multiple times to receive the oracle, Laphia decisively fabricated false oracles.

With the cooperation of the High Priest, as the highest ruler, there was no way the elves would doubt the authenticity of the oracle.

They believed that they were still basking in the divine light of the gods and continued to play music and dance, maintaining the peace and prosperity of the nation.

Of course, this was not what Ji Chen was concerned about. He was more interested in the attitude of the Elven Queen.

“Your Majesty, what is your stance on the suspicion that dark deities have entangled the orderly gods, and that the demons are about to return after hundreds of thousands of years?”

Chapter 690: Acting

“My plan?” Laphia pondered for a moment. “Are you absolutely certain about the accuracy of this situation?”

“Of course, Lainekel is the best proof. He was captured by the dreadlord Balzarna during the God War’s final stages and underwent inhuman modifications,” Ji Chen explained.

“On our way to the Silvermoon Holy City, we were also attacked by demon-influenced evil orcs. Combined with the unusual absence of divine oracles from the Orderly Gods, I have every reason to believe that demons are poised to invade once more.”

However, Laphia sighed. “I believe you, but... the Council and the Elder Temple won’t be so easily convinced.

So much time has passed, and most races have completely forgotten the great war that happened hundreds of thousands of years ago, let alone seen demons... Even though Lainekel is now a half-demon, half-human being, who would believe that?”

“As for the attacks on the way... they would probably think it’s just a group of evil orcs going mad due to the elves’ long-term oppression. At most, they might send some troops to exterminate a few evil orc tribes as retaliation.

To mobilize an army capable of defending against a demon invasion, we need to convince the Council and the Elder Temple in a more impactful way. Otherwise, they won’t risk depleting massive military resources to move troops from all over. At best, I can only mobilize the Royal Guard.”

Ji Chen paused, understanding the implications.

The Elven Empire was vast, with most territories managed by noble elves and lords who oversaw their own lands and armies.

While Laphia was revered by the elves, it would be challenging to command these noble elves and lords to deploy their forces for a war whose authenticity was unclear.

Mobilizing an army required significant funds, especially for an army of millions. Despite being the supreme empress, Laphia had to consider their interests.

It all boiled down to the lack of concrete evidence in front of the world, making it difficult for those noble elves and lords to grasp the seriousness of the situation.

Ji Chen felt a headache coming on but suddenly had a brilliant idea.

In a deep voice, he said, “If we could present undeniable evidence that would convince them, would they then believe in the demon invasion and prepare for war?”

Laphia nodded thoughtfully. “Of course.”

“Alright. I can settle this then.”

Laphia glanced at Ji Chen, who appeared somewhat self-assured, with a subtle narrowing of her own eyes. “Do you have a strategy in mind?”

Ji Chen nodded with a smile but didn’t answer immediately. “Your Majesty, has there been any recent events in the Silvermoon Holy City that could gather a large number of elven nobles and lords?”

Laphia interlocked her fingers and pondered for a moment.

“Let me think... There is a grand banquet scheduled in three days, where most of the elven nobles and lords of the Silvermoon Holy City will attend. It includes not only the local lords but also the commanders of elite armies.

If you wish to reveal this matter during the banquet, it can be done, but the problem remains – how to make them believe.”

Ji Chen smiled faintly. “Your Majesty, actions speak louder than words. Only when they witness a demon attack firsthand, will it have the most profound impact.”

“However, this plan requires your approval and support.”

Laphia chuckled lightly, crossing her legs under the table, her well-defined ankles peeking out from her gown. Although she was seated on a regular stone bench, her imposing presence made it seem like she was sitting on a throne atop a high platform.

“Please go on; I’m interested to hear your ingenious ideas.”

Ji Chen snapped his fingers. “It’s quite simple, Your Majesty. Since your nobles and lords don’t believe in demon invasions, let them face a demon attack head-on during the upcoming banquet.”

A glint of interest flickered in Laphia’s eyes. “Are you suggesting that Sir Lainekel, who is half-demon and half-human, should put on a show?”

“Your Majesty is indeed astute and quickly grasped my idea.”

Lainekel had been listening silently, but when the topic turned to him, he couldn’t help but be taken aback.

“So, you mean to say, I should unleash a bloodbath at the banquet in three days, using bloodshed and death to serve as a warning? But wouldn’t that be too extreme...”

Did he want to start something this big?

Though he had been transformed into his current appearance, he still had the heart of a human. He couldn’t bring himself to harm innocent elves just for the sake of a warning. Such a thing was beyond his capacity.

Ji Chen rolled her eyes. “Who said you actually have to kill anyone? My point is to scare them.”

Lainekel suddenly realized.

Laphia nodded. “That’s one way to go about it. However, if there are no casualties, it may not have a significant impact. Ideally, we should have a few inconsequential deaths, along with some older immortals who possess ample resources. This approach would help us consolidate our resources without drawing too much attention due to excessive casualties.”

Hearing this, Ji Chen and Lainekel looked at Laphia in awe.

Wow, we were just thinking of scaring them a bit, but you’re already considering how many casualties would be appropriate.

Are elves really this ruthless towards their own kind?

“If Your Majesty finds this feasible, we should start planning the details.” Ji Chen cleared his throat, temporarily interrupting Laphia’s musings, and took out some demonic pearls from his backpack. “These demonic pearls were collected from the semi-closed mystic realm and can be used to enhance the effect..”