

Ocean Lord 691

Chapter 691: Acting (2)

The Demonic Blood Pearl was a condensation of demonic energy. It could be reverted to its demonic form through special methods. Demonic energy was inherently negative energy, prolonged exposure to which could drive people insane, and even short-term exposure could cause dizziness and irritability.

Throwing this thing into the banquet hall would be a perfect biochemical weapon, enough to condense for three days without dispersing.

“Not bad, this should greatly enhance the realism.” Laphia nodded approvingly. “After everything is over, I will also commission the High Priest to coordinate public opinion.”

Ji Chen’s eyes brightened, instantly understanding.

The Elven High Priest acted as a conduit for divine prophecies. If, following the “demon” assault on the gathering, the mother goddess delivered a prophecy in a timely manner, it would serve as a flawless strategy to sway public opinion.

In this way, it was likely that no matter what, those elven nobles and lords would choose to believe in this fact.

Ji Chen turned around, patting Lainekel’s shoulder with a solemn tone.

“The success or failure of this matter lies entirely with you. The fate of the world rests in your hands, Sir Lainekel.”

Lainckel’s expression immediately became solemn, nodding hastily. “Rest assured, I will definitely complete this mission perfectly, and I will not allow failure!”

“With me here, you will surely not fail.”

The people present stiffened, their eyes instantly vigilant as they looked towards a stranger elven woman in mage robes standing on the garden path not far away.

Just as the others were guessing who this elven woman might be and how she came here, they heard Ji Chen say a sentence.

“Lady Elin, long time no see.”

They were stunned, Elin?

Laphia couldn’t help but furrow her brow. She seemed to have heard this name somewhere before. Suddenly, a memory surged like a tide, causing her calm demeanor to change suddenly.

“Ancestor?”

Elin looked at Laphia affectionately. “Is this how my descendants greet me? You look good, almost resembling an empress. Not bad at all, showing a bit of the imperial demeanor.”

Laphia quickly stood up, speaking with respectful tone, “How dare I claim to be an empress in front of my ancestor? When you were in power, you led the empire to flourish, campaigning in the south and battling in the north, driving the trolls to the ends of the earth, expelling the evil orcs to the wilderness, seizing the land vital for our survival as elves. Your contributions were immense, and I have always greatly admired you.”

Elin waved her hand nonchalantly. “Those are all old stories now. Since you have been entrusted with the hopes of many and ascended to become a queen, naturally, you also have exceptional qualities.”

Although she said so, from Elin’s gaze, one could tell that she was quite pleased, especially since even thousands of years later, a descendant still remembers her.

Ji Chen was somewhat surprised. It turned out that Elin had once been a generation of Elven Empress, something she had never mentioned before.

Laphia said, “Ancestor, the records show that thousands of years ago, after you abdicated the throne of empress, you went out to travel the world. But after leaving, you never came back. Did something happen during that time?”

Elin’s face stiffened. Could she really say that she was captured halfway by a perverted lich and then imprisoned for thousands of years like an animal? That would be too embarrassing for the elves.

This thousands-year-old epic-tier elf powerhouse was now facing one of the few embarrassing and difficult moments in her life, even more nervous than facing those epic-tier enemies.

She couldn’t afford to lose face in front of a descendant who admired her.

“Something happened during that time... But just a few months ago, this Lord of Glory helped me out of trouble, allowing me to come back and take a look.”

Elin briefly explained in a tactful manner. Seeing this, Laphia understood and stopped asking further questions, turning to say,

“Speaking of which, it was Lord Ji Chen who mentioned your name to me, which made me aware that you are still active in the world.”

Ji Chen interjected at the right moment, “I only mentioned Lady Elin’s surname casually to Sir Miligas. I didn’t expect Sir Miligas to pass it on to Your Majesty with such a sense of responsibility.”

Miligas bowed nervously. “It’s my duty, nothing more.”

Truth be told, Miligas felt a little overwhelmed at the moment. Everyone else in the room, whether human or elf, seemed to wield significant power or held prestigious positions. As a simple civilian diplomat, he was likely the least influential person present, especially standing before an ancient empress who appeared eternally youthful, as if she could see right through the entire elven race.

“Ambassador Miligas has achieved quite a bit during his years as an ambassador, suppressing the mountain trolls in the Alvin Mountains, safeguarding the interests of the empire in the Maple Principality, and recently bringing back thousands of our

people who were stranded in the frozen wilderness. Hmm, I think it's time for you to return to the Holy City and take on a more important position."

Miligas's face lit up with joy for a moment, but he quickly regained his composure, respectfully bowing and saying, "Thank you for Your Majesty's kindness!"

Ji Chen smiled at this and redirected the conversation, "Lady Elin, what did you mean just now?"

Elin glanced at the pavilion, which was now fully occupied. Miligas hesitated for a moment, then tactfully made room. "Please, have a seat."

Elin nodded in satisfaction and took her seat. "I am aware of the demon invasion you mentioned earlier, and I understand your plan. If there is a need to mobilize, I will personally take action.

Moreover, there are some pests within the empire that need to be dealt with, so it's a good opportunity.."

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A top-tier epic powerhouse, backed by the immense prestige of a former empress, would undoubtedly provide tremendous assistance.

With Elin included, their "small group" now boasted three epic powerhouses, making them incredibly formidable.

Under their discussion, a concrete implementation plan gradually took shape.

Three days later arrived swiftly.

Luxurious carriages appeared from various parts of the city, converging at a large club in the city center. Descending from these carriages were elegantly dressed elven nobles, including wealthy aristocrats and legion commanders.

Inside the club, these high-ranking elves wore genteel smiles, adhering to standard elven etiquette as they mingled, discussing not only commercial news worth millions of resources and coins but also the current world situation or family matters.

The younger elves formed small groups, exchanging tender glances and whispering intimate topics, or they danced together in the ballroom.

On the valuable wooden tables around the room lay delicacies and fine wines from around the world. These items, considered exorbitantly expensive elsewhere, were mere common fare here, serving only as fillers for their stomachs.

On a nearby platform, a band played soft classical music, adding a touch of elegance to the atmosphere.

This was the daily life of the elite elves, characterized by robust national power, abundant wealth, and lofty confidence, allowing them to indulge in luxury. With vast wealth at their disposal, they enjoyed themselves, attending banquets or going hunting every day.

Although the Elven Empire was powerful, signs of decay and decline had begun to appear within.

Most elven nobles no longer possessed the ambition and drive they had tens of thousands of years ago to resist the forces of evil.

On the second-floor indoor balcony, Ji Chen looked through the curtain's crack at the scene below, where even the air seemed to be tainted with decadence, and couldn't help but sigh.

"You elves really know how to enjoy yourselves. Hosting a banquet like this probably costs millions of gold coins."

Sensing the slight mockery in Ji Chen's words, Miligas couldn't help but show a embarrassed expression. Large-scale banquets like this were something he had often attended when he was younger, each costing at least tens of millions.

Although it was a lot, it wasn't much for the extremely wealthy elves.

"Ahem, thank you for speaking up for me in front of Queen Laphia and Queen Elin earlier," Miligas said gratefully.

Ji Chen waved his hand dismissively. "It was just going with the flow, nothing significant."

Miligas quickly added, "But this is a rare opportunity for me. If you ever need my assistance in the future, please feel free to ask."

Miligas had also come to realize the reality. Ji Chen's current status far surpassed his own, and what he needed to do now was to firmly grasp onto his coattails in order to rise to greater heights and reach a higher platform.

Ji Chen smiled and said nothing, accepting the promise. He glanced at the time and said, "It's about to begin. Get ready."

Meanwhile, outside the club, an unremarkable carriage slowly approached. Seeing such a nondescript carriage approaching, the elven guards stepped forward immediately, shouting.

"Unauthorized vehicles are not allowed to approach. Otherwise, they will be fined and punished!"

However, the carriage showed no intention of stopping and continued towards the club. This immediately angered the elven soldiers, who approached with some annoyance. However, they were surprised to find that there was no driver in the carriage; it was being pulled by a single horse and completely sealed shut.

They became instantly vigilant, gripping their weapons.

"Who's in the carriage? Come out now, or we'll shoot!"

Boom!

The carriage exploded instantly, and an extreme malice, as if from the abyss, spread rapidly like tentacles, causing them to shiver.

A figure shrouded in black mist slowly stood up, revealing only a pair of blood-red eyes..

Chapter 693: Hehehe!

A serene and tranquil atmosphere filled with beautiful melodies in the club was suddenly disrupted by a piercing alarm, accompanied by cries of horror and distress.

The intricately carved white marble relief sculptures were pockmarked, and the elven statues in the fountain lay shattered, leaving only fragmented feet. The meticulously tended flora and fauna seemed ravaged, as if swept away by a storm.

“Enemy attack!”

“Quick, stop this monster! Don’t let it harm the nobles inside!”

The defending elven soldiers rushed forward in formation, but with a casual wave, the shadowy figure enveloped in black mist sent them flying, crashing heavily into the walls.

This creature was highly focused, breaking through each layer of defense and charging straight towards the interior of the club. No elven soldier could impede its advance; even a rare-tier hero who heard the commotion and rushed over nearby was swatted away like a ball.

“What kind of monster is this!?” A elven soldier gritted his teeth, watching as the malicious mist around the creature seemed to solidify, especially those eyes, seemingly the most evil in the world, which just staring at them made him feel stiff and cold all over.

He had only felt such terrifying pressure from heritage-level experts, no, this was even stronger than legacy-tier!

Watching his comrades being knocked away one by one, he suppressed his inner fear and yelled, gripping his weapon and charging forward as if to bolster his courage.

Crack!

The elven weapon, forged of elven steel, was sliced apart like tofu. He was sent flying tens of meters by a tremendous force, crashing into the nearby bushes.

Spitting out blood, feeling like his ribs were shattered countless times, his arms twisted grotesquely, and his body limp, he could only watch in horror as the monster approached the gate.

Amid the desperate gazes of many elven soldiers, the black mist monster boldly broke through the final outer defense line, charging in like a raging bull.

The faceless monster looked at the terrified elven nobles inside the club, as if recalling something, and let out a hoarse, eerie laugh.

“Hehehe, finally found you. I’ll make you feel the pain we’ve endured for hundreds of thousands of years!”

“Who are you!? This is Silvermoon Holy City! If you dare to cause trouble, you will become the enemy of the entire Elven Empire!” Some elven nobles shouted in horror.

“Who am I? It seems that hundreds of thousands of years of comfortable living have made you forget about us.” The monster chuckled again. “But it doesn’t matter. After today, you will know who we are.”

The black mist of the monster spread rapidly like a tide, flooding the entire club like water pouring into a leaky boat, shrouding it in thick black mist, rendering it pitch black and disorienting.

Fear spread instantly throughout this space.

The monster seemed to revel in the fear and unease of the elven nobles, its unsettling voice echoing as if whispered directly into their ears. Accompanied by a piercing scream, several elven nobles were horrified to find a venerable old man beside them already cleaved in two, his intestines spilling out from the gash, the pungent smell of blood assaulting their senses.

Their faces paled. This was the lord of White Sands Harbor, who had reigned over the region for centuries with unshakable power and wealth, now slain here?

White Sands Harbor was likely to fall into turmoil.

But soon, they pushed these thoughts aside and turned to their own safety.

The monster continued to hover around them, seemingly pondering who to strike next.

They still had long lives ahead of them, countless riches and resources to enjoy. No one wanted to die here, inexplicably and without purpose.

“What are the guards doing!? Come and kill this monster... Ah!!”

Another scream heightened the terror of the other elven nobles. This monster wasn't just killing for the sake of it; it was randomly selecting victims among them. One died here, another there, with no pattern.

Some of the more skilled elves attempted to unite against it, but without exception, they were dispatched by the monster's preternatural skill, their defenses shattered by its sharp edges.

In just a few short minutes, they felt unbearably tormented, trembling with fear, each dreading that the next victim would be themselves.

The evil, sinister voice echoed.

“Hehehe, after hundreds of thousands of years, have you elves become so weak? Unable to withstand even a single blow from me. Well, I'm tired of playing. Let me send you on your final journey... Damn it!”

Suddenly, a beam of light pierced through the pervading black mist, illuminating the surroundings as if dispelling darkness. The monstrosly evil creature appeared on the dance floor not far away.

Under the light, the black mist surrounding it weakened, faintly revealing arms and legs that seemed less than human, as well as a shattered horn.

Sometime during this chaos, the roof had vanished, and the majestic figure of Elin hovered in the air, looking down with an air of authority, her eyes seeming to emit sharp, tangible gazes. “Bold demon, dare you escape from the depths of chaos, intrude upon our clan's holy city, and slay our people!? Hasn't the demon race had enough of the pain of defeat over hundreds of thousands of years?”

The creature called demon chuckled sinisterly. “Our race has been planning for tens of thousands of years for this resurgence.. Moreover, with these worthless elves, how can they hinder the rise of our race?”

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“My demon race shall return and become the new masters of this world! Hehehe!!”

Elin looked at Lainekel, who had fully embraced his evil role, almost losing her composure, but she held on, a hint of murderous intent flashing across her face. “Then, perish!”

With a wave of her hand, a swift attack descended.

The monster remained calm, disappearing in an instant and reappearing a hundred meters away, sneering, “Don’t be in such a hurry. When our kind breaches the barriers of rule completely, that will be the time for us to truly engage.

At that time, we will settle the scores of hundreds of thousands of years ago, turning your elves into slaves of our kind, tasting the bitterness of pain!”

After speaking, it vanished before the next attack arrived.

The surrounding elves looked around fearfully, realizing that the monster had indeed left, instantly relaxing. Many even slumped to the ground, completely devoid of their previous grace and composure.

Some of the still relatively calm elven nobles recalled the conversation between the monster and this unfamiliar powerful elf.

Demons? Abyssal depths? Resurgence!?

The conversation, filled with such significant information, nearly made their heads spin.

Some looked puzzled, not quite understanding what demons represented, while others wore horrified expressions, their minds conjuring up frightening possibilities.

Although the attack lasted only a dozen minutes, the waves it brought swept through the entire Silvermoon Holy City.

According to statistics, in this attack, a total of thirty-eight elven nobles and lords were killed. Without exception, they were all significant figures in the Elven Empire, either lords of prosperous territories or commanders controlling legions, wielding immense power and wealth.

But now, they all lay dead in the club, killed by a demon.

This incident instantly shook the entire Elven Empire.

Queen of the Elves, Laphia, immediately ordered the entire Silvermoon Holy City to be sealed off after the incident, to hunt down the culprit. At the same time, to ensure the stability of the empire, she dispatched twelve fully organized royal legions overnight to various parts of the country, temporarily managing the territories of the deceased nobles, suppressing potential riots and other destabilizing factors.

Soon after, the unfamiliar powerful elf who saved the attacked elven nobles made a public appearance under the accompaniment of Queen Laphia, admitting that she was the twelfth generation Queen of the Elves, Elin Apocalis.

Having traveled the world thousands of years ago, she accidentally discovered traces of demons and had been tracing them ever since, returning to the Silvermoon Holy City today.

For a moment, the term “demon” spread throughout the entire Silvermoon Holy City, and countless elves were discussing demons, even young children were aware of the evil and cruelty associated with demons.

The Life Ancient Tree, in that open-air garden.

The “evil demon” who was being hunted throughout the city and even the entire Elven Empire was now standing at the edge of the garden, looking strangely at the elven soldiers searching everywhere in the city.

Turning back to look at the few people leisurely sitting in the pavilion.

“Lord Ji Chen, my acting skills are decent, aren’t they? I saw those elven nobles looking dumbfounded.”

“Your acting is excellent. If I hadn’t been sure that you still maintained your sanity, I would have thought you turned into a demon.”

Hearing Ji Chen’s teasing, Laineckl’s face showed a trace of helplessness.

Ji Chen smiled. “Lady Elin, how do you think the performance went?”

Elin calmly took a sip of tea, gracefully setting down her cup. “It passed muster. At least those nobles won’t have any suspicions.”

“But wiping out thirty-eight nobles and lords in a single stroke, Laphia, you’re truly bold.”

Laphia chuckled lightly, but her eyes were incredibly cold. “Those parasites, if they are unwilling to give up the rights and resources that don’t rightfully belong to them, then I have no choice but to send them to their deaths.

This is also to better concentrate our strength and resist the demons’ invasion.”

Elin chuckled bitterly. “That’s true. In just a few thousand years, the empire has decayed so much compared to my time that I almost didn’t recognize it.”

She remembered what she had seen on her way back to the empire’s territory, shaking her head involuntarily.

Those nobles and lords who managed their territories were all greedy, relying on power and family to plunder wealth recklessly. If they were plundering the wealth of other kingdoms, it would be one thing, but much of what they seized belonged to their own people.

They ate their fill, while the citizens became increasingly impoverished.

Neither Laphia nor Elin could tolerate such occurrences. However, these noble and lordly powers were too strong, deeply rooted in their territories, and their interconnections were too intertwined. The aftermath of forcibly clearing them out would be too significant.

Now, they could use the name of demons to “righteously” deal with them, killing two birds with one stone.

Lainekel looked at the “sinister” smiles on the faces of the two elves, feeling a chill run down his spine. Why did these two elves look more like demons than he did?

“Regardless, this plan has been quite successful. All we need to do now is wait for things to escalate further, and then, Your Majesty Laphia and Lady Elin, you can fan the flames a bit more. I believe other elves will soon mobilize.” Laphia nodded. “At that time, I will invite rulers from other human kingdoms, as well as forces from the orderly camp, to gather and discuss how to resist the demons..”

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“That’s naturally the best outcome.”

Ji Chen slowly revealed a relieved smile, finally pushing things to this point.

Since the discovery of the demonic invasion, amidst countless attacks by corrupted creatures, encountering Lainekel, and then crossing the ocean to reach this northern continent, the journey had been fraught with peril.

As long as other orderly factions learned of this matter, they would at least be on guard. Even if the demons were powerful, it would be difficult for them to sweep across the continent in one fell swoop. This also served Ji Chen’s purpose.

If the demons’ assault was thwarted, perhaps the Crown of the Ocean could receive support from the orderly factions.

Thinking back to Lainekel’s warning that the Greed Lord would attack the southern continent, Ji Chen couldn’t help but worry. The southern continent was distant, and he wasn’t sure of the route there. All he could do was silently pray for the people of the southern continent.

While news of the demon incident spread throughout the elven empire...

In the barren mountains of the south, within a large basin.

Here lived a massive orc tribe, one of the most powerful and evil orc tribes among the endless mountains.

An orc rider descended from the sky on a wyvern with a pointed beak, handing over his mount to another orc responsible for its care. He hurriedly dashed to the center of the tribe, to a tent made of beast hides.

He bowed and saluted to the supreme orc king on the throne.

“King, I’ve heard some news from the pointed ears.”

Quetori Shatteredfang, with a fur-clad female orc leaning against him, ate a grape fed by the female orc before slowly asking, “What news?”

“Demons have appeared in the Silvermoon Holy City and killed dozens of elves!”

“What?” Quetori Shatteredfang showed surprise. “Didn’t the demons plan to conceal their invasion until they completely broke through the rule barrier before declaring their invasion?”

“Where did you hear this news?”

“This matter has spread throughout the entire elven empire. Otherwise, it would have been difficult for me to investigate such news.”

Quetori Shatteredfang signaled for the female orc to leave, then leaned back in the beast-hide chair, his eyes showing a hint of fierceness. “Is this true?” “Absolutely!” the orc rider swore, “If it’s false, then after my death, I won’t be able to go to the Hall of Heroes and will be condemned by the orc god!” Hearing the orc rider make such a vow, Quetori Shatteredfang’s expression softened a bit. “Even so, what’s the use of killing dozens of pointed ears? Those elven military forces are strong, and killing a few dozen won’t make much of a difference.”

“But I heard that dozens of elven nobles and lords were killed, all of high status and power. The entire elven empire is in turmoil now!”

Quetori Shatteredfang’s face showed surprise, then he seemed to think of something and said excitedly, “This must be the demon’s plan!”

The orc rider looked confused.

“Anyway, their invasion will definitely attract the attention of the pointed ears when the time comes. So, it’s better to take action first, secretly attacking and killing important elves. This way, we can cause chaos among the pointed ears!”

The more he spoke, the more confident Quetori Shatteredfang became. “The pointed ears are the strongest force of the orderly factions. As long as they are in chaos, the demons will have no opponents. Plus, with our evil orcs, we can surely quickly deal with other orderly factions!”

“By then, our evil faction will dominate the entire world!”

The orc rider, listening to their king as if he had the world in his palm, couldn’t help but pause for a moment. “What should we do now?”

“What should we do? Of course, we must respond! As their allies, how can we stand idly by?”

“Spread my orders: take advantage of this chaos, send a ten-thousand-strong force into the elven territory, and plunder along the borders!”

‘Yes, sir!!’

Chapter 696: The Wood Elves

When the news of the evil orcs, who had been severely beaten by the Elven Empire in the desolate mountains, actively invaded the border and pillaged, reached the Silvermoon Holy City, Ji Chen, Laphia, and Elin were somewhat bewildered.

But soon they became joyful.

Although they didn't know why these evil orcs, with brains no bigger than walnuts, suddenly provoked the Elven Empire, which was already engulfed in intense desires for war and strong hatred towards the evil faction due to the terrifying demon attacks, it was undoubtedly excellent news.

This foolish act, resembling a child provoking an adult, instantly ignited the fuse of the entire Elven Empire, providing an outlet for the anger that had been brewing due to the inability to capture the mastermind behind the demon attacks.

Seizing this opportunity, Laphia delivered an impassioned speech, rallying the national sentiment to the fullest. Faced with the surging public opinion, elf nobles and lords from all over could not sit idly by and began to mobilize.

Rather, these extremely proud, self-proclaimed descendants of the Mother Goddess felt greatly offended, as if their faces were burning with fury.

It was like the little rascal you usually look down upon suddenly throwing pebbles at you from behind when you're not paying attention. It didn't cause much harm but was extremely insulting.

You lowly orcs, who have been beaten by us elves and can only hide in the desolate mountains, dare to actively invade our borders?

Don't you know it's been three days since we've had a chance to vent our anger?

The incomprehensible behavior of the evil orcs indirectly accelerated the Elven Empire's preparations for war.

Moreover, it seemed to confirm the suspicions of those evil alliances in the Divine War. It appeared they had received a message from the demons and were planning to ignite war once again. This provided further support for the Queen's assertion that the demons were about to return.

Those damned creatures probably really want to extend their claws into this world once again!

Soon, the Silvermoon Holy City dispatched a directly affiliated Royal Knight Order, along with armies from various elf lords along the way, forming a massive army of over fifty thousand, marching vigorously towards the border ravaged by the evil orcs.

Along the way, it was like receiving royal treatment, with elf maidens offering enough flowers to pave a field.

This army had an average tier of six, with the directly affiliated Royal Knight Order reaching six stars. Although there were only three thousand of them, their combat power was equivalent to more than ten times that of the evil orcs.

Such a force was more than enough to deal with thousands of evil orcs, and they could even enter the desolate mountains to wipe out several orc tribes as reciprocal retaliation.

As the army set out, news of the demon attacks in Silvermoon Holy City spread through the well-established trade routes to other parts of the Northern Continent, astonishing other kingdoms and powers.

Among them were elders and strong individuals who were well aware of many details about the divine war that occurred tens of thousands of years ago. They were the most shocked by such events.

The demons, an evil race that had long disappeared into the annals of history, suppressed by the orderly gods in the depths of chaos, had actually reappeared in the main world?

They even launched a terrifying attack within the elven kingdom, killing dozens of high-ranking and influential elven nobles?

They all knew the temperament of these elves. With so many elven nobles dead, there was bound to be an explosion.

While they harbored some doubts and confusion, when the current elven queen, Laphia, sent invitations to various human kingdoms and orderly faction forces to discuss the demon invasion, they all responded without hesitation.

The last time the elves invited them was a long time ago.

In a council chamber atop the ancient Life Tree.

“Now, most of the human kingdoms and orderly forces in the Northern Continent have responded to the invitation, agreeing to attend this meeting. However, it may take some time for the Western and Eastern Continents to reply due to the long distance.”

Laphia paused, then continued, “As for the distant Southern Continent, if we send the message through overland routes, it will take at least two months to reach there.”

It would take two months to deliver the message. Wouldn't it take another four to five months for the southern countries to prepare and come to the Elven Empire?

By then, it might be too late.

If they could notify the southern countries in advance and let them make some preparations, perhaps it would increase the chances of survival when the demon army attacked.

“But if we directly cross the Western Mid-Ocean, it will only take half a month.”

Lainekel sighed. “However, without a navigable route through the southern seas, it's difficult to reach the Southern Continent in such a short time.”

Laphia and Elin nodded slightly. Even the elves did not control the maritime routes through the southern seas. For over a thousand years, the journey to the Southern Continent had always been made either through overland routes in a large circle or along the rugged coastline.

Ji Chen seemed to remember something and said, “A few months ago, a merchant from the Southern Continent passed through my territory, but he disappeared after arriving in the Maple Principality. There are rumors that he seemed to be heading to the Silvermoon Holy City.

If we could find this merchant from the Southern Continent, perhaps we could learn about the maritime route to the Southern Continent.”

Chapter 697: Wood Elves (2)

“What’s the name of this merchant?”¹

“He calls himself Ari. He’s quite young, and he has quite a few servants and guards with him.”

“I’ll send someone to investigate this matter.”

Laphia nodded slightly, glanced around, and pondered for a moment before saying, “There’s another matter. We lost contact with the Wood Elves a year ago, and the entrance to their sanctuary has been sealed. I suspect it’s related to the demons.”

Her expression grew slightly grave after she finished speaking.

“Wood Elves?”

Ji Chen looked puzzled.

Elin explained slowly.

In simple terms, the Wood Elves were a branch of the elven tribe, much like the Ocean Pixies after the divine war, who dispersed and proliferated in various places. Unlike the Ocean Pixies, who had fully adapted to the sea, and the mainstream elves who remained in the Elven Empire in the main world, the Wood Elves were a highly revered and somewhat exclusive elven group that prioritized physical strength.

After the divine war, they migrated to a secluded sanctuary west of the Elven Empire to live, avoiding contact with the outside world unless absolutely necessary, focusing solely on cultivating their physical strength.

For such a long time, only the mainstream elves of the Elven Empire occasionally had contact with them.

“In the closed sanctuary where the Wood Elves live, we found remnants of unique spatial energy. This implies that some foreign objects used spatial traversal abilities to forcibly break through the sanctuary blockade and intrude. And this unique spatial energy...”

At this point, Laphia glanced at Lainekel. “It’s extremely similar to the spatial jumping ability you demonstrated during the act.”

Lainekel’s face changed slightly.

His spatial jumping ability was not originally his own; it was the ability brought about by the legs of a demon slayer transplanted by the Dreadlord Balzarna. Doesn’t this mean that demon slayers may have appeared in the sanctuary where the Wood Elves are located?

And the timing was exactly one year ago.

“But the specific situation will need to be known after the sanctuary is opened. The Wood Elves are also a quite powerful force. If we can get them to join the war, it will increase the chances of defeating the demons.

For now, I can't personally go there. I don't trust the strength of the other elves too much when facing these cunning demons. Lord Ji Chen, can you lead a team to investigate?”

“Of course, but...”

Laphia smiled. “Generous rewards will be sent to you at that time, allowing your territory to be more prepared when facing the demon invasion.”

Ji Chen liked making friends with such smart elves. The Ocean Crown was eagerly awaiting resources, and judging from the price of the previous Merfabric, a queen of the elves would surely offer quite a lot.

After bidding farewell to Laphia and Elin, Ji Chen, Patheia, and Lainekel set out on the journey once again. However, this time, they were accompanied by three elite squads of elven soldiers.

Originally, when these elven soldiers saw that a human was leading them, they all seemed unruly, but after Ji Chen demonstrated his epic strength, they all became obedient and respectful.

“Wherever the strong go, they are respected, a common saying among the elves.”

The entrance to the sanctuary where the Wood Elves reside is located a few hundred miles east of the Elven Empire, near an inland sea called the Boro Sea. Along the way are vast plains and grasslands of the northern continent, and their marching speed is not slow. They quickly reached their destination under continuous day and night travel.

It was an inland sea stretching for miles beyond sight, extending several hundred kilometers eastward from the eastern border of the Elven Empire, with the territory of another lawful race at the other end of the sea.

“Lord Ji Chen, ahead is the entrance to the sanctuary of the Wood Elves, but for some reason, it's sealed from the inside,” said the elven officer, pointing to a valley ahead.

Ji Chen looked at Lainekel, who was tightly wrapped in armor. The latter nodded, and a muffled voice came from under the visored helmet, “Indeed, there are residual spatial energies there, along with a faint... demonic aura,” Sure enough, it was the work of demons!

Upon hearing this, the elven officer cast a curious glance at Lainekel. He had been wearing armor throughout the journey from the capital, not a speck of skin exposed, not even when sleeping. No one knew if he was human or another race.

But it was just curiosity. A person entrusted by Her Majesty should not be ordinary.

These elves probably wouldn't even imagine that this “armored figure” was the “demon” who caused the entire Elven Empire to tremble during the terrifying attack at the club.

Ji Chen asked, “Is there a way to open the entrance to the sanctuary?”

“I'll try.”

Lainekel used the power of the demon slayer's legs to communicate with the entrance hidden in space.

Suddenly, the air in the valley vibrated, and a slow-revolving green vortex about a dozen meters wide gradually appeared.

The demon had sealed the entrance to the sanctuary using the spatial power of the demon slayer, which collided with Lainekel's familiar domain.

Seeing his prowess, the elven officer and the other elves looked at him with different eyes.

This guy is amazing! They had been struggling for so long, but he fixed it within minutes of arrival.

Seeing that the entrance was open, Ji Chen wasted no time.

With a wave of his hand, he commanded, "Form up and proceed, stay vigilant for enemies!"

The three elite elven thousand-strong teams instantly shifted into battle formation, with three rows of crossbowmen in front and sword and shield bearers behind, advancing in formation under the command of the elven officer.

Ji Chen and his companions walked into the center of the formation, while the Sea Crystal Wyverns quickly took to the sky to establish air superiority.

Before them lay a desolate plain, as if scorched by a raging fire for seven days and nights. The ground was littered with charred debris, and the nearby village stood in ruins, with walls and buildings bearing the marks of scorching.

A strong sense of evil and death permeated the air.

Proceeding cautiously into the ruined village, the elven officer whispered, "Where are the Wood Elves who lived here? Where have they gone?"

No one answered him, and the surroundings were eerily silent, like the silence of death.

Passing through the entire village, they found no trace of any Wood Elves or any living beings. But from the remnants of life, it was clear that Wood Elves had indeed lived here.

A sense of foreboding crept into the hearts of the group.

"We must continue deeper into the sanctuary and find the Wood Elves... even if it means finding their corpses,"

Ji Chen looked at Lainekel. "Sense where the demonic presence is strongest; that's where we'll likely find clues."

Lainekel nodded and began to concentrate.

As a half-demon, half-human who had lived in the Abyss for a long time, his familiarity with demonic aura was as high as his familiarity with his own foot odor.

In just a moment, Lainekel pointed to the northwest.

Ji Chen waved his hand, "Proceed in that direction."

From the traces along the way, it was clear that the environment here had once been excellent, with vast grasslands, lush forests, and vibrant valleys. It had been home to a large number of Wood Elves.

However, now all that lay before them was a barren wasteland, polluted and stripped of life, with barren rocks and gravel scattered around. Bare, dead trees stood lonely on hilltops, under a sky obscured by murky clouds.

Everything here indicated a devastating invasion. The enemy not only targeted the Wood Elves but also laid waste to this place.

Looking at the grim scene along the way, Lainekel murmured softly.

“This must be the work of demons. They enjoy polluting the land to create a suitable environment for warfare, or they pollute and destroy after slaughtering everything, leaving behind only worthless land for the enemy to reclaim.”

Polluting the environment wasn't something only the Decaying Demon King would do; all demons operated in such a manner, but the former did so in a more heinous and thorough manner.

According to Lainekel's description, the Decaying Demon King could turn an area of a hundred miles into a decaying swamp, turning it into a breeding ground for demons. Once it took root in a resource-rich area, it could continuously produce demon armies.

“Report, abnormality detected ahead!”

As they drew closer to the area thick with demonic aura, the elven soldiers scouting ahead also noticed something unusual.

When they entered a spacious valley and saw the hellish scene at its center, all the elves were stunned.

Chapter 698: Demon Blood Sacrifice

In the middle of that valley stood a startling altar, with bodies piled up like mountains, filling the entire valley with the stench of blood and a nauseating odor of decay carried by the mountain breeze.

On the ground around the altar, there were bloodstains painted with some kind of sinister and evil array, with the center of the array being the altar piled with thousands of Wood Elf corpses.

This extremely shocking scene left all the elves stunned.

“This is the evil blood sacrifice array of the demon clan, using a large number of living beings as sacrifices to summon some powerful evil beasts,” Lainekel said in a deep voice, waking everyone up.

The elven officer clenched his fists, his determined face filled with anger. “Damn it, these demons dare to treat our people like sacrificial offerings!?”

“This is a field in which demons excel. In the God Wars tens of thousands of years ago, they used the corpses generated on the battlefield to continuously sacrifice and summon evil beasts, causing great trouble to the Alliance forces.” Lainekel continued saying, “But fortunately, such sacrifices require a lot of preparation time. Most of the time, they are discovered and cleared by the Alliance forces in advance. Judging from the situation here, the demons probably prepared for a long time to complete the sacrifice ritual recently, so the bodies have not completely decomposed yet.”

The elven officer looked at Lainekel in surprise. How did this armored man know so much about the God Wars tens of thousands of years ago, and even about the demons?

It was as if he himself belonged to that era, which had been forgotten by most races.

Ji Chen said in a deep voice, “Patheia, take the Sea Crystal Wyrms to nearby and search for any remaining demons or traces of evil beasts.”

Patheia nodded and spread her wings, soaring into the air with the Sea Crystal Wyrms to patrol.

Looking at the pile of corpses built by thousands of Wood Elves in front of him, Ji Chen said with a solemn tone, “Who do you think is most likely to have orchestrated this kind of sacrifice?”

Lainekel pondered for a moment and said, “Any of the Demon Lords could do such a sacrifice ritual, but the Undead Lord is the most proficient in blood sacrifices and summonings. This is also one of their main channels for producing high-level forces. Judging from the scale and the pattern of the sacrifice array, it is very likely the work of the Undead Lord.”

Ji Chen pursed his lips. Before the battle had even begun, he was indirectly facing off against three Demon Lords. Each Demon Lord was a powerhouse among demons, with at least epic-level strength.

Silently, even before players arrived in this world, demons had already prepared through various channels to invade again. The Dreadlord had contaminated a semi-closed mystics realm, captured tens of thousands of corrupted creatures, and who knew how many other realms had been contaminated besides that semi-closed one.

The Undead Lord invaded this place, slaughtering all the Wood Elves living here as sacrificial offerings.

The Greed Lord had already begun to occupy the Southern Continent. Perhaps the Southern Continent had already become a dead land under the full-scale invasion of demons.

In addition, there are also the Void Lord and the Decay Lord. Ji Chen didn’t believe that they were idle; they must be plotting and implementing their schemes in some invisible place.

And on the side of the Orderly faction, they were still on their way to a meeting. Just thinking about it made it feel like this world was about to end.

Ji Chen shook his head, pushing these stray thoughts out of his mind.

Patheia slowly descended from the sky, her face showing some concern. “My lord, we found a surviving Wood Elf outside.”

Ji Chen raised an eyebrow. “Bring them here immediately.”

A Sea Crystal Wyrn quickly descended, and a green-haired Wood Elf girl climbed down from its back. She was dressed in ragged clothes, emaciated, as if she hadn't eaten properly for a while.

There was fear and confusion lingering in her young, inexperienced eyes as she looked at the mountain of corpses of her kin, her face full of sorrow.

Ji Chen looked at those bewildered green eyes and spoke softly.

“What's your name?”

The Wood Elf girl timidly replied, “Cindia, my name is Cindia. Human brother, are you here to rescue us?”

Ji Chen was about to nod, but when he caught sight of the mountain of corpses, he found it hard to speak. It seemed like there was no rescue in this situation. “Yes... Can you tell me what happened here?”

Cindia nodded gently, wiping away the tears from her eyes, and began to recount the nightmare-like experiences she had encountered.

“That day, I was picking fruits in the forest when suddenly I heard strange noises in the sky... The sky suddenly tore open, and those winged monsters flew in...

I wanted to run back to the village to warn everyone, but those monsters were flying around in the sky, and I was too scared. I hid in the forest and accidentally fell asleep...

When I woke up later and returned, everyone was gone, the village was burned down, and I could only hide in the cave I found before, relying on the mushrooms and spring water inside the cave to survive...”

Ji Chen nodded. “Have those demons left?”

Cindia shook her head. “I'm not sure, but I haven't seen them appear again this month, and the crack in the sky has disappeared.”

It seemed that after the demons completed the blood sacrifice with the Wood Elves and summoned the evil creatures, they left.

Ji Chen said, “Since such an incident has occurred, let's continue searching around here to see if there are any surviving Wood Elves. Then I will take you to your other kin.”

Chapter 699: Demon Blood Sacrifice (2)

Cindia nodded hastily. Ji Chen realized that the experiences of the past half year had truly terrified the child.

Seeing this, Ji Chen wasted no more time. He instructed Patheia to carry Cindia aboard the Sea Crystal Wyrn, taking to the sky to commence a wide-scale patrol.

This area, no less vast than the Maple Principality's Mystic Realm, once housed over a hundred thousand Wood Elves. Now, it lay barren, devoid of life, with ruins and scorched earth everywhere.

From the remnants, it appeared that the Wood Elves didn't immediately lose their resistance upon the demons' invasion. Instead, they organized a resistance that stretched from the outskirts of the

realm deep within. The scattered traces indicated intense battles, yet they were eventually overwhelmed by the relentless demons, becoming sacrifices.

Not far from the valley they left, Ji Chen's group stumbled upon another blood ritual altar and a mountain of Wood Elf corpses. Surrounding it were still eerie and bloody runes.

As they ventured deeper, they discovered more blood ritual altars, arranged seemingly according to a pattern.

Though Lainekel couldn't see the grave expression on Ji Chen's face, he could sense the gravity of the situation from his tone.

"This is undoubtedly the work of the Undead Lord, utilizing countless sub-altars to form a massive blood ritual array, summoning evil creatures capable of city-level destruction with a large number of high-quality creatures as sacrifices."

"How powerful are they?"

"At least legendary tier. With sufficient preparation, they could even summon pseudo-epic beings."

Ji Chen's eyelids twitched. This was too cunning. Legendary beings were already rare in the main world, let alone epic-tier ones. Even pseudo-epic beings like Lainekel could effortlessly destroy a small city.

Damn it, none of these Lords were to be underestimated; they all had their own tricks.

As they reached the deepest part of the realm, they were greeted by a blood ritual array spanning over ten thousand square meters, surrounded by several corpse mountains. The sheer number seemed to suggest lingering souls in unrest.

In the center of the array, there were traces of a massive creature moving. Judging from the size of the traces, the creature summoned at the cost of over a hundred thousand Wood Elves was at least on par with Lainekel.

Witnessing this horrifying scene, Cindia's face turned pale, trembling with fear.

The elven officers and soldiers were filled with shock and rage. They already harbored extreme hatred towards the demons, even though the Wood Elves had split from the mainline elves long ago, they still belonged to the elven race, a part of their identity.

But the demons, by brutally slaughtering their kin and treating them as mere livestock for sacrifice, had undoubtedly provoked and declared war on them.

"These damned monsters dare to do such things!" The elven officer glared at the corpse mountain, his eyes filled with anger. "Lord Ji Chen, we must return immediately and inform Her Majesty of everything that has happened here. We cannot let these people die in vain!"

Ji Chen nodded. "Of course."

The tragic plight of the Wood Elves might push the Elven Empire's preparations for war forward, making the elves fully realize the enormous threat posed by the demons.

After continuing the search for some time and finding no other survivors, Ji Chen and his group left the realm with Cindia and returned to the Silvermoon Holy City overnight.

When news of the Wood Elves reached back, the entire Silvermoon Holy City was instantly stirred. In the council chamber.

Seated on the throne, the Elven Queen Laphia had an unprecedentedly gloomy expression, resembling a volcano on the verge of eruption. The entire hall was filled with suppression and anger.

“The Wood Elves have been wiped out by the Demon Clan?”

“According to our investigation, that’s the case. We only found one young Wood Elf survivor.”

The elven officer who had gone to the realm with them spoke with a tone full of sorrow and indignation. “The other Wood Elves were killed by demons as sacrifices. The bodies piled up into hundreds of corpse mountains, serving as nodes for the blood ritual array. The corpses are rotting and stinking, with blood everywhere... The entire realm has become a dead land, villages burnt down, vegetation withered, water sources dried up, and the land turned into a desolate wasteland...”

Many elven nobles and lords imagined the scene described by the officer, their faces showing expressions of sympathy, shock, or anger.

They hadn’t expected the demons’ methods to be so cruel, using tens of thousands of lives as sacrifices to summon evil creatures. Even the Orcs, such a barbaric race, wouldn’t do such a thing.

After the officer truthfully recounted what he had seen and heard in the Wood Elf realm, many elven nobles and lords excitedly stepped forward to offer battle: “Your Majesty, we must give the demons a sufficiently painful lesson and avenge our Wood Elf brethren!”

“That’s right! An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, respond with war!”

One after another, the hall was filled with requests for battle, retribution, and revenge.

“Quiet.”

Queen Laphia used her epic-tier power to quiet the hall, looking at the many elven nobles and lords with resentful expressions, knowing that the time had come.

With a solemn expression, she stood up slowly and said, “My men, since the enemy has already plunged the knife into the bodies of our people, slaughtering tens of thousands of our kindred from the same origin, this is undoubtedly a blatant provocation to us, and an unequivocal declaration of war.

We, the elves, are the offspring of the Mother Goddess. We have thrived and multiplied on the Northern Continent for hundreds of thousands of years, overcoming countless obstacles and challenges along the way. We have defeated countless enemies and conquered many difficulties.

Tens of thousands of years ago, the demons were defeated by us and, as losers, were suppressed in the depths of the Chaos Abyss. And now, even if they stir up war again, the ultimate result will still be the same: the elves will stand as the victors in the end!

Now, let's start a nationwide mobilization to be ready for the demons' attack at anytime!"

This time, there were no objections or opposition from the elven nobles and lords. They had all truly witnessed the cruelty and ambition of the demons. The more they understood, the more alarmed they became. The demons had already begun to infiltrate, and if they had discovered it any later, the consequences would have been even more severe.

At Laphia's command, the entire Elven Empire was mobilized. The army stood ready, reserves were called up, and strategic resources were redirected from warehouses...

The evil orcs in the barren mountains to the south were immediately terrified.

This situation seemed to indicate a large-scale war was about to break out. Weren't we just doing a little burning, killing, and looting on your borders? Was it necessary to mobilize the entire national army to deal with us?

The mobilization of an empire naturally isn't as swift as that of a territory, requiring several months at a time. During this period, representatives from various law-abiding powers in the northern continent arrived at the Silvermoon City.

On the day of the meeting, representatives from various countries and powers came to the council chamber.

The three countries along the northwest coast, the Maple Forest Principality, the five countries of the Eastern Land, the Mountain Giant Tribe, fairies, half-dragons...

Dozens of recognized kingdoms and racial representatives appeared in the Silvermoon Holy City, making Ji Chen keenly feel the diversity of the world's races.

The Mountain Giants were giants with stone bodies over ten meters tall, said to be descendants of Titans, but they suffered heavy casualties in the god wars hundreds of thousands of years ago, leading to the decline of their bloodline and a significant reduction in their population.

The fairy race is a special group consisting entirely of females. Each of them possesses captivating beauty, graceful figures, and proficiency in both magic and mental spells.

The half-dragon people are descendants of ancient dragon bloodline, occupying the southeastern lands of the Northern Continent. They have even established a kingdom of half-dragons, making them a formidable force.

Among these representatives, Ji Chen spotted a familiar figure.

Among the ranks of the human delegation, Monica followed behind a young man. Suddenly, as if sensing something, she turned her head without any summons and spotted Ji Chen not far away.

At first, she was startled, then excitedly waved at him.

Chapter 700: Meeting

Ignoring the young man's astonished gaze, Monica lifted her skirt and hurried over with small steps.

Arriving before him, she joyfully exclaimed, "Lord Ji Chen, what brings you here? I haven't seen you since you left Lienhardt!"

Looking at the delightful face now slightly flushed from running, Ji Chen smiled gently and replied, "I heard about the demon incident, so I came to see what's going on."

"Are you here representing Lienhardt for this meeting?"

Monica agreed with a slight upward curve of her eyebrows, resembling a crescent moon. "Dad's tied up with important stuff and couldn't make it, so he sent my brother and me to stand in for him. It's all about getting some hands-on experience and getting ready to run things here someday."

Ji Chen nodded. "Julius is probably still dealing with the Bass Kingdom's territorial issue, so it's understandable. But I believe you'll handle this meeting very well, Monica."

Monica smiled shyly, her face turning even redder. At that moment, the young man approached and greeted.

"Lord Ji Chen, good day."

Monica quickly introduced, "This is my brother, Sebastian Valencia."

Sebastian appeared polite and cultured, with a gracious smile on his face.

He spoke with gratitude, "Lord Ji Chen, thank you for helping Lienhardt defeat the Bass Kingdom and saving our mother. I was leading troops outside before and couldn't thank you in person, so I apologize."

Ji Chen waved his hand dismissively. "It's nothing. I simply did what I could, and I also accepted Julius' reward."

But Sebastian was earnest. "That reward is rightfully yours, and it doesn't conflict with my gratitude. Moreover, you also saved Monica before, and she was retaliated against by the Bass Kingdom, resulting in severe damage to our territory. When I heard this news, I felt guilty as a commander, neglecting my duty."

"On both moral and rational grounds, I should express my gratitude to you again."

After speaking, Sebastian solemnly bowed once more.

Ji Chen was somewhat surprised but nodded in acceptance.

Monica whispered to Ji Chen's ear, "My brother is always so serious and stubborn, but that's why everyone in the principality respects him and sees him as the heir to the grand duchy."

Ji Chen nodded slightly. Initially, Sebastian seemed like a good candidate for grand duke.

At this moment, Sebastian suddenly said, "Regardless of what others think, I support your relationship with Monica."

Monica's cheeks instantly turned rosy, and she retorted with embarrassment and anger, "Brother, what are you saying!"

Sebastian froze, "Monica, aren't you..."

Seeing Monica preparing to strike, he wisely closed his mouth, though he couldn't help but worry about his sister.

Monica's excellence was undeniable, whether in appearance, demeanor, talents, or insight, she was one of the most outstanding women in Lienhardt. In the war between the principality and the Bass Kingdom, she demonstrated remarkable strategic foresight.

It could be said that if Monica were a man, he wouldn't be the heir to the grand duchy.

However, now Monica's romantic interest was Ji Chen, a epic-tier powerhouse, and such a young one at that.

Did Lienhardt have epic-tier individuals?

No.

To his knowledge, the principality only had one legendary-tier hero, an elderly one at that, who could only hold out for about ten years at most.

Regarding the heroes Ji Chen was leading at the time, there was one at the legendary tier, three at the legacy tier, and now, with the addition of a Featherfolk warrior at the legacy tier, that made a total of four at the legacy tier.

At least on the surface, the high-level combat power displayed already surpassed Lienhardt by a large margin, and they were all in their prime.

As the heir to the grand duchy, he couldn't help but think about marriage. If Monica could form a connection with Ji Chen, then the power of the Ocean Crown might not be directly usable by the principality, but at least it could intervene to help in certain future crises, which would be of great significance. However, the biggest problem now was that with such outstanding talents, he was somewhat worried that his sister might not be up to par.

Ji Chen cleared his throat lightly and said, "The meeting is about to begin. Let's go in."

Sebastian temporarily set aside his thoughts and nodded. "Lord Ji Chen, please."

Inside the vast hall, representatives of dozens of orderly races and powers were already seated. The Elven Queen, Laphia, sat in the central seat, with representatives of powerful forces on either side. On the sides and in the distance were representatives of other smaller powers.

In this hall, the strength of each power was clearly distinguished by their seating arrangement.

The seat of the Lienhardt Grand Duchy was in the front left, in the third tier.

The powers seated at the same table as Laphia were all races and kingdoms with profound heritage, originating from ancient times, and there were only two in the Northern Continent.

One was the Markus Empire, the only human empire in the Northern Continent, situated in the southeast and extending its influence to the Eastern Continent. It occupied the canals and inland seas between the Northern and Eastern Continents, forming a vast empire spanning regions.

Based on what players born in that region described, the Markus Empire was said to resemble the Roman Empire on Earth.