

Ocean Lord 721

Chapter 721 Guide Party

As the bishop of the Holy Light Sect, Plas knew more about the world than the average person.

The orderly gods had gradually severed ties with their followers a century ago, seemingly entangled in something that kept them from intervening, too preoccupied to care.

However, all of this was later revealed.

The dark gods suppressed in the depths of chaos did not weaken over time as the orderly gods had hoped. Instead, they grew stronger in an inexplicable way, breaking free from their shackles and turning the tables on the orderly gods, thereby giving the demons an opportunity to invade.

Plas viewed this with extreme pessimism.

The world was beyond salvation; it would ultimately be shrouded in darkness!

He didn't believe that the current forces of order could resist the ambitious demons who had been preparing for thousands of years.

— Even the oracles of the orderly gods were suppressed and unable to descend. Without the leadership of the gods, how could they defeat the forces of evil as they did tens of thousands of years ago?

So, when the demons came knocking, he did what he thought was wise-surrender.

The demons would become the new masters of this world, and all living beings and races would become their slaves. But with so many slaves, they would need agents to manage them, right?

As long as he willingly offered his loyalty and was willing to act as their henchman and sword, making as much contribution as possible before their true invasion, perhaps he could secure a place in the future demon-ruled world, becoming a servant or even a follower, as long as he could survive—this was at least better than becoming a slave worse than livestock.

Moreover, this was a perfect opportunity; just by removing that thorn-like territory and killing its demon-hated lord, he could improve his position in the eyes of the demons.

As for whether they could defeat this enemy, he wasn't worried at all.

Although the Holy Light Sect was not as powerful as before, it was still a force comparable to a kingdom or duchy. Within the sect, there were dozens of Holy Light Knight Orders and fanatical battle squads. According to what the demons said, that lord was just a Lord of Glory, after all.

A Lord of Glory who had barely been in this world for less than a year. How strong could that Lord of Glory be? On the other hand, Plas was a peak-level legendary-tier powerhouse. He could crush weaklings like that Lord of Glory with just two fingers!

So, his territory probably wasn't that strong either. Perhaps a fanatical battle squad could sweep through it.

Moments ago, he only agreed with Vida to avoid humiliation. Now, confronted with such an adversary, he couldn't fathom how he might fail.

Thinking of this, Plas felt much better, his footsteps even a bit brisker. This time, he would surely complete the mission perfectly, and maybe even earn the appreciation of that demon king.

If he had the protection of a demon king, then he would have a higher status in the world ruled by demons, and therefore be safer.

However, this bishop of the Holy Light Sect did not know what kind of enemy he was facing.

Before the assembly of dozens of forces and the fame of Ji Chen spread throughout the Northern Continent, Plas had already gathered the forces of the Holy Light Sect and set sail under the command of the demons.

Sailing in the vast sea of the Western-Mid Ocean, they had no information channels to know about Ji Chen and the Crown of the Ocean. He would never have known that Ji Chen was an epic-tier powerhouse.

Or, even Vida, who had been infused with demon blood, was completely unaware of this.

In the history of the Holy Light Sect, it wasn't just the indigenous people; some players joined the sect's forces through alternative means to acquire resources and production.

On a fast warship at the edge of the Holy Light Sect fleet, a dozen or so players were inside the cabin.

"Guild Leader, we've been drifting at sea for nearly ten days. Where the hell are these zealots taking us? I'm getting seasick." A young player grumbled with some dissatisfaction.

The leader of the small guild shook his head. "They only told us that there's a mission to complete, nothing else."

Another player suddenly interjected, "...Why do I feel like we're about to be sold to the highest bidder?"

The guild leader's face darkened, and he replied unenthusiastically, "Although the Holy Light Sect isn't considered strong among many sects, it's still a major force. They wouldn't stoop so low as to sell us off... The difficulty of this mission must be quite high, and they're probably not telling us in advance to prevent us from running away midway."

A female player nodded. "That's probably it. These zealots are all fanatics with questionable intelligence. I guess this time we're going to fight some heretics again.

But I'm curious about what kind of enemy is worth the Holy Light Sect mobilizing most of its forces to deal with. Even the most elite fanatical battle squads have been deployed. Any one of them could easily crush a small force."

The guild leader waved his hand. "Forget about it. We're just here to earn a living. If the enemy is weak, we charge; if the enemy is strong, we run."

The young player raised his hand. "But we're surrounded by the sea. How do we run?"

Everyone looked at him.

Damn, it seemed like he had a point.

This ship belonged to the Holy Light Sect; they were just borrowing it.

The young player exclaimed, “There should be no problem. The people of my territory are waiting for me to return. We definitely won’t encounter any accidents here!”

Chapter 722 Guide Party (2)

The crowd immediately covered his mouth. “For heaven’s sake, don’t jinx us! I don’t want to die yet!”

Suddenly, the fleet sounded a piercing alarm. They exchanged glances and promptly got up to go to the deck to see what was happening.

A Paladin of the Holy Light Sect descended from the sky onto the deck, his landing reverberating loudly.

The Paladin spoke arrogantly, “You, deal with the sea beasts following us right away. Take care of them first before catching up.”

With that, regardless of whether the players agreed or not, he kicked his horse’s belly and ascended into the air, leaving.

The young player scoffed, “Damn, these fanatics really don’t know how to treat people properly. I bet they’ll crash sooner or later.”

“Being in a difficult position, there’s nothing we can do about it,” sighed the guild leader. “Let’s quickly go deal with those sea beasts, so those fanatics won’t come bothering us again.”

The warship broke away from the fleet and headed towards the pursuing sea beasts. Soon, they encountered a wave of relentless pursuers.

These sea beasts weren’t particularly strong, mostly at the second or third tier, while they had dozens of cannons and several elite squads of fourth-tier hundred-men teams, making it quite easy to deal with them.

The cannons thundered, blasting the sea beasts upside down. Soldiers leaped from the warship and quickly killed all the pursuing sea beasts.

The guild leader wiped the sweat off his forehead, which was drenched by the scorching sun. “That’s it for today. Let the sailors quickly change direction so we don’t fall behind the fleet of those fanatics.”

“Yes, sir!”

Meanwhile, above the clouds, a squadron of ten Sea Crystal Wyrms flew in a V formation, their gem-like blood-red eyes scanning the sea surface, trying to spot any anomalies.

But no matter how they looked, all they saw was an endless expanse of azure sea.

Several reconnaissance teams composed of thousands of people formed a reconnaissance network, which was nothing compared to this vast ocean. Hundreds of such reconnaissance teams were scattered in the sea east of the Stormy Sea, searching towards the east.

The ocean was just too vast, making it as difficult as finding a needle in a haystack to locate a fleet that had set off at an unknown time, with an unknown route, and without a trace.

After completing their scheduled reconnaissance range, the squadron of ten Sea Crystal Wyrms decisively flapped their crystalline wings to return. However, after flying a short distance, they suddenly saw a ship on the azure sea beneath the clouds.

On the immaculate sails of that ship was engraved a golden eye emblem.

—That was the emblem of the Holy Light Sect, signifying the gaze of the Goddess of Light.

The ship was sailing northwestward as if pursuing a certain target. The squadron of Sea Crystal Wyrms immediately changed direction and began to slowly track the ship from above the clouds.

Soon, they saw the vast fleet stretching for several miles. The golden eye emblems engraved on the sails formed a continuous expanse, dazzling under the sunlight.

“Lord! We’ve spotted the fleet of the Holy Light Sect!”

Alice hurriedly walked in, her expression joyful.

Ji Chen looked up, a bit surprised.

“You found it so quickly?”

When he learned that it was a squadron of Sea Crystal Wyrms that had accidentally discovered a lone ship of the Holy Light Sect on their return journey, and followed it to discover the fleet, he couldn’t help but smile.

Indeed, this turned out to be quite the guide. If an opportunity arose later, he’d owe this ship a thank-you.

Now that they had found the fleet of the Holy Light Sect, there was no need to hesitate. Instead of waiting for other fleets to come to their doorstep and spread the flames of war to their territory, it was better to take the initiative, keeping the enemy out of the country’s borders.

“Pass my command, deploy all main forces of the Ocean Crown. Ensure to block the fleet of the Holy Light Sect a hundred miles away!”

With this command, the Ocean Crown, already in a state of war mobilization, quickly accelerated into action. Troops emitting a formidable aura rose into the air, flying over the territory and heading to the open sea.

Naga Iron Colossus, Ocean Blood Dragon, Dragon Horn Beast, Sea Crystal Wym... Rarely seen on ordinary days, these main forces were now flying in formation in the sky, stunning many passing ships.

Following closely behind were squads of Lobster Guardian Knights, Heavy Armor Toothfish Knights, Lobster Nymph Spirit Archers, and Leviathan Dragons, rushing over the sea, creating waves of turbulent water.

At this moment, they all had one question in mind.

Who was the fool who dared to provoke the Ocean Crown?

On the flagship of the fleet of the Holy Light Sect.

“Bishop, we are only about a hundred miles away from the New Moon Islands. We will soon enter the waterway, and by then those passing merchant ships will discover us.”

Plas waved his hand indifferently. “Even if they see us, it’s useless. That territory absolutely wouldn’t expect us to be here, with no time for preparation. All they can expect is destruction.”

“It’s a perfect opportunity to show the strength of our Holy Light Sect to those merchant ships, spreading our reputation and attracting more believers!”

A senior steward flattered, “You’re absolutely right, those evils will surely be purified by our Holy Light Sect. Our reputation will spread throughout the entire Mid-Ocean!”

Plas burst into laughter. “Let the believers speed up. Once we enter the waterway, advance at the fastest speed and catch the enemy off guard!”

Suddenly, there was a deafening roar outside, accompanied by screams.

“Enemy attack!”

Above the clouds, thousands of Ocean Crown troops flew leisurely, hiding their figures within the clouds.

Below the clouds, the fleet of the Holy Light Sect was slowly sailing on the sea surface, with the believers on deck chatting and laughing, showing no sign of tension for battle.

Although they were called believers, they looked nothing like believers. Each of them was burly, with their chests bare, bald-headed strongmen leaning against the ship’s railing with iron axes, discussing how much fun they could have on this journey.

The bishop had already told them in advance that once they breached that territory, they would be allowed to plunder and revel for three days and nights. They eagerly anticipated chopping off the heads of their enemies with axes, purifying evil with blood, so they could attract the attention and blessing of the gods.

“The last time those heretics surrendered too quickly. How dull. This time, I’ll have to chop off a couple more heads.” A scar-faced fanatic, wielding an axe, grinned viciously.

“I hope this time will be more fun...” Another fanatic smirked lewdly. “I want to purify a big one properly this time. Only then can we truly cleanse the evil.”

Talking about battle and plunder always made their blood boil. These days of being able to worship the goddess and enjoy themselves were simply fantastic.

The scar-faced fanatic was about to say something else when he suddenly caught sight of many black dots appearing in the sky, growing larger and larger, causing his pupils to shrink suddenly.

“Enemies!!”

Sea Crystal Wyrms opened their translucent mouths, and beams of light shot into the unprepared fleet in an instant. The fanatics on the deck were instantly vaporized by the extreme heat, leaving behind only fragments of limbs.

The beams not only pierced through the decks but also penetrated the wooden hulls at the bottom, causing the sea to rush into the watertight compartments.

Just as the fanatics panicked and attempted to retaliate, the second wave of attacks arrived without any pause.

Sea Crystal Wyrms spewed out thick red lightning bolts, beginning their first battle with enhanced ferocity. The lightning exploded on the deck like bursting shells, electrocuting dozens of fanatics into charred remains.

Following closely, blue-scaled giant dragons, each over ten meters long, swooped down. Deep blue dragon flames plowed through the deck like farming machines, carving out paths of blood.

Flesh melted, souls annihilated.

The screams were brief and soon silenced.

Naga Iron Colossi flapped their wings and swiftly descended. With their bone blades empowered by speed, they became terrifying weapons, sending heads soaring into the sky, decapitating the fanatics attempting to retaliate one by one.

Plas had just stepped out of the cabin when he witnessed this gruesome and bloody scene.

Chapter 723 One-sided Massacre

“Damn it, our...”

Plas’s words were cut short as a stray bolt of red lightning shot straight towards him. He swallowed the rest of his sentence and quickly erected a golden shield.

The lightning veered like a cannonball hitting angled armor, bypassing Plas and striking several zealous believers nearby, leaving them stiff and smoking, sprawled on the ground.

As the shield dissipated, Plas’s expression darkened. He glared at the Ocean Crown’s army flying brazenly and attacking in the sky, angrily demanding, “Where are our aerial forces!?”

A senior disciple scrambled over, his face filled with despair. “Bishop, our aerial forces were overwhelmed by the enemy, they couldn’t even put up a fight!”

When the Ocean Crown army launched their assault, the Holy Light Sect’s Pegasus Knights and aerial mages took to the skies immediately. However, before they could form a defensive formation, a tsunami-like attack descended from above, crashing them into the sea.

Having scouted the Holy Light Sect's strength from above the clouds, the Ocean Crown army naturally didn't give the enemy a chance to counterattack. They struck first.

With air superiority lost, the sect's ships became like floating targets on the sea, bombarded one after another by beams, lightning, and dragon fire.

In just a dozen minutes, thousands of zealous believers were killed, and over a dozen ships sunk. Panic-stricken believers floundered in the sea, thrashing wildly.

Some believers manned the anti-aircraft weapons on their ships, attempting to shoot down the Ocean Crown army soaring in the sky.

However, their weapons were the primary targets, and a mouthful of dragon fire would melt both man and machine.

Plas witnessed this scene with a mix of anger and deep puzzlement.

The sudden attackers were undoubtedly the forces of the Lord of Glory.

What puzzled him was how the Lord of Glory knew they were coming to raid his territory.

Could it be that their spy had been exposed?

But even so, the spy wouldn't know their exact route and position. How did these forces accurately locate them in the vast ocean?

Plas was filled with questions, but there was no time to ponder. If they continued like this, the Holy Light Sect would likely be buried at the bottom of the sea, becoming food for whales and sharks.

"Holy Light Sect elites, attack and eliminate the enemy!"

With a command, over a dozen elite units of the Holy Light Sect soared into the air from various ships.

A rare-tiered priest hero in a robe cast levitation magic and flew into the sky. Waving his staff, he shot out golden ropes, binding several nearby sea crystal wyrms. The barbed ropes deeply pierced their bodies.

"Perish, you crawling creatures!"

He grinned ferociously, about to unleash brute force to kill the sea crystal wyrms. Suddenly, a dark shadow plummeted from the clouds, effortlessly slicing through the golden ropes like paper and freeing the bound wyrms.

Then, it veered towards him from an eerie angle.

The priest hero hastily waved his staff, shooting out a thick beam of golden light, attempting to stop the shadow from approaching. However, the shadow, undeterred, swiped its menacing claws, splitting the beam in two.

Swish—

The shadow flew past him in an instant, not looking back as it sought its next target. The priest hero froze, a thin red line slowly appearing on his neck. With a snap, his head detached from his body, falling from the sky into the sea.

Seeing the appearance of the Holy Light Sect's high-level combatants, the heroes of the Ocean Crown heroes no longer concealed themselves. They rode various units out of the clouds, each seeking their slaughter targets.

Diago, Anina, Patheia... each was at least at the red-legacy tier, radiating majestic power.

The priests and deacons of the Holy Light Sect had never seen so many high-level heroes. Merely sensing their overwhelming presence made them feel oppressed, their limbs cold, and their courage faltering before the battle even began.

In this situation, the balance of the battle tilted heavily in favor of the Ocean Crown army. One by one, priests and deacons of the Holy Light Sect were mercilessly slaughtered, their blood staining the sky.

Though the Holy Light Sect had numerous warships and believers, they were helpless against the dense onslaught raining from above like droplets. They could only pray that the attacks wouldn't land on their heads.

Finally, Bishop Plas couldn't sit still any longer. He launched a desperate attack, unleashing the power of a legendary tier. Columns of water surged from both sides of the sea, and the tip of his staff erupted with dazzling light.

Thousands of golden arrows burst forth, leaping into the air and exploding violently. The intense shockwaves sent the Ocean Crown army reeling, and many who were directly hit fell into the sea.

"Daring to attack the fleet of the Holy Light Sect, you will face the enmity and wrath of the entire Holy Light Church!

We are the envoys of the Goddess of Light. If you do not retreat immediately, you will incur the divine punishment of the Goddess of Light!"

Plas's face was bathed in golden light, giving him an aura of sanctity and tranquility as he spoke with righteousness.

With the situation as it was, he realized that defeat was now inevitable. But who could have imagined that the territory they attacked would be so formidable?

Just the hero units he saw on the battlefield amounted to dozens, some even legendary-tiered.

Chapter 724 One-sided Massacre (2)

Had he realized how formidable this territory was, he wouldn't have ventured here to stir trouble. Now, the only chance to rescue the fleet and retreat was to deploy the ace up his sleeve: invoking the might of the Holy Light Church and the Goddess of Light. Perhaps it could give the other party pause.

However, to Plas's immense disappointment, those enemy heroes and armies showed no signs of stopping, and even the legendary creature with wings and a serpent's tail was flying towards him.

He cursed inwardly and hurriedly dealt with it.

The weather was beautiful, with clear skies for miles around.

But on the sea more than a hundred miles away from the Crown of the Ocean, it was a mess.

This fleet of the Holy Light Sect, which was strong enough to dominate a small and medium-sized force, was currently being ravaged by tens of thousands of units from the Crown of the Ocean. Their prideful strength, which they had always boasted about, was being ruthlessly crushed at this moment.

With every breath of dragon flame, several believers turned into flame. The burning blue flames couldn't even be extinguished when they jumped into the sea. They could only endure immense physical and spiritual pain before dying.

With every lightning strike, the ship would have a large hole, and the seawater pouring in madly signaled the countdown to these warships sinking.

The Naga Iron Colossus, with wings on its back, repeatedly swept across the deck, leaving behind headless bodies. Some fanatical believers who jumped into the sea in panic thought they could find temporary safety, but they never expected that there would be enemies under the sea.

The enormous Heavy Armor Toothfish leaped out of the sea and swallowed the fanatical believers whole. The knights on their backs impaled the enemies on their spears like skewered kebabs before tossing them away with brute force like trash.

The sky was a hell of slaughter, and the sea was a bloody purgatory.

Under the pincer attack, the will of these fanatical believers, no matter how firm, began to crumble. This was not a battle at all, but a one-sided massacre!

In the ocean, these fanatical believers, who were accustomed to land warfare, were completely powerless. They could hardly exert any combat power amidst the violent rocking of the waves, let alone mount a counterattack. Just staying stable on the ship was considered good enough.

In their desperation, many believers even threw down their weapons and gave up resistance, kneeling on the deck to pray.

“Oh God, please bring down your divine punishment and cleanse these infidels!”

“We are so devout, why are you unwilling to help us?”

Seeing this scene, Ji Chen couldn't help but shake his head.

These believers were really something else. If the Goddess of Light witnessed their behavior, she'd likely be furious enough to blow her top.

However, the outcome of this battle was already decided. The strongmen of the Holy Light Sect had been slaughtered, the believers had lost their will to fight, and these enemies who had come all this way to deliver their heads no longer posed any threat.

Just as Ji Chen was about to order an acceleration of the battle.

An unexpected change occurred in the situation below.

Plas wielded his staff solemnly, conjuring a shield that could withstand ten rounds of cannon fire, but it shattered under the claw strike of the legendary creature with a serpent's head and tail.

If he hadn't reacted quickly and dodged in time, he would have been torn in half by those giant claws.

But even so, after more than ten rounds of fighting, his mana consumption was extremely severe, leaving him with less than half. A mage without mana was truly powerless.

He had to end the battle and leave here as soon as possible!

Plas gritted his teeth and took out a golden gemstone, infusing it with mana to activate it.

The gemstone immediately radiated brightly, and a golden phantom figure with a vague face appeared in the air.

A majestic and holy aura suddenly spread out, causing the sky to lose its color and the waves to surge madly.

In front of him, there seemed to be only this noble, divine, and towering phantom figure, making people unable to help but want to kneel and worship, treating it as their faith.

The followers of the Holy Light Sect were stunned, dropping their weapons and kneeling in excitement, their expressions extremely moved.

“Our God!”

“Under the crown of the Goddess of Light! She has finally seen our piety and descended upon this world again!”

The Crown of the Ocean team was suppressed by the aura, falling from the sky, their mouths emitting unwilling roars. Even Herald and the others were full of astonishment, hesitating and not daring to move.

The Goddess of Light?!

This was a deity, and a top-tier orderly divine being at that, with billions of followers and supreme power, covering the entire eastern continent with her radiance!!

But didn't they say that the orderly divine beings had already been entangled by the dark divine beings? How could she appear here?!

“It's just a phantom, the enemy wants to escape.”

As numerous believers lost control and many heroes hesitated, Ji Chen's voice echoed like the toll of a bell.

They were invigorated, and upon closer inspection, although the golden phantom figure looked terrifying, it stood still like a puppet. Plas had already fled thousands of meters away without them noticing.

They couldn't help but feel an extreme sense of shame. They were actually scared by a phantom!

Herald flapped his wings and carried his anger to chase after him. This shame must be washed away with blood!

Anina, Patheia, and the others also felt their faces burning with anger, directing their fury towards the strongmen of the Holy Light Sect.

Ji Chen rode on an Ocean Blood Dragon, slowly descending to the golden phantom figure. Without changing his expression, he reached out his hand and directly grabbed the golden gemstone behind the phantom, which caused the phantom to disperse into golden light and gather into the gemstone.

However, before the phantom completely dissipated, due to the angle, he didn't notice that the golden phantom glanced at him without a trace, with a hint of curiosity and doubt.

Ji Chen weighed the golden gemstone in his hand, a small smile curling up at the corner of his mouth.

Although this thing had no killing power, it was still good for bluffing people. If he didn't have the Ring of Void, which had the effect of seeing through illusions and phantasms, he would probably have been deceived by this phantom, really thinking that the Goddess of Light had forcibly descended into the world.

This was enough to show the awesomeness of this gemstone.

When those Holy Light Sect believers saw Ji Chen dispelling the golden phantom, they all showed incredulous expressions, but soon reacted, feeling as if they had lost their bearings.

“Our God hasn't descended!! God, have you abandoned us?”

Each believer cried out hoarsely, tearing their hearts out, as if their faith had collapsed, with no will to resist anymore, staring blankly and slumping on the deck.

Ji Chen also ordered the cessation of attacks upon seeing this, instructing the Ocean Crown army to disarm and capture them.

Soon, Herald's figure appeared in the distant sky, still holding a corpse with a gaping hole in its chest, devoid of any vitality.

“Lord, the enemy bishop has been slain.”

Ji Chen looked at the lifeless body of Plas pulled by Herald and said in a heavy tone, “Well done. This is the first legendary enemy you've slain. I hope you can slay more powerful enemies in the future and eliminate any threats to the Ocean Crown.”

Herald bowed respectfully. “I will follow your will.”

A legendary figure was powerful enough to serve as the peak force of a kingdom or duchy, but now, with his chest wide open like a lump of rotten meat in Herald's hands, this scene shocked many of the Holy Light Sect believers below.

Their hearts were filled with sadness and despair.

Their bishop had been slain, most of the sect's strongmen were wiped out, and fanatics were nearly eradicated. The Holy Light Sect was probably on the brink of extinction.

Ji Chen looked at the desolate appearance of these believers without a hint of emotion.

When they harbored malicious intentions towards the Ocean Crown, wanting to turn it into their paradise of plunder and pillage, they should have been prepared for failure.

In addition to this, he needed to further investigate who instigated the Holy Light Sect to attack the Ocean Crown.

At this moment, Anina arrived on a Sea Crystal Flying Dragon and urgently said, "Lord, we found a strange human on that flagship. He exudes a demonic aura."

Ji Chen's gaze subtly changed. "Did he resist?"

Anina shook her head. "After seeing the Holy Light Sect's bishop being killed, he voluntarily surrendered..."

Chapter 725 Three Sects, Total Victory

On the deck of the massive flagship of the Light Church, Ji Chen looked at the uneasy man before him.

Just as Anina had described, this man did indeed appear quite peculiar. Beneath his human appearance lurked a strong demonic aura, and his body seemed somewhat abnormal.

Could he be, like Lainekel, another alchemical experiment of demons?

Ji Chen got straight to the point.

"Who are you, and why do you carry the taint of demons while aboard this vessel of the Light Church?"

Vida, filled with fear, replied, "Respected Lord, I have been infused with demonic blood, which has transformed me into this wretched form!"

"Demonic blood?"

"Yes, those cursed demons captured me and subjected me to experiments, forcibly infusing me with their blood to observe any changes. Even that wretched Bishop Plas, whom you have already slain, imprisoned, and tormented me on this ship!"

"Thanks to your victory over them, I managed to escape."

"So you're saying you were captured, and this has nothing to do with you?"

Vida nodded hastily, fear evident on his face. "Yes, I am also a victim. Why would I dare to offend you?"

Ji Chen raised his chin slightly, silent but piercing as if he could see right through him.

Under his scrutinizing gaze, Vida suddenly felt a sense of panic.

Damn it, could he have seen through his facade?

But apart from Plas, no one in the entire Light Church had ever seen him. Since the infusion of demonic blood, he had not been seen by anyone else. How could anyone know about him?

Thinking of Plas, Vida felt even more furious. That idiot, with so many followers, couldn't even handle ten thousand enemies, and even while fleeing, he was slain. This was a disgrace to their "demonic followers"!

It didn't matter if he died, but if it delayed the great plans under the auspices of the great Darius, then it would be a pity!

Hmph, this plan had to be executed by him personally.

As long as he killed this Lord of Glory before him, then this territory would naturally fall apart without a fight.

And now, a perfect opportunity lay before him.

Thinking this, Vida felt slightly more at ease. He put on an expression of panic, cleared his throat, and as if remembering something, hastily said, "My Lord, while I was being used as a test subject, I learned some information about the demons, which might be helpful to you."

Ji Chen raised an eyebrow slightly, calmly saying, "If you can provide some valuable information, then I might consider trusting you."

Vida's face lit up with joy, nodding and bowing, "Of course, but this isn't the place to talk. Could we discuss it in more detail in your domain?"

An appropriate opportunity was needed to assassinate this Lord of Glory. Within a three-meter radius, there were several powerful hero units. In such a situation, attempting a face-to-face assassination would be too difficult.

However, what left him stunned was Ji Chen's immediate and unwavering shake of the head. "We'll talk here."

Damn it! Didn't you notice that there are freaking corpses all around us? Aren't you disgusted by it!?

How can I assassinate you without being alone with you!?

Cursing inwardly, Vida forced a smile on his face. "Respected Lord, is this..."

"Hmm?"

"Ahem, Bishop Plas has long been secretly corrupted by those demons, willingly becoming their lackey and puppet, just so he can survive when the demons invade the world in the future... Those ordinary followers were deceived by Plas and never doubted the false prophecies..."

Forced to provide some intelligence to deal with the situation, Vida presented seemingly valuable information. However, in reality, it was all harmless intelligence. Even if leaked, it wouldn't have much impact on Darius' plans.

Seeing Ji Chen nodding frequently, Vida felt secretly pleased. If he could gain the trust of this Lord of Glory, just like the alchemical experiment who betrayed the demons, he could expand his sphere of influence.

Thinking that he might make a great contribution and be appreciated by Lord Darius, Vida's heart swelled with excitement, and his words became more spirited.

He rattled off sentence after sentence.

"The Light Church not only failed to help resist the enemy but also intended to launch an attack on your territory, willingly becoming puppets. It's simply outrageous."

"Oh? Who was Plas loyal to?"

A voice rang out leisurely, and under Vida's excited momentum, he subconsciously said, "Of course, it's under the service of Lord Darius. This hypocrite also wants to be infused with demonic blood to take my place..."

Suddenly, Vida realized his mistake, his face stiffened. Seeing Ji Chen and the heroes looking at him, his expression turned mournful.

The next moment, he suddenly sprang up, a dagger emitting a faint light appearing in his hand. He lunged straight at Ji Chen, but before he could thrust the dagger, a cold light flashed, and a severed arm along with the dagger flew into the air.

Vida felt no pain, his entire body undergoing a bizarre transformation, swelling up. A horn grew rapidly from his forehead like a bamboo shoot after the rain. His other intact arm quickly withered, turning into a demonic hand, its razor-sharp nails creating a gust of wind as they slashed out.

With a ferocious expression, he roared, "Die, you damn Lord of Glory!"

Ji Chen remained unfazed, not moving a muscle.

Chapter 726 Three Sects, Total Victory (2)

Upon witnessing another swift gleam of icy light, the arm was effortlessly sliced open as though it were paper, and a putrid black liquid spurted out from the severed limb.

Patheia's face hardened, her sword shining as she swung it once more, severing the creature's legs and causing it to transform into a human-like pig before collapsing onto the deck.

However, Vida seemed to feel no pain at all, grinning wickedly, "You will all die! Your souls will be imprisoned by the great Darius, tortured by hellfire for ten thousand years!!

This world is rotten to the core. Those orderly divine beings have no ability to resist the malice from the void. Only demons, and only they, are the true saviors who can save this crumbling plane!"

Ji Chen looked at Vida, who seemed to be ranting like a madman, and couldn't help but furrow his brow.

"A crumbling plane?"

Vida coughed up a mouthful of black blood, a maniacal smile on his face. "You want to know? I won't tell you, you lowly Lord of Glory! Hahaha!"

Anina and the others couldn't help but show a hint of anger. It was more unbearable for them to see their loyal lord insulted than to be killed.

Ji Chen, on the other hand, remained emotionless, simply raising his hand casually. “Alice, open up his mind and see what he knows.”

Alice who was behind Ji Chen nodded and walked over, extending her fair and slender arm.

Vida, seeing the hand reaching out to him, suddenly felt a wave of panic. “What are you trying to do!?”

Ten minutes later.

Alice slowly pulled back her hand and opened her eyes. Meanwhile, Vida was already unconscious, with his eyes rolled back and foaming at the mouth.

Alice returned to Ji Chen’s side and spoke in a gentle and melodious voice.

“His name is Vida Barros. He was once a nobleman of the kingdom of Hoiyland in the Eastern Continent... He voluntarily sided with the Void Lord Darius for longer life, power, and other purposes... The reason he is on this ship is because Darius sent him to monitor the Holy Light Sect.

In addition, I also found out an important thing in his memory...” At this point, there was a solemn expression on Alice’s face.

As Alice revealed it, the other heroes of the Ocean Crown couldn’t help but be surprised.

“The Light Church, including the Holy Light Sect, has had three of its sects secretly corrupted by the Void Lord Darius. The Holy Light Sect was sent to attack the Ocean Crown, while the other two sects, the Fervent Flame Sect and the Sun-Chasing Sect, are now secretly advancing toward the Markus Empire, intending to launch a surprise attack when they least expect it.”

Well, isn’t that just great.

When Ji Chen heard this, he couldn’t help but secretly cursed.

The Light Church has a total of six sects, and three of them have been corrupted by the demon lord. No, it should be considered two and a half, after all, only the bishop of the Holy Light Sect betrayed them, and the rest of its followers are still devout.

However, this was already quite astonishing.

The Light Church, which worshiped the Goddess of Light, was once one of the greatest enemies of demons tens of thousands of years ago. It had killed countless demons, but now it had been corrupted into the minions of demons. How incredible was this?

Now that the fleets of the Holy Light Sect had been destroyed by Ji Chen, and the Fervent Flame Sect and Sun-Chasing Sect had already thrown themselves into the arms of demons, the Light Church was left with only three sects, greatly weakening its strength.

Fortunately, these three sects of the Light Church were the last three in terms of strength, while the top three sects were still intact, which was also considered good news.

However, the urgent matter now was to notify the Markus Empire. Otherwise, with the attacks from the sects of two kingdom-level powers, the few remaining empire-level forces of humanity would inevitably suffer losses.

Especially in such a situation where they were always ready to fight demons, it was necessary to preserve the forces of the orderly side as much as possible.

With this in mind, Ji Chen did not hesitate.

“Patheia, take a team of ten Sea Crystal Wyrms and immediately head to the Markus Empire to remind them to be vigilant against the Fervent Flame Sect and Sun-Chasing Sect.”

Patheia saluted and took the command, immediately flapping her wings and taking off with a team of ten Sea Crystal Wyrms toward the northeast.

“My lord, what about these believers?” Herald asked in a low voice.

Ji Chen looked at the Holy Light Sect believers lying limp on the deck, their eyes devoid of spirit, and pondered for a moment.

“Detain them for now. We’ll decide what to do with them after we make contact with the Light Church.”

The interception battle ended in a complete victory for the Ocean Crown, with a completely one-sided combat situation proving the formidable power of the Ocean Crown.

The Holy Light Sect was definitely not weak. The average strength of those believers reached Tier 5 High-Star, and the fanatics among them even reached Tier 6 level. However, they encountered the Ocean Crown.

Against the powerful Tier 6 flying units of the Ocean Crown, even the prestigious powers like the Holy Light Sect in the Eastern Continent would find it difficult to match.

Especially in terms of high-end combat power, the Ocean Crown was unparalleled, completely overwhelming the priests and deacons of the Holy Light Sect, to the extent that even the Kraken did not need to intervene.

Ji Chen and his group returned to the New Moon Islands with a large number of captured believers and dozens of surviving warships of the Holy Light Sect, marching in a grand procession. The merchants watched in astonishment as one believer after another was escorted off the ships, lined up, and driven towards the prison.

Everyone with discerning eyes knew that these believers were the reason behind the deployment of so many Ocean Crown troops.

“So many troops were mobilized just for these believers?” exclaimed a merchant from the Eastern Continent.

“These are the followers of the Holy Light Sect!”

“But why would the Holy Light Sect attack here?”

“Who knows...”

These people were full of doubts, not understanding why the Holy Light Sect from the distant Eastern Continent would come all the way here.

But soon, a piece of news from the Ocean Crown City Hall shocked them.

– The Fervent Flame Sect and the Sun-Chasing Sect have already joined forces with the demons, and the Bishop of the Holy Light Sect, Plas, has defected to the Void Demon, King Darius, and has been slain.

This news quickly spread along the trade routes to various factions and then circulated among the player community through chat channels.

All factions were shocked.

Two sects of the Light Church had already joined the demons, and now they were secretly heading to the Markus Empire, intending to launch an attack?

The Holy Light Sect’s fleet attempted to attack the Ocean Crown but faced retaliation, ultimately resulting in the death of Bishop Plas and the capture of numerous believers?

This development marked another significant event following the Elven Empire’s warning of an imminent demon invasion in the Northern Continent.

It was also the initial revelation of a formidable, previously loyal force aligning with the demons, with the Light Church being a notable entity in this regard.

The world was shaken by such news.

This news immediately caught the attention of the top three sects of the Light Church and the Markus Empire.

Initially, they didn’t believe such news, but seeing the overwhelming public opinion, they couldn’t help but send some people to investigate. However, the outcome of this investigation was astonishing.

Only one-third of the Holy Light Sect’s stronghold remained, with the remaining two-thirds of their forces and over a hundred warships nowhere to be found. As for the strongholds of the Fervent Flame Sect and the Sun-Chasing Sect, they were completely deserted, with only signs indicating that they seemed to have headed north.

The Markus Empire’s initial reaction was similar to that of the top three sects of the Light Church, but upon hearing that this news came from the epic-tier powerhouse Ji Chen, they immediately dispatched people to investigate.

The status of being an epic-tier figure itself carried immense credibility, enough to warrant their attention.

This investigation made them break out in a cold sweat. The armies of the Fervent Flame Sect and the Sun-Chasing Sect were less than three hundred miles from the border. If these two armies were to rush in without any border defenses while the empire was fully mobilized to prepare for the demon invasion, it would undoubtedly deal a severe blow, putting them in a precarious situation against the demon invasion.

Although the distance was not far, it was enough for the Markus Empire to react swiftly. They promptly sent out elite troops to join forces with neighboring vassal states to eliminate the sect armies.

An unintentional espionage operation once again changed the world order, thwarting the demons' plot once more.

The name of Ji Chen once again resounded throughout the continent.

Chapter 727 I, Ji Chen, Am the Key Player

Ocean Crown Harbor.

Ships coming from the open sea gradually docked under the guidance of tugboats, and as the harbor expanded, more and more ships from various parts of the ocean arrived. The harbor gradually became crowded and bustling, no longer allowing sailors to dock their ships on their own.

Therefore, the Ocean Crown purchased some ferries from the Starshine Islands to ferry various ships to the docks.

Among them, more than a dozen cargo ships with gorilla emblems slowly docked at the pier. On one of the ships' sides, I_Love_Black_Socks leaned against the railing, wide-eyed, looking at the bustling harbor.

“Whoa! It's only been a few months since I was last here, and the place has changed so much! There are so many native merchant ships docked here, even more than at King Kong Island!

Damn it, are there still elves here? Last time I tried to invite a few tall elf beauties, they told me to scram. How come there are so many here?”

I_Love_Black_Socks looked at a group of fully armed elven soldiers passing by with envy in her eyes.

The Kobold Strategist watched the president of his guild shouting and yelling, and the people around them were looking at them strangely. His mouth twitched, and he quickly reminded her in a low voice.

“President, mind your image.”

I_Love_Black_Socks came to her senses, but instead of caring, she patted the Kobold Strategist on the shoulder forcefully. “Why should I mind my image? Looks won't feed you. Even though you guys are so ugly, I haven't said a word. And now that I've brought you out, are you suddenly unhappy with me?”

The group of members from the King Kong Island Guild behind them immediately twitched their mouths. Damn, how did we end up being the targets of humiliation?

Soon, a staff member from the Ocean Crown came to receive them and led the group of King Kong Island players into the Lord's castle at the center of the territory.

When they saw the vast area occupied by the castle complex, with towers stretching and thick city walls, some of them were amazed.

The place where the big boss lives was indeed different. Such a tall and magnificent castle could be used as a fortress.

When they saw the six-tier troops stationed in the castle corridors, open spaces, and on the city walls, there was some envy in their eyes.

Their main army was only fifth-tier troops, but the big boss's sixth-tier troops were already established units.

When they saw in the garden, beautiful maids dressed in black and white maid outfits, wearing black stockings, their envy overflowed.

Damn, with such a big castle and so many beautiful maids in black stockings, this was the kind of life a lord should have!

A member suddenly said, "No wonder the big boss Islander doesn't show interest in the president anymore. With so many maids around him, what kind of fun would he lack?"

I_Love_Black_Socks didn't show anger on her face. Instead, she nodded deeply in agreement. "With so many beautiful maids and tall elf beauties, I would probably do the same, and have even more fun."

Other members nodded in agreement. Damn, can we get social security benefits directly?

They were led to a hall where they met the owner of the Ocean Crown, Ji Chen.

I_Love_Black_Socks saw the familiar figure and couldn't help but wave his hand and loudly greet, "Big Boss, long time no see."

Ji Chen greeted them with a smile. "Indeed, it's been a while. How have you been?"

"Of course, I've been great! Under my wise guidance, the King Kong Island Guild has made great strides every day, hahaha!"

I_Love_Black_Socks showed no signs of unfamiliarity, warmly expressing herself.

Ji Chen looked at the players behind her.

I_Love_Black_Socks timely said, "These are my guild brothers... Why don't all of you hurry up and greet the Big Boss Islander?"

Ignoring their own boss' somewhat gangster-like appearance, the Kobold Strategist and the other members respectfully said, "Big Boss Islander, hello."

Ji Chen nodded slightly and said gently, "Welcome. You've come all the way to support the Ocean Crown, and I thank you for that."

The Kobold Strategist hurriedly waved his hand. "No need for that. We came here just to keep King Kong Island from being affected by the war. It's not some noble act. You don't have to be like this."

I_Love_Black_Sockings smiled. "That's right. We won't hide anything from you. We hope to help you resist the demon army's attack so that King Kong Island can be spared. If even you can't hold off the demons here, then our efforts will be in vain."

The members of King Kong Island nodded in agreement. Their thoughts had long been unanimous. As the strongest player and territory in the Central Ocean, if even the Islander couldn't stop the demon army, every inch of the Central Ocean would be invaded by demons.

Especially when the orderly forces in the Northern Continent were still mobilizing and preparing, it was unlikely that they would be able to support them. The only one they could rely on now was the Islander.

After all, he was a rare epic-level powerhouse, with dozens of powerful hero units and an invincible army.

This was the reason they were determined to come to the New Moon Islands.

Strength always convinces people.

Ji Chen laughed heartily. "Since you all have such faith in us, then I won't say much more. As long as the Ocean Crown remains here, demons will find it difficult to invade the northern Central Ocean."

Seeing that the Islander did not show any concern or fear towards the demons, but instead appeared confident and assured, they also felt much more confident. They thought that they had finally found a reliable ally.

Chapter 728 I, Ji Chen, Am the Key Player (2)

I_Love_Black_Sockings said, "This time we brought the first batch of resources, and subsequent batches will be sent later. The first aid includes eight million units of rare resources, thirty million units of common resources, and some special materials for constructing defensive works.

In addition, there is also an army of around fifty thousand troops, with an average tier of 4th Tier, 9th Star. Among them, three divisions are marine units, and two divisions are land combat units."

Ji Chen was somewhat surprised. This was just the first batch, yet there were tens of millions of resources and a army of fifty thousand troops. When the subsequent batches arrived, wouldn't this be a substantial aid?

Just the eight million units of rare resources were something that ordinary guilds couldn't produce.

Apart from the sheer strength, which couldn't match Ji Chen and the Crown of the Ocean, the guild's power was incomparable to that of individual players.

Of course, these aid resources didn't directly belong to Ji Chen. They would be jointly discussed and supervised by both parties on how to use them to defend against the demon incursion. However, that was a matter for later discussion.

That evening, Ji Chen hosted a grand banquet to welcome the King Kong Island Guild's support to the Crown of the Ocean. This wasn't just a gesture of gratitude towards LLove_Black_Sockings and their guild but also a stance towards other powers.

I, Ji Chen, am the key player!

If the Crown of the Ocean couldn't hold off the demon army, then all of you can expect the demons to come straight to your doorstep, trashing your yard and even smashing your windows!

The banquet was held on the beach not far from the Lord's Manor. It was a grand bonfire party, with a towering bonfire burning brightly.

Sea beasts were skewered on iron forks, rotating over the grill, emitting a tantalizing aroma under the rising charcoal smoke, enticing the diners around.

Barrels of wine, considered noble fare elsewhere, were stacked like pyramids, and various marine delicacies were laid out as if they were free.

What was considered precious seafood on land was nothing here on the high seas. It was a bounty with each haul.

For the members of the King Kong Island Guild, it was the first time they had witnessed Ji Chen's magnanimity.

The next day, both sides smoothly discussed the purpose of this support. Eight million units of rare resources might not seem like a lot, but it was still substantial.

Considering the recruitment consumption of the Crown of the Ocean, it equated to only a few weeks' worth of crystals.

It felt exaggerated to think that a million units of resources, considered aid by a relatively large guild, were just a month's recruitment consumption for the Crown of the Ocean. The disparity in recruiting troops was significant.

Regarding this aid, what Ji Chen was more concerned about were the five divisions of fifty thousand troops each. Although 4th Tier, 9-Stars wasn't high, it was sufficient for defense. With the long coastal walls that the Crown of the Ocean was constructing, it meant taking on greater defensive pressure. Having this army stationed there was undoubtedly a blessing in disguise.

Ji Chen was of an epic tier, but he wasn't reckless when facing demons.

He speculated that while the orderly divine lineage was entangled by the dark divine lineage, it could also serve to restrain the dark divine lineage, preventing them from projecting more power into the main world.

As a result, the most formidable enemies he would face were the five demon lords.

What made him cautious was that these five demon lords, who had always remained hidden and never revealed themselves, were all at least epic-tier beings. And many thousands of years ago, they were already epic-tier. No one knew if they had ascended to an even higher tier in all those millennia... surpassing the epic tier.

Ji Chen had to be fully prepared to ensure that the Crown of the Ocean could withstand the demon army without his assistance. Whether it was the Great Luminescent Sea, the Starshine Islands, or the King Kong Island Guild, whether it was the sixth-tier army or the heroes of the Crown of the Ocean, they were all part of his preparations for this.

The banquet ended.

Late at night, as people retired to bed and the lights dimmed, the entire New Moon Islands, except for the troops patrolling, had already entered the realm of dreams. The streets were only left with the occasional clinking of armor that should have been sparse.

At this time, instead of sleeping, he came alone to the northeastern sub-island, instructing the stationed soldiers to open the Mystic Realm Gate leading to the Skull Mystic Realm.

It had been several months since he last left the Skull Mystic Realm, yet it remained unchanged. The red desert stretched from the far left to the far right, extending to the dark red horizon.

Since he had slain the Skull King who once ruled this realm, only a group of mindless, wandering skeletons remained. Due to the harsh environment and the abundance of skeletons, the Crown of the Ocean had not developed this area. Desolation was the eternal theme here.

Ji Chen didn't linger for too long. He quickly found Krieg's laboratory, which was close by, and used the Sword of Warlords to lift it from beneath the desert. He strode in and arrived at the space where Elin and Thotmudo were originally imprisoned.

There were no changes here compared to when he left. Numerous "specimens" captured by the grand necromancer Krieg were imprisoned in birdcage-shaped cells, enveloped in silence.

Inside the cells were all sorts of bizarre races: six-armed nagas, one-eyed giants, thousand-legged void worms...

These formidable races, once famous for countless ages, could only resist the erosion of time through dormancy within this confined space, hoping to endure until the day Krieg was willing to let them leave.

However, the soul of the grand necromancer Krieg had already been mercilessly crushed when he attempted to possess Ji Chen, and the entire laboratory's authority fell into Ji Chen's hands.

As Ji Chen silently observed these races, alive but not much different from the dead, something peculiar happened in one of the cages.

The stiff body inside slowly became supple, and a hint of life began to emanate from it.

A pair of eyes, as if seeing through eternity, slowly opened.

Ji Chen noticed the movement and walked over to the cage with interest.

This cage was probably as large as a double-story building, much larger than the one where Elin and Krieg were imprisoned, but still too cramped for the creature inside. It couldn't even stand straight; it could only stand in a cramped position.

As Ji Chen looked up and took in its appearance, he saw a lion-like head with deer antlers on top, fierce and sinister eyes, a deer's body covered in dragon-like scales, and a loose tail above its rear.

Its body emitted substantial black mist, giving off an evil aura surpassing even that of demons.

The ferocious beast stared at Ji Chen with eyes full of undisguised malice and spoke in human language.

“Little chick, tell me, how could that necromancer let a human walk in his laboratory?”

Ji Chen shrugged. “I don’t know, maybe he’s dead?”

The beast fell silent, seemingly considering this possibility, but soon shook its head. “That necromancer was a pinnacle power, unbeatable by anyone except the gods. Even if he’s dead, it’s only his body that died. As long as his soul capsule remains, he can continuously resurrect using prepared bodies.

I was deceived by him, thinking I had killed him, and let my guard down. In the end, he ambushed me after his resurrection and caught me here.”

Ji Chen nodded. Although the beast looked terrifying and evil, it spoke in a relatively friendly manner.

Ji Chen became interested.

“Can you tell me your name?”

The beast showed a disdainful expression. “Weaklings have no right to know my name...”

In the next moment, Ji Chen’s body emitted an epic-tier aura, causing the beast to swallow its next words and look somewhat astonished.

This tiny human was actually epic-tier?

After a long silence, the beast roared discontentedly.

“I am called Isaiah, the Beast of the Final Chaos, the guardian of the Abyss Path, the howling beast of the Chaotic Forest, imprisoned here twelve thousand years ago..”

Chapter 729 Isaiah

Isaiah?

Ji Chen nodded, hearing the long string of titles afterward, suddenly recalling a joke about a hotel accommodating a powerful guest.

– “My name is Isaiah, the Beast of Final Chaos, the Guardian of the Abyssal Path, the Howling Beast of the Chaotic Forest...”

— “There are too many people here and not enough room, and besides, the inn doesn’t allow pets.”

Seeing a slight change in Ji Chen’s expression, Isaiah’s eyes flashed with a hint of joy, and he whispered.

“Human, do people outside still talk about my reputation?”

Ji Chen pushed aside these odd thoughts, neither denying nor affirming, “Perhaps, I suppose you were a formidable figure thousands of years ago; otherwise, Krieg wouldn’t have captured and locked you up here.”

Hearing this, Isaiah didn’t get angry but rather pleased, showing his teeth with a bit of pride. “Of course, those locked up here are all formidable beings. The weak ones don’t deserve to be here; they would’ve been killed by that lich long ago!”

Ji Chen was speechless.

Alright, this beast didn’t seem very bright.

Isaiah seemed to find Ji Chen more agreeable, curling his hooves under his belly, lowering his entire body, and softening his tone.

“Human, you haven’t told me your name yet.”

Ji Chen snapped back, “I am Ji Chen, Lord of the Ocean Crown, Master of the Stormy Sea.”

Isaiah pondered for a moment, then shook his head quite honestly, “Never heard of you.”

“Now you have.”

“Your name lacks the imposing aura of mine, and your titles are not as intimidating as mine.”

“...Indeed.”

For over twelve thousand years, most of the beings locked up here have been in a state of dormancy to reduce the expenditure and depletion of life energy, so Isaiah hadn’t had much interaction with intelligent beings in a long time.

Now it seemed he had found someone to talk to, and he spoke incessantly.

“How is the outside world?”

“Not too good.”

“Are the elves still fighting the dwarves?”

“That ended thousands of years ago. The dwarven Black Iron Fortress was destroyed by a fire demon, leaving them scattered, while the Elven Empire is now one of the most prosperous kingdoms.”

“That’s miserable. Those winter melon weapons of the dwarves are among the few things that can harm me. Some humans came wielding their weapons, trying to hunt me down for what I have, but in the end, I devoured them all.”

“But compared to humans and dwarves, I prefer elves because their promises are always kept, but humans say one thing and do another. Every time, it’s the same, all for what I possess.”

“...I don’t think I’m like that.”

“I’m not sure, but I recall a situation where a human, pursued by his own kin, crossed paths with me. He pleaded for the strength to seek revenge against his own kind, offering up an entire city of humans as a sacrifice in exchange.”

“Guess whether I agreed or not?”

Seeing the anticipation in Isaiah’s eyes, Ji Chen fell silent for a moment before responding very cooperatively, “You agreed?”

“I didn’t!”

“There isn’t much meat on humans, mostly just broken bones and a pile of filth, tastes worse than bugs, why would I eat them? After I refused, that human got very angry, and then I got angry too, and just gobbled him up.”

II II

“Well, human, you still haven’t told me why you’re here? Even if that lich is gone, there should still be a large group of skeleton frames guarding outside.” Ji Chen breathed a sigh of relief, finally getting to a somewhat crucial topic.

“I killed Krieg.”

“Impossible.” Isaiah didn’t hesitate to refute, “That lich’s strength was already above epic, it’s been so long, he’s probably not far from being a demigod. How could you, an epic-tier, possibly have killed him?”

“But I really did kill him.”

“Human, you are not honest, deceiving Isaiah will not end well for you.” Ji Chen shrugged. “Believe it or not, it’s up to you. I even released two elves and a dwarf who were imprisoned here.”

“Elf and dwarf?”

Isaiah was stunned, following his memory to a corner of this space where indeed an elf and a dwarf were imprisoned.

They used to argue and quarrel often, very noisy.

But now, looking over, the cage where they were supposed to be imprisoned was empty.

The cage door was wide open.

“Human, did you really release them!?” Isaiah couldn’t sit still, standing up, but before he could fully stand up, his antlers hit the top of the cage, triggering the prohibition of the cage.

A bolt of lightning erupted from the top of the cage.

“Roar!!”

Isaiah, struck by lightning, let out a low roar tinged with pain.

After tens of thousands of years, the alchemical cage created by the arch-hch Krieg still functioned, trapping countless powerful beings here.

Facing those large copper-bell eyes like house windows, Ji Chen nodded lightly.

With an affirmative response, Isaiah couldn’t contain his excitement any longer.

“Human, since you can release them, you can also release me.

Trapped for over twelve thousand years, Isaiah, like Elin and Thotmudo, was full of desires for freedom.

Trapped in this tiny space, facing the perpetually white walls, if it weren’t for being able to pass the long time through dormancy, he would have been driven insane long ago.

Feeling the fierce and eager gaze of this house-sized beast, mixed with a hint of pleading, Ji Chen smiled calmly.

Slowly he said,

“I have a deal, I don’t know if you’re interested?”

While the forces of the orderly camp were mobilizing in full swing.

The demons were also discussing the events in the main world.

On the side of the Demon Lord of Fear, the demon army.

“Encouraging the Holy Light Sect, the Fervent Flame Sect, and the Sun-chasing Sect to launch attacks on the New Moon Islands, along with the failed scheme against the Markus Empire, hasn’t significantly hindered the mobilization of the orderly faction. Instead, we’ve lost these crucial elements we planted in secret. Lord Darius really made a bad move,” a demon lord said casually.

“Hmph, so much resources, energy, and time spent corroding these three sects of the Light, only to be seen through by a Glory Lord in the end.

With a voluptuous figure and a face full of charm, the succubus commander said somewhat gleefully, “We’ve warned them early on to pay attention to this Glory Lord. Now look, the target wasn’t reached, the pieces are consumed, and we got nothing.”

Among the five demon kings of the demon race, there was no harmony, with competition and contradictions between them, and they were happy to see other demon king factions suffer.

Previously, when their faction, the Demon Lord of Fear, suffered at the hands of that Glory Lord, the other Demon King factions didn't hold back in mocking them, making them angry but unable to retort, with the Void Demon King faction being the most severe.

With the Void Demon King Darius' faction facing such a significant setback and squandering the three pawns from the Light Church, this failure was even more critical than losing a strategic outpost as they did previously.

Balzarna listened to the words of his subordinates, feeling slightly better.

Darius' foolish actions this time, at least, relieved some of the pressure for him so that the gods wouldn't solely blame him.

At this point, even if Balzarna was arrogant, he realized that the Glory Lord was not just an ordinary epic tier. If he were to casually use pawns to try to deal with him prematurely, the situation would become even worse.

That Glory Lord was no longer someone that pawns could handle.

With this in mind, Balzarna spoke with solemnity, "From now on, do not use pawns to deal with that Glory Lord. It's meaningless. We only need to break through the rules barrier of the main world on schedule and then advance with our army.

No matter how cunning he may be, he can only watch helplessly as we crush everything he has one by one!"

This was their plan. Since petty tricks couldn't succeed, they would use their magnificent military might to confront the enemy head-on.

Even if they had suffered losses before, it was only a small part of all their power.

The orderly forces of the main world thought they liked playing petty tricks and conspiracies, but little did they know that their most powerful force was the vast demon army numbering in the tens of thousands, even millions.

Balzarna continued in a deep voice.

"This time, we must conquer the main world as quickly as possible, turning all races into our slaves, so that we can concentrate the resources of the entire world to develop to our full potential... After all, there isn't much time left for this plane."

Many demon lords and commanders nodded in agreement, their eyes filled with seriousness and gravity.

For them, the greatest enemy was not the orderly forces of the main world.

It was something incredibly distant yet also close at hand.

That being had chosen them demons over elves, humans, and other orderly forces.

This meant that it stood on their side, believing that they had the capability to overcome the imminent crisis..

Chapter 730 Sael, the Expert Blacksmith

Crown of the Ocean, the realm of the underground lizardmen.

In a workshop.

The apprentice blacksmith Sael was completely focused on the red-hot sword blank on the anvil in front of him. His muscular right hand tightly gripped the hammer.

The hammer collided with the sword blank time and again, sparking bursts of orange-red flames. As the hammer fell repeatedly, shaping, purifying impurities, refining materials, the sword blank finally took on a rough shape.

Sael didn't dare to stop, tirelessly swinging the hammer, the sound of his strikes continuous like a melody echoing through the workshop.

Seeing his intense dedication, the other apprentice blacksmiths nearby couldn't help but show expressions of envy and admiration.

Sael was the fastest progressing among them, with the best forging skills. Whether it was lizardmen forging techniques or dwarven craftsmanship, he always managed to grasp the essence and techniques at the fastest speed.

Even the legendary dwarven blacksmith, Thotmudo, had a considerable appreciation for him. Specifically, Thotmudo often cursed at them, calling them a bunch of stupid pigs, but when it came to cursing at Sael, it was calling him a dumb donkey.

Well, a dumb donkey was at least better than a stupid pig.

Seeing Sael complete this sword blank, and immediately bring out another piece of fine iron, they hesitated for a moment and whispered.

"Sael, take a break, you've been at it all morning."

Sael laughed heartily and shook his head. "I'm not tired. If I forge one more sword, then we can sell one more, and that means extra income for Lord Ji Chen. "

In contrast to the foreign merchants and indigenous people, the residents of the Crown of the Ocean preferred to address their respected lord as "Lord" rather than "Your Highness". This title had been used since the very beginning of the territory, when there was nothing, symbolizing their love and respect for Lord Ji Chen and this land.

Without the shelter of Lord Ji Chen, they would all be homeless refugees, like weeds, with no place to call home, let alone the comfortable and warm houses they lived in now. They wouldn't have to worry about food and clothing, be able to raise children, and even have the luxury of any nobleman's estate, all of which would have been impossible before.

Such a wonderful life, something they couldn't even dream of before!

Now those demons were wiping their claws, trying to seize this pristine land that belonged to them. Not a single resident of the Crown of the Ocean would agree to that.

For Sael, being able to help the territory earn more gold to act as military expenses against the demons, while doing the forging work he loved, there couldn't be a better day for him.

Taking this finely refined and impurity-free top-grade iron block, Sael welded it together with an iron rod, placing it flat on the anvil. As he recalled the techniques and methods mentioned by Thotmudo, his other hand firmly grasped the iron hammer and fell heavily.

Ding—

?Thud—*

Gradually, the entire world seemed to fade away, leaving only the iron block in front of him, accompanied by the dull yet crisp sound of his strikes echoing in his ears.

Unaware, Sael entered a mystical state, feeling both his body and soul incredibly comfortable.

Like a finely nurtured seed breaking through the soil, pushing aside the pressure of the earth and stones, the sprout struggled to grow upwards.

It was as if it had gone through arduous growth, yet also as if it were a natural progression.

The sprout finally broke through the soil, taking its first breath of the freshest air, basking in the warm sunlight.

“...Sael... Sael, wake up!”

The urgent and astonished call snapped him out of this state, and Sael looked around dazedly at his companions, who were staring at him in shock.

“What’s wrong?”

The companions glanced at each other, one of them swallowing nervously before pointing at the anvil. “You might... have just ascended to become a hero.” Sael looked down and was immediately taken aback.

The sword blank he had just begun to forge was now completely formed, its shape perfect, without a single hammer mark or indentation, as if the iron had always been this way.

He stared at his hands in confusion and excitement, feeling like there was something extra about his body now as if he were stronger, and he had the feeling that he could easily replicate this sword blank if he wanted to.

He, ascended to become a hero?

?Ding- Your subject: Sael has unlocked his life potential, successfully transforming into a Craftsman Hero (Purple-Rare Tier).*

?Ding- Your subject: Sael, due to his promotion to a hero unit, has experienced a breakthrough in his profession and promoted to Expert-Tier Blacksmith.*

Standing on the castle walls, overlooking the construction of the seaside fortifications, Ji Chen suddenly heard this system prompt.

Another hero craftsman?

With the completion of the Hero Fountain, the significant increase in the probability of hero unit births due to long-term high morale, coupled with the support of territorial policies, the Crown of

the Ocean now had a much higher chance of producing hero units, resulting in the birth of more than ten heroes during this period.

Most of them are ordinary and elite-tier, with only one being outstanding.

And now, unexpectedly, a rare-tier hero has been born, and it even comes with a promotion to expert-tier in the profession.

This truly surprised him.

Transitioning from the expert tier to the legendary tier, where Thotmudo resided, there was only a distinction between the grandmaster and master tiers. In most factions, these tiers were esteemed like VIPs.

More importantly, this hero unit was cultivated and born within the Crown of the Ocean, rather than being summoned from outside, which held significant meaning.

Without hesitation, Ji Chen immediately ordered the summoning of this newly ascended hero.

He was an ordinary-looking middle-aged man, but his muscular physique resembled that of a blacksmith.

This rare-tier craftsman hero obviously hadn't fully adapted to his changes yet, but his entire demeanor had quietly undergone a transformation.

This was the change brought about by unlocking life potential and ascending to a unit with greater potential like a hero.

As soon as Sael saw Ji Chen, he quickly saluted.

"My lord."

Ji Chen nodded slightly, showing a gentle smile, gesturing to the long table beside him.

"Sael, right? Sit down and speak."

Sael looked pleasantly surprised. "How dare I sit with you..."

"It's fine."

Watching Lord Ji Chen sit at the head of the table, Sael summoned the courage from somewhere, gritting his teeth as he sat on the chair, only occupying half of it, with his hands placed obediently on his knees, sitting up straight like a well-behaved child.

"Do you know you've ascended to become a hero? How does it feel?"

"Fili and the others told me... urn, Fili is one of the apprentices with me, guided by Sir Thotmudo... I feel like I have endless strength in my body now."

Ji Chen looked at the nervous Sael and couldn't help but smile.

Ascending to hero status means your life potential has been unlocked, and various aspects of your physical qualities will be enhanced. Do you feel a deeper understanding of forging and ironworking now?"

Sael's eyes brightened as he nodded eagerly. "Yes, absolutely. I feel like I can easily craft high-quality weapons now, and all the forging difficulties and problems I couldn't understand before suddenly became clear!"

"Sir Thotmudo taught us the dwarven forging techniques, and now I suddenly understand. If I were to do it now, I'm confident I could completely use the dwarven forging techniques to craft a good sword..."

I believe you..." Ji Chen interrupted the increasingly excited Sael, "In that case, you can go help Sir Thotmudo now. I heard he's currently forging a powerful weapon and might need assistance."

"Sir Thotmudo..." A hint of awkwardness flashed across Sael's face, indicating that Thotmudo's teaching methods had left a lasting impression on him.

Ji Chen smiled. "Although Sir Thotmudo may appear fierce, he's actually quite easy to get along with if you earn his approval."

After hesitating for a moment, Sael said, "Alright, I'll go see Sir Thotmudo now."

In the underground world, Thotmudo's private workshop.

Sael nervously knocked on the workshop door, "Sir Thotmudo, Lord Ji Chen sent me to assist you..."

"Didn't I say not to let anyone disturb me!?" Thotmudo's grumbling voice instantly echoed from the workshop, "With your level, you think you can help me? Just staying out of trouble would be good enough!"

The workshop door was forcefully pushed open, revealing Thotmudo's angry figure.

He looked at the timid Sael, about to continue scolding, but after a closer look, he squinted slightly, "Rare-tier hero? Expert tier?"

"Yes, Sir Thotmudo, I unexpectedly ascended today..."

"Hmph, an expert tier might just about be able to assist me." Thotmudo's expression softened slightly, "Come in then. Since that kid sent you, I'll give you a chance. If you can't handle it, then get lost!"

Sael nodded eagerly and followed Thotmudo into the workshop. Despite being a muscular man standing at 1.8 meters tall, he seemed like a child in front of the 1.3-meter-tall dwarf.

Thotmudo stepped aside to let him into the workshop, casually closing the door behind them, then walked to the center of the workshop with his hands behind his back. "This weapon is intended for that lad. The demons are preparing to strike, and he'll need a decent weapon."

"From now until it's finished, don't make a sound. Do exactly as I tell you. How much you learn depends on your insight."

Sael nodded vigorously, sealing his lips tightly shut, but his eyes widened with excitement.

His heart was filled with delight.

To be able to witness the forging process of a legendary blacksmith up close, what a precious opportunity this was!