

Dungeon S 1191

Chapter 1191 - Animal KAIZER -Final

As Lizzie was about to give the killing blow to the Silverback gorilla, Jiang Song instantly teleported in between them and stopped the attack. "Alright, Lizzie. That's enough for today. You won the match and here's your reward." The Zoo Guard said as he took out a slab of juicy meat, possibly beef and tangled it in front of the Brown Bear.

Obviously, Lizzie isn't a human who can make rational choices but since Jiang Song was dangling a piece of delicious smelling cooked meat right in front of her, she could not resist it. Thus, she walked away from the Silverback Gorilla and started consuming the meat in peace. And just as she was about to finish chewing the first one, a portal emerged right in front of her and Jiang Song threw another large slab of meat through it, hinting her to return to her environment.

At the same time, the Zoo Guard picked the injured Silverback Gorilla through another portal where the Panda Nurses were waiting with their tools all ready to nurse the Gorilla back to health. "There, there buddy. Do not be discouraged, there will always be time for revenge." Jiang Song whispered to the defeated animal and told him to learn from today's mistake so that he could emerge stronger from the match. The gorilla subtly nodded his head as he received treatment from the Panda Nurses..

"Thank you everyone for the show. If anyone was disappointed by my interruption, then I would like to reemphasize that this is a Cultivation Zoo and not a death murder match organised by us. As much as the animals would like to reign supreme against each other, we still have to care for them since they are not here just for our entertainment, but for the betterment of our cultivation." Jiang Song said and Bear Cub One immediately took over.

"Yes, yes. This is our Zoo Guard Jiang Song. Some might know him as the Gatekeeper of Shenzhen's Cultivation Zoo, known for kicking errant guests from doing stupid acts in the Zoo. He is now employed under Jin to make sure that the animals and visitors alike would behave in the appropriate manner. So, please give him your warm welcome!" The Bear Cub One said but the crowd was not exactly pleased since the fight was done so quickly.

"If you guys think that the match is done, you are mistaken as we have two more in line for you so please hang on tight while we make the necessary changes to the field and ensure that both of our competitors are ready for the fight!" Mr Patsu added and instantly the Animal Kaizer Stadium was filled with pitch black shade as the System changed the background.

"To be honest, I am half expecting Xin would emerge out of nowhere to target the Bear and Gorilla's fight," Jin said as he opened a teleportation portal right beside him. He took a few documents with him and walked through it.

"The System enforced procedures in place to ensure that Xin would not be allowed to make any interruptions. For some reason, Xin had acquired the ability to teleport without the System's help and it could possibly stem from the spiritual union with User."

"But isn't that your ability? Why has it become his?" Jin said when he emerged out of the portal and double checked his current attire was decent enough for a meeting.

"Unconfirmed. Perhaps, in conjunction with the User's contract with the System and its yearning to come near you, it somehow managed to learn such an ability." The System said and at the same time opened the door for Jin as he was met with a delegation of old men in suits waiting for him in the Conference Room Instance.

"Apologies for the lateness, I had to ensure what you all had been watching was going smoothly," Jin said as the screen featuring the Animal Kazier was turned off and he sat at the centre of the long table.

"And I believe you all have also seen the medical treatment given to the Silverback Gorilla, a highlight which was not shown to the public to alleviate your fears," Jin added and the rest of the group seems stoic about it.

"I see. For the group known to be handling animals, you all are still the same as everyone else. Profit." Jin furrowed his eyebrows as he opened his documents. With a double knock on the table, documents emerged from the sides of the tables and he requested the delegation to pick them up for a look. There was lots of flipping and reading for a few minutes before a few whispers were going through the room.

Naturally, Jin could hear each and every one of them, given his enhanced hearing ability and even if he could not, the System was already recording each and every conversation, transcribing them real time onto Jin's side document without anyone noticing and he could read them off the sides.

"The figures I believed are very reasonable, given that you need to do a major renovation. You had already been given a private tour by our Zoo Staff and saw how the animals are doing." Jin said as he saw some disgruntled expression.

"First thing first, how are you controlling those animals for the Kaizer-" One of the personnel requested and Jin stared at him hard.

"Trade Secret. All I can say is this is a method that has been thoroughly researched and been approved by the Ethics community. You may choose to duplicate it but I will not guarantee your success. But let's stay focused on the current agenda."

"Your numbers are a little unreasonable." Another old man in his suit said, obviously wanted a cut in the rental prices. "We had been aiding other zoos to hold their animals at less than half the price."

"We are feeding them quality feed, excellent health care and most importantly, the ability to roam freely. Are you saying those things do not require money?" Jin queried and a few of them cut in, saying that Shenzhen's zoo does not need such treatment. A space to hold their animals out of the sight of the customers would be fine too.

"I totally disagree. In fact, for your disgusting behaviour, I am doubling the price tag right here and now." Jin said straight to their faces and a number of them started to stand up, demanding why does he have the right to do such a thing.

"Because of this." Jin picked up a remote control under the desk and then pressed a button. The screen that was behind him, turned on once more and clips of animal abuse within the Cultivation Zoo had been shown right in front of them.

It was not just personal abuse but also direct torture of the animals in front of VIPs with a few of the delegation's faces being shown right in there. Some who were not in the known were flabbergasted by the clips while the victims demanded how he got the clips.

"Let's say a certain Samaritan had gifted us this because they trusted us to do right for the animals. Also, for this answer. The price now has tripled." Jin said and a knock came from the door. Jin allowed her to come in and Grandma Yuan, along with Claire, walked through it.

"Do not think I am an old woman that I can be side blinded by some of you. Pay now and those in the video clips resign." Grandma Yuan said as if she knew the situation beforehand. Even though as the chairwoman, she had little control since it was just a title for being the biggest donor. But with this change of events, even the zoo delegation has no way of coming out unscathed.

And right now because of this forced deal, Jin had become the Animal Kaiser of Shenzhen.

Chapter 1192 - A 'Rat'her Foolish Decision

When the Zoo delegation was deliberating whether to take into Jin's offer with serious consideration, Claire questioned how Jin got hold of that footage and had been planning this impromptu meeting for some time.

"Yeah, sorry about that. I had to keep it a secret that it came out of the blue. The video materials were sensitive in nature and the fewer people who knew about it, the better." Jin said through the System Channel with Claire and Grandma Yuan in it.

"You still did not answer the question," Claire said as she took a chair for Grandma Yuan to sit right beside Jin while she stood at the side.

"Honestly I thought it was you who orchestrated all these in the first place. It's Jiang Song, our new Zoo Guard. He had pals in the security department that had been hashed with threats rather than bribes to keep everything under the wraps. It just so happened that when his pals heard Jiang Song was going for a new Zoo, they were wondering if he could expose them for their sake." Jin said and Grandma Yuan quietly raised an eyebrow towards Jin.

.

"Oh... Hmm yea. Jiang Song was like their big bro in almost everything in the security department. I guess, he too already knew it and had to keep his eyes closed about the management. Would not be surprised if he decided to use you to try leveraging it against them."

"All I knew from their end was that their higher ups would force them off the cameras for certain nights but one was curious and tech savvy enough that he created a backup device that would record the camera footage to see what was exactly going on. Needless to say, he found himself a pot of scandals but he was not that tech savvy to spread it into the net without implicating himself." Jin explained.

"So yeah. When Jiang Song came here, he was wondering if I could take advantage of it since he saw how big I have become and having possession of the System. Initially, I thought it would be a gamble

and prepared a few more threats but this was way easier than I thought." Jin said through the System Channel but reminded the Zoo Delegation to quickly make their decision. However, it seems like he had spoken too soon.

"Are you very sure that you will delete them? Or is there more to this?" One of the Zoo Investors asked and Jin placed hands on the table to try and intimidate them further.

"Why? Are there even more incidents I am not aware of? Perhaps bestiality?" Jin queried and the zoo investor got a little too defensive in his line of answering.

"I do not care. Just delete them when the deal is done!" The Zoo Investor said and Jin shrugged his shoulders.

"You are in no position to bargain and it is not in the legal documents which stated I have to do just that," Jin replied.

"Then we are under no obligation to pay you this much too!" Another one of them shouted.

"That's true. You can reject the offer, and we will merely send this to the police as well as the internet. Oh and feel free to send any cultivators to my end as well. My colleagues and I would love some exercise." Jin realised that the investors are finally trying to bark and bring him down so he merely used the simplest tactic in bargaining.

To stand up and leave the bargaining table.

As they saw Jin trying to leave the area until someone decided to show their 'rank'. A man in his late sixties stood up and declared that he was with the Royal Zodiac Rat Clan. Not just a member but a distant uncle of the direct family.

It no doubt stopped Jin in his tracks and that Royal Zodiac Rat Clan Member thought he had the upper hand until Jin opened his mouth.

"Seriously? You are going to play rank and title right here and now?" Jin questioned and the Royal Zodiac Rat Clan Member replied with a resounding yes. Both Claire and Grandma Yuan merely smirked at the mistake he was about to make.

"One last chance. Have you forgotten that I decimated your Rat Triad Leader? Are you sure you want to go against me?" Jin queried.

"That leader can be replaced anytime. You offend us and you will get your just rewards. Don't think that you would be let go just because you have a big tree in Shenzhen!" The Royal Zodiac Rat Clan Member answered and Jin laughed.

"Come at me, I do not care. The deal is off so be prepared to handle the consequences."

"Hah! You think I- we would be scared of your threats? The entire Royal Zodiac Rat Clan will come after you."

"Oh, by the way. What's your name again? I did not catch it the first time when you were rat-tling off your title." Jin suddenly stopped in his tracks.

"My name is Ben Lao Shu! People call me Big Ben!" Big Ben said and Jin chuckled a little without any effort in hiding it.

"Very well Big Ben, I look forward to your counterattack. Just be sure. It's you, your clan against me, alright? Any attack on my customers would result in severe consequences." Jin said as he waved his hands and the current zoo deal was off.

However, the moment he left the meeting table, that prideful behaviour turned 180 degrees as a number of Zoo Investors went towards Grandma Yuan asking her if it could be salvaged. Some were even deciding whether they could utilise her connection with him to not let that evidence be leaked out. There were some who would want to pay money to have their own footage be erased.

Grandma Yuan, on the other hand, merely stomped her stick and walked off, signalling to them that she was disappointed in them. She had no idea that the scandals were that sick and thought the worse was merely siphoning funds from the Zoo itself. It then makes her realise how terrible humans could be and sometimes not worth saving.

"You guys should have taken the olive branch even though it was at a high price. But now, it looks like the gutter would have been a better place to hide in." Claire walked away with Grandma Yuan.

Chapter 1193 - Grandma Yuan's Wealth

"Another fight with the Rats. Don't you have enough on your plate already?" Grandma Yuan saw Jin waiting for her at the side while he was tapping on his phone.

"Now that I am officially the Panda Lord, it does not hurt to have some competition. Or else, I would not be able to gain territory." Jin shrugged his shoulders. "Besides, if they attack me, they are probably going to assault the store since I can hardly move myself away from it. And even if they do it outside of the store, I still have my minions to come to me at my behest. Not much of an issue."

"If I have to say it again, it was quite out of the blue to pull that trick out. Most of the delegation are still in panic mode after you guys left. Also, that red flag you pulled is just erm... quite expected." Claire said to Jin, implying that his big mouth was about to ruin the entire situation considering how things were proceeding rather smoothly.

.

"Hahah yeah. I did some research with the aid of the System when the delegation came in. A bit of digging into each and every individual personal background that was available on the net. And seeing how a few of them were in the Royal Zodiac clans, I would be more surprised if they did not show their haughty behaviour against me." Jin said as this was one of the ways to bait them to come after him especially now that he knows about the Heavenly Duels, it would be so much easier to win against them.

Also, if anything goes badly, he still got the Royal Zodiac Dragon Clan to back him up since he was still in the protection phase.

"And according to their attitude, it seems like they do not know who I am yet, so a sneak attack would be the best way to win things right now," Jin concluded.

"Just hope that you do not bite more than you could chew." Grandma Yuan shook her head. "I might not be there to aid you if the pinch gets real."

"Heh. Thank you for your concern. Grandma Yuan. But I think with the combined might of all my army, I believed I should be able to fight against a Clan Head." Jin said and the System suddenly chipped in its opinion.

"Based on the fight against Original Bellator Kraft, the System had sufficient analytical evidence that User should indeed be able to hold against a Clan Head. Even if he does not, he still has his bellators with him."

"I guess you learnt your lesson too eh?" Grandma Yuan was speaking to the System directly and shockingly, the System acknowledged Grandma Yuan's remarks.

"Indeed. With the previous encounter as a base analysis, the System would not dare to underestimate its opponent."

"Good. Because this is seriously your last shot too since Jin is one and only to possess the original bloodline of the Panda Clan." Grandma Yuan nodded her head.

"Anyways, enough of me. How is the JODE treating you? Are you able to open for the April intake? Or well, I assumed that's the time for intake since most high schools and even military recruitment start roughly that month." Jin queried and Grandma Yuan sighed.

"Yes. Yes. They suddenly treated me as if I were some empress rather than some fool who just wanted the principal's seat. If I had known that money can work wonders, I would have already invested something into the JODE." Grandma Yuan said.

"Your wealth is not that almighty." Claire was quick to tell her.

"But didn't you all say that she spent loads and loads of money on the maintenance of those exotic animals? And even donated a heck lot to the cultivation zoo? Is it because of a conflict of interest that you are unable to put money into JODE?" Jin asked which caused Claire to start giggling.

"It's not anything so unreal. My father was the one that is the millionaire. And one of the assets he invested heavily in was the Cultivation Zoo as well as that Animal Storage company you encountered. So, it was natural for me to invest his inheritance into the Zoo, allowing me to hold onto the Chairman's post." Grandma Yuan replied. "So, there are some people I knew that gave me a major discount into holding those animals for you. I assumed Claire had put in a lot of effort into bluffing you that I spent a ton of money into it."

"Yeap... She did." Jin stared at Claire and this time around she burst out laughing now that the cat is out of the bag.

"But that major discount came with a condition and it is also why it would be nice to talk to you about it too." Grandma Yuan's expression turned a little cheeky, a face that Jin rarely sees. "I told them that the

new Zoo Boss has connections to people who had the unique ability to 'freeze time' and they were extremely interested to see you with regards to that."

"Oh...OHHHH." Jin seemed to vaguely understand why they would want a 'static time' user to keep or improve their animal storage capabilities. "They need us to catch some animals for them?"

"Something like that. Even though their storage had already been enhanced with inscriptions and magic, there were some animals that were temperature specific or too stressed. Most High Grade Magicians could also freeze time but they had a time limit because it was too much of a strain on their mana. On the other hand, you have a mage that does not have such restraints. Do five jobs for them and they would seal the deal, else I told them to hand the remaining bill to the Zoo Boss." Grandma Yuan said and Claire instantly produced the receipt invoice for Jin to see.

Without a doubt, he could have fainted on the spot seeing the number of numbers on the invoice and thus, he commanded the System to get Peppers to get in touch with Grandma Yuan.

Chapter 1194 - Art Exhibition

The Cultivation Zoo Instance was a major hit for being a new instance and the fact that there was an entire array of new stores in the Tree Mall brought more life to the place. Jin was initially afraid that the consumption of digital apps and laziness of humans would cause shopping malls to die down but it seems that with the right set of attractions such as his dungeon supplier store and other entertainment stores, there was not much to worry about. (Although, it does seem like he had forgotten it was because of the speciality that allowed him to be this way!)

From his own personal hotels in the Dungeon Supplier store to the increased tenants, while ensuring the stores would also have an 'uncapped' capacity, the customers who visited Jin's Tree Mall could safely say that there was so much potential that Jin had yet to tap on to.

With the reshuffle of shops to the first floor and nothing else, at the subsequent levels, there was an odd feeling of emptiness despite the crowd. That was why Jin had temporarily remodelled the Tree Mall making the next few levels as a temporary exhibition as well as a resting place for customers and passersby alike. What exhibition? Since Jin wants variety to his Tree Mall, he too wanted to support the arts industry of China. And thus, the second level had temporarily been allocated to budding artistic entrepreneurs to show their artwork as well as a rating system to let the artists gauge from behind the scenes how their work had been viewed.

It was also because with Jin's increasing workload, there was no way he could take care of everything despite the amount of time he had even with compression and dilation of time itself. Also, the System's artistic assets were fairly limited and to be frank, Jin had to do his own personal research to ensure that the dungeons he created were fantastical in nature while ensuring some realism to it.

Later, it was up to the System to beautify the place a little further. It might not seem to be much of a problem for most dungeon instances but it would be a different scenario with the Virtual Reality

System.. As much as Jin could copy and paste certain environments, he felt that he could not bring enough life or the full potential of the backgrounds.

By using this temporary exhibition call to get artists of various styles to come together, he would be able to judge and possibly hire someone young and talented to bring his Virtual Reality instance to the next level. Background artists, Graphic Artists, Character Creation Artists and many more would be needed.

The System did ask why Jin could not just acquire an established art studio to do all this work but his reasoning was very simple. "The hungrier an artist's ambition is, the more work he could produce and it's best to catch such golden egg hatchlings before they have their feathers peeled and be a normal industry chicken."

However, the System did argue that there are many reputable artists to merely convert and Jin returned the argument. "I too could not have been a Dungeon Supplier, without your aid. And that was my childhood dream. We are doing this partially because we all dreamed to be something better, right? All those saving we did in the other worlds was also because of that same reason. Those reputable artists had already achieved theirs, I would rather help someone who was in the same shoes as me."

And thus, the exhibition on physical and digital art had been placed on the subsequent levels of the Tree Mall with Jin promoting the artwork from students to adults. With regards to the rating system, there was only 'thumbs up' option and each of these thumbs up visitors could only press it if they wished to spend a panda coin on it. In doing so, based on the number of likes they received, the System would then pay out a definite amount of money to these artists for showcasing their work at the end of the day. This then spurred each of these artists to pour out their best works, in hopes that someone pressed that like button.

Not only that, but Jin had also created a mini silent auction where the visitors could also buy the artists' artwork if they did like it. Since there was a deadline for each art exhibition, that would also be the time where the customer who paid the most could receive the artwork. If one thinks that was applied to only physical artwork, they were absolutely wrong about it.

Jin was not oblivious to the bitcoin scene and had also developed his very own NFTs, Non-Fungible Tokens through the power of the System.

(Although he did not know the process, the System said it was just some manipulation of data code to create it.) These NFTs are digital assets that are encoded with the very same underlying software as many cryptocurrencies so it creates a digital scarcity and no one could steal it once it's under them.

However, unlike the standard NFTs that are being paid with bitcoins, the System had purposely created its own encryption software based on Kraft's previous exploits to the Deep Web such that it could only be payable with Panda Coins. And since the System was intelligent and powerful enough to manipulate behind the scenes, it maintained the value of these NFTs to the current currency market rather than the bitcoin market, making it extremely accessible to the public.

To make things sound simpler, those digital assets could not be stolen once bought and the System guaranteed it. But all this selling could not have happened if there was no enticement. Thus, Jin brought out his ultimate weapon.

A lottery to earn a unique Artist Panda plushie.

Those who were in the know comprehended that the plushies were of a certain quality and some even said that the ultimate art was plushie themselves.

Chapter 1195: Relic Hunting

While it had been a long day for Jin with the opening of the Cultivation Zoo and the expansion of his stores in the Tree Mall, he decided to take the remaining time of the day to wind down. First by checking on Kraft since he was supposedly dancing mad in the Church of the Afterlife's Ivory Tower of cold hard cash.

"What?! It has already been a day?" Kraft laughed as he never felt better crushing people's skulls and stealing their relics to the point they started to be warier about him. The troops had finally understood that the devil in a trench coat had a different purpose than most other 'participants'.

But since the guards were on defensive rather than on offensive as usual, Kraft and his Night Foxes decided to go against them full force. The Drows were no doubt tired from the constant fighting but they realised it was also a form of training to see how far they could stretch while maintaining their form.

Some of the guards even shouted at them to just go into the Ivory Tower where there was more gold and lost treasures to be found but Kraft simply refused. To him, he felt that he could not bear to leave any stone unturned especially when these treasures had one basic function aside from the various enhancing magic capabilities.

The ability to resurrect on the spot.

If it was not for that particular ability, most of those 'relics' that Kraft had plundered from them would have been classified as plain junk to him. But the instant resurrection was something that would benefit one particular person if he was in a tight spot. And that was none other than Jin.

Still, these relics only had a number of magic uses in them, and like an Aladdin wishing lamp, the moment those uses were spent, the relic would certainly be a trash item. So, he and the Night Foxes were collecting them whenever they saw a guard wearing them. As much as Kraft treated Jin quite harshly, the Old Fox still had some feelings for this young master of his especially when he learnt the hard way that he could somewhat match his skills. (Obviously, he treated him as a person of interest to be his rival, Kraft still had his obligation to keep his master alive so long he did not break his promise for using the System abusively.)

"Are you planning to continue to stay there? Now that I have officially cleared my Cultivation Zoo instance, I am looking into probing the defences of the Rats. The reports of them attacking the resistance towns are getting lesser day by day. We need to survey their defensive response as a feint." Jin said.

"Nah. Don't do it. The moment you touch those rats, they will drill full force for their objective and you will have less time on your end. I suggest you continue to build your Virtual Instance while gathering the required resources for the Rat War. Besides, didn't you say the Symposium is like -I don't know erm,

soonish?" Kraft replied honestly for the first time in a long while as he smacked one of the guards at their butt before ripping the armour off them like some magician's act.

"Fine. I guess you are right. After all, the symposium was supposed to be the start of the expansion of Panda Inc." Jin nodded his head.

"So yeah. Don't you worry about me? Even though we are all tired from stripping guards naked, we would retreat when it is getting bothersome. Hehe." Kraft replied before cutting the communication.

"Does that mean I really do have some off duty time to myself?" Jin felt weird not working on an issue so intently to clear it.

"Not exactly. If the System were to establish a list of outstanding issues to be fixed, there would be at least a dozen of problems in your current agenda. From the testing of Ayse's new weapons to looking into the investments of certain products which we had procured from a set of black market traders."

"Huh, what? I can't hear you. All I hear is the sound of sleep." Jin said as he touched his bed for the first time in a long while. The System stopped its rambling for a moment before deciding that Jin did deserve a rest.

"Good night User even though it is now a little too early to certify-"

"Good night System." Jin said as he cuddled himself under the blanket and slept. The System immediately dimmed the lights and closed the curtains in his room while ensuring the temperature was regulated so that it was optimal for a good sleep. After all, it was beneficial for the System to do some side tasks without Jin's meddling with it as well as allowing him to enter into cultivation mode.

At the same time, the System also ensured that the room was prepared for time compression and dilation. After all, everyone knew that there were times where Jin could somehow fall into a deep sleep and would not wake up until the time was right. Regardless of the noise or alarm reminders, they were useless to wake the Panda Cultivator up unless the System took drastic measures to force him out of his cultivation stance.

Thus, it informed everyone, especially the Leader Minions and Sub System Users that Jin had decided to go into Cultivation mode.

As for Jin, he dived into the state of subconsciousness to find himself in the middle of nowhere with loud explosive noises in the background and dead bodies around him. He tried to orient himself since it was the first time he saw such a scene. No traces of the mountain that he was in, nor the remnants of the forest where he stayed with Ming. It was a war ridden wasteland with the smell of charred soil and decomposed bodies.

Soon enough, a group of horsemen with spears and axes emerged from the bloody landscape charging right in front of him with the aim of not just killing him but against the opposing group of armed horsemen from the other side.

"Fuck. I wanted a break or a simple tea session with Gramps. Why am I in this kind of life or death situation?!" Jin said as he unsheathed Bam and Boo with his Inverse Eyes activated.

Chapter 1196 - The Endless Battlefield - Part 1

Each slash to the enemy, and it would drop the ground and bleed.

The slaughter as senseless as it was, all he could was to grit his teeth and defend himself.

Jin literally lost count of the number of foes he defeated as well as the time he was on that battlefield but there was one thing that was certain. Each time he defeated a foe, they would return at least twice the number. It was to the point he would have been overwhelmed no matter how much Astral Arts he had utilised to defeat the enemies.

Yet, his legs were still rooted to the ground, stepping on each enemy he defeated to have a proper footing against his next foe. His eyes continued to predict the next attack of his foe, hoping he would not get hit. His lungs were exchanging air as fast as he could exchange his blows. His arms were moving instinctively to protect its user from certain death. His body was continuously preparing itself while he handled the pain of the worms from the legendary inscription to heal himself. Every part of his body was working overtime to ensure that Jin was still alive.

.

The foes that emerged started to vary as well. From horsemen to foot soldiers and subsequently faceless archers to guys carrying a mobile ballista over its back. Everything and anything in his sight was out to slaughter him and after roughly a day of fighting, Jin finally had a fatal wound through his stomach.

The faceless warrior roared in excitement as he pushed the sword further into his gut. That caused Jin to finally stop and accept his fate. The rest of the soldiers that were surrounding him also pierced their weapon into his body as long as they could find a space to squeeze through.

Only when Jin was on the ground, riddled with swords, spears and daggers. The soldiers were finally withdrawing and left him alone to rot in that wasteland he helped create.

"Told you, he could last at least a day." That familiar voice echoed through Jin's voice as his consciousness started to fade.

"To be exact, it was only 23 hours and 43 minutes." Another voice echoed through.

"But you gotta hand it to him. The first time I tried this, I could only manage an hour." This time around, he was very sure that it was Ming talking and Jin confirmed his suspicions that this was also a test, something like the one he had against Genbu and Orochi. However, before he could even think for another second, he lay flat on the ground bleeding profusely.

Not long after that supposed test, he woke up again finding himself sitting on the very same bench on the mountainous shell of Genbu. Even without waking up fully, he could feel the hardness of the bench and the slight creaking of the wood.

"Ah, you are awake," Ming said as he scratched the head of Byakko who was lying at the side of the bench.

"Is this another test of yours? Suzaku or something like that?" Jin queried as his body felt extremely heavy from the marathon.

"Something like that. Unlike Genbu and Byakko, you could say that this is a test of stamina." Ming did not hide any information from his grandson. "We were initially betting how long you were able to last as this wasteland is Suzaku's paradise."

"Each and every warrior you fought was someone who had sought for Suzaku's power. For her allure to resurrect the very person they truly loved would come true if she found them worthy." Ming explained and Jin could only keep his silence longer.

"Heh, I bet you are thinking you do not have anyone who you wish to resurrect back, am I right?" Ming said and Jin returned a difficult smile. "And you would also be thinking, why would anyone want Suzaku's powers when there is already a process of resurrection?"

"That is because...the real authentic process requires the feather of Suzaku to properly resurrect. And that had always been the way even before our Almighty Guan Yu overwrote the law of nature and redefined this particular world's way of life. Might I add even the western mages could have never understood how Guan Yu was able to attain that holy 'Grade 20' grail and was jealous that an eastern cultivator was able to change the rules in such a way." Ming explained and Jin stared at the rotten wasteland.

"Anyways, I digressed. *Cough* So even up till now, the process of resurrection that had been replicated used replacements of Suzaku's feathers to get it working. That was why there were so many precious high grade resources being used to get as close as the effects of Suzaku's feather to get the full result of a resurrection."

"But even judging by your explanation, it seems like you have tried Suzaku feathers once too," Jin said as a casual reply...until he realised, he might have been spot on. "Wait... you tried to search one for Mom?"

Ming did not say a single word and continued to stare at the endless wasteland that laid right in front of them. "Hmmm... mmp." Ming nodded his head slowly and ever so lightly. Yet, Jin could see that the nod was something of an admission of truth, something which he did not reveal all these years. The death of his parents had always been kept a secret and even though he had learnt more when he had the System with him, it was never the full picture.

As much as he wished to probe more information on it, Jin knew his grandpa isn't always the kind of love to share things about himself.

"The number of bodies I dropped to find your mother's culprit. The number of resources I used to find Suzaku's feathers... All of those were numerous and if I were to be alive, I would have continued to do so." Ming said with his head down.

"But it's time to let go of all those grudges and focus on you. You might not be much like your mother or the one that the System had been holding on to, but you still have that burning albeit lazy look in your eyes." Ming said as he stared at Jin and rubbed his head, shuffling his hair as if he was a little kid.

"After all, she gave birth to you, and you are part of her."

Chapter 1197 - Endless Battlefield -Part 2

"But unlike the rest of the trials which was more of a journey of self realisation, Suzaku does not appear whimsically like the others did." Ming said to Jin as he relaxed on the wooden bench.

"It took me quite some time to find her and even more to get her to talk to me." Ming said as he tried to recollect how long it took but he had trouble remembering. "She was something like the transcendent phoenix, coming when you really need it rather than when you want it."

"All these people who tried to find her, risked their lives and even died in the name of finding this mystical bird. But not everyone had the privilege to meet her. You could say that even asking her to leave a partial part of her presence in this subconscious was considered to be an achievement."

"So, The Four Cardinal Lords in my subconsciousness is something like Mr Derpy? Being plucked by a little from the main body to stay inside me?" Jin asked and Ming thought for a while, thinking the right way to describe it.

"Hmm, I could only describe it that they are omnipotent enough to transverse through your subconsciousness and their domain to entertain my request," Ming replied and Jin wondered what his grandfather did that allowed them to be indebted to him.

"Hahaha, from the looks of your expression, you are wondering how I managed to coerce them? Am I right?" Ming queried and Jin acted like the curious grandson, nodding his head furiously for an answer.

"For that, you got to thank Kraft. He was the one to who they were indebted. I do not have the rights to say his part of the story and he probably would downplay his deeds for them, but you can be sure, they are here as a trial to get you up to shape." Ming said as he slapped Jin's back, telling him he had enough rest for the moment.

"Stamina! You need more stamina! No rest until you hit a week of continuous fighting!" Ming said as he snapped his finger and Jin disappeared right in front of him, emerging right beside his former dead body as his resurrection point. "Any deaths in under a week would cause you to spawn right at the same spot you died immediately, with no breaks or anything!"

Before Jin could even react to Ming's condition to have the next talk, he was greeted with a large gigantic sword diving to his position from the top of his head. There was no time to think of a comeback either when Jin realised that the fight was already multiple times harder when he first started.

The animated soldiers were not throwing blows at him slowly and their defences were tighter. Each slash Jin did was met with a feint and sometimes a counter parry. It made Jin feel that the difficulty of the fight had ramped up significantly and he had to be on his toes to fight against them. Still, in hindsight, Jin felt grateful for it since he believed that he truly needed this amidst the current situation he was in.

Unlike his previous fights, he always had the luxury to have his minions fight for him. Once they died, they could spawn again at the minor cost of some resources to bring them back. But the fight with King Baal made him rethink the fights. The System was somehow unable to interfere with the demonic magic

cast by King Baal, forcing Jin to fight almost alone. The only loophole was through the System Rider where Jin drew his powers from his various minions.

While it had been fortuitous that the System Rider had worked well, Jin now knew that his powers had their limits too. It was more obvious against the Loopa Oofpas where he fainted and if he did not have any other comrades around, it would have already been the death of him. So, there were indeed limitations to how much his minions could achieve alongside him and Jin got to buck up as well.

At the same time, he believed it was the best time to polish his techniques. Although Ming had taught him Panda related skills, most of Jin's sword work was from Zeru. Through the System's capability, Jin was able to review footage of how Zeru does his swordplay but there was never enough time to practice.

Even as Zeru was not around at the moment, both in reality and in the subconsciousness area, Jin tried his best to remember a few of the basic ones. However, the more he fought with the soldiers around him, he realised that these soldiers were also rather formidable in their sword work. (Especially since they were able to injure Jin before he was able to attack them back.)

It was then it struck him that he could also learn from them. Not just sword work since there were axe brigands, spearmen, archers and even some exotic weapon users in the mix as well. If anything, the battlefield itself was filled with teachers of unknown origin. As someone who did not have a specific way of fighting, and preferred a versatile array of weapons at his disposal, Jin understood that this was a treasure trove to learn.

"Damn it! If only I had the System with me, I would be able to review some of the animal styles along with the weapon attacks!" Jin thought to himself as he was being struck by a shuriken from the side. The pain was sharp and dull at the same time and yet Jin continued to preserve his attacks.

He continued to use his Inverse Eyes to predict the attacks as well as learning how the fights unfold, what he believed was the optimal time to attack. After which, he attempted to take any opportunity to practice what he saw. Although that caused him to have an additional lag in his movements, allowing his opponents to have an upper hand at times, he took it in stride. A cheap payment for the lessons he learnt from these animated soldiers.

An endless battlefield but an endless bout of experience too.

Chapter 1198 - Endless Battlefield -Part 3

"Ah damn it." Byakko sighed as Orochi and Genbu laughed as the trio watched the entire scene from afar. Jin was killed by one of the side swipes of a spear by the animated soldiers. It was not those fancy techniques but a sneak poke and swipe.

"Hahahah! Pay up, pay up! If you believed Jin was able to clear the one week streak challenge that easily, I would have already bet big bucks on it." Genbu said and Orochi went towards Byakko with its mouth open. The white tiger grumbled as he took out a mysterious box sealed with a dangerous charm and placed it in the snake's mouth.

"He was close enough. Going five days straight was no simple feat while learning the skills of those animated soldiers." Byakko grumbled, saying that he should have made a stricter bet.

"It was your problem for not predicting that he would take this opportunity to learn from those animated soldiers." Genbu chuckled as he was delighted the mysterious box was within his possession..

"Relic betting again?" Ming walked towards them while patting Genbu's head. Even though he was initially the size of a mountain, the black tortoise was able to change his size to his liking. "How is that young boy doing?"

"The fight had been getting harder with some of the animated soldiers showing more than just weapon flaying," Genbu said. "As instructed, I had quietly inserted a few animated soldiers of our own so that he could learn from those manuals you had collated over the years."

"Yeah. Thanks, Gen chan. I figured that he did not have much time to even open those manuals that I gave him in the real world, well judging from his recent memories. He had been stuck to work for almost every day, this was probably the only time he would take training seriously."

Ming glee with joy as he felt his plan to teach Jin was successful.

While it was true that the soldiers within Suzaku Undying Battlefield were filled with cultivators of different grades, greed and desire. Ming thought that it would be opportunistic of him to throw in a few of his to teach Jin and made him aware of the different fighting techniques that he could have encountered in the real world.

It might be a rehash of all the manuals that the System had collated thus far but Ming also had his own personal collection which he did not give the System or Grandma Yuan. Though he initially wanted to use his personal collection into the fray, he saw how Jin was earnestly trying to learn from Suzaku's phantoms that he believed it would be best to start from the basics.

With the aid of Genbu, he had thrown almost every basic cultivation grade manual for these past five days and Jin was able to catch up quite easily with the aid of his Inverse Eyes. He even took the chance to practice a number of those basic techniques whenever he had the chance against those animated soldiers, increasing his repertoire of weapon knowledge.

However, Genbu had decided to up the game a little by throwing a few advanced techniques towards Jin since he was partially confident that Jin was able to catch up. (Although Byakko believed he was afraid that Jin was able to pass through the week's challenge with relative ease. But with Genbu's ever stoic face, he could only assume that was his motive.)

In any case, with Jin's past ability to mish mash skills, he slowly tried to integrate those techniques into his Panda Style. In most cases where someone had chosen a style to cultivate, they would not be able to copy any other style's techniques. However, the Astral Panda Style was more unique than most. Jin's previous background to be able to use various techniques from other animal styles had allowed his Dan Tian to be a little more flexible, able to portray the cultivation style he was copying.

It might sound like the ultimate copying skill in the world since he is not just able to copy eastern cultivator's techniques but the western mages with the affinity for elements. But there were drawbacks to his copying. It was limited to his learning ability which was directly proportionate to his use of Inverse

Eyes. Even if he could remember and copy the technique, the copied technique would not have the full might of the said technique.

And unlike in reality where he might have the System to aid him, he might potentially forget the skills he had copied from the fight during his stint in the subconscious. But even so, Ming would like to have him exposed to as many techniques as possible. This was because the subconsciousness controls up to 90% of a human's action. There could come a time where Jin might accidentally trigger his memories and utilise such techniques.

But that would be an extreme case as Ming believed it would be more helpful if Jin were to use it to review the manuals in reality. That way, he would be able to get the technique he wanted as soon as possible.

However, that was not the worst part of his drawback of copying the technique. Jin could feel that the copied technique was inferior in terms of power even though he used his inverse eyes to copy each and every movement. He could only believe it was because he did not master them properly.

Still, that was not the issue.

The issue was his Panda silhouette...when copying the style he was imitating. For example, he could not concentrate on creating the Lightning Spear of the Serious Stag when he accidentally saw his Panda Silhouette imitating a stag by stuffing two makeshift branches on its head and copying the knock of its hoofs. Or like the Triple Assault Punch of the Tenacious Tiger where other Panda Silhouettes painted more stripes on its main Panda Silhouette and even put fake teeth to show that it was imitating a tiger.

At that point, he wondered if his opponent would laugh to death first or be killed by the technique he copied.

Chapter 1199 - A Much Needed Interval -Part 1

"ARGHHH!!!" Jin shouted as he was once again killed because of a blind spot when he was raking up his days of kills. It was his fourth continuous day of fighting but this was already his fifth attempt to survive for seven days straight. In total, he had actually been fighting for 21 days without any breaks and the onlookers could already see that Jin was near his breaking point in terms of his sanity.

Ming had begun throwing animated soldiers unleashing advanced techniques and there was no doubt that it was getting harder the more times he died. Thus, instead of letting him continue on with the fights, Ming decided to give him a timeout by throwing him out back to reality, forcing him to wake up screaming at his defeat.

When Jin shouted, both Lynn and Qiu Yue happened to be in their rooms and came teleporting to his room to see what was happening, only to find out Jin was panting heavily.

"You alright?" Lynn questioned while Qiu Yue was already holding on to her weapon, thinking there was a threat somewhere.. But the threat was the two girls as they were wearing skimpily when they rushed into Jin's room.

"I... I am fine." Jin's anger somehow diverted for a moment and decided to regulate his chi through his body. It was then he told them that he should be able to cool off with a shower and thanked them for their concern.

"You sure?" Lynn asked once more but Jin nodded his head, thanking them for their concern, asking them what time and date, hoping to know how much time he had skipped.

"It's currently Tuesday evening, 930pm. You have been out for only two days." Qiu Yue said as she withdrew her weapon and sighed. "Actually, it's a good thing you are back early. There were people from the Symposium looking for you, wanting to talk to you about your entry. I told them that you were in lockdown mode, not wanting to be disturbed. But they insisted that you contact them or else there is a chance for you to entirely miss out on the entire event."

"Qiu Yue!" Lynn communicated through System Channel while expressing a pouty face in front of her but behind Jin when he was in the bathroom. She was the one who received the messages and only told her fellow Sub System User as an update. Lynn did not expect Qiu Yue to jump the gun.

"Hehe, you just wanted more interaction with him, right?" Qiu Yue teased Lynn and waved at her goodbye. "Perhaps you should lose the jacket you are wearing and you might stand a chance with that big baggy singlet you are wearing inside."

"The System believes that is a good idea too." The System had to interject in the conversation but Lynn smacked Qiu Yue forcefully at her side for making fun of her. She also stared at the ceiling and pulled her tongue out at the System for reinforcing Qiu Yue's suggestion.

At that time Jin came out, looked surprised by the weird expression Lynn was making and asked if everything was okay. Qiu Yue chuckled hard and Lynn somehow embarrassed herself right in front of him.

"In any case, thanks to you two. I will take a look at the emails they sent me. But since you said its night time, there's no way they would reply promptly even if I write to them now. Might as well do something productive." Jin said as he had a face which the two girls had seen before.

If there was an issue that bugged him, he would continue to do think about it until it was a done deal. Thus, the two girls immediately questioned him and asked if there was anything they could help.

"I do not think so, it's a problem that I had faced when I was cultivating within my subconsciousness."

"Lol, you merely looked like you were sleeping all night long." Qiu Yue replied and Lynn felt dejected that there was really nothing she could help except her speciality.

"Would you like a hot meal before you attempt your cultivation once more? A full stomach might allow you to think better." Lynn asked with concern.

"More like it would let him sleep better." Qiu Yue said but Jin thought for a moment and decided to take up Lynn's offer.

"But this time, let me help a little. I feel bad that you are always doing all the cooking." Jin said, thinking it might be a good distraction to cool himself down before going in for another try.

"I would like to help too then! Besides, I am feeling peckish from all the reviews of the construction from the Dungeon World AND Farming World." Qiu Yue emphasised the last part to let Jin know that she was working very hard too for her paycheck.

"Hmmm. I think I could think of a very simple meal which would be easy for the both of you to do and not screw it up." Lynn snapped her finger and her attire turned into a set of clothes with an apron on.

"Awww, no naked apron in front of Jin?" Qiu Yue once again teased the poor Lynn in the System Channel and she hoped that it would introduce some ideas for the girl to take action when opportunity strikes.

"Well! You never gave me any chance to do so!" Lynn answered which shocked Qiu Yue for a moment but thankfully Jin did not notice at all.

"Heh. Too bad for you, I am really feeling hungry. Please feed me, Lynn. I promise I will help you get him." Qiu Yue's face turned all puppy eyes at Lynn and she sighed as they walked out of Jin's room. In the meantime, Jin was busy putting his face to his phone's screen since the downtime allowed him to read the news with regards to the Symposium.

"Hmm... a backup site?" Jin read and thought to himself why the Symposium committee would like his Tree Mall to be a secondary site to host the area.

Chapter 1200 - A Much Needed Interval -Part 2

"Can we have something flavoury?" Qiu Yue asked as the trio walked down the stairs together.

"That will disturb your sleep if you are too full," Lynn asked and Qiu Yue waved it off.

"With the amount of work that Jin and his other minions put me on, I might have a long night ahead. So please, entertain me with some junk food." Qiu Yue turned back to look at Jin and he too agreed that it would be nice to have something crappy once in a while.

"And I do not mean your food is crappy! I mean junk food!" Jin suddenly realised he might have offended Lynn and she chuckled a little.

"None taken. Then let's get some quick bites. I think there is still some leftover meat from morning's chicken porridge stew. We can make do with that and that will allow me to fully utilise the chicken." Lynn said while she requested the Sub System to start up the kitchen.

Her Sub System acknowledged and booted up the lights, turned the oven up to warm it, prepared the knives and other cooking utensils as well as rearranged the kitchen cabinets to ensure that Lynn had everything she needed. That was one of the reasons why almost everyone has an unspoken rule to not touch the kitchen items unless they wished to cook something to clear their hunger. (However, that was usually not needed as they could just jump to the store's Restaurant Instance and have the penguins to prepare them something fast, nutritious and delicious.)

Also, because the Sub System was in sync with Lynn, whatever Lynn was thinking of, the Sub System would do its best to prepare it beforehand. If the items were available in the Restaurant Instance or their home kitchen, the Sub System would bring them out to the forefront of the cabinets so that Lynn would have easy access to them.

To her, the kitchen was like a surgery table and the Sub System was the assistant where it would hand her the item needed to create the dish. But for today, the Sub System was ready for battle because of the potential mess Jin and Qiu Yue might create since they were amateurs when it comes to cooking. If the Sub System had to rate between the two of them, it would keep an eye on Qiu Yue more than Jin since the Sub System had noticed the User had some basic experience in cooking, probably because of his previous family situation where he would be cooped alone.

But Qiu Yue? She was blessed with a family that was able to not just feed her but have a caring mother who would handle the home affairs. The Sub System had encountered Qiu Yue making a mess without concern especially when she knew that there was a Sub System who would be there to clean up everything. Still, most of the mess she made could be avoided if she was more focused on the cooking than following the cooking videos on the internet.

"I will wash and prep the meat. Qiu Yue, you follow the instructions on the digital console and take out the sauces and dressings for the food. Jin, you could start taking out the dishes and utensils. Make sure the deep fryer is ready and then cook the fries."

"Ayyyy! Aw yes, fries." Jin gleed as he went to the freezer to pick up the fries. They were cold washed cut potatoes as if they were prepared just for this occasion.

"Why am I stuck with such a boring task?" Qiu Yue asked and Lynn looked at her with a death stare. She then remembered that Lynn was the commander in this current situation and she nodded her head slowly while taking out the sauces as well as the necessary ingredients like onions, cheese and garlic. She assumed was tasked to cut it since it looked like Lynn was going to make some sandwich.

"Not some sandwich. Cuban Sandwich. With lots of meat." Lynn said as she requested Qiu Yue to open the cabinet below and take the plancha grill out. It was similar to a portable George Foreman grill but because it was more heavy duty.

At the same time, Jin started to test the oil heat by hovering his hand above it for a moment and dropping the cut potato into it. The way it frizzled was something so satisfying even though he had done it a few times. It was not a lie if he would say he wished to work in a fast food restaurant to do the very same thing. However, as Jin was done with his task, he requested the System to look up past Symposium events asking if the Symposium had ever needed to use a secondary location.

But before the System could give a reply, Lynn was already telling Jin to focus and start up the frying pan in order to cook some sausages. "Sizzle them with onions and beer and then throw them on the plancha grill for a while to let the flavour out. Sub System, please liaise them so they know the timing." Lynn said as she was rubbing the meat with a special type of marinade and dipping half of them into some flour and breadcrumbs.

While most Cuban sandwiches do not have a fried meat component, she wanted to test out if it would change the taste if there was something crunchy in the middle too. That was why she was handling the

major meat portion while Qiu Yue and Jin covered the rest of the kitchen. With the strict instructions of the Sub System, both of them were able to follow the tasks reasonably within the time limit, allowing Lynn to concentrate on the meat.

Still, there was some banter around and it was not an entirely stressful situation as they thought it would be with the Queen of the Kitchen. (Of course, they all knew that Lynn purposely chose something more fun and interactive and easy to cook so that everyone would have some fun.)

But all in all, it was an off the job activity that the three somehow relished they have more of this.