

## Dungeon S 1221

### Chapter 1221: Hall Of Massage Chairs

As the discussion drifted through the time, the System informed them that they had reached the underground tunnel station where Kong Rong's department full of support team and agents were allowed to step off.

There were some customers who noticed this particular station as something out of the unusual and wanted to get off to explore. However, the System did not allow any other customers to get off by using the penguins NPC to reinforce the orders. But just as the customers were about to complain, Jin purposely used the loudspeakers on the train and announced to the customers on the train that this particular stop was for a group of private guests waiting who had booked and paid for a special custom instance.

The customers on board did not realise they could do that and shrugged it off as a stop that they had no choice but to wonder what kind of money the people had to spend so that they could buy a private instance with Jin. Aside from that, given the sensitivity of the group's work, the System also ensured that Kong Rong's group were out of sight and nobody was able to take any pictures of them walking through the platforms. The customers who saw them could only see shadow silhouettes moving through the platform. (However, because of this minor impromptu excuse created by Jin stating that it was only for a private event, it later cascaded into a series of requests by the rich in the future.)

"Boss, where are we going? Those penguins kept reminding us that we have to clear our food as soon as possible. Most of us thought that we were going to drink till the night fades away." Tai Yang, one of Kong Rong's subordinates asked.

"To be honest with you, I have no idea as well since Boss Jin specifically told me that this is something special just for us. Just follow blindly for now." Kong Rong pretended to be oblivious to the entire situation, hoping that his colleagues would have a good surprise.

"We have reached. I would like to ask everyone to ensure that they all have their Pandamonium Accounts created." Yun also added that internet wifi had also been activated for those who had not created any. "Without the accounts, you would not be able to have full functionality as well as experience of this current event which was catered just for you all."

"Yeah, guys. Please listen to her. Your data is safe with us, Sea Mesh." Ke Loong who was in the crowd reiterated since some of them were worried if their personal data could be compromised. Among them, there were some individuals who handled sensitive data on a regular basis and had decided to use a guest account upon logging into Jin's dungeon instance. It was a new feature which Jin had implemented to cater to people who merely wanted to have a quick look at the shop without providing any details while also reducing the hassle of entering into their shop instance.

Naturally, the System had other ways to identify these guests without them registering properly but the techniques and secrets were kept a mystery even to Jin. 'The less he knows, the better it will be.' The System once answered to Lynn with regards to the implementation of this particular guest ID system.

Once everyone had reluctantly downloaded and created a new Pandamonium Account within the application, Yun finally opened the doors showing them a hall filled with rows of massage chairs. Or that

was what they thought. Upon closer inspection, they noticed that there was a headset on top of a side cabinet beside each chair.

“You guys can freely choose where you wish to sit and it does not matter at all.” Jin said while he stood at the centre and a console appeared in front of him. He immediately typed furiously on the console as if to activate certain parameters before finally blabbering out the reveal for this particular place once everyone was seated. “Welcome to the prototype -well, more like beta testing of the Virtual Reality Instance.” Jin immediately pressed a button and the chairs they were on began to start shifting away from their position.

The rows of ‘massage’ chairs were eventually rearranged in such a way that Jin was the centrepiece in the hall while the rest encircled around him. And because of the number of people within the hall, a portion of the floor had also been raised so that everyone could see Jin at the very centre.

Ke Loong who was supposed to be a creepy onlooker had decided to join in the fun since he was excited about what Jin had in mind with regards to the improvements he made within the Virtual Reality Instance. The crowd within the hall was already talking among each other, all of them could not believe they would be the first batch of people trying out the rumoured Virtual Reality Instance.

“Yeap, some of you might have seen the itinerary in the Symposium, seeing how there was a section where I would be presenting the future of Dungeon Suppliers by creating an immersive Virtual Reality with the aid of Dimensional Instance. In actual fact, I had already prepared this as a huge surprise for the Symposium rather than just talking about the possibilities. But since the Symposium had kicked me out of it, it’s their loss and a big win for me with all that media scrutinising us.” Jin commented as he booted up the System’s server for the Virtual Reality Instance.

“Remember, this is still in beta testing and if you found any possible bugs, do send a report when you enter. But first! How to enter.” Jin quickly pulled out a digital poster and broadcast it at the centre of the hall showing the group how easy it was to enter it.

“Put on the Virtual Reality headset and when it synchronises with you, indicating to you they are ready, just say Okay or Dive In.” Jin explained. And with that, the entire group within the Hall instantly entered Virtual Reality with their bodies in this physical plane while their souls and mind had been transferred into the System’s server.

## **Chapter 1222: Virtual Reality Instance Challenges**

Jin pressed a few more buttons and strobes of lights were shone throughout the hall to create a mystifying effect though it was just aesthetics to boot while Kong Rong’s colleagues entered into the Virtual Reality Instance. The System had already pinged and started to see the number of agents going into the server.

While that was happening, Jin gave all control to Yun as he returned to the Dungeon Maker Instance to ensure that he had eyes on all the souls that had entered the Virtual Reality Instance. After all, this was the first time there were more than a few participants playing the instance and he got to ensure that it at least ran smoothly.

The System did bring up the idea of allowing his minions to do the heavy loading test to ensure that everything goes well but Jin procrastinated on the issue. If he had done that earlier, this particular

testing would not give him much anxiety especially when the room was full of the country's top armed service agents.

Imagine if something were to happen and he incapacitated the entire group of agents, causing him to be the next most wanted criminal in the country. Forget about being a Panda Lord, it was best for Jin to simply move out of his world and to the other so that they would not catch him for the accidental crimes he committed. Proving innocent might be possible but it would reveal a lot of nasty secrets which each and every Royal Zodiac Clan and potentially the world would come after for. Jin would not be surprised if people started to try inter dimensional travel using him as an excuse so that they could pour resources into it.

"All participating users had been teleported into the loading instances and are now choosing how their current avatar would look like." The System reported and Jin requested it to turn on time dilation magic in that hall.

"Would that be a wise decision? Subjecting participants to time dilation magic would inadvertently reduce their lifespan." The System asked.

"Not as if they have time to enjoy this in the future. Besides, the reduction of their lifespan is minimal compared to the System subjecting ME to time dilation magic." Jin argued and the System countered by saying that it had monitored each and every vital organ on Jin, indicating that there was no change in its physiology as compared to the others.

"And the System had repeatedly stated that the User is not affected by the intense use of time dilation and compression magic."

"Lol. There was one point in time I thought you would know how long I would live but it seems like you only looked at the changes and predicted how long I could live." Jin said and told the System to go ahead with it and a large mystic circle instantly appeared in the hall of the massage chairs, activating the time dilation magic so that they could enjoy the Virtual Reality Instance even more.

As expected, most of them did not take into account Jin's advice and many were stuck in the avatar customisation menu where they were seen admiring their new body and testing out all the features that were given to them. With the exception of Ke Loong who had already chosen the 'stuggest' of stud bodies the customisation menu could present and enter into the village that Jin had created.

Unlike the time when Jin entered, the village now had a few NPCs just like how Nian's Island was. All the previous experience that Jin had accumulated from making dungeon instances would take place in this particular village.

Obviously, there were currently no NPCs but one with an exclamation mark bubble on top of their heads since it was part of the tutorial which Jin had created. That was one of the reasons why he was also so preoccupied with it and the intensive use of time dilation magic. With only one person working as the 'graphics' artist, quest designer and story developer, there was no way Jin could have created this within a month or so.

Thankfully, the technical difficulties and hiccups were mainly solved by the System while the headset production was taken care of by Ke Loong's Sea Mesh company where he purposely outsourced all the various parts and subsequently Pandapolis imports those parts to do the manufacturing. While Sea

Mesh also dealt with a small production of the headsets which Kong Rong and his colleagues were using now, they were similar to the portal gadgets where Jin had purposely put a material out of their current world so that people would not be able to reverse engineer it.

Even if they could, without that vital component, it would not be able to fully replicate the capabilities of the Virtual Reality Instance. Even so, like the portal gadget, the System was in control of the instances and without the same technology or magic that the System employed, there was no way for them to create another Virtual Reality instance unless multinational companies pour billions of dollars into R&D to reach the same level as Jin.

Thus, Jin had already future proofed himself by at least ten years with the Virtual Reality Instance if he could establish it properly. The only thing he needs now is to start it up properly. Perhaps just one small village right now, but with the ambition to combine the Virtual Reality instance with a real environment just as how he and the System discussed creating a space station to handle the workload, there was a lot on his hands to take care of and there was only so much one human could do.

Jin was hoping that with the introduction of the Virtual Reality Instance to Kong Rong's department as well as Ke Loong, he might be able use it as an opportunity to broaden his connections so that he could employ people with the right expertise into his cause and create the largest ever dungeon instance in the world via his Virtual Reality Instance.

### **Chapter 1223: Tour Guide Alex**

Ke Loong stared at his new body and sized himself. "Holy shit, I can even feel the crevices under those muscles." He even tried to kiss one of those muscles he long to have in real life and it felt awfully fantastic for him.

"You know, you could get that kind of body if you put in some effort in your personal training rather than just staying in the office." Kong Rong said as he came out in the very same body figure he had, just a slightly younger version of him. The only difference was that he had added a tail to his current avatar as well as a pair of dragon horns as if to signify he was true towards his Dragon Lineage.

"You are not the only one who has traits of your own family." Ke Loong said as he used some strength to force out a singular partial wing out from his left scapula. "This is fucking amazing. According to the traits, I am currently still in the infant stage of my powers but if I continue to level, I would have the ability to fly like a hawk."

"I honestly never checked what my abilities could do." Kong Rong said as the others had begun to zone in and saw the beta version of the village. NPCs started to look at them and whispered among themselves. It was as if people had noticed their arrival and they were exchanging their thoughts and opinions of the people who had arrived to this village.

There was however one particular NPC that stood out that looked like a tour guide. It was pretty obvious that the person was the first guy everyone had to talk to personally to start their travels. Kong Rong was

wondering how Jin would be handling this in real time since it would be ridiculously stupid for everyone to speak to just one NPC.

But as soon as Kong Rong had eye contact with the NPC, it felt as if he was in some cutscene where everyone had been blurred out in the background, making him feel as if he was the protagonist of this particular scene. "Good evening there, Mister! I am Alex and welcome to our humble village of Alexan! As you can deduce from my name, my parents loved the town so much that they decided to name me as part of the village!" Alex said as he went towards Kong Rong's face, almost as if he was invading his personal space and whispering to his ear. "Actually I hated my name, I prefer to be called Lex, it sounded cooler than that normal Alex but don't let my neighbours or shopkeepers hear it or they would tell my parents."

"Ehh okay." Kong Rong merely shook his shoulders and nodded his head in agreement while Alex returned to his original cheery expression and told Kong Rong about the village they stepped into. Apparently, how they started the story was similar to an adventurer coming here by carriage and they were just out of the guards' room since there were incidents of bandits disguising themselves as adventurers to assault, steal and even kill some of the village people. That was why the village guards were doing a more stringent check to ensure that the people who passed were authentic adventurers with their adventurer's pass.

"Ah, I can see where this is going. You want us to find those bandits?" Kong Rong asked and Alex laughed as if he was telling some joke.

"Don't kid yourself, adventurer. As a fresh young aspiring explorer, you should gain some experience and also get to know the town a little more. But hey, if you wish to try risking your life against those bandits, be my guest. We would like to commend a hero when we see a real life one." Alex said in such sarcasm as if the village itself had seen its fair share of fake proud adventurers.

It was at that point, Kong Rong came out of the conversation and saw everyone was being idle or 'locked in cutscene' with the NPC as the Dragonborn adventurer walked towards the Hawkborn guy yawning while looking at his phone.

"This is the only thing they allow us to bring into this Virtual Reality Instance as a way to track our progress since our phones had installed the Pandamonium App. But also ensuring that we have a link to our current world." Ke Loong said as he showed his work emails coming into his inbox as per usual. The phone model did not change and neither did the accessories such as the phone cover. The only difference was that there was something similar to an inbuilt speaker wired into their heads so they could use the phone without any earpieces.

"Ooo that's interesting but won't that break the immersion of the place?" Kong Rong said as he tried to place his hand on his pants' pockets and found that his phone was indeed with him.

"Nah, I casually told him I like to bring my phone to Virtual Reality during one of the many testing phases and suddenly he kept quiet for a moment. After which he mumbled to me that that was a brilliant idea and had to do this to make sure that the person had a line to the real world no matter what. He does not want any of those novel like incidents where his Virtual Reality becomes a deathtrap with all communications cut out from the world. In his words, If Rei can come from another world and into mine

without the intervention of the System, it is very likely that these authors writing about isekai could possibly come true. Lol, so that's how he instantly approves the use of our real life phones."

"hahaha, what a convoluted way of thinking but I am sure that will put many people at ease knowing that there is a connection back to the real world no matter how convenient or to some people annoying it would be." Kong Rong said as he asked Ke Loong if they wanted to find these bandits.

"Yea, he also probably makes sure that the kids and teenagers who play would not be able to cut the lines off. In any case, yeah let's go. Like to see how strong those bandits are compared to us." Ke Loong turned his phone off and the two of them went to the outskirts of the village without exploring the place. With just a basic weapon attached to their waist and back, they decided to rush the content to see what Jin's prototype could offer.

### **Chapter 1224: Ladybugs and Sheeps**

The village outskirts were not exactly the prettiest sight to behold. Some of the houses had been left abandoned for some time and it even showed that nature had once again shown triumph against men's creation. Shrubs and bushes had taken over the houses and there was almost nothing left of the former.

It made the adventurers wonder why the village did not wish to expand further with the influx of adventurers but they could only wonder that there could be a quest to showcase the history of the village... just not at the moment. In terms of monsters and animal life, it was not long after coming out from the village that they encountered a few enlarged ladybugs and even sheeps grazing the unchecked grasslands.

And like every game there was a level attached to them to show their difficulty level and all of them had adjusted to ensure that the threat was equivalent to the general level of adventurers within the vicinity.

Thus, Kong Rong and Ke Loong had started to smash some of the enlarged ladybugs to gain some experience. None of them were proving to be much of a fight even though the ladybugs seem to have a better evasion rate as compared to the usual real life punching bags they were used to.

However, the cap in their power was definitely a handicap.

Unlike in the real world where they had trained for their current cultivation for years, especially for Kong Rong, his usual fighting style was not as strong as he thought they would be in against the ladybugs. It lacked power, speed and even fighting a few dozen ladybugs could prove to be quite a challenge.

Still, having Ke Loong with him did aid with the killing and they reached level 2 where they could try their hands on the level 4 sheeps. "Let's see what those idle gazing sheeps would offer that these bugs don't." Ke Loong said as he withdrew his sword from the carcass of the dead ladybug.

"Wait wait. Before that, I want to see how to use a skillpoint." Kong Rong said as both of them had gained a skill point from levelling up their sword fighting but were unable to use it at all. He then used the Pandamonium App to see if the on board app AI would be able to solve that question.

Surprisingly, the AI who was none other than the System told them that since they had not met anybody that was capable of teaching them the ways of the sword, the skill point on swords had currently been locked. If they had taken the time to explore the village, the duo might have been able to browse through the shops for books on basic sword fighting and even visit a sword master to get their skill tree open.

“I thought Jin wanted this Virtual Reality to be as open and flexible as it can be? How come we need to follow some sword master?” Kong Rong scratched his head wondering why was the current system was kinda backward and stupid.

“Dude, you are supposed to be a brand new adventurer, an escape from our current reality. Obviously, you have to play by their rules. Sure, we might be able to use our own skills without chi at the moment but lore wise. You are just some new guy who tried to prove his worth. If you want any assurances, Jin said upon reaching a certain level in let’s say at this instance, sword fighting, you get to incorporate your own skills into the avatar.” Ke Loong told Kong Rong not to worry and help him with the sheep.

“Alright, it does make sense if you think of it that way. But are you sure you want to fight that sheep? It’s a higher level than you. We do not know the experience point penalty system.” Kong Rong commented and Ke Loong snorted.

“Wow, looks like your childhood was not just about the Dragon Clan. You did play some games too.” Ke Loong teased Kong Rong even though they knew each other well enough.

“If there is PVP or a duel system, I would have beat you up right here and now. How would I not get the title Mr Know It All if not for my knowledge for almost everything.”

“But you did not know anything about this Virtual Reality! I know more than you! Come, relinquish that boastful title of yours and also change your current avatar name to Mr Don’t Know It All.” Ke Loong made fun of the top elite agent of the Dragon Clan until he realised the rest of his department was slowly trickling into the fields as well.

A few of them even asked what they were fighting against and when Ke Loong said they wanted to take the grazing sheep, the rest thought it would be a good idea to gang up against it so that they could have a faster accumulation of experience points.

Thus, a group of three level one adventurers had decided to rush forward, ignoring the ladybugs and against the level 4 sheep. The first few hits went in but with the sheep was of a higher level than them combined. And to their abysmal luck, it managed to deal a critical hit to one of the adventurers, causing one of them to fall dead immediately from the blow. A few of the adventurers laughed at how silly he had died but they were not prepared for the unexpected.

The sheep who had killed the adventurer suddenly levelled up.

It seems that this was not the usual Virtual Reality role playing game they thought it would be. The monsters themselves could level up as well if the adventurers were not careful and now that forced Kong Rong and Ke Loong on their toes. It was indeed a risk and reward kind of game right now. They could go for a high level monster and bag that kill or risk forcing them to be more dangerous than usual.

And since that sheep had just levelled up, it became the immediate threat to all the adventurers in the area.

### **Chapter 1225: That Sheep**

Before Ke Loong and Kong Rong could step into the fight against it, another three more adventurers tried to cover the loss of one, hoping that it would be a numbers game. If you throw enough bodies it might eventually be a solution and that was the most logical thing to do in an MMORPG and in dungeon instances. So, they thought that was how they would overcome this particular problem. However, that solution became non-existent the moment the total of four adventurers had engaged it.

The fifth one was being knocked back before he could even be within the range of the grazing sheep and a barrier emerged out of nowhere as if to stop anybody else from coming close to it. Everyone within the vicinity then realised there is an expected difficulty fighting against the enemies and there was no other way than to carefully choose their battles.

“Holy shit, isn’t this just a normal mob? It suddenly becomes a battle to the death against a normal monster?” Kong Rong found it hard to believe it was that gruesome and the other adventurers recognised the same too.

“I think this is to prevent experience point tagging or a group of people just mob rushing and levelling up fast.” Ke Loong presumed and could only anticipate the slaughter of the four level 1 adventurers as the sheep once again smashed its head towards one of the adventurers who had accidentally stepped on uneven ground.

The stomp killed the adventurer causing the sheep’s experience points to go up while the other three took a more cautious approach. This time, everyone did not try to be a hero entering the barrier to substitute for the dead adventurer. Even the level 2 duos did not try anything particular and could only hope for the best for the remaining three.

On the other hand, someone attempted to cast support magic through the barrier, hoping it would go through but to their dismay, it was not possible. The remaining three had to tackle it themselves and they were already cautiously fighting against the monstrous sheep by making sure there was sufficient distance away from it.

At the same time, they had to make sure that they did not accidentally provoke another monster in their midst. Thankfully, this was still the starting area where all the monsters were considered passive and while the counterparts of this innocent looking four legged herbivore had no wish to join the fight, the adventurers believed it would not be the same for other areas.

The only advantage they had now was they were trained agents despite the fact two colleagues of theirs had unfortunately fallen due to their sheer bad luck. They kept their cool and analysed the situation despite the shocking catastrophe they encountered in the first place. The agents found out that the sheep was a more passive creature and continued to stay on its guard, only to attack when its enemies came too close.



This gave them time to plan their attack so long they did not do anything rash to provoke the sheep and that was the only notion they could rely on.

“Maybe I will distract you and you two attack it from the flanks and avoid its legs. After all, the sheep is not exactly a very agile creature.” One of them who was carrying a sword and shield ordered the other two. “I should be able to block a hit or two allowing you two to have enough time to damage it.”

“And then allow it to cause a rampage and kill us all three? Have you seen a very angry sheep before in real life?” Another adventurer said and they were in a stalemate in terms of handling the monster. “If it levels up again, it will regain its full hit points and come back stronger.”

“Lol, plus that headbutt it did was rather quick too and do not forget that the sheep had wool as its protective cover. Even if we are fast, it would be pretty meaningless if our strikes are not deep to pierce through its wool and into its body.”

Upon hearing the conversation, that was when Kong Rong had thought of an idea to possibly circumvent this level difference. He quickly searched for an enlarged ladybug and stabbed it once, causing its health to drop to half its hit points.

Angered by his actions, the enlarged ladybug attempted to attack Kong Rong but he managed to evade it in time. Simultaneously, he started to bring it closer to the adventurers who were in the stalemate against the sheep and shouted at the adventurer who was equipped with a sword and shield.

“Yu Xuan! Try and see if you can kill this!” Kong Rong shouted as he blocked the ladybug’s attack with his sword. Not sure what his leader was thinking, Yu Xuan merely nodded and followed orders as he took another step back to position himself for the attack. When the ladybug was in range, he used all his might to strike it and to his surprise, the attack went through, allowing him to drop its health to a quarter while Kong Rong finished it off.

Both of them got experience points while the sheep continued to stay stationary. The rest of the adventurers saw what Kong Rong was doing and had decided to do the same for the remaining two who were engaged with the sheep. They realised that the interaction between the monsters was something similar to basic maths. To be more exact, Venn diagrams where each set of monsters and adventurers can intersect and subsequently overlap the barriers if they play by the rules.

It was also because of the nature of their opponent that they allowed them to do this ‘cheat’, allowing the current group to reach level 3 despite it being a slow and painful process for baiting. At this point, Kong Rong and Ke Loong had also reached level 4 but they decided to let their leader join in the fight.

So with a smaller level difference, the group had decided to try their luck fighting against the killer sheep. Kong Rong might not have any skills under his belt but the other three had briefly talked to their trainers, allowing them to learn basic skills. Yu Xuan was the tank and he had acquired the skill ‘Shield Bash’ that could temporarily stun his opponent for four seconds. The other two were DPS class with them being a thief and archer respectively, allowing them to have speed on their side.

Thus, they hoped that their tank could at least block a hit or two and subsequently the damage dealers could inflict sufficient damage so when Yu Xuan bash its shield against the sheep, they would have enough attack to kill it before the sheep had the chance to counter attack. Worst case scenario, they did what they had done for the past fifteen minutes.

Overlap the monsters by tagging and thus allowing other adventurers to enter the fray. It is however a fairly complicated manoeuvre especially when the sheep might possibly deal a critical hit once more, levelling itself up.

But one thing was for sure. If they can't kill this sheep, the sheep might potentially become strong enough to be their first boss encounter.

### **Chapter 1226: Angry Sheep**

"Steady... Steady..." Kong Rong said as he placed a step forward and his sword was placed at his back. If possible, they would wish to have a simultaneous strike which they found out while exchanging kills against the ladybugs. By doing a simultaneous strike among the four fighters, it was possible to stun the monster for a brief moment, allowing them to gain momentum. Even though the stun seemed to vary depending on how precise the strikes were, they wanted to, if possible, chain up the attacks with a stun effect so that the duration the sheep was concussed was longer.

"NOW!" Kong Rong shouted and the sheep screeched while rushing towards him. However, Yu Xuan started banging his wooden shield and shouting at the top of his voice, causing the enmity that was aimed towards Kong Rong transferred to him. To their luck, it caused the sheep to pause for a moment and change direction, providing the attackers with the flanks and its back exposed.

Even as the adventurers who were not participating were watching with their throats tightened up as they hoped the four of them could achieve a simultaneous strike. Unfortunately, Yu Xuan realised that if he were to go for the offensive, there was a chance he might be knocked back, or even worse, killed in the process.

So, to play it safe, he kneels with one leg firmly on the ground and uses his shield as the cover against the sheep's headbutt. At the same time, he plunged his sword into the ground, hoping it would provide him with sufficient balance to withstand the knockback of a level 5 sheep.

\*BAM\* The shield Yu Xuan was holding nearly gave way but as a cultivator skilled in the sword and shield style, his basic foundation had paid off allowing the shield to not break under immense pressure by blocking the headbutt via a certain angle. At this point when the interval where the sheep had performed its headbutt, the three other adventurers quickly took the chance to strike.

The thief aimed for the neck since it had the least wool on it despite it being one of the more challenging areas to hit. The archer did not wish to fire his arrows since his companions were dangerously close and thus used a knife too to go for a close ranged attack. In the meantime, Kong Rong went for a wide slash with his sword at the body, hoping his strike would have sufficient range to go through the wool and have the blade seep into its flesh.

\*6! 18! 37! \*

There was a damage counter that floated out of the sheep when they hit and they saw the strikes connected, causing a multiplier to appear and making the damage counter change colour to a slight tint

of rainbow. At the same time, they could see through their eyes that the sheep had a stunned status right above their head.

At this point, the thief jumps on top of the sheep while using its horn as its pivot. He then tried to drag the knife through the neck even though it felt as if its neck muscles were made out of rock. Meanwhile, the archer took a quick step back while nocking his bow in the midst to shoot several arrows right to its butt. The sheep's hit points were going down steadily while Kong Rong frantically slammed his sword as he looked towards the tank of the party.

"Yu Xuan!" Kong Rong roared once more as he could see the tank forgo his sword that was partially bent from resisting the knockback and headed for the sheep's head once more. His shield glowed momentarily and they all knew that he was about to unleash the shield bash against the sheep.

The shield bash would definitely ensure an additional few seconds of stun time until one of the sheep who were looking at the scene suddenly cried out. So much for hoping that everything would go smoothly as that sheep's cry somehow lessened the stun duration from the simultaneous strike and the injured sheep was able to move its head in time, barely missing the shield bash. Nevertheless, that prompted the rest of the adventurers to be more assertive in their attacks.

Kong Rong had decided to ignore everything else and attempted to slice its legs away so it would be crippled while the thief removed the knife from its neck and tried to aim for the eyes. He was fortunate to be able to keep his balance despite the sudden struggle by the sheep. The archer continued to keep calm and shoot his arrows but the sheep's movement was getting too erratic.

But somehow despite their efforts, they had forgotten that the sheep had levelled up too, meaning not only its hitpoints were increased but its other attributes as well as the very same thing that the adventurers were able to learn each time they reached a new pinnacle in their path to get stronger.

Skills.

The sheep unleashed a skill they had never seen before. Wool explosion. The sheepy herbivore tightened its muscles to shake the wool away and upon doing so, its wool fluffed up extensively. Initially, the fighters had no idea what it was doing exactly until someone noticed that its eyes were glowing red.

"Quickly kill it!" Ke Loong and the bystanders shouted and it prompted the four of them to use every bit of their strength to use it off.

However, they did not know that the wool explosion was a delayed skill and even upon killing the sheep, Kong Rong noticed something was off and ordered the rest to move away from it as soon as the deed was done. The activation continued and suddenly the wool turned red momentarily before exploding. Everyone within the vicinity did not know how dangerous a level 5 sheep could be and this Virtual Reality instance was not as easy as one would think it would be.

The rest of the sheep as well as the ladybugs ran away from the site since the noise, lights and impact from the explosion scared the rest away. "What the fuck was that..." Kong Rong huffed and puffed to see that his experience bar went up to forty over percent upon killing the level 5 sheep. A great boost in points compared to the ladybugs who were only giving a pathetic point five percent each kill.

“Shit man, imagine the reviews on how crazy the fights would be even for just beginners.” Ke Loong extended his hand to Kong Rong and they both could not fathom what the higher levels would be like.

## **Chapter 1227: Enough Of Sheep**

When they were done with the first ever hurdle the Virtual Reality Instance had sent them, all of them wished to log out since it felt the group had spent more than sufficient time on it. It was then Jin had personally sent each of them a message stating that only fifteen minutes had passed in the real world.

“Ah, that guy is using the time dilation magic to slow it down for us eh?” Ke Loong said as he read the message.

“Yeap... and he definitely wants us to go through more of the content as feedback.” Kong Rong remarked as he saw the dead sheep right in front of them. “Wouldn’t it be better if he comes down and leads the fight? The System is probably able to search and locate the possible bugs.”

“Hahaha, then there will be developer bias since he knows what to expect in the fight unless what you mean was that the sheep was a bug itself.” Ke Loong joked and another message got into their inbox stating that the sheep was not a bug at all and the Virtual Reality was working as intended. Jin even said that he was working on a no magic version server where it was all swords and arrows against the monsters. A gritty version where it was all about skills and teamwork.

But that also meant that there were no healing spells and the only thing magical was health potions and bandages. Other than that, death should be best avoided if possible but Jin was still working on the details so not much information on the new server other than that.

“I see, that would be interesting since it sounded like a high risk high reward kind of server but damn it, stop hearing us and come down here already!” Ke Loong grumbled and obviously, Jin did not bother replying to him this time around.

“If that’s the case then we already know the difficulty of Virtual Reality and we cannot go after the bandits like this. As usual, we would need to do a proper recon, check the skills in the village properly before going out.” Kong Rong said as he stared at his phone for a moment and contemplated whether to continue with the adventure. And it seems that he was not the only one as every other adventurer around him knew time was of essence despite Jin’s time dilation magic.

“Do you guys want to continue or just chill back at the restaurant for another round of drinks?” Kong Rong asked and people started chipping in with their opinions. This was indeed a good place to stop for a session of drinks and karaoke.

“Welp, it was fun. That sheep was enough excitement for one day.” Ke Loong said as he logged out first and the rest followed suit.

“That’s it?” Jin teleported back into the Hall of Massage Chairs and everyone woke up felt refreshed. They never knew that the Hall of Massage Chairs was not a pun and it was doing the work of fixing their tired body back to shape.

“You think we can play that long? We do not have the stamina of youngsters anymore.” Ke Loong said as he grabbed a glass of water at the side of the chair and quenched his thirst. “It is no doubt interesting. But would people appreciate the difficulty?”

“Yeah, I would like to know what would happen if someone deliberately increased the levels of the monsters within the area.” Kong Rong woke up as well and pulled the headset away to check out the design.

“We had a few AI designs over those monsters who are over levelled. They would first stay in the vicinity for a while, probably a few hours or so and then a bounty would be placed on their heads so that other adventurers can revisit those old areas to earn some good cash and resources. But if there’s no one who would bother to kill it, the AI had been programmed to walk away and move to an area where the monsters would be of the same level as it is.” Jin said that the monster would not teleport but travel slowly through the areas so that any other adventurers who see it could still kill it.

“Then would the bounty still be on its head?” Yu Xuan was curious how it worked further on which Jin replied that the bounty would decrease as it travelled through the combat regions.

“For example, if a level 10 sheep had been spotted in the Village Outskirts, there would be a 100 gold on it but as it goes into the Grass Plains, the bounty would drop by 10 and the further it goes, it would drop even drastically,” Jin explained.

“You still got to work on your village names though. We can’t be calling Grass Plains to every grass plains we see.” Ke Loong teased and Jin rolled his eyes.

“Ya know, you could simply use the current town names. Then set the Virtual Reality instance to something like post apocalyptic. The ruins of the modern world being incorporated into the world. It would give the people some familiarity and make it easier to navigate since you are aiming for this game for all ages.” Yu Xuan said and some of the agents chuckled at how excited he was with this new Virtual Reality instance.

“What? This game has loads of potential and since it’s still in the beta phase, we can give some feedback!” Yu Xuan tried to defend his enthusiasm while Kong Rong placed his arms over Yu Xuan’s shoulders.

“Enough talk about this Virtual Reality. Let’s go have one more round of drinks and karaoke before the night ends.” Kong Rong said and told his team members that he would be treating. Jin bid them goodbye though Ke Loong stayed with Jin to discuss a few additional stuff with regards to Virtual Reality now that he had personally tried it.

“My friend, the concept you had was great and it’s already amazing that you did almost everything by yourself but you really do need a team if we are to succeed big time.” Ke Loong warned.

## **Chapter 1228: Poaching People**

“Yeah, I do know that we need a team and I am not a God almighty. There is a limit to what I can do, especially with the amount of time I have in my hands.” Jin said that he too had contemplated on the issue before.

“Hmm, I should have enough funds to be able to acquire a small indie game studio but it would take time to headhunt talents for it. Not everyone would be capable of creating storylines.” Ke Loong said but it seemed Jin actually had an idea, just something he was not able to do because he was too busy.

“Seeing how this is something similar to dungeon instances, I was thinking if we are able to get the people who worked under King’s Monsters. After all, I do feel a bit bad that I got the company to go under after defeating their boss.” Jin suggested and Ke Loong laughed.

“Please, they never went under. All they did was take a beating from you. From the report of my corporate spi- erm friends, after your thrashing, the triads just placed a new guy up at the top. It has always been this way since no one was irreplaceable in the triads. The only problem was that the mainstream media sugarcoated the entire incident saying that it is going under in order to attract sympathy points but people in the known tried to spread the truth.”

“Soooo, more people boycotted it and, in that period, you managed to not only recover from the incident but turn it to your fortune. With your popularity rising through the roof, the participation of King’s Monster dipped down to the ground. It was purely business.”

“I see. If that’s the case does your spies-“

“Friends.” Ke Loong reinforced and Jin changed his wording.

“So, if what your spies said were true, any chances of getting their development team to us?” Jin posed as an open ended question which the System had stated that there were actually people from King’s Monster appealing for a job in Dungeons and Pandas.

“Of note, they are young applicants with at least two to three years of experience and their resume. A few of them may meet the requirements that User had sought for. The only issue is that those mails were at least a few months old and had not been opened due to User’s consistent distraction to do things that are not in the agenda of improving his store.”

“So harsh. The System never give you any break, eh?” Ke Loong said and requested if the System could send such mails to him. “I would forward this to my HR and see what I can do. If they prove themselves capable, we might be able to start from them and poach teams of considerable talent in the dungeon instance making department and get your Virtual Reality world to be more comprehensive.”

“How are you going to test them? Are you going to give them the Virtual Reality Headset and try it out before the PandaVerse Festival?” Jin asked and Ke Loong shrugged his shoulders.

“YOU are using cheats to create your instance. But they aren’t. There’s a limit to how much they could do but I would definitely disguise the Virtual Reality set as some new tech game engine that we would be using to create it. After that, slap a non disclosure agreement so that any leaks would cause them a fuck ton of debt that they would never recover. However, I will require the System to be on a lookout so that no news would be out in the open before PandaVerse.” Ke Loong replied.

“Well, you do not have to worry too much. My human resource department is kind of an expert in making weird tests to ensure that what we find is always one of the better ones out in the market. So far, my HR director has never disappointed me and she would not be doing so for this particular endeavour especially when there’s quite a fortune riding on it. We just have to remember we are looking for decent storytellers who know how to create dungeon instances. At the same time, if we are able to recruit the developers, we should be able to weaken our competitors even further. And if luck is on our side, it caused them to be unprofitable to an extent that we might even be able to buy their store in the future too.” Jin could see Ke Loong’s advice and subsequent monologue as ambitious but attainable. It somehow caused him to feel inspired, an emotion which he had not experienced for some time.

“That’s way too optimistic at the moment and let’s not get ahead of ourselves,” Jin warned and Ke Loong grabbed him by the shoulders.

“No harm thinking big, we need to be fierce if we want our fair share of the pie. By devouring King’s Monsters, we would stand a better chance against other major competitors.” Ke Loong commented. “But moving forward, my personal opinion is still to show a mere teaser for the Virtual Reality component for the PandaVerse Festival. We currently have made sufficient Virtual Reality headsets to fill an exhibition hall and that would be enough to get streamers and media attention. It would be more realistic to show the teaser, gauge the masses’ interest and based on several users’ feedback and improve on it.”

“Sounds like a good idea, and that would allow me to temporarily halt the development of the Virtual Reality instance and focus on the Farming World,” Jin commented.

“The System supports this new arrangement. The Farming World Situation had become dangerously volatile and having User’s full attention would be favourable.” The System chipped in and they all laughed. In the meantime, Ke Loong took out his phone and sent an email to Jin.

“While you might not be able to showcase during the National Dungeon Supplier Symposium, it does not mean you are not allowed to attend. I have four extra tickets with me and so, I suggest that you see the capability of your fellow national suppliers.”

“Oh...Thanks! Heh, who knows? Maybe we can recruit a developer or two from the Symposium too!” Jin said as he received the email from Ke Loong but the naivety from Jin caused the latter to chuckle.

“Now who is the one getting ahead of himself?”

### **Chapter 1229: PandaVerse Discussion**

In the next few days, Jin took a bit of downtime from the shop to prepare for the PandaVerse Festival. He sat down with Lynn and started to brainstorm on the options available to them and what they wished to show during the PandaVerse.

The main attraction was obviously the Farming World War which Jin believed it would not be done within the span of a week- and that was the current estimate they would like to have for it. Lynn personally felt that it was too long but Jin said it was better to have a longer estimate than to squeeze everything in a few days.

Reason? Because Jin knows that the majority of his patrons were working people and they usually enter the shop after their work. It also gave those who had missed some of the events at the start to enjoy it and at the same time, it was to ensure that the numbers were well anticipated. Ever since the Dungeon World's raid and Kraft allowing live streaming of the dungeon instances, people have been awaiting more content from it. They all believed this PandaVerse Festival would be bursting full of it and people were already buzzing with opinions within the Pandamonium Forums.

But the PandaVerse Festival would not take place until a month later and Jin had already been recycling old raid instances on a weekly basis to keep the customers occupied. He had rebranded it in a way that this was the time before PandaVerse appeared and the raids were specially discounted for the event. Rewards that were specifically created for those raids reappeared as well since they were considered to be limited when they stopped showing.

The only problem was that the dungeon raid instances which Jin had initially created were getting stale for the customers. It was not that the fight was not interesting but the content of it was. This was because the System would sometimes pair solo veterans and fresh newcomers together, and they would have to try to clear together.

It was not easy as there were communications breakdowns at times and Jin could see the problem moving forward with those dungeon instances. While most of the time, the veterans were easygoing to help the newcomers but there was no incentive for the veterans to aid the newcomers. Sometimes, they would just quit or ask the System to relocate them to another dungeon instance (via the Pandamonium App). It was their right to do so since they had paid money to have a proper good time and death in the dungeon instance meant that try would be over.

True, it was not as expensive as before ever since Jin had repriced the dungeon instances but to some people, each trip into a dungeon instance is still a consideration to be taken. If they do not aim to clear, it would be a waste of their money.

That was why Jin had decided to change the pricing model once again as well as how his dungeon instances would operate in the future which might eventually be the norm for the rest of the world to follow. (However, Lynn thinks it was wishful thinking on his part.)

Still, he would not be doing it so soon until the PandaVerse Festival and Lynn agreed that it would be better to do so which he could follow the big tech companies where they always had their leader doing the major reveals.

"Or you can just send your announcements out. Somehow, word from the customers is that you would usually send an announcement between Thursday and Saturday on a weekly basis. And they always anticipate what announcement you will send since you would always attach a small goodie along with it." Lynn added and Jin felt surprised that his posts were worth looking forward to as it meant his previous idea had worked.

"Ah, those extra goodies? Its advertisement expenses. For example, I had attached a redemption coupon for a potion vial sample created by Yu Xiang previously. Her business has been booming since and some people even ordered cartons of it so that they would not have to worry about queuing ever again."



“Yeah and how you attached a five dollar coupon without my acknowledgement with the advent of my new dish. Because of that, my dad’s restaurant suddenly had an influx of people and he had to courteously reject people.”

“Oops. But I did limit the redemption to the first hundred people. Did not expect all one hundred to queue on the day of sending out that coupon.”

“But thanks to you, I can see that my Dad has really changed. While he might be cursing when there was not a single soul around, he had never raised his voice since then and even apologised to me once. Like, I never saw him apologising to me at all before.”

“Hmm yeah. I saw him recently and he told me that particular day, you cooked for him a dish that tasted so delicious that he cried.” Jin roughly recalled the incident that Lynn was talking about but she looked confused.

“Wait... so he lied to me? I thought his tolerance for spiciness had dropped since he tear and I assumed it was too spicy. That idiot dad of mine...” Lynn smiled as Jin could plainly see that her dad gave an excuse to hide his true feelings.

“By the way, did you tell your dad about us?” Jin asked and Lynn shook her head.

“It would be better if we spend more time together to see if we are really proceeding well as a couple. Oh and a quick word on it, Jin. Let’s promise that if we feel that we are incompatible with each other, we still continue as friends and wish each other the best.” Lynn was being dead serious with Jin even though their discussion for the PandaVerse took a huge derail.

“Definitely. You are after all my head chef and Sub System User. I cannot let you go amok, can I?” Jin raised his pinky finger up and like two little kids, the couple assured each other. The System could not help but intervene by creating a new contract between them with the conversation as proof.

“Was that even necessary?” Lynn was more frustrated at the System’s intervention than its contract making but the derailing of the topic was a healthy distraction for both who had worked non stop for the past few hours.

### **Chapter 1230: Why Bother with the Symposium?**

The discussion between Jin and Lynn felt like a distant memory as that was the few times they interacted alone as a couple. In the next couple of weeks, they had been running around the store and coordinating for the PandaVerse Festival. What was more shocking was how time had gone by and they were only a day before the official PandaVerse Festival.

Jin had never been more tired in his life and yet so satisfied with the burden of work on his shoulders. As he laid lazily on his office chair within the Dungeon Maker, the System was going through the entire PandaVerse schedule once more with him to ensure that he was not adding any additional stuff into the chaos.

Oh and that National Dungeon Supplier Symposium? Jin could not even get out of the store because of the issues he had to settle personally as well as problems that were erupting non stop from the big headache coordination. In the end, the Demon Exorcists employed under him went since there were exactly four tickets given to him by Ke Loong.

While Jin felt a little disappointed that he was not able to personally attend the National Dungeon Supplier Symposium, he felt it was a decent alternative to let the Demon Exorcists try things out. Unlike him, they had no title under them, no obligations and most importantly, no one recognised them well enough. Jin believed that if he were to walk into the Symposium, he probably would cause some commotion that would not end well for his upcoming PandaVerse Festival.

“If it’s you, I do not think you will come out of the Symposium unscathed. You are like Peppers, a walking timebomb.” The System also stated that it was the better solution to let the Demon Exorcists enjoy the work of other Dungeon Suppliers. They then can have a better objective of how the rest of the country’s Dungeon Suppliers could compare up to Jin.

Suffice to say, they continued to prefer Jin’s dungeon instances more as they could feel how stale the atmosphere was in most of the dungeon instances they attended during the Symposium. However, Rong, the Ox Demon Cultivator, did say that there were some good snippets of the story theme from some of the Dungeon Supplier but all of them had stated that this was their first few products with story themes in it.

Unbeknownst to Jin, he had indirectly influenced the Dungeon Supplier community with the advent of storytelling within their instances. Even the big names were trying their hand onto this intricate storytelling theme but apparently, their servers and hardware did not have the capacity to run them well enough. Some even thought that was why Sea Mesh worked very closely with Dungeons and Pandas as the two had shared some new age technology that allowed them to have the cutting edge. But even their corporate spies were unable to get any information about it since people who they tried to bribe or the systems they tried to hack were to no avail. There’s simply a blank space between them and the Panda Clan affiliates.

The streaming of Dungeon Instances had also become a rather hot topic and it was pretty obvious that the Symposium was trying to get onto the trend as fast as they could, but sadly not fast enough. Unlike Jin who had already invited some of the major streamers to attend the PandaVerse, the Symposium was still an old dinosaur going for traditional media coverage. Their live conference was all about bringing in a few media critics to talk about the possible new trends of dungeon instance exposure as well as the change of themes among dungeon suppliers.

Even Su Zhen, the White Snake Demon Cultivator, who was well known for being studious among the four of the Demon Exorcists had reported that the conference was ‘boring af’ and a total waste of time. There were a lot of people who got disinterested minutes into the talk that they just walked out of. While it was quite a common sight for the Symposium conferences to have their halls empty, this year’s walkout rate was exceptionally high when some of the audience asked questions with regards to Jin and his store. No answers were given except for some passive aggressive threats or negative remarks with regards to his attitude towards the Dungeon Supplier community.

“They emphasised that the community must stay strong and not be an outlier like certain dungeon supplier blah blah blah. You get the story, they are trying to blacklist you but they can’t yet because of your royal status and the people supporting you. I suggest you look out for sabotage with Agent Kong Rong.” Su Zhen nearly yawned as she gave her summary report to Jin who was still keeping tabs on the Symposium even though he was in a mess of his own making .

Separately, there was a Dungeon Supplier instance competition where the audience could try out the hardest instances each supplier could ever create and if they could emerge victoriously, they would earn a small token. Collecting a certain number of these tokens would yield them a consolation prize but beating each and every available dungeon instance would achieve the grand prize of various merchandise. From the always out of stock Playbox 5 to the incredible Xstation 027, there were a slew of gaming accessories and household gadgets available for grabs. What's more they even throw in an extremely high end Zony wide screen television which cost at least six figures and an electric car into the mix for the first person who completed it.

However, it was a first come first serve kind of win.

For the first ten participants who were able to get it done would get five of such merchandise largely thanks to their benevolent sponsors and the subsequent runner-ups would only receive one of such merchandise until the prizes were all gone. And without a doubt, the four Demon Exorcists were rushing the entire dungeon instances to compete to see who could win the top grand prize of that electric car.

It's not like they needed the car but rather that's the only excitement they could get in this National Dungeon Supplier Symposium which had overhyped to be the best one yet in this century. They obviously know that that would only happen if Jin was in it. And since this Symposium had wasted enough of their time, it's time to plunder the rewards to compensate for their 'losses'.

(Hint: They did win the first four prizes including the electric car and Rong was not particularly happy that a certain demonic horse cultivator got it just because he got lost to the prize redemption counter.)