

Dungeon S 1331

Chapter 1331: Demon Rats POV: The Dread of War

“Get up! Get up!” The Demon Rat’s Captains were shouting and making noises in their soldier’s bunk. “The enemies had destroyed the Inner Walls, get your fucking ass up, grab your weapons and go!” The Captain said once before running to the next bunker to wake the other group of rats.

“The enemies had destroyed the Inner Walls?” The Demon Rats talked to themselves, as they could not believe the humans had such capabilities.

“Not sure, I did not hear a single thing right under here.” Another soldier said as he asked for assistance wearing the heavy armour from another Demon Rat.

“Duh, of course, you dumbass. We are in the undercity, how the hell do we know what is happening at the top?” One of the assisting rats knocked his head while aiding him to click the back of his chest armour to the front.

“Well, I am just worried about my friend. He had been assigned to guard duty over the Inner Walls.” The Demon Rat said as he thanked them for the assistance and began helping the rest to wear their armour as well.

“Hurry up you slowtards! Do you think the enemy is going to drink a cup of tea and wait for you? Get your ass out here in five minutes or else!” The captain shouted from the outside and the Demon Rats were already grudgingly acknowledging their captain’s orders. However, since it was the captain that personally called them out instead of their platoon leaders, they could only assume that it was truly a mess up there since their higher ranks do not usually bother with them at all.

As the Demon Rat Soldiers were hastening their pace to wear their equipment, there was a ruckus outside as well with a team of support Demon Rats carrying large wooden crates right beside the captain.

Once more, the captain shouted and threatened the troops despite knowing that everyone was crazily wearing their armour and making sure they were ready for the battle. Soon, the Demon Rat Soldiers lined up in formation and awaited the captain’s orders.

“If you slowpokes are not listening to what I had heard, the humans have once again shown that they are capable of destruction. They have destroyed the first and second layers of the Inner Wall while the third and final layer is barely standing despite our greatest effort to reinforce them previously.” The Captain said and he was not wrong.

According to Sebastia before her stint in the Mecha World, she had been monitoring and gathering information about the Demon Rat’s occupied city. The Northern Capital did not have such capabilities until the human’s liberation of Town Wecha. Since then, they felt that they should bolster their defences even further in case the humans were daring enough to attack them.

They had also taken into account the huge gigantic one to one fights against their very own castle machinations and realised that the new humans that came to assist the Northern Region were dangerous. That was why they also wished to attack the Western and Eastern Kingdoms as they believed that they were the ones who had been training these humans secretly. (Or that was what the North and

South Scholars believed since their communication between the East and West was not as amicable as they wished to.)

But because they only have suspicions, the now dead scholars thought to impose their suspicions as truths and even propagate them as dangerous threats to further challenge the rats to be better at their work.

So through their innovation and 'slave' work, they were able to create the third and final layer of the Inner Wall based on their accumulation of knowledge not from just the North and South Scholars but from their own desires to improve. (It's a pity that Jin could not capture them as they immediately turned into a resource or else, he would have a race filled with power hungry minions under his control.)

"Gentlemen! Your time has come to shine! To prove that we Demon Rats are the pinnacle race of modern society! Do not just push back the invaders but annihilate every single one of them! But do not capture for they will explode and die once they know that they are in that situation." The captain said and he could see a few disgruntled faces.

"So to aid all of you to do your jobs to the best of your abilities, the War Council had generously allowed each one of you to hold a rifle as well as your main weapon. The invaders are versatile and so are we! As you proceed to the main elevator up to the surface, take them and make sure to familiarise yourself with it before using them." The Captain ended his pep talk before taking a rifle for himself and proceeded to the elevator while the leaders of each platoon took over the rest of the procedures.

"Heh, using their own weapons against them, that will be interesting." One of the Demon Rats commented.

"You sure it's their technology? Perhaps they stole it from us in the first place."

"Or maybe some traitor rat gave it to them."

"Nah, can't be. Our technology is too unique for the likes of those humans. They probably took one, cheapened it and then modified it in such a way that it suits their primitive usage."

"Ha! Cheapened. No wonder I heard those humans were able to shoot only one bullet at a time."

"Exactly! Our Steam Rifles can shoot three bullets at one time and are much sturdier than theirs. They used a combination of metal and wood while ours are pure metal. Not to mention the ore we used from the lifestream to enhance the power of our rifles."

"But to think they are giving regular soldiers like us such a strong weapon, the situation up there must be madness." The Demon Rat Soldiers continued to talk to themselves as they picked up their new steam rifles and waited for the great elevator of the undercity to bring them up.

However, when the great elevator doors opened, hundreds of stretchers were seen being carried out of the elevator. The Demon Rats who were at the surface were wounded. Loss of limbs and tails to various sorts of debris being stuck in their bodies. They saw how grim it was for the initial group that was up there and those Demon Rat Soldiers braced themselves that the moment they reached the surface, it would be living hell.

Chapter 1333: Bulwark and the Beavers

When all the action of the Farming World was concentrated in the Northern Capital, the rest of the Northern region was being combed by a group of people. Initially, Jin had sent several waves of Pandarens to attack the various Demon Rat hideouts, Demon Rat infested towns and even their supply bases.

The System had verified that there were a few Demon Rats that ran away but it was not an issue as the Southern Stars Organisation from the Southern Region had been deployed to handle any stragglers from each of the towns. It was especially easy when the System practically had an all seeing eye based on their contract with the spirit of the land. (Not to mention the spirits of the land rejoiced when they felt the noticeable effect where there was no more mining of the lifestream of the Farming World.)

However, that also meant that all the hideouts, towns and bases were deserted or abandoned after the attacks. Thus, the coordination between the System and the Northern Region's last remaining military force, the Bulwark Army, had been put into play. General Matt Umiterus of the Bulwark Army had already dispatched his troops to all those towns and hideouts in order to clean up the place.

After all, the dead Demon Rats turned into various types of raw materials and they were left hanging around on all those battlefields. The System was also unsure whether leaving those raw materials too long may cause new Demon Rats to emerge and it was something which it did not wish to leave such items to chance. Although the System did entertain such thoughts upon capturing the Demon Rats, as noted previously those Demon Rats had the capability to proliferate when left alone for too long and that was why the roguelike dungeon instance which Jin had was still going strong since those Demon Rats were able to do so.

And aside from material collection, it was to ensure that those hideouts and mining facilities were shut down permanently. With the knowledge and training acquired from the System, the Bulwark Army were capable of using bombs to make sure that caves and mines were destroyed so that the Demon Rats or other people would take the opportunity to salvage these places. As for the machinery and even housing units, the Bulwark Army tried their best to break them all down while the System sent NPC representatives to collect said items.

Why burn them down when they all could be recycled? And if they were utterly useless, they can still be thrown into the Recycler unit so that the System is able to make use of everything.

As for the towns, the Bulwark Army cleaned up the rest of the areas like debris, and any dead civilians that were caught in the crossfire as well as requisitioning the supplies from the Demon Rat base. While they could not finish all this work in one day, the Bulwark army did not stop in their cleanup operations and the soldiers took turns so that they could get ready for the town's reconstruction efforts.

Speaking of reconstruction efforts, the only person that was capable of handling everything in such matters was none other than the Sub System User Qiu Yue. She had been assigned with an entire tribe of beastmen from the Giant World as her helpers since she demanded the Sub System to take pity on her for working so hard. (Also because, when the Sub System asked what reward she wanted, she said she needed workers or else she could not concentrate on her training.)

Thus, the beastmen tribe that was contracted to her was the Beavers. Qiu Yue initially wanted more than one tribe considering the scale of this entire operation but she was proven wrong when the Red Panda Cultivator found out that the Beavers were exceptionally hardworking.

There were stereotypes of using the Beavers in the real world as the Construction Mascots but she did not expect it to be true until she saw how the Beavers adored her when they found out that she had been the one who had (almost) single handedly designed and headed the entire construction of Pandapolis City.

In her eyes, it was her magnum opus thus far and the beavers were head over heels for her work that they diligently learned how to use the Sub System modules that were available to them. However, construction was not the issue but rather the acute sense of design as well as the foundation and 'harmony' of the buildings that matter. Qiu Yue thought that these Beavers would only be great at building stuff since they were able to do every test that was passed to them but she once again found out that those little buggers were talented in designing too.

It did not take them long to learn how to design and how to consciously cooperate with different buildings and their subsequent functions in harmony together. (Of course, there was some vigorous training not just from Qiu Yue but ironically from Itori when she tried to impart knowledge as part of her practice.) So, while Qiu Yue was busy with the subsequent phases of the Great Demon Rat War Operation, she was 100% confident that the Beavers were able to do a decent job in reconstructing the towns as well as their subsequent defences.

And they have to do it quickly.

The townsfolk that the Pandarens had saved had been transported into a secured location -or more like a temporary dungeon instance set up to house all these refugees. Although there were tents, adequate food and even basic sanitation which were miles of improvement from their previous predicament, the System could not hold them up for free entirely. While Jin had proposed to offer them some work to do in the Agriculture sector of Pandapolis, the System was reluctant to transport people around any more than necessary when it had resources strained to keep up with the shop's transactions as well as the war.

Therefore, it was imperative for both the Bulwark Army and the Beavers to get the towns ready amid the war they were having right now. (And to be honest, Jin might think that the System was being lazy, but currently, the backend process was immensely huge and the System had no time to argue with its user.)

Chapter 1334: Snake's Rented Warship

"Shall we be speaking informally, or formally?" The commander of the warship, which Se Chang Chang had rented, questioned Hou Fei through the Pandamonium Team Chat.

“Do you really want to do it this way now?” Hou Fei asked as he had already arrived at the Outer Wall Camp via train and saw a number of his subordinates saluting him as well when he got off the platform. “Nevermind I get what you mean.”

“Partially formal. Ranks play a part in this current situation but we are all here to learn as well.” Hou Fei said and the commander snickered. He was none other than the overall tech officer in charge of the Royal Zodiac Snake Army, Colonel Chen Lai.

“But overall, this is not an official exercise so I really could not care that much with formalities.” Chen Lai said and Hou Fei gave a passing sigh through the voice chat. “Still, I am impressed with Pandamonium Team Chat. To be able to segregate and fuse the communications channels when needed. Why can’t we have this kind of technology, General?”

“Don’t ask me when you are practically the Chief Technical Officer for the entire Royal Zodiac Snake Army.” Hou Fei replied. “When are my guns ready? I thought you said that you can power up that old school warship whenever you want since you and your boys were previously from the navy and the air force.”

“Well, it’s true that using this warship in the raid instance had significantly reduced the number of controls. But that does not mean I can singlehandedly operate this ship myself! Have you heard of quality checks before departing?! We barely touched this ship yesterday and you want me to steer it like I had known her intimately for years!” Chen Lai said while the soldiers under him started to chuckle a little. Hou Fei felt that he had touched a nerve on something but it was meant to be a mean comment to disturb his fellow junior in rank.

“Anyways, be quick about it. We need you to support the troops as soon as possible.” Hou Fei said and Chen Lai sighed, asking if he wanted to at least have the planes to sortie out.

“The planes are operationally ready according to the Pandamonium App and the pilots said that everything seems to look fine despite not having a checklist... Well, the App itself had a checklist but once the pilot placed his phone to synchronise the plane, the app instantly cleared almost all the boxes on the list. The rest were the manual interlocks which need to be done physically to make sure that the plane is all good.”

“Erm, then sortie the planes as soon as possible? I think it’s a pretty good time to do that, especially when I start to see a few boogies at the enemies’ end.” Hou Fei reported and Chen Lai quickly picked up his binoculars and checked the direction of the Northern Capital. His General was not replying with tongue in cheek and spoke the truth about a few aerial threats hovering from the spire at the northernmost tip of the capital city.

“Get Chryso 1, Chryso 2 in the skies immediately. General’s orders!” Chen Lai spoke through the specific channel of the Pandamonium Team Chat that connected to the aircraft team that was on the warship. (Fun fact: Chryso came from the word Chrysopelea which meant flying snake.)

When the aircraft team received the command, the stern (the back) of the ships started to open up like a garage door, allowing Chryso 1 and Chryso 2, two specially modified warhog variant planes to sortie out. In terms of size, it is smaller to fit the dimensions of the warship and its engine boosters were magical rather than fuel consuming. All of the soldiers thought that it was because it was a raid instance,

there were some fantasy elements to it as they knew mana engines were terribly unstable even with modern technology. (But they never knew they were in a real multiverse flying a real high tech magically powered aircraft.)

“Chryso 1, Launching!”

“Chryso 2, Launching!”

Both warthog variants went to the skies in a matter of seconds, especially with the plane’s navigation guidance system. It was mostly autopilot when it came to taking off and landing down with some human input if things were to go wary during the process. The pilots were amazed by the brilliant realism of high grade technology implemented into the raid instance (duh...) and quickly picked up the joystick to fly toward the enemies.

“Six boogies detected. They are mostly shaped like helicopters but I do not wish to assume they were. Permission to fire, sir?” Chryso 1 Pilot reported as they got the information through visual confirmation and radar presence.

“Granted. Take them down and do a firing run to support the guys.” Chen Lai said and instantly switched channels to tell the General so that the frontlines could be warned. Hou Fei relayed the message to his subordinates and the chain of command did their job. As the warthog variants flew closer to the city, the two pilots noticed that anti air defences were being put up. Bolts of lightning were shot from the anti air turrets while a few homing magic bolts were coming their way.

To their fortune, there was a magic barrier protecting the aircraft but like every barrier, it has a limit so the pilots tried not to get it as much as possible while closing into their target. The moment Chryso 1 managed to target one of the helicopters, he instinctively fired two missiles right toward it.

The helicopter saw the incoming missiles but its manoeuvre was the third rate, causing it to burst into flames. And that alone gave the second pilot confidence that they were akin to the real world helicopters and thus attempted to shoot the second one the same way as his senior did.

As the second heli crashed into the city, the subsequent aerial threats were not an issue even though they had Demon Rats at the side of each heli door, shooting out lightning bolts indiscriminately to bring down the warthog variants.

However, like a snake gliding through the water, Chryso 1 and 2 slipped around the skies to bring the rest down.

Chapter 1335: General Gnawbones’ Dissatisfaction

The destruction of the steam engine helicopters was a blow to the Demon Rats. They knew that their aerospace technology could be rivalled by the humans considering that a few had seen their aeroplanes but they did not expect to be this much of a difference even after their scientists had fervently researched and come out with a brand new engine for them.

Even the higher ups were so amazed by the performance that they ordered all the aircraft to be replaced with the new engine. And yet here they saw their helicopters were destroyed in an instant with little to no retaliation. The Royal Zodiac Snake Aircraft was more than ready to take on more and to their surprise, they were indeed given their wish.

General Gnawbones, who was the Air force commander of the Demon Rats, saw the capability of the two planes that the humans had used. Obviously, he was not entirely happy that the Demon Rats' technology was inferior to the humans so the only thing he could do was to do what they always do best.

To overwhelm the enemy with numbers.

Gnawbones initially thought that using Steam Engine Helicopters could be the solution to defeating the ground troops that the humans were using. After all, it had superior firepower with missiles and steam powered machine guns. But since the humans had aircraft, then the Demon Rats would respond accordingly with their own.

Their Steam Engine Aeroplanes were a little bulky and they could be akin to the planes produced in the 1930s to the 1940s. Even though they were slow to take off, their speed supposedly rivalled those created in that generation as well, in fact maybe even faster if they were to remove the limiters but the test results were insufficient in that context since they did not want any casualties (if possible) during the test runs.

That was why General Gnawbones had decided to use that to his advantage. Even if they were slower than the humans', removing the limiters might potentially be the advantage they need to get this over and done with. He ordered the operations centre to send out 10 of these SE Aeroplanes instantly, preventing the humans from having air superiority even for a second.

The general thought to himself what were the odds of the humans winning when they are outnumbered five against one? And he was proven right when he gave the direct command to remove the limiters to the engines fighting against the humans. While Chryso 1 and Chryso 2 had trouble fending off all ten planes in a massive dogfight, they were still able to compete evenly against them.

Even for veteran pilots, fighting five planes each was akin to suicide but they were holding them back for a reason. Chen Lai had promised them backup.

So in order to gain that backup, they not only needed to occupy the time for those ten planes but also bring them closer to the warship Nerodia II, which was temporarily named after the current warship they owned in the real world. Also, they named it the Nerodia II since they did not want to disrespect the crew which was still handling Nerodia. (Fun fact again! Nerodia is the scientific group name for water snakes.)

Once they were closer to sea, a few air to ground missiles were fired to support the surviving Chrysos, allowing them to down three demon rat planes in one go. This gave them some breathing space temporarily but Nerodia II had picked up additional bogeys which they assumed it was to the Airforce General's discontent to learn that they had managed to destroy three planes.

“Yea. yeah. Thanks for it. Could not say that it’s as satisfying as whacking the human with my club and making sure they had been clobbered to death with it. Still, your weapon had a unique feel to it despite the fact that I could not use its innate powers.” Roughtscream said as he picked up his club. This was his personal favourite and why he was called the Club General.

To put some context, Skydigger had lost the bet of Cinderclaw being crumbled under the powers of the North Scholar. It was a minor wager where he had to allow Roughtscream to use his weapon for a day which was a disgrace since Skydigger would not have any weapons for that entire day should he be attacked. Thankfully, nothing happened and Cinderclaw did not go all the way to make him suffer so all was well.

“I thought I saw the masked humans carrying a club, that fat guy. Have you tried this as well?” Skydigger said as he too was at the side of the grand table while waiting for the rest of the general to make their presence for the daily war council meeting.

“Meh. It was too light for my own usage, that’s why I ditched it back to him.” Roughtscream said but Skydigger who was watching the entire match through a remote camera knew that it was not the case. The club simply teleported along with the human when he was killed and there was no way for Roughtscream to obtain it.

The only reason he said it was because he wanted to see Roughtscream’s blatant lying or the possible hint of flustering to know that he was not able to achieve the feat of obtaining that human’s club. It was a minor spiteful payback that he could conjure to get even on losing the wager and his pride by taking away his weapon. (After all, he initially thought it was all merely a joke bet.)

And once that banter between the two generals was done, the rest of the generals slowly arrived at the grand table with Cinderclaw taking the centre of everything. While he was merely the Axe General, in their eyes he was considered to be the chief of the chiefs since Cinderclaw was the only one who initiated the internal uprising, leaving matters to their hands once and for all.

“I read the reports. We knew they had a warship but to think that they could station aircraft there was a surprise to me. Although we did learn that the number of aircraft they could carry was limited.”

“Lord General, I propose we pour some offensive might against the warship near the coast as they had been bombarding nonstop this entire morning. At the same time, we can destroy the aircraft and even salvage them so we can take their technology for ourselves.” Air Force General Gnawbones reported but the rest were not very keen on sending their troops to the water.

All along they had been avoiding the sea for the longest time and even dug tunnels under the sea rather than making ships. It’s not that they could not live or be severely cursed or damaged when there was water. They just did not really like the ocean that much, it was as simple as that.

The Scholars probably had a hand in this, making the Demon Rats quite aquaphobic for some particular reason especially when it comes to the ocean but they would never know since they are now dead. Yet, the main reason for not attacking the warship was rather logical. Their main city was not the Northern Capital for the longest time ever. It was a fake front ever since their defeat in Wecha. They assumed that the humans do not know much about it since they never set foot in the area. (Sebastia will laugh at this.)

It was because their undercity was where all the defences were concentrated since that was where the Demon Rats lived since their inception. There was no use trying to protect something that they were going to use as fodder. After all, it was going to be a trap for the humans who attempted to conquer the entire Northern Capital.

As they continued to struggle with getting the Northern Capital under their control, the main bulk of the undercity would make preparations as well as production to ensure that they had enough to provide the most stalwart of defences against the humans. However, because the humans had to pick the most fortuitous time where the Demon Rats were going for the simultaneous campaign to conquer the East and the West, the Undercity was currently undermanned. Their main bulk of attacking forces who were initially occupied with dealing against Gold and Weslie had started to pull their troops back to fortify the city.

That was one of the reasons why Gold and Weslie were able to continue applying pressure with that 'small' amount of minions against the invading Demon Rats since protecting their hometown was more of an issue of importance.

And all the Demon Rats needed was to let the humans feel confident while ensuring that they had enough filler forces to ensure that their undercity was ready enough to welcome the bulk of the human invaders.

So for the entirety of the meeting, Cinderclaw had headed the direction of this agenda with the rest of the Generals.

Chapter 1337: Monkey & Sheep -Part 1

"Wow, this is such a mess... I like it." Hou Nao Zhong, the leading captain for the Royal Zodiac Monkey Clan that came under the orders of their Head to try out the raid instance, saw the mess that the Pandarens were in.

"It's really noisy." Yang Mian Ling, the leading captain for the Royal Zodiac Sheep Clan, could not fathom the realism of the raid instance and tried to adjust her earpiece to muffle the sounds a little more. Both the captains and their teams had arrived at the Outer Camp Walls with the Royal Zodiac Snake's Sergeant Rocher greeting them at the sidelines.

"Ah, you two must be the captains that my captain had talked about. Apologies for the mess." Sergeant Rocher saluted as the rest of the team came down from the train carriages. Nao Zhong noticed that the snakes were wearing their uniform along with someone that was different from them.

The Royal Zodiac Tigers and someone he recognised as well.

"Hu Chun Hua? I did not expect you to be here. Last I heard, it was the Sheeps and Us." Nao Zhong said and Chun Hua laughed. As she turned, Nao Zhong also saw Chun Hua's uniform and her rank, realising that she had already been promoted to Major. "Oh, I should call you Mdm now."

“Stop teasing me already. The Tiger General dispatched me because they believed it would be a good chance to get more experience for war type situations.” Hu Chun Hua said and Rochor smiled widely. She was not wrong, the Royal Zodiac Snake Army was merely average in terms of strength but the consistent exposure to Jin’s dungeons had allowed them to push themselves to the limit. He noticed that his lackeys were more intuitive with better combat awareness compared to the year before.

“One thing though, why are you all wearing your uniforms? I thought this was just a raid instance. You guys are taking it too seriously.” Nao Zhong said even though he too had been instructed to bring their uniforms with them.

“It’s easier for the rest of the customers to identify us plus for apparent reasons, the Demon Rats attack us more than the Pandarens when we are in uniform,” Rocher said and the rest understood the meaning behind it. More danger means more opportunities for them to learn since this was the main reason why they were all here. Especially when their higher ups purposely selected the team in the shortest time possible and even wasted scrolls to teleport them from various provinces to meet at the Tree Mall. Not to mention, they were given an unreasonable amount of budget to spend in this particular raid instance. The captains even heard that the money personally came from the pockets of their Royal Zodiac Heads which made them feel the pressure even more.

But as they conversed, they realised the rest of the team members were waiting around and that was enough to be a source of target by the Demon Rats as they sent out a few fire large balls towards them.

And as the teams who saw the incoming attack began to prepare their defensive spells, Sergeant Rocher told them to calm down. “Don’t worry, you all are safe. We have a magical barrier that protects this particular camp but the Demon Rats are always doing this to test our defences whenever a train arrives...as if they were testing their luck.” Sergeant Rocher said and they saw the fireballs fall flat onto the barriers. Even though the barrier was strong enough to withstand the attack, a few inexperienced team members shuddered at the realism of the dungeon instance especially when they were first timers in Jin’s instances.

“Ah, the barrier fluttered a little from the attack, guess it’s time to buy the upgrades.” Rocher thought to himself as he was partially in charge of the Outer Wall Camp’s defences. He quickly showed the team to their temporary quarters where they could store their items but Mian Ling stopped Rocher.

“We are under the orders to create a new camp. I do not know the exact details of the current raid instance but I had been following the forums for quite a bit.” Mian Ling said and Rocher smiled seeing that there was a fellow forum lurker like him before he was tasked to enter the raid instance.

And for Mian Ling, it was true that she had been lurking in the Pandamonium Forums for the longest time ever. In fact, she was especially elated by the fact that the Royal Zodiac Sheeps had been tasked to enter it and even more when she heard that the team was going in as a support role, something that they were specialised in.

She was unable to go to visit despite the vested interest mainly because she was stationed in the Qing Hai province and needed at least a week of leave as well as clearance from her officers. So, unlike Nao Zhong who did not know anything much about dungeon instances, Mian Ling was a closet fanatic and amazed by every single thing ever since she stepped into Jin’s instance. The only relief she had from embarrassing the rest with her actions was that she was wearing her signature customised surgical mask

to hide her delights from experiencing everything. However, when it comes to work, she is extremely focused on the task at hand.

“The reports are not out yet but as you might have known the news came only when Pandarens who were out of this raid instance, aka killed by the stuff from the raid instances. Or when Mr Know It All comes online and gives extra hidden information. So, right now, the Pandarens as well as my fellow comrades have managed to move to the 3rd layer of the Inner Wall but the resistance there is enormous. The situation is not looking good but the Royal Zodiac Tigers had already begun reinforcing the frontlines. So it’s your choice if you wish to rush there first though I feel establishing your support here is the most ideal.” Rocher said and asked if he could continue sending them to the temporary quarters or whether they wanted to see the current battlefield themselves.

But both the Sheep and Monkey simultaneously said that establishing the support nearer to the frontlines would be the best.

Chapter 1338: Monkey & Sheep – Part 2

It’s your choice but in my opinion, it’s best to at least experience the frontlines once before making your decision to establish it very close to the battlefield. We might have cleared the Outer Towns and are pushing to take more of the Inner Town but there is no guarantee that it will be free from enemies.” Sergeant Rocher said since he knows that ignorance is usually the worst attitude on the battlefield but they are all higher ranks than him and he could only suggest to prevent them from doing something as foolish as this.

“Yes, we are moving forward and establishing the camp as per our orders. Besides, it’s just a raid instance. Why should we worry so much? I do not understand why we are fighting this long although the ‘graphics’ of this instance is extremely real.” Royal Zodiac Monkey Captain Nao Zhong said and Sergeant Rocher could only comply quietly, knowing that they are underestimating Jin’s instance by a whole lot.

“Understood Sir, we will get a few Snake Guards to lead you to the battlefield,” Rocher said but Royal Zodiac Tiger Major offered to take bring them there instead.

“A few of my soldiers are returning back to the battlefield after a quick rest. They will know the way forward, you can let your guards stay in position.” Major Chun Hua replied and Nao Zhong thanked her. To Rocher and Mian Ling, it seems obvious that they know each other and wished to have a bit of a quick catch up. Thus, the Snake Sergeant decided once again not to interfere with any of their orders and let them be on their way.

“Sergeant, I will leave two of my medics with you. Please guide them.” Royal Zodiac Sheep Captain Mian Ling said before following behind the Monkey’s Team. Rocher nodded his head as he brought the two medics to the temporary quarters and answered any questions that they had.

As the fresh team of Royal Zodiac Soldiers went closer to the battlefield with their Qing Gong, they were met with stray fire but it was nothing the Tigers were not able to handle. Chun Hua made sure their rear

was protected since Rocher did mention sneak attacks but Nao Zhong was confident that they were all overreacting.

And as they reached the first layer of the Inner Walls, they saw the devastation that was being wrecked in the area. Debris and dead bodies were everywhere but ironically there were no Demon Rats around. The Tigers who had been to the frontlines told them that the bodies were the remnants of those Pandarens who had died while the Demon Rats had been turned into resources.

“Resources?” Nao Zhong asked and the Tigers told them that when they were dead for a long time, their bodies would turn into a sort of material. The problem was that their materials varied. From plant food to various ores, the Demon Rats became all sorts of items that the Tigers could not fathom but there was not an issue since if the Pandarens picked them up, it would not be theirs but in the junk section. Selling or exchanging them at the Hidden Gem Night Market would provide some extra raid points.

The fighting might have been louder but the Monkey Team Leader felt that it was a decent place to set up camp until the Tigers who were on watch suddenly saw Demon Rats crawling up at the west side, splitting their forces between the first and the second layer of broken walls.

“Nao Zhong, focus on finding a spot to establish. Do not fight unless it’s necessary and make sure that your guards focus on defending your camp building.” Chun Hua said as she led the vanguard of Tigers to the enemies in order to annihilate them.

“Are we going to put the two camps together?” Mian Ling said as she adjusted her earpiece once again for the sounds of explosions.

“Keep your teleport crystal for now. We will find some stable ground and build the camp.” Nao Zhong said as he climbed up a broken guard tower to search for a good place to put the teleportation crystal and subsequently build the camp. He noticed that the Inner Wall did have 3 layers of walls and they were placed approximately a kilometre away from each other with nothing in between them but empty plains of land. But that was based on the estimation between the first and the second wall and he did not have sight to judge the distance between the second and third.

However, the most prominent feature of the Inner walls is that each wall had differing heights between each of them with the third layer of the wall being the tallest. This meant that the third layer of the wall could provide supporting fire to the first wall if needed and if Nao Zhong haphazardly provided such an open target for the Demon Rats to aim, it would no doubt strain the defences of the camp once it had been set up.

“Hmm, we can hide behind the second wall and create a camp using the wall as a structure to lean on for protection against the incoming attacks. Well, some of the incoming attacks.” Nao Zhong thought to himself when he saw the damage done to the walls. He had no idea what had happened to cause such destruction and could only believe that there was a fierce fight here.

Just as he was about to get down from the guard tower, he suddenly heard Mian Ling screaming at him. “DODGE IT!” Mian Ling said but the Monkey Captain was unable to react in time to parry or defend except for letting go of the entire ladder that he was climbing down. Gravity did its job in a nick of time as the shot that was aimed at his heart had been shifted to his shoulder.

However, because the guard tower was of a taller structure compared to the wall itself, the fall could be detrimental to his progress in the current raid instance. Yet Mian Ling worried for nothing even though she ran as fast as possible even using Qi Gong to reach the Guard Tower. This was mainly because Nao Zhong was part of the Royal Zodiac Monkey.

Being a researched focused clan, the Royal Zodiac Monkeys have a plethora of gadgets under them and one of them is a gadget that each Royal Zodiac Monkey Cultivator would have regardless of job and designation.

A mechanical Monkey Tail.

Using their cultivation style and chi to fuel the Monkey Tail Gadget, they were able to simulate having a tail for themselves and that was what Nao Zhong possessed. Using his Monkey Tail Gadget, he managed to hang on one of the steps on the ladder, enabling him to block the fall. (Although he still hit his head and back on the ladder)

Once he stabilised himself, he tried to grab onto another step but another shot came, shooting at the step that he was about to hold. "Fucking Rats!" Nao Zhong said to himself, before flipping backwards so that he could land.

"You alright?" Mian Ling asked as she checked the wound that he had. With her chi, she managed to pull out the bullet while maintaining the blood vessels around it so that they continued to be blocked when she pulled it out. "Sorry if it stings a little, I did not have any painkillers with me at the moment.

"No, I am fine. I found the place where we can establish the camp but after that, I am going to find that bugged who shot me." Nao Zhong's frustration was apparent but Mian Ling could only sigh. The Royal Zodiac Sheep Captain quickly shifted him towards the walls so that they will be out of sight of the snipers and judging by the attacks, it seems more than one was around as the shots' interval was getting shorter and shorter. But even if Nao Zhong wished to take revenge, Mian Ling knows that he was not much of a fighter compared to the brilliant support skills he possessed.

"We will see how it goes once we build our camp." Mian Ling said as she managed to close the wound with her chi while passing the bullet towards Nao Zhong for him to inspect. This is going to be a long day.

Chapter 1339: Monkey & Sheep – Final

Once the Royal Zodiac Monkey and Sheep Teams had finally established their camp, using the items they bought from the Pandamonium Store, the Snakes and Tigers were a little dissatisfied with it.

To them, the location they chose was not exactly the best nor was it the worst but it was more leaning towards the 'meh' choice. Veterans who were fighting on this current battlefield knew that high ground was a better option even though it was vulnerable to open fire. And despite the opinions of their own guards as well as the Tigers, Nao Zhong insisted on establishing the camp behind the wall. Perhaps he was traumatised by the sniper shot or maybe that particular event had reinforced his thinking but the

Monkey Captain insisted on putting it near the centre of the second inner wall with a completely destroyed wall from the first layer facing outwards.

Rocher saw the camp establishment and could only hope that the Sheep had not used their teleportation crystal. The only expensive thing that should be used wisely within this raid instance. (One of such items cost nearly a million Yuan.) This was because there are way too many openings for that camp compared to the Outer Wall Camp layout.

The Outer Wall Camp might be placed in the open but because of the high walls they were on, they could expand downward if needed to accommodate the wounded/tired Pandarens. Not only that, with the high ground, they were able to predict where the Demon Rats were coming, allowing the guards some additional response time to amass and deal with the threat with less panic.

But the newly built Inner Wall Camp? It was on the ground, making it very susceptible to the Demon Rat attacks especially when most of the veterans of the current battlefield understood that the Demon Rats could dig out from the ground at any time. In addition, using the second layer Inner Wall as protection would only be ideal if they had complete control of the entire second layer which they currently do not.

The Demon Rats, if given the opportunity, could overwhelm the entire second wall and subsequently jump down from the wall, doing ambushes from the top. Even if they do not, just throwing a few bombs was more than sufficient to interrupt them if their magical barrier was weak enough. Plus, the camp had been entirely blinded by the second inner wall's presence. A Demon Rat Abomination Giant could potentially destroy the wall causing the entire camp to be exposed to an attack.

In short, meaningless destruction to the camp due to bad location and the unnecessary loss of resources due to one's insistence. However, one cannot deny that having a camp there allowed fast replenishment of the items that had been exhausted. From rifle ammunition to grenades and even temporary inscriptions cast by the Monkey's Battle Alchemists.

Yes, the Royal Zodiac Monkey Army is a support Army which deals mostly in buffing their armies and debuffing their enemies. They even had gadgets to augment their fellow soldiers but for this raid instance, they were only providing basic buffing potions and temporary one time use inscriptions. That was why they were called Battle Alchemists because of their role.

In the past, the Royal Zodiac Monkey was not exactly the clan that was worth being looked up to. While they had a following that wished to learn their Drunken Monkey Fist, their main specialisation was not looked upon. Mainly because a bulk of their soldiers were weak since their skills were not fantastic. They did have legends of Battle Alchemists buffing themselves to the extreme so they were capable of exterminating monsters beyond the scope of the 'average' realm and that was all to it.

But with the advent of rifles and the industrial revolution, things start to change for the better for them. They played a pivotal role in stopping their enemies, especially the Japanese Clans. Their buffs could potentially turn rifle shots into artillery shots, while their cursing debuffs reduce their enemies' strength, allowing them to turn the tide very easily. With mass manufacturing, their potions were a standard staple for soldiers that were pinned down.

So, being close to the battlefield would not only serve as a better support for the Pandarens but also ensure that the war of attrition would tip in their favour. Not to mention, Mian Ling and her Royal

Zodiac Sheep Medic were around to ensure that major injuries could be healed, allowing the Pandarens to continue with their fight.

Naturally, the Snake General Hou Fei had gotten wind of the new establishment and had already sent a few of his elites to guard the new camp grounds. Major Chun Hua also sent a few Tigers to act as protection detail for those battle medics who had to bring the injured Pandarens from the battlefield to the camp.

Otherwise, the Royal Zodiac Sheeps and Monkeys were doing their best to maintain the camp grounds. And with the establishment of the campgrounds, the new Teleportation Crystal allowed the Pandarens to dive into battle faster. Those who selected the Inner Wall Camp as their respawn would be redirected to the Store Island Instance's airport rather than the train.

To the Pandarens who tested it, they realised they were being parachuted out from the planes from a rather high altitude, allowing them to have a full view of the Northern Capital as well as the Northern Region as a whole. Those who were scared stiff due to the fear of heights had been 'thrown' into a capsule by the Panda co-pilots and they were being fired from the Hercules plane to the location where they would spawn.

The reason Jin suddenly changed from train to plane was that he realised that the train would be too big of a target to not be ignored. The Demon Rats would either concentrate all their fire on the train or send more troops to the camp.

So, by changing the tactic of sending the Pandarens in via air, the Pandarens could use the change of pace to utilise some range weapons to destroy some monsters when they were hanging out up top. It also gave them the advantage push for an assault against the Third Layer Inner Wall since they were coming from above.

The Demon Rats eventually realised Jin's tactics and started to prepare the countermeasures for the paratroopers. Suffice it to say, the paratroopers themselves also took aim against the anti-air attachments on the third wall so that they would have a harder time. Gnawbones wanted to send a few more planes to kill these Pandaren maggots but the Snakes were giving them a hard time to do that. (Though to be honest, the Chryso Pilots were enjoying their time with the flexibility of Mana Engine Aircraft that they wanted more to fight against)

And with the Pandarens covering both the sky and land, the Third Layer Inner Wall has a tough time splitting their firepower to cover both battlefields. All they could do was waste as much time as possible so that their Demon Rats counterpart could prepare sufficiently for the biggest counterattack.

Chapter 1340: For Plushies

The PandaVerse Festival continued throughout the second day and Jin had started to pull out incentives for the 'less hardcore' cultivators who found the Great Demon War to be tiring. After all, no ordinary cultivator would like to stay in a warzone for days, right?

So, Jin had made a rotary model for the discounts, so that Cultivators who were within the Store Islands Instance would have the opportunity to try all sorts of instances. However, when it comes to the major service instances like theme parks and the cultivation zoo, they were teleported to the main store island instance because it was inefficient to make copies of such instances. As for the smaller ones like the Hot Spring Instances, those service instances had multiple copies in the various themed store islands.

And because of the theme islands, Jin had ensured that the discounts rotate through the islands as well. This means that not all islands have the same discount activated for the particular instance. The Western Themed Store Island could have their hot spring instance discounted but not the Eastern Themed Store Island. This enabled the cultivators to perform some island hopping and they could see the various types of instances that were available.

For example, the Western Themed Store Islands have hot springs that were designed towards the Roman bathhouse rather than the traditional Japanese hot springs. The only thing that's constant through all the islands was the Hidden Gem Night Market because Jin did not have time to convert them.

This brought the cultivators who had decided to spend a week at Dungeons and Pandas an entirely new experience. Even if they wish to explore outside of the Tree Mall, they would be allowed in again depending on their voucher tier, else they would be teleported back to the main store instance.

Jin had also prepared a few concert events and even a daily lucky draw which utilised the Event Island Instance so that people could enjoy and earn prizes as they enjoyed the concert. Ke Loong's event department had liaised with Kiyu, allowing the dungeon supplier to invite a few relatively famous singers and comedians to the Event Island, prompting the crowd to be excited with the lineup.

Kiyu even managed to get a few overseas singers/groups and particularly famous ones like Melton John, Lady Baba, XNXD, White Pink and LIZA to perform on those days causing a wild rage of concert tickets to be sold out consistently. The System knew that these famous lineups would cause people to rage for the tickets and even execute scalper services to earn more money so the System made it such that the selling of tickets would be randomly selected from the people who keyed in their interest to participate. Only when they were chosen, they would be offered a chance to buy the ticket and the ticket would be tied to the account and that ID.

Since the ID was their National Identification Number, there was no way they could sell it and no one could fake the System. (IF they did manage to do that and were subsequently picked up, the System would be very interested in that person's talent. Kraft too!) There were even arena battle showings in the Event Island featuring the different types of monsters that Jin owned.

Obviously, the monsters knew that they were merely sparring but when they were on stage, their mindset somehow changed. (For example, Dread Reaver, the Death Knight was super competitive when he fought against Sandy, The Sand Witch, nearly making a mess when the Sand Witch covered the entire arena with sand just to counter his Death God Moves.) Oh and did Jin mention there was betting allowed as well? The winners even had a chance to win a special plushie and the minimum bet was just one bronze Panda Coin, allowing almost everyone to try it.

And talking about plushies, Jin did create a brand new plush specifically for PandaVerse. The Panda was holding the entire earth in its arms with the word PandaVerse 1 in the middle of the earth. (As if he was

indicating that there would be second, third and more to come.) And to make things (worse) more exciting, Jin had purposely created a variety of plushies for this PandaVerse. (To be exact five.) If they tried out all the PandaVerse activities. From concerts to trying out the new Virtual Reality game that Jin had opened on day two.

Collect all of them and they will receive a special plushie that is limited. This caused nearly every plush collector to go FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out.) and they started to try and find ways to get it done. But Jin did make it easier for plush collectors too as all those plushies could be collected when they reached a certain raid point threshold, obviously when they were placed high up so that the collectors or regular Pandarens could either try out all the events during the PandaVerse Festival or grind high enough raid points to get the limited plushie.

This slew of events and activities gave the Pandarens the flexibility to do whatever they liked in Dungeons and Pandas. People were already commenting how this was superior to the National Dungeon Supplier Symposium by leaps and bounds, and they were showing it on social media as if this was the event they had been waiting for years.

The fruits of this festival were sweet and this could not be done without the months of preparation they had done. But as the event was not done, Jin and the System continued to be wary of external threats as well as the volatile situation within the Farming World. From what they gathered through the Spirits of the Land, the Demon Rats were holding their trump card as well.

“This feels like Plan G1,” Jin said to the System but the System begged to differ, stating that it could be Plan G2 considering the similarities. “Gah, you feel that they are gathering for ‘that’?” (They are naturally talking in code...)

“High chance. Considering how they had evacuated the Demon Rats beneath, it felt that it would be appropriate for Plan G2.” The System reported.

“Then I guess having the Void Being is actually a surprising boon.” Jin smiled as he continued to monitor the situation.