

Dungeon S 1481

Chapter 1481 Empire Tournament

A quick email to Raymond was more than sufficient to let him know about the details for the tournament, since Jin had to wait for Package Ten to be fully integrated into his War Maidens. In the meantime, Archduke Dyke who was still travelling to the Empire Capital, was let known about the situation as well and felt that it was a good idea as well.

"It will no doubt help with the accumulation of wealth for the upcoming war and it will solve quite a fair bit of our financial problem as well. That's a good suggestion." A secure channel was created between Jin, Raymond and Dyke to discuss the contents since they needed to waste some time either through waiting.

"The Southern Duke would be elated as well since it was supposed to be his turn and you know how he hated all this event organisation nonsense despite the fact that he adored the fights. By doing this, you Sire, are gaining yourself a big favour from him." Raymond commented and Dyke smiled widely. The Southern Region was known for their immense military power because their borders faced not only the Republic but the Southern Alliance who were barbaric in nature.

This sharing of borders forced his troops to always be in tip top shape in case of a sudden invasion from the Southern Alliance. As mentioned, the Southern Alliance consisted mostly various tribes of Barbarians and despite its naming convention, they wielded guns as well but their physical constitution had 'evolved' where they could withstand gunshots, due to their constant pursuit for brute strength. Thus, they were a bunch of warmongering people who were categorised as very dangerous since one skilled Barbarian could take on as many as ten Mechanoids.

The only consolation that allowed them to stay as status quo was their truce between the Southern Duke and the Republic who had promised them minor skirmishes at certain intervals. No doubt, the war that the Republic was rousing would invite a few stares from the Southern Alliance but that was an issue that would be tackled when the time comes. Thus, the need to organise the Empire Tournament was a pain in the ass for Southern Duke and he had already skipped his turn a few times that he pissed off the other Dukes who needed to pick up his slack. Yet, even though the other Dukes hated it, none of them complained outright as they understood the situation at the South.

So, if the Archduke had decided to take the initiative to pick that slack up, the other dukes would covertly rejoice at such a fact since it was rare for the Archduke to do such a task.

"I will talk to all of them later, during the meet. I am sure they all have to be there." Dyke said as he wrote in his digital notebook.

But what Dyke was after was no doubt the points and money. He could literally adopt the very same idea that Jin had proposed for his demonstration and indirectly gain funds for his war chest now that Jin had proposed that he need to create a few Customised Monster Mechanoids to create the dungeon portal invasion idea for the fight against the Republic. The System did pitch in that it would assist in the blueprint design since no one ever created any Monster Mechanoids before as well as the backend simulations in order to prevent any possible data leak to the republic.

Other than that, the Archduke needs to secure a massive hidden factory so that they could build the Monster Mechanoids in secret. While Jin is able to create his Synthesis Dungeons with mere conversion of gold bar and points, there is still a need for the proof of concept to allow the System to simulate those monsters into his Synthesis Dungeons. Imaginative out of the blue monsters would not work at all as there was no data on how it moves etc.

However, Jin personally told the System that it did not need to worry about that if what he theorised about the Cardinal's powers were true. (After all, he had yet to use them.) Still, Jin did mention that those Monster Mechanoids had to be built at least once for his powers to manifest on them and so the Archduke understood his master's desires.

When asked about how the tournament works, Jin was being told that Commanders would lead their Mechanoids into battle in a fixed obstacle arena. Something similar to his house invasion demonstration but a little less primitive and with a bigger space. Still, such a static tournament gathered a large crowd since people took this opportunity to learn from one another as well as betting but this meant that most of the commanders who won were mostly from the land army. The Naval and Air Force never had such luxury to touch the championship cup.

That was how Jin took the opportunity to tell them about his suggestions to improve the tournament. The suggestions of having dirty tank wars, tight ship battles and even nasty dogfights between planes. The words coming out from Jin's mouth sounded like pure music to him as it was a brilliant way to spice things up and get even more people take join the Empire tournament. Raymond could also see the amount of money pouring in from all the fights and the massive cut they could take from all this tournament. This will also no doubt attract commanders from various military arms to join since they could finally show off.

However, the only foreseeable problem that Jin could encounter was that he needed the full data specifications, past combat and maintenance logs to simulate those ships, planes and tanks because there is no way they could bring all those to the imperial capital. Yet, when Raymond heard it, he laughed.

"We could host this at your wife's region, my lord. That would definitely increase the amount of tourist in the area."

"Port Fastfor? Indeed..." Dyke too agreed to it and the Tactical System explained to Jin that Port Fastfor was one of the largest trading port cities in the Empire which featured a large stadium previously for the International tournaments since Port Fastfor had the expertise to manage the sea routes and a well known airport. "It had also been years since we chose Port Fastfor as the location for the Empire's Tournament as well."

"That way, we can even make a parade of ships, planes and even tanks!" Raymond declared and the imagination between the three of them got even rosier

"Very good. Very good. I am sincerely looking forward to this year's tournament." The very same thought lingered on their minds.

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Chapter 1482 The All New Grey Bear Squad -Part 1

"Commander." Yinn said as she gave a salute with the rest coming out of the maintenance bay after Rocky and his engineers had installed Package Ten in them. To top it off, Rocky even added the latest Tactical System Operating System which was currently available for Majors and above, citing official reasons that Package Ten could not be used optimally with the current operating system. Obviously, it was 'favouritism' since Rocky is under the command of Jin and the System but people who undoubtedly see it as a 'kind' gesture from the Archduke himself.

"Or should we say Captain?" It was the first time Tellie teased Jin and the rest also gave him a proper salute while grinning. All of them do not know what exactly had happened but they knew that they were installed with some of the restricted hardware and software that were not available to them if they were under the 'same' commander. Either way, their absolute adherence to this new Jin had allowed them to soar even greater heights which they could have never achieve.

One of such heights was their promotion.

Alongside, Jin's promotion letter to captain, the Archduke had also indicated that the Mechanoids serving under him would be raised one rank higher as well for their service to the country. (Killing dozens of Mechanoids deserved just that!) In addition to the promotions, recommendation letters for combat war medals personally written by the Archduke had also been sent to the Military Council for vetting. (Of course, it was all written by the capable personal attendant and Raymond had even assured Jin that those recommendation letters were merely a formality and those combat war medals would be issued to them as soon as the letters had been processed.)

These news were the first thing that they received as part of their notifications when they were booted up, allowing them to appreciate whatever Jin had done for them during their downtime. They were initially afraid that both Jin and the team would receive the greatest punishment of them all, and once they were shut down, there was no chance those Grey Bear War Maidens would ever see the light again. Therefore, to be able to be rebooted up for service and those notifications plus the upgrades installed, grateful was a word that could not be sufficiently expressed to their commander. If this world was a relationship game, that trust meter Jin had with those War Maidens would practically be broken as their trust for him had reached more than max level.

"There is no need for that." Jin exclaimed with a gentle smile and gave a return salute. "After all, we have lots of work to do." Jin added as he pointed at his ear, indicating that he will be telling them what had transpired for the past half a day when they were shut down. Everyone knew that Jin was an outsider, an anomaly of the current world and even if they were to take his words at face value back then, there was no way the War Maidens would find it logical.

Even as he explained to them a partial explanation about the System and how the Archduke had become his permanent ally, they still found it hard to believe since it had defied all rationale. No one in this world will believe that they could serve someone else after talking to them in a short period of time. And thus, the Mechanoids confirmed that Jin would have used some special outsider powers that allowed him to do that. And as Jin spoke more about it, they understood how they were brainwashed and in hand were also roped into it as well as the Tactical System had taken this opportunity to enter their processor cores and change some of their codes so that the logs if nefarious people were to ever kidnap them and dig dirt on Jin would not be able to find anything useful on him.

This means that the Mechanoids will auto censor themselves while keeping the secret that were not accessible to their 'black box' due to the System's coding. And yet that was not a problem since the Tactical System had already have its hands in those War Maidens. It automatically uploads and downloads information so if the War Maidens were ever decimated, it was easy to recreate them again since most of the information were with the Tactical System.

"So... That's the gist. Boy I am hungry..." Jin said as he could feel the hunger pangs really going for him after not being able to eat for such a long time.

"If that's the case, I think we should call it a day for now. Get ourselves acquainted with this current town and perhaps visit little Marvin." Tellie suggested and everyone agreed.

"And if we are going to Commander's new land, it would also be best if we gear up and recreate members who we lost in the previous operations." Yinn added.

"You mean Grey Bear Squad is not just the four of you?" Jin asked as he never knew there were more of them.

"Yeah, our medic died and we usually have a temporary War Maiden as part of our team. Now that we have some money, we can get our medic back and perhaps get a permanent member for the team too." Yinn said and Jin nodded his head, checking the number of gold bars he had left after performing the demonstration. The Tactical System on the other hand already told him that it was feasible but Yinn made his worries flutter away when she told him to cash in on all the bets they made once they officially submitted the scouting mission.

"Huh, you mean all these rewards from the Archduke ... none of them are part of the mission rewards?" Jin was genuinely confused and the entire squad laughed as they simultaneously opened the holographic consoles and showed Jin that the mission was still pending.

"Yes, that's why we are all in disbelief when we heard how you managed to get this much... reward even after spending them for your said demonstration." Diaz was eyeing at them, wanting a good feast.

"Well, then what are we waiting for! Let's go to wherever you go to submit your mission details." Jin said and the squad said the following in sync.

"Yes, Captain!"

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Chapter 1483 Gold Bars

As Jin had no idea that this Synthesis World had something similar to an adventurer's guild, he was pleasantly surprised to find out that the place they were going to submit their mission details was quite an eye opener.

As the name suggested, the centre dealt solely with missions and in lieu, the completion of missions. That means it was considered one of the major 'attractions' in every town since commanders depended on this Mission Command Centre for their livelihood. From little things to short term recruitment of adhoc jobs to the involvement of multiple commanders to clear an infestation near the town.

To top it off, other towns' Mission Command Centres offer their requests as well in case the commanders decided to take a few jobs at a time. Naturally, being unable to complete a request would result in a demerit of points and a bad rep and that would cause a commander who had defaulted on those requests to be badly shunned upon. The previous Jin was one of such commanders but with the completion of this particular scouting mission, this new Jin would get to reap the rewards that the old Jin had placed for him,

While somewhat illegal, all those bets by various commanders had already been deposited into the Mission Command Centre's incentive programme where a commander who deemed the mission too hard to be done and requests someone else to do it. However, such incentives can be pulled out by the Mission Command Centre if the commander fails the mission. As such when Jin submitted the mission details, all those extra 'incentives' have been awarded to him as well as the extra mission objectives that he managed to complete.

Granted some prefer gold bars because the point conversion of gold bars varied day to day and there will be a few who wished to profit from the most amount of points but other than that, lugging gold bars around town or out for missions was ludicrous and impractical. The War Maidens also could not understand the fascination for gold bars and Jin believed it had to do with the inhabitants of Synthesis World who could have used gold bars as their mode of currency and barter before this entire virtual world thing came along.

"Won't that put them at risk of other commanders attempting to steal from them?" Jin asked and the veteran commander nodded his head, glad to know that someone new was willing to hear his thoughts and ramblings.

"CPT, that guy did not tell you everything but you need gold bars to exchange for War Maidens. Buy Mechanoids with points is actually more expensive." Yinn told Jin through the encrypted tactical system channel.

"We have more than enough to remake our Medic as well as creating a new War Maiden...though the two of them would most probably not have Package Ten installed since Assistant Chief Engineer Rocky had done us a favour by skipping the requirements. There is no way the War Maiden Manufacturing Store would allow such concessions." Yinn said felt a little disappointed that their new teammates would not have the same upgrades as them.

"User, do remember about my request now that we are going to get one more permanent 'member' for the squad." The Tactical System wrote and Jin became a little worried."Will it go smoothly?"

"Lol, how much time has passed?" Jin asked as he knew there will be a discrepancy in their time when comparing parallel worlds.

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Chapter 1484 Prospective Review: "The House"

As they walked towards the town's War Maiden Manufacturing Store, Jin was preoccupied with his conversation with the System. For a moment, he had forgotten that he has a store with him but it turns out that he was worried for nothing when Qiu Yue decided to hold the front for him.

But with that said, there were indeed difficulties trying to keep Jin's disappearance to be a widely known fact thus Qiu Yue decided to say that Jin had taken some time off to enhance his cultivation after having certain enlightenment happened to him. While this was quite a bad excuse for his disappearance, it is no doubt a valid excuse since people had recognised that he is a cultivator of a high grade, thus having enlightenment at that particular grade was something that he could not miss.

Many regular customers also accepted that it was vital for his job since dungeon supplying was not an easy task to partake especially when higher grade cultivators decides to train here as well. Increasing his cultivation grade would no doubt enhance his customer population since it could include the high grades that were missing out sorely in the dungeon supplying business. After all, most dungeon suppliers do not have such high grades and many talented ones had nowhere to go but pay lots of money to certain suppliers. That was why if Jin could provide for high grade cultivators, it would soar its rank and status even further.

However, what the customers were afraid of was that there would a slew of 'dead' breaks while waiting for his cultivation enlightenment to be over since it could be range from a few days to a few years. They were worried that Qiu Yue might not be able to produce such quality dungeon instance as Jin did until the Pandamonium App widely announced that it would continue to release dungeons which Jin had prepared before hand for such cases.

In truth, Jin did have some dungeon instances readied before he was suck into the Synthesis world but they needed fine tuning and personal touches before they could be released. Qiu Yue while able to design basic dungeons were not able to grasp the complicated settings Jin had set for those dungeons.

Even the System that wished to intervene was not able to because of the contract it had with Jin. If Jin was truly missing, surely the System could do something about it, but the problem was, Jin was still in contact with the System and by contract, it was not able to touch it even if Jin gave permission as it was his work and he had to be the one who publishes it.

The Astral Panda Cultivator got a bit fed up as well that the System could not intervene for him since the System was the one who created those rules in the contract and yet the System stated that if it breaks even one small rule, or create an exception, it would be downhill from then on as the implications in the future for such actions would be immense.

But in light of all this, because of the limitation the System have in the Synthesis World, it created a temporary contract which allowed Jin and it to publish whatever the Dungeon Supplier had created within the Synthesis World to be published into their world.

The System could change it as it fits since Jin was unable to do anything from his end so this temporary contract finally broke the slew of emptiness the store was running on (It actually wasn't that bad since Qiu Yue had decided to replay a few old raids at various intervals within the month, allowing newer customers to experience what the older customers did with the exception of limited items being available)

So, fast forward to Jin's world where the System threw the demonstration Jin had made for the Archduke for the store, Qiu Yue had introduced it as the new dungeon instance called 'The House'. A Dungeons and Pandas' latest project cites that it was also part of Jin's collection of backups and that was sufficient to get people to flood the stores again.

It was nothing big but it had been introduced as both PvE and PvP option. Customers could use not just guns but their own weapons as part of their arsenal, allowing them to fight against the rumoured Grey Bear Squad.

To Qiu Yue's surprise, it was a phenomenal hit despite it having little to no content to the dungeon instance. It was merely just a house where the interior would periodically change based on a three static designs to keep the freshness of the content.

And there was no doubt, that the policemen like Se Lang and Deng Long loved the scenario of rescuing hostages. In fact, they loved it a lot that they recommended the police chief have the teams perform a session or two while showing the public what the police could do. (Obviously, the good scenes only with a mix of failed fun ones, as Qiu Yue too know how sensitive the public could be.)

But what created the most hype was the PvP option. It was as if the cultivators who wanted to battle against each other finally found a decent platform to fight not just some empty arena. The allure of achieving the objective of saving the hostage or preventing the hostage from being saved had allowed oddly coordinated team fights to emerge, giving extra data for the System to file.

Money started to pour in again and Qiu Yue even named this dungeon instance part of the ongoing series called the 'Modern Warfields' since the System had given some heads up to Qiu Yue that what Jin created would most slightly move towards such a genre.

Still, that only alleviated one Sub System User's worries as the one who was most concerned about finding Jin had been intensively trained. Since the System repeatedly denied her entry to the Synthesis World despite Kraft's assurance, Lynn had been very bitter towards the System and with much reason but considering that there was a chance Jin might not come back so soon, it would be hard for the System to lose another 'employee' to the Synthesis World especially when she was vital in the Dungeons and Pandas sales.

Thus when she heard that the System finally gave the proper go ahead, she was more than elated. Lynn was ecstatic.

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Chapter 1485 Shopping Street

"So, User do not worry. Qiu Yue will handle things from here on although it is still advisable for you to return to your world as soon as possible." The System said as it mentioned how the dungeon instance Jin made for the Demonstration would be used for his shop.

"Lol... Enlightenment phase. I do get it." Jin sighed as he was tapped on the shoulders to learn that they had reached the War Maidens manufacturing store. Well, he was expecting a workshop per se but apparently, there was a line of shops that sells whatever Jin wants.

"You mean buying a War Maiden is something similar to window shopping?" Jin was stunned by the variety of stores and various manufacturers had their eyes looking at him. (Well, what can one expect when Jin and the others were carrying a huge duffel bag filled with gold bars?! Even though it was hidden within the duffel bag, the store assistants were experienced enough to identify a potential shopper.)

"Come and test out Rocketeer's products!"

"Petra Series has the best Shotgun users of all!"

"You, hey you! I give you 30% for getting your products by Diamonds!"

"How many manufacturer shops there are around here?" Jin asked as he felt harassed by the eyes looking at him.

"Tens? Twenties? There are a lot who wished to have a piece of the pie since they are able to get gold bars from us." Click said and Jin asked which lines of the series they were from.

"Most of us are from Rocketeers while Diaz was from Petra Series," Tellie replied and Jin finally understood why Diaz's attitude was a little more eccentric compared to the rest of the team.

"Well, at least they were not wrong. Diaz was good with a shotgun." Jin commented which made Diaz sneer a little.

"If we are getting our medic back, I would suggest Diamonds. They are geared generally more towards Support type War Maidens." Diaz said but Jin said he wished to window shop a little longer despite the constant harassment. After all, in this cesspool of major manufacturers and shop sellers, there would be bound to have an odd one there, right?

That was what Jin thought to himself, perhaps that one store which had seen the lowest customer rate because of his self conceited attitude but was undoubtedly talented. He was hoping to find one as seen in every isekai novel where the storekeeper had no choice but to support the main protagonist and in turn help outgrow himself.

But Jin's hopes were slowly dashing away as he checked every single store along that shopping street to find nothing of such sort within this town. The War Maidens were unsure what Jin was looking for as well and merely made sure that his duffel bag of gold bars was guarded properly as he walked around to make his choices.

"And here I thought I could make a special connection to a store owner. Is there really nothing in this nameless town?" Jin muttered to himself as he walked nearly to the end of the shopping street.

"This isn't no nameless town, you take your words back scumbag." One of the pedestrians heard it and scolded Jin for it. The Grey Bear Squad immediately intervened and made sure their commander was protected.

"Heh. Hiding behind those pieces of junk metal. You surely won't be able to achieve far with those scraps of chum change." The pedestrian remarked and only then Jin could see that he was somewhat drunk.

One of the security on patrol who noticed the ruckus quickly walked towards them to control the situation. "Apologies, this drunk had always been here making a lot of empty threats."

"I am telling all of you! You... YOU! You guys have never seen a real War Maiden before!" The drunk said as the security begin to radio even more patrols to enter the scene. But to the rest of the shoppers and store owners around, it seemed like it was the usual thing.

But what surprised Jin was that the drunk was able to overpower not just the security patrols but the strong enough to resist the security war maidens as well. "You guys cannot handle me on a 1 to 1 fight, that's why you need your pesky walking metals. A real commander would be able to defeat me!"

The drunk was obviously shouting all over the place until Jin felt that this was an interesting development. Surely there was some truth to the drunk's words else he would not be here as sober as a sea cucumber. Even if what he was saying was rubbish, believed that a quick brawl would help him see whether his Grade 2 could match his strengths but what he really wanted was a 'secret' ending to emerge from all of this.

The naive Astral Cultivator thought about the trope of isekai worlds and since he already met an isekai-ed person in his own world and even helped him out, karma would do the same for him as well...? Nevertheless, nothing ventured, nothing gained.

"Hey, hey you! How about if I fight with you? Can you stop harassing the shopping streets and stay drunk in one corner?" Jin decided to provoke the drunk. "Then perhaps you can tell me about this super authentic real war maiden you were bragging about. If I lose, I buy you a month's worth of alcohol, all of what you drink will be under my tab."

All of the security guards see him and were perplexed as to why an ordinary citizen would want to mess around with this particular drunk. But some of the experienced security guards eventually internalised what was happening and could see that this particular commander would wish to flaunt himself.

If that was the case, perhaps the drunk could really put him in place since those guards had no love for snobbish commanders who keep coming here to buy stuff.

But most importantly, the drunk accepted the challenge.

Chapter 1486 A Drunken Brawl

"Yo, little commander. What is your name?" The drunk guy said as he ready his fists.

"I am just some commander. No name needed."

"Asshole, I need your name to put my name on the tab!" The drunk said before rushing in, using all his force in one punch.

"And here I thought, I get to see some martial arts." Jin was expecting more than a straight punch and was even prepared to use his Inverse Eyes to see through his opponent's attack. However, all that came was just a punch filled with unladdened strength.

The Astral Panda Cultivator gracefully deflected the punch without going for a counterattack to see whether if the drunk had anything more. "Heh, at least he gave out a last minute feint." Jin thought to himself as the deflection allowed the drunk to move into position and allowed him to strike with his left leg.

This time, the strike was filled with the rumoured strength of how the other security patrols had trouble dealing with it. It was to the point Jin had to use two of his hands to hold and block him off. And when that happened, the drunk continued to attack by using the inertia of his body to slam into Jin.

There was no pattern to his attacks and he was merely using his strength to forcibly win the fight. Surely, power triumphs over everything as Jin had seen on many occasions how cultivators used brute force to settle their fights in his dungeon instances.

However, technique allowed the power to run its course, enabling it to display the ingenuity of men's creations through its executions. And that included how Jin used the techniques of the Nineteen Lazy Astral Panda to perform Panda Tumbling in order to move out of the way and subsequently strike him with Lazy Panda Swipe.

The 'spectators' had never seen someone able to single handle the drunk before as Jin swiped him on the back of his head. The drunk nearly fell to the ground because of that but was still conscious enough to get back on his feet despite his unsteady gait.

"If anything, he is a good candidate for the Drunken Fist. Surely, if Lynn was around, she would be able to teach him some moves." Jin felt that he was assessing a potential ally in these parts. His strength was on par with a Grade 2 maybe even Grade 3 which Jin suspected that there was some augmentation done for him.

And instead of being angrier, the drunk showed that he was giddy with excitement. It was as if he found someone worthy to duel with him. The security guards who had known this drunk for a long time knew that Jin was in deep trouble but Jin was unfazed by the situation.

"Are you not coming at me? If not, I make the move." Jin said as he sauntered towards the drunk and quietly filled his arm with Maqi. (Who says that this will be a fair fight? Hehehe! Kraft would be proud of him.) Just as the drunk wished to counter Jin equally with a fist, the Astral Panda Cultivator utilised Panda Tumbling once more not just to evade the drunk's attack but also using the side of his body to slam into him so that Jin could have a clean punch to his face.

The sound of flesh thudding at his cheeks made even the security guards feel sorry for the drunk for the first time. However, the drunk was tenacious and tried to headbutt Jin but the cultivator stopped him by pulling his ear and slapping him.

Unfortunately, the drunk managed to grab hold of Jin's shirt and decided to do the dirty move of kneeing him at his balls as his last desperate retaliatory move. And the guards who were in awe with the current situation thought this might be the end of Jin's offence...until they saw the commander did a jump while splitting open his legs to avoid the knee jerk attack.

Almost everyone including his own Grey Bear War Maidens was astonished by his fast response and evasiveness. They all never expected a commander to be this trained with close combat fights and even the security guard War Maidens were recording this as training data.

Since Jin was in midair, he utilised his Panda Tumbling once more, allowing him to change his air jump into a somersault, allowing him to smash his heel onto the drunk's shoulders, causing him to fall to the ground because of the impact. No doubt, the ground cracked a little from Jin and the drunk's weight and surely the latter have a dislocated shoulder from that fight.

"Do you have enough rampaging?" Jin smiled and the drunk nodded his head.

"Aye, thank you for fixing my stiff shoulder." He laughed as he asked for his bottle that the security guard confiscated.

The guards were confused about whether to give him the bottle. On one hand, it felt that if they gave him the bottle, there might be additional violence since he was equipped with a weapon, causing the fight to resume.

"It's fine, he had already calmed down," Jin said as he told the guards to just pass the bottle and the drunk guzzled the remaining drink he had.

"So, Old Fammet, are you finally going to come with us peacefully?" The security guards said and the drunk smiled, nodding his head slowly. But before he left with the guards, Jin asked Yinn for his duffel bag and he gave two gold bars to the drunk.

"Get yourself some better piss."

"Heh, I like you, kid. Come back here tomorrow and I show you what's a real War Maiden." Old Fammet said as one of the older security guards came forward and thanked Jin.

"Apologies, he is always like this when he is in a slump."

"Slump?" Jin asked.

"Yes, he is a Mecha Smith...or was a Mecha Smith." The guard said and Jin felt delighted that his gamble in taking on his encounter paid off. Now the feeling of being isekai and being supported by a talented but piss poor businessman had finally come true.

Perhaps, that was why his 'business' sense was tingling when he did the right thing to interfere with the drunk.

Chapter 1487 Hotpot?!

"Are you able to tell me more perhaps with a drink or two?" Jin asked as he 'subtly' showed a gold bar to the security guard and that somehow made his eyes twinkle.

The guard coughed a little and shouted at his younger colleagues including the War Maidens handling the security to be less rough on Old Fammet. At that point, the police finally came to the scene to investigate (What rotten timing) but the older guard waved at his friends in the police team and told them that he would take care of it.

Jin did not know that this particular security guard at some clout with the police and realised that the gold bar was indeed a good investment since he never liked the police in this town. The security guard then brought them to a nearby restaurant a street away from all the shopping and even got a table for them despite the crowd.

"You seem quite well liked here," Jin said as he and the War Maidens finally had a place to rest and partake in dinner. Jin instantly raised his investments to two gold bars the moment they sat down. Ironically, the person who was serving them was the owner of the restaurant and when he saw the gold bars being passed so nonchalantly towards the security guard, his attitude towards Jin went from slightly pissed to benevolent.

"What do you wish to eat? They even have a 'secret' menu for regular customers so they could whip up almost anything as long as they have the items in their stock." The old guard said and Jin chuckled.

"Well, I am craving for a hotpot and meat barbeque." Jin felt fried food was more comforting since his stomach was famished from the week long 'fasting' but he knew that it would be best to have some soupy stuff to nourish his body before feasting on the meat.

"...sorry sir, hotpot?" The restaurant owner was confused as he never heard the term before.

"Erm...perhaps it was my village speciality and I unknowingly spurted it out. Apologies." Jin tried to think of a way to hide his embarrassment as he had forgotten that this was another world. "No worries, how about you try to explain to me and I see what I can do." The owner said in such an angelic tone that it crept the old security guard a little. He knows that his friend was also coveting the gold bars that Jin had. (Which the latter realised now why the gold bars were still in fashion in this supposed modern society.)

"It's...something like a stew soup but instead of having it ready made for you, just prepare the soup stock for me and I will dip various vegetables in to eat. Then, we have sweet, sour and spicy sauces on the side to eat with it." Jin said and the owner was fascinated and stunned by the simple idea.

"It's okay if you do not have it, just give me some stew and roasted meat along with it." Jin decided to compromise since he had forgotten how Lynn was always the one who prepared the food for him and he almost take it for granted.

"No, no. I will try. That idea seems rather interesting and our menu does consist of chicken and vegetable soup." The owner said and Jin said that all he had to do was to bring the soup and a portable stove to the table and with it constantly boiling, he could dip it with raw meat and vegetables to cook it.

"I do not really see the appeal to that. Why cook yourself when it had already been cooked?" Yinn asked and Jin shrugged and said that sometimes it is nice to have choices.

"Also, do not worry if it is not up to standard, I will pay for the ingredients." Jin then tells the owner not to worry.

"Sir, I had fulfilled many customised orders before and finally you had given me an outlook I never thought of before so I am accepting this challenge." The restaurant owner said and told Jin that he would be back.

"You might not know this, but he works for the royal kitchen as the sous chef once." The guard said...
"But he got kicked out the day he got promoted."

"That's a rather drastic turn of developments." Jin did not expect such a heavy backstory to be told in a sentence.

"Regardless, I am Nie, pleased to meet you."

"Nice to meet you too." Jin shook hands with the old security guard as a waiter came in and served them drinks.

"Where do I first start..." Nie said as he tried to dig into his memory. "Old Fammet wasn't like this at all. In fact, this town was rather famous despite its distance away from the capital because of him."

"But it had been many years, perhaps when you are just a wee lad when his reputation being one of the greatest Mecha Smith was still known to people all over the Empire. That is also the reason why you see so many manufacturing stores around because most of them came here to seek Old Fammet as their advisors."

"At first, it was asking for the hand for cooperation but eventually, it turned to competition as Old Fammet did not wish to enter any of the companies. In fact, those companies decided to band together and create a united embargo against him by putting up stores here to show that despite their inferior mechanoids, they were produced cheaply and can be replaced easily."

"So it's something akin to quantity over quality."

"Yes, and the companies even made his life difficult by buying bulk materials from his suppliers that there was no way for him to purchase them unless he paid a higher price for them."

"Which he did. Are you talking about Old Fammet again, Nie?" The restaurant owner came by with a boiling pot of soup as his employee quickly prepared a portable stove.

"Is this how you do this? I added a little more into the vegetable soup to thicken the base." The restaurant owner said and Jin could already feel the fragrance running through his lungs.

"Yes! Yes!" Jin said as the waiters started to bring him plates of raw sliced meat and an assortment of odd looking vegetables for him and the rest to partake in.

Chapter 1488 Old Fammet

"Yeap, we are talking about Old Fammet. This guy had recently simmered him down to the point that the old drunk was speaking properly." Nie said

"Oh...Nice one, Commander..." The restaurant owner know that this is a new face and waited for him to introduce himself

"Jin. Commander of the Grey Bear Squad."

"I see, Commander Jin. I hope you do have a decent dinner with your War Maidens and a long chat with the last apprentice of Old Fammet. Name's Lant. Once you feel that you have enough of this ...Hotpot, do tell my waiter, and we get started barbecuing your meat." Lant said as he bow, and finally smiled when he caught a glimmer of a gold bar which was slid to the corner of the table.

"Your information had been most helpful too. I hope to continue having an amicable relationship with you as well." Jin said as Lant was wondering why it was information rather than food. It bothered him a little but considering that he had not dug into his dinner, it was probably why he thanked him for the information that Nie was hiding.

"And here I thought I can get another gold bar from him. You are a sneaky one, Lant." Nie grumbled as he could see Lant grinning and waving his gold bar while he walked away from the table.

"Now it makes even more sense why you have so much clout in the area," Jin said as he asked Nie to have a try with the hotpot along as the other War Maidens were on the other table having their food served as well.

"How do you do it?"

"Just take the vegetable and dip it into the soup. Let it boil for a while before taking it out." Jin demonstrated by using a ladle which he requested from Lant previously and Nie tried it as per his instructions.

As the vegetable's texture softened, Jin picked it up to have a bite. As odd as the vegetable looked, its taste was not so shabby. To a certain degree, it complimented well with the soup too.

"Wow, it's actually not that bad," Nie said as the two of them continued their conversation with Nie telling Jin more explicitly how Old Fammet turned this way.

"If it's just the competition, he would have turned out fine. Old Fammet had fame back then, thus money was not an issue and he was able to purchase those items without much trouble. The problem and his downfall came when the major cooperations came together to frame him."

"How so?"

"By using the Empire's Tournament and asking him to bet on the War Maidens that he made. There was this commander by the name of Cai Fan. An oriental origin commander who supposed to traits like honour and duty." Nie said as he twirled his forks in circles midair a few times as if to signal that the story was going to be bad.

"Cai Fan had gotten his War Maidens from Old Fammet when he was still just a puny whiny officer barely passing with a 2nd lieutenant rank on his shoulders. But because of Old Fammet's War Maidens, he was able to get through various promotions easily due to the quality of the War Maidens."

"Of course, Old Fammet would be happy for him and even delighted to create a high quality customised War Maiden for the Empire Tournament as he know that Cai Fan would then be competing against the other commanders who had been sponsored by the major manufacturing corporations."

"He put his every heart and soul. Every skill and trick into the War Maidens as well as installing the Tactical System which was supposed to be a trademarked proprietary of his." Nie took a bite of the meat he ate and it was soaked with the soup's stock it tasted good. Even better when he dipped it in some light soy sauce.

"Shit... did he betray him big time?" Jin said as he knows that everyone has a Tactical System installed.

"Big big time. Cai Fan not only gave the War Maidens to the corporations to research on but also took their money so that their matches were fixed. Don't say Old Fammet, even I did assist with the building of his War Maidens back then when I am just a newly minted Mecha Smith apprentice."

"So, every match seemed like a close call but when it came to the finals, Cai Fan literally did not show up for the fight, citing bad connection links to the War Maidens and the corporations won by default. When Old Fammet wanted to check on this excuse, Cai Fan disappeared without a trace... only until recent Empire Tournaments. He is now a full ranked Colonel and definitely sure he will join the upcoming Empire Tournament as well. "

"Then I guess this betrayal had implications."

"Of course. Old Fammet bet his everything including his hard earned reputation into this match. His grandiose shop had to be closed down and everyone was let go. Even those who eventually tried to help him back up, the major corps were still keeping an eye on him, forcing him and his benefactors into huge problems."

"It was so bad that people who tried to help him, were quick to rescind their aid. So Old Fammet had to get back up himself. It had been at least a decade or two since then and even though I still check on him from time to time, he did not seem taking it that well."

"He will scour for old junk and sell them. Sometimes, fixing a few stuff for people and if I remembered correctly, helped did some emergency repairs for a few commanders. Other than that, I saw him wasting his life away."

"I see.." Jin said as he continued drinking the soup from the hotpot.

"So, all I asked is that you have an open heart knowing that what he showed you might just be a relic from the past and not to hold against him for having such high expectations." Nie stopped eating for a moment and bowed a little to ask for forgiveness.

"From the way I see it, you had been helping him quite a fair bit, aren't I right? Including the owner here."

"You are not wrong. We did owe him our lives back then." Nie said as he turned to see Lant serving the others. "But that is a story for another time. I need to return soon. Thank you for helping as well as the ...food."

"You are welcome. I hoped I did tip you well." Jin stared at the budge where he kept his gold bars within bulletproof jacket.

"You very much did, I can pay for my portion and I will also bring you to him tomorrow. There is no chance in hell, he would have remembered what had happened. Otherwise, have a good rest for now." Nie zipped up his jacket and then bid Jin goodbye as he quietly enjoyed the last portions of the hotpot. It was not long later, Jin had called for the BBQ meat and he joined his chair with the table where his War Maidens were sitting so that they could have a pleasurable meal together.

Chapter 1489 Money Makes The World Go Round

"Captain, do you think this is a good idea?" Yinn asked.

"Hmm? Good idea for? To visit that Mecha Smith?" Jin paid in points for the dinner as the War Maidens felt really full and satisfied with the meal.

"Have a good night, Commander Jin. Do you need a place to stay I can recommend you an Inn. It seems like you guys have yet to find a place considering all the equipment you are lugging around and that amount of money. Although I can see the confidence in you and your War Maidens." Lant said as he had more than enough tips from Jin today.

"This is what I meant. Throwing your gold bars to random people." Yinn spoke through the tactical system and Jin chuckled both at Lant and Yinn.

"You sure have lots of connections, Lant." Jin agreed to it.

"Alright, I can make a few calls but I would need to know your rank designation to get a room for you," Lant said as Jin pulled out the promotion letter from the Archduke.

"Erm... Promotion letter? Okay... I cannot guarantee whether they would accept that." Lant said and Jin told him that they could run the database for authenticity if needed.

"That's true too." Lant nodded his head as he calmly told his friend that a captain needed a place to stay. Still, Lant was awfully surprised that a captain would be in these parts since there was not much here and most jobs were warranted for first lieutenant and below.

"Apologies for the surprise, we do not get many captain ranked commanders around," Lant said to Jin and he nonchalantly acknowledged the apology. "Considering the last minute booking, they are able to spare you a room for free because of your rank but it might be a bit eh.. Low standard for a captain?"

"We will take that for now," Jin said and Yinn asked whether if he was going to once again waste money getting an upgrade for the room.

"No?" I do not see the point of doing it as long as I have enough space for myself to rest.

"I will hold your word to that," Yinn said as they thanked Lant and were given the coordinates to the specific Inn.

Inn Paradiso

When they reached the Inn which was thankfully only a few blocks away from the restaurant, Jin realised that it was actually like a hotel despite it being called as an Inn. A bellboy was there the Grey Bear Squad placed their equipment with the bellboy with the exception of the duffel bags which the bellboy nearly vomited when he saw the gold bars.

He saw suitcases worth of bars but this was the first he saw duffel bags worth of gold bars. "So are all captains like him?" The bellboy thought to himself as he opened the door, and escorted them to the main reception area.

"Captain Jin, is it? We had been expecting you. Apologies for the poor reception, we are a little understaffed at the moment. Your equipment would be sent to your room and do not need to be placed in the armoury." The woman who look like she was in her sixties said as she was typing furiously on her keyboard.

"I thought we need to deposit our stuff?" Jin said in the assumption that their equipment needed to be placed in the armoury since they were still staying in an Inn.

"Ah, you are newly promoted so I guess, old habits die hard. The room I provided you have an equipment storage area so you do not have to worry about that now that you are a captain. The equipment storage security is as secured as the armoury next door and had been connected directly to the police. Any breach in the storage by unidentified personnel would be reported to the police instantly."

"Oh, I see. My bad, I thought when Lant said the room I am getting might have some compromises, I am assuming I will be bedding like a Lieutenant." Jin explained but the lead receptionist shook her head.

"Even if we wish to do that, there are certain privileges that cannot be exempted once you reach a certain rank. We are the ones who should apologise for not providing you with the best experience in Inn Paradiso. We will see if we could get ready a better room for you if you stay for more than a night."

"It's fine. As long as my War Maidens are fully charged and I am well rested. All's good." Jin said as he thanked Stella as written on her name tag.

"Thank you for your understanding, Here are the one time use keycards to have access to the armoury and room. Once you unlock them, they could be accessed with your identification tag through your personal System." As Jin received the keycard, he slipped a gold bar once more to Stella and she blushed lightly.

"You did it again, Captain Jin." Yinn side eyed the entire scene and yet Jin was unfazed by her scorn. Meanwhile, Stella bowed profusely to Jin and quickly called the bellboy to come to assist them to their rooms.

"Why not? It's for a better service. Don't you know money makes the world goes round?" Jin said as the bellboy hurried and escorted them once more to the elevator and subsequently their rooms.

He even assisted them with the know hows when they unlocked the room and gave them a tour of their suite while showing them how to use the armoury as well as the complimentary items that was provided for them.

All the War Maidens know that bellboys do not perform such a service for nothing unless they are that enthusiastic in their jobs but considering how he had saw the amount of money that they were carrying, there could only be one purpose.

"Mind reserving me the seat for breakfast for my War Maidens and me tomorrow morning?" Jin said as he thanked the bellboy for the tour and presented him with that shiny plate of metal.

"Yes, sure! Gladly! Would you prefer coffee or tea?" The Bellboy's eyes sparkled.

"Tea will be great. Thanks."

"No, no. Thank you! If you need any assistance with your equipment, do not hesitate to call the service hotline!" The bellboy said as he bowed once more and left them be.

"Captain." All of the War Maidens knew that was going to happen but could do nothing to stop Jin except grumble.

Chapter 1490 The Dangers Of Being Rich

"Commander Jin." Nie waved at him as he was seen at the Inn Paradiso right after Jin had finished his breakfast.

"Nie. Lant told you that I am here?"

"Yea. And I took the time to meet with Stella as well. She is an old friend of ours too."

"Don't you need to go to work?"

"That gold bar you gave me was more than enough for me to take urgent leave."

"See, that is what I meant when I said money makes the world goes round," Jin said through the Tactical System, especially directed to Yinn. And that was indeed true as the Grey Bear Squad had been reserved one of the best seats within the Inn's dining area on the 20th floor.

They had the entire view of the town as well as being able to take the sights of the distant mountain. Not to mention, they have fresh food being served right from the kitchen with requests being taken personally by Stella. All the food was served while the other guests were wondering why the Squad was being taken care of personally by the Inn's Owner.

The Bellboy even volunteered to take their equipment for maintenance which was complimentary based on Jin's current rank and they did not have to waste any time going to the armoury to get the weapons checked.

Jin even asked if the bellboy was able to get them to restock some items like ammunition and grenades which Stella overheard and told them that it was not a problem at all. She even said that she could handle the sales of the extra firearms which Jin had managed to pick up fighting against the rebels. (Diaz was complaining a little the night that she had to carry all of them but given the recent upgrade, the complaint was more like rumblings)

Everything was done for them just because Jin had given them a gold bar or two and they were elated to be of service to the Grey Bear Squad.

"I get what you mean now." Yinn was hesitant to acknowledge it since earning those gold bars was not easy but if it provided such time saving comforts, she could see why Jin was acting this way when in a society, everyone was selfish about their wealth.

"Where is he staying at the moment?" Jin asked and Nie asked whether if he had seen the distant mountain from the inn's dining area.

"He stayed at the bottom of Mount Sunn but if I am not mistaken his workshop is on the higher grounds," Nie replied as he loosen his jacket and pointed at his gun, indirectly Jin that he had to be armed for the trip.

It was then the bellboy just came back from the armoury and waved at Jin. "Well, looks like our equipment is here. Suit up Grey Bears. We are going for a hike."

"I will get my SUV out at the front," Nie said while Jin and the others were being directed to a holding area where they could arm themselves.

"You mind helping me bring all these back to my room later?"

"No problem, Sir Jin. It will be my pleasure." The bellboy said and Jin smiled, thanking him for his services. And as the bellboy waited outside, Yinn queried if it would be wise to bring duffel bags of gold bars to the mountains.

"What if it is a trap?" She asked with concern that all this kindness by these people might have an agenda.

"Then I would pose the same question back again. What makes you think that this Inn is safe from thieves and robbers?" Jin asked as he picked up the P90 submachine gun which he felt it was a good fit for him since the last encounter against the rebels.

"All the inns had been insured so any losses we incurred would be compensated also, stealing from an Inn is a crime punishable by death," Yinn replied, indicating that it is clearly safer to put the gold bars at the Inn until they confirmed that Old Fammert was someone of the real deal.

"Then again, we just got out of the police station and considering how badly we were treated, do you think they will entertain us...especially when I had also punched the daylight out of that police supervisor?"

"You what?" the Grey Bears asked simultaneously.

"What? He made all of us miserable, I figured I gave him a good proper sucker punch for all that shit we have gone through. Besides, I had permission from the Archduke." Jin was wondering why he was being treated as a suspect.

"Well, he did at least deserve a slap." Tellie who was considered the most 'neutral' person in the squad accepted Jin's explanation and made Yinn sigh in agreement.

"It's alright. We bring those gold bars with us and if it is a trap, then we would make do with the situation. Besides, you are forgetting how capable your commander can be." Jin said it without reserve and Yinn merely saluted him back with a 'Sir' knowing that what he said was not exactly wrong, especially after what he had done for the squad.

"But in case this is a trap, I suggest we put tracking tags into our duffel bags as well as on ourselves," Jin said as he opened one of the boxes, showing enamel pins with colourful cute bears on them. It seemed like Jin had already thought one step ahead of them until they picked up the pins and realised that they were normal metal pins.

păndă Ń?vê1,còM "Aren't they just purely accessories? What use can these do? Identify that I am a bear loving member of the society?" Diaz's sarcasm was through the roof.

"Most tracking tags can be deactivated by jamming signals so I decided to use something a little outside of this world," Jin said as he poured his Maqi into the metal enamel pins making them condensed enough to stay within the pins for at least a week.

And thereafter signal became apparent within the tactical system.