

## Dungeon S 171

### Chapter 171 Lottery Prizes

Jin re-entered the Dungeon Maker with a copy of the newly printed coupon booklet with him and asked the system to make a comparison between the one he had submitted with the current booklet he was holding. Jin wanted to know if any changes had been made and the system analysis came back in a jiffy.

"The quality of the coupon booklet has been compromised but the contents of the coupon booklet remain the same." The system informed Jin and he let out a sigh of relief. After this, Jin summoned Peppers into the dungeon maker although she was still in her pyjamas.

"Mind waking her up? I need her to do some work for me." This was the main reason why Jin had asked Yun to accompany him into the Dungeon Maker. He did not want to carelessly touch Peppers in any way in case it offended her. Besides, Yun had experience and was already an expert in waking up the members of the Morning Couch Club.

"Roger that, I thought you wanted me to prepare some of your lottery prizes." Yun smiled as she started to drag Peppers out of the Dungeon Maker to wake her up and get her changed.

"Well, if you are listening to my thoughts, then yeah. I would like your opinion on some stuff once I'm done with the creation of the prizes since I am targeting a diverse audience of both genders and I cannot be sure that I will get it right." Jin said.

The idea behind these lottery prizes was that if a customer bought more than 50 Yuan worth of items they would be entitled to a lucky draw ticket. The coupons along with the receipts were used as proof to enter the lucky draw. Despite this, unlike typical lucky draws, the customers would win a prize with every draw.

The idea was simple, there were several categories in the lucky draw. Mainly A, B, C, D, E and F. These 6 categories would be mishmashed into a box and customers would try their luck by picking a ticket out of the box. The ticket would correspond to the type of prize they would receive. Category A contained the best prize while category F contained something simpler.

So would Category A be easy to get? Nope. There were only three tickets in Category A since a smaller proportion of the tickets were allocated the higher categories. Maths and Logic stated that the probability of the customer winning a Category A prize was extremely small at the start of the event but the chance got higher when the box had fewer tickets in it. What's more was that once the tickets were placed in the box, they were fixed and could not be altered. Hence, it was all down to luck and simple probability.

Since Category F constituted the most of the tickets in the box, Jin decided to start with something simple. He decided to create straps with chibi versions of his monsters on them, something similar to what Jing Ru and Ren Wei had earned by completing their dungeon run.

Category E contained inkbrush paintings of random scenes in the dungeon, either of the landscape or random shots of the monsters which made good decorations at home.

Category D was actually the cups he used to serve the Black Ivory Coffee that had various designs of baby pandas tumbling around printed onto the cups.

Meanwhile, Category C were plush toys that not only came in the shape of pandas but also cute chibi versions of the Great White Snake, the Werebeasts' Faces and Mr Oink.

Category B was something special. He had purposely called various monsters to come into the Dungeon Maker once again, but this time it was for a photo shoot. He had recreated figurine poses using real life monster and the Dungeon Maker 3D-printed the entire picture as a figurine with a detailed background base that the figurine stood on.

For example, Ke Mi, the Zither Mistress, was stylised into a figurine that featured her sitting on the head of Great White Snake. The three goblins were grouped with Mr Oink into one figurine. Ripcaller, the dagger goblin, was lying on Mr Oink's head sleeping while the other two were sitting Mr Oink's back talking cheerfully to each other.

The leading werebeasts like Gold, Grey, Yellow, and Brown, were in a team fighting formation, each carrying their weapons as if they were being surrounded.

When it came to the zombie figurine, there were zombies coming out of the abomination's back while some zombies were being squashed by it. Last but not least, Jin made a figurine of Niu Lang and Zhi Nu holding both hands as if they had just rushed to meet each other on an old wooden red bridge. They even had magpies on both of their shoulders to signify the help of the Magpie Queen.

Lastly, for Category A, there were three unique prizes and similar to other categories, the prize-winner would not know which prize they had won until the ticket showed the name of the prize next to the prize category. One unique prize Jin had thought of was a booklet of tickets that contained one ticket to every dungeon instance ever made, excluding the arena and tickets to the service instances. The other prize was a secret prize for the cultivators but not for Jin as it is a figurine of Mr Derpy with the Deep Ones worshipping it. Not only would they receive this prize, but they would also receive each and every figurine that was in Category B.

The last prize was large. Very large. Jin had created a life-size adult Panda Plushie with premium quality synthetic fur that would not drop off easily while also having a nice texture to touch. He thought that the females and young girls would like it. The prize winner could actually use it as a sofa if he or she wished to, all they had to do was sit on the stomach and it would function as a beanie couch.

Jin did not know that could be done until... Peppers came in and comfortably slept again on top of the Panda's stomach. "Guess she did give her opinion in a way, even if it is a little unconventional. I guess I will let her off this time round." Jin smiled as he saw Peppers sleeping so comfortably on it. "Arggh! Don't drool!" Jin quickly took a tissue out from his storage watch and wiped Peppers' face but Peppers just continued to sleep like a log.

While all this might seem quite expensive seeing as how Jin had used quality materials for every category of prizes, he was quite unfazed by it. This was because everything would be paid for by the system since Jin had completed the mission where he would need to take a photo with a baby panda.

He passed the mission with flying colours and the system had no reason to reject him since the reward of that particular mission was to pay for the expenses incurred for the entire coupon creation.

"Looks all good," Jin was rather satisfied by the results of the prizes and decided to post them out today.

## Chapter 172 Dungeon Reviews

The handling of the store could not get any harder, especially since Jin was actually looking forward to the end of the day. The coupon booklets had been handed out to the customers and most of them thought that it was just the regular coupon booklet that the Tiangong Shopping District handed out every month.

Usually, most customers did not really care about the coupon booklets unless they were released around festive seasons like the Lunar New Year or Christmas. That was also the reason why Shen Si Fang, the community head of the Tiangong Shopping District's owners, wanted to use Jin as a pulling factor to draw in more business in the new month of October.

Si Fang did not worry much about November because with the advent of 11 November the Singles Day and Black Friday were enough to encourage everyone to go on a massive shopping craze. Not to mention, December had Christmas... The gold mine for business.

Fortunately, the day did pass by without too much trouble and Jin even had new customers coming in because of the coupon advertisement. He was pleasantly surprised that such an old method of advertising still worked with the mobile technology age they were in. What saddened Jin was that no one had yet decided to participate in the sure win lucky draw, which Jin was excited about and had put a lot of effort into.

In order to participate in the sure win lucky draw, one had to spend at least 50 Yuan in the shopping district and show the corresponding coupon and receipt to Jin in order to participate in the lucky draw. "I guess it's just the first day, can't expect too much out of it." Jin thought to himself as he closed the shop slightly earlier that day. Yun had said that she and the system would take care of the mess once she briefed Jin, his bellators, and monsters on what they need to do for the dungeon takeover.

Jin entered the Sanctum of Worlds and asked everyone to gather at the werebeasts' mansion since they had the largest amount of space and could accommodate everyone in their farm fields.

"Everyone, listen up. We are going to do a Dungeon Takeover and the system has already chosen a potential dungeon for Jin to take over. We are not taking some deserted and dangerous dungeon because Jin does not have the experience. Instead, the system has chosen the Subterranean Fortress of the Roleplaying Minotaurs." Yun announced to everyone with a loud hailer megaphone.

Jin had seen and checked the dungeon stats for the Subterranean Fortress of the Roleplaying Minotaurs via the system. Apparently, the Dungeon World had a thing called Dungeon Reviews, which was a local search service powered by a crowd sourced review forum. Hence, Jin looked up the Subterranean Fortress of Roleplaying Minotaurs when the system had suggested that particular dungeon to him.

While having a silly name, it was a fairly popular dungeon and a number of adventurers liked to take part in it mainly because the minotaurs in the dungeon protected a large vein of high density gold that could be exchanged for a lot of dungeon dollars.

The minotaurs themselves roleplayed into various characters because their minotaur lord, Moloch, was a higher demon that wanted to try out various jobs but never had the chance to because of his nobility and prestige in the demon hierarchy along with his demanding workload. Hence, in order to make his various dreams come true, the jobs that he fantasised about were projected by his minions.

This meant that most of the minotaurs under the service of Moloch were in some sort of roleplay costume basically 24/7. Initially, the minotaurs found the idea ridiculous but decided to play along with their lord. Subsequently, the majority of the minotaurs were so absorbed in perfecting their disguises that they started to pick up on the skills related to their disguises.

While there were not many details about the various cosplaying minotaurs, most of the adventurers had reviewed the dungeon as being rather challenging but rewarding at the same time. "Killing a costumed minotaur will net you 10 to 50 dungeon dollars, which is extremely generous when compared to other dungeons. However, as you travel deeper into the underground fortress the monsters become harder and harder to beat," said Reviewer Cashploxx, who was one of the Dungeon Reviewers that had commented on the dungeon.

What intrigued Jin the most was the next paragraph of the review written by Cashploxx. "A small party is not recommended to go further than the Second Gate of the fortress and I would even suggest a large raid party of at least 25 people before entering the Third Gate of the fortress. I was one of the few fortunate ones that entered in a large raid party of up to 50 people and we managed to fight against Lord Moloch. His attacks became rather repetitive after we got used to them and that made him predictable but we still did not manage to kill it until a highly skilled strike force that had been waiting to ambush and KS (killsteal) the boss brought it down."

"While frustrated, they were kind enough to share 90% of the tribute with the rest of the 50 members. We were rather angry but gave in eventually since we knew we would not have been able to kill the Lord without them." Upon reading, Jin learnt that kill stealing did happen in the dungeons and asked Yun how it worked and if she could stop it.

She said that she would notify Jin when any other people came close since the system could detect intruders and warn him about it. "The system will take all measures so that you can complete the mission smoothly. The reviewer Cashploxx might have gotten lucky and got 90% of the tribute but not everyone in the dungeon world is as fortunate as them. Hence, it is imperative that you obtain achieve 100% of the tribute."

"Because 100% of the tribute also means more resources for the system, which is why the system is helping so much," Jin said nonchalantly and Yun could not argue back with that logic.

"Do we have a plan on how to take down this fortress?" Peppers raised her hand and asked but both Yun and Jin shook their heads. "We tried to find information regarding the dungeon but none of the online resources had any clues. Yun tried asking the system but the system refused to give any despite its innate desire to take over the dungeon." Jin replied to Peppers and Yun stepped in again.

"The system still wanted to make this a challenge for Jin since the reward is a very high grade store signage. To be honest, the system only wanted Jin to bring one or two monsters with him into a separate dungeon that it had suggested but I negotiated with it and the system decided to allow him to go full force on this dungeon instead." Yun added and the monsters were cheering madly since it was the first time they could go all out against something as an entire group.

"In any case, we will be utilising everyone and everything that we have to take over this fortress. It will be a large scale operation and remember to do maximum damage! More minotaurs killed equates to more monsters for Jin to create Dungeons with!" Yun shouted out through a loud hailer megaphone. The monsters and the bellators yelled out in unison, displaying their agreement.

This time around, Jin was not just a Dungeon Supplier. To the adventurers in the Dungeon world, he was a Monster Summoner, and a high leveled one at that.

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### **Chapter 173 Force Your Way**

"This is bad, I did not expect a wide open area right in front of the fortress," Jin and his bellators were hiding behind an extremely large rock after getting in through the cave entrance of the dungeon and descending a few levels.

Right in front of him was a spacious clearing that created at least one kilometre between Jin and the front of the fortress. Also, there were guards standing on the outer fortress walls. Thankfully, unlike medieval castles or other important fortresses, there were no moats or drawbridges, though the fortress did have a portcullis, which was a latticed grille gate made of mainly metal.

"So...Master, how should we proceed?" Peppers was itching to create an explosion right in front of the gates but Jin stopped her from chanting by putting his hand over her mouth as he grabbed her by the waist and pulled back to the rock.

"I need you to conserve your strength. Although you have an unlimited amount of mana, I do not want you to vomit rainbows before the boss fight. If your explosive powers can rival even a fragment of the Fish God, I think you can pit yourself against a demon well enough." Jin whispered to Peppers but noticed her face blush red. Jin thought that she was angry because he did not allow her to fire her explosive spells but it was actually something else. Peppers had not expected her master to forcefully grab her by the waist.

'Ahhh! Peppers is growing. Being so conscious of her own body.' Milk thought to herself and chuckled quietly. "Alright then Master, what are we going to do?" Milk asked Jin as Peppers was clearly not in the mood to talk at the moment.

"Remember the Great Wall of China dungeon instance?" Jin smiled wildly as he took his phone out and checked it once more. He had captured thousands of zombies from the desolate Shanghai Tower

incident and if the minotaurs in this Subterranean Fortress of the Roleplaying Minotaurs did not have any siege defences apart from the guards, he might just be able to pull his crazy plan off.

However, Jin took his time to read through the Dungeon Reviews and one reviewer revealed a tidbit of information about the first gate of the fortress. It was indeed protected by siege defences like bombards, oil pots, and ballistas. It did not have much effect against high level adventurers who used simple tricks like high jump or teleportation but it was deadly against a massive army of low level adventurers.

To the minotaurs, the zombies would be like practice targets if they did the same thing they did in the Great Wall of China Dungeon Instance. However, the concept of piling the zombie bodies up to reach the crossover wall parapets was indeed something that interested Jin.

"The distance to cover in order to reach the base of the wall will prove to be a problem but I think we can handle that," Jin asked his bellators to return into his phone and he summoned Shu. The moment he did that, the minotaur guards spotted an unusual tree sprouting out from behind a large rock and growing massive within seconds.

"Intruders!!!" The minotaurs shouted and the fortress walls were lit up and some even cast light magic onto the ceilings of the cave so that the area would be brightly illuminated. Despite this, all they saw was a tree, but they did not take any chances as they began to adjust their bombards and ballistas.

"Now!" Jin shouted at Shu and with magic imbued on his vines to store elastic energy for maximum draw force, Jin was flung out from the branches and leaves like a projectile leaving a slingshot, travelling at breakneck speed towards the fortress. As Jin flew out of Shu's vines, he immediately unsummoned Shu and started to curl up into a ball, allowing him to execute Panda Tumbling, which caused Jin to move even faster.

The minotaurs, who had just aimed their siege defence weapons to focus on the tree, did not have the time to readjust their defences to prevent the projectile that was flying towards them so the guards quickly cleared the area, which allowed Jin to fly and cross over the first gate effortlessly.

As he landed, Jin realised he had landed in the middle of a regiment of minotaurs... in cowboy costumes. "Shit!" Jin thought to himself as he immediately slammed Boo into the ground. Stalks of Bamboo began to grow out of the ground and surround Jin like a shield to protect him while the cowboy minotaurs drew out their revolvers and started to shoot at him.

Thankfully, the bamboo shield was up fast enough and Jin only received a flesh wound from a lucky bullet. However, the shield would not last from the barrage of attacks so Jin only had seconds to think of his next move.

"Ahhh! Screw this!" Jin took out his phone and began to summon the zombies. Similar to what happened during the release of the zombie horde in their own home instance, the zombies crawled out of the phone with haste and like a black tsunami of bodies they crashed into the cowboy minotaurs. The minotaurs were overpowered by the sheer numbers and they were unable to retaliate.

"Zombies! To the second gate!! Quick!!!" Jin took out Boo from the ground and transformed it into a bamboo cannon. He hurriedly aimed it at the wall when he saw minotaurs trying to carry a pot of hot burning oil to deter the zombies that were currently piling up at the gates.

Using the accumulated chi, Jin released a shot from his bamboo cannon and like fireworks, the top of the second gate exploded as the oil reacted with the chi energy that was produced from the cannon shot. The minotaurs on the gate were burnt and unable to deal with the zombie body pile.

This allowed Jin to climb up the wall by literally walking on a pile of corpses and he managed to ascend over the parapets of the second gate. There he saw the fortress and the panicked rush of minotaurs arming themselves.

"Zombies! Bite, grab, scratch and eat any minotaurs on sight until they are captured by the system!" Jin ordered the zombies to create as much chaos as possible between the first and second gate as he jumped over the wall to face another regiment of cosplaying minotaurs.

"The real fight begins now!" Jin summoned the werebeasts when a regiment of costumed minotaurs created a bull wall in front of them to prevent them from proceeding any further.

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## **Chapter 174 Dangerous Zombies**

As Jin crossed the Second Gate and entered the inner courtyard of the Subterranean Fortress of the Roleplaying Minotaurs. The zombies were fighting wildly against the preliminary line of defence to prevent them from attacking Jin from the back.

Although Jin hadn't equipped the zombies since there were at least a thousand of them, he had actually enhanced them with an equipment card called 'Elementary Element Roulette' as well as an 'I am the Alpha V1.0' enhancement card.

With the 'Elementary Element Roulette' card, each zombie summoned out would have a chance to become an elemental zombie, either Fire, Ice, Poison or Thunder. Poison had the highest probability of appearing, which was followed by ice, fire and lastly thunder since it boasted the highest elemental damage. The probability for a zombie to become an elemental zombie was at a ratio of 1 out of every 50 zombies.

Jin figured this 'equipment' card was one of the better options available for the zombies, as well as the other potential 'horde' troops he might get. Sure, the zombies would still be in melee but at the very least their bites, claws, and grabs would contain a slight elemental discharge. It's like a very, very, very weak version of "Burning Hands" or "Icy Touch".

Hence, even though the attacks contained very little elemental discharge damage, quantity made up for the quality of their attacks. However, these elemental discharges were considered a magical enhancement, similar to a temporary inscription. After a certain amount of attacks, the element within the zombie would be fully discharged and they would be turned back into a normal zombie once again. The element within those zombies would also disappear if they were unsummoned by Jin.

In addition to the elemental zombies, the 'I am the Alpha V1.0' enhancement card would buff a zombie to become an alpha zombie. This kind of zombies had developed below average intelligence along with the ability to command the other mindless zombies to perform certain tasks. Of course, the buff was an extremely rare occurrence and the chance of an alpha zombie appearing was extremely low, probably at a ratio of 1 out of a few hundreds of zombies.

However, having even just one alpha zombie helped Jin a lot because the zombies could now move around effectively as a group and maximise their advantage in numbers. Unfortunately, similar to the elementary element roulette, the intelligence of the alpha zombie would disappear if they were killed or unsummoned, which Jin thought was a pity.

He noticed that the increase in intelligence also created a sort of personality for the zombie commanding them. Hence, Jin did what he could by asking the System to tag and document the behaviour of every zombie that had their intelligence enhanced. This way, Jin would later have the opportunity to properly develop that particular zombie into a stronger entity. Peppers casually gave her comment during the equipment phase earlier in the morning, saying that an Undead Lich would be a good addition to the team but that it also required a lot of spiritual force enhancement for a zombie to develop into a lich from scratch.

In any case, there was currently an alpha zombie fighting amidst the regular zombies right inside the outer perimeters of the second gate. This particular alpha zombie called himself Derek. The orders were simple, kill everything on sight which Derek had reaffirmed by commanding waves of zombies to flood up the First Gate walls and disrupt the Cowboy Minotaurs.

On the walls of the First Gate, the zombies actually fought against the real mean looking minotaurs that didn't have costumes on. They were considered as the outcasts of the fortress as they found the whole costume roleplaying to be ridiculous. However, they had made a pact with their lord Moloch, hence they could not break the pact unless they were killed at least once on duty. Oh oops? Reincarnated again and the pact still hadn't been broken? Back to square one.

Then what about that particular statement that said they had the ability to break off the pact, which was written in the contract that they signed with Lord Moloch? Written in slightly smaller yet permeable ink was a subclause that the breakage of the pact would only happen if you were killed by a strand of human hair without any magic imbued into it and in your last breath you had to shout "DAYUM!". It was only then that the minotaur was allowed to die and be free.

Those minotaurs who downright refused to wear the costumes were so naïve to believe that all they needed to do was to die crazily a few times that they rushed to their deaths again and again and again. During the process though, they somehow became fanatics of seeking their own death and unknowingly became part of the roleplay squad.

Simply because of this mentality in their minds, they always tried to die in the ugliest way possible. Some of the Fanatic Minotaurs would let themselves get beaten and eaten by the zombies until they were captured by the System via Jin's new capture module installed in his phone. Anything that came from his phone could capture a monster once it had been beaten into submission. Hence, his bellators and monsters were no exception.



Meanwhile, some of the Fanatic Minotaurs fought valiantly like how they were originally designed and protected their fortress... but they went a little overboard. A Fanatic Minotaur was seen holding onto some ballista arrows while throwing them with such strength that it seemed to be an actual ballista, perhaps even faster than one! The only downside to this method was its short range compared to an actual ballista. It was due to the fact that a ballista required time to reload. When he thought of this, the minotaur came up with the idea that throwing the arrows would be a much more efficient way to kill the zombies.

One minotaur even picked the entire bombard up and used it as a portable cannon, managing to kill many zombies whilst his other Fanatic Minotaur buddy reloaded the bombard by stuffing the multiple cannonballs manually. The only downside of this was that the minotaur was a little too close to the parapet of the fortress wall and the knockback made him fall to the ground and die.

Cause of death? Its horns went straight through the ground, causing it to be stuck. Then, the amount of force with which it entered the ground broke its neck, which led to its unfortunate death. Meanwhile, its buddy, who had been reloading cannonballs, took the large iron balls and smashed them through the sea of zombies until he ran out of balls to throw.

On another part of the wall, the Cowboy Minotaurs were putting up a decent fight. Their use of lassos and revolvers made it appear as if they were herding cattle. The fight almost went their way until Derek the alpha zombie managed to gather a group of poison zombies. He used the normal zombies as 'human' shields to protect the group until they were able to get close and poison the Cowboy Minotaurs.

There were other elemental zombies around and Derek made sure that they were protected by a sufficient amount of undead so that their lives would not be wasted and their attacks would always strike true.

The zombie horde eventually managed to prevent the preliminary line from backstabbing Jin since he had rushed in to battle... almost too quickly! He and his werebeasts were about to face some terrifying foes.

The Battle Maid Minotaurs.

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## **Chapter 175 You Have A Problem With Our Costumes?!**

"I think they are dressed like this so that people will underestimate them." Meomi could somehow feel the danger the Battle Maid Minotaurs emitted via her innate cat senses. "I do not think the dresses make them weak. In fact, I think the dresses make them even more dangerous..." Gold commented as he noticed some male minotaurs, those big bulky muscular bull humanoids that were capable of crushing a car with their bare hands, were also wearing french maid outfits with frills.

"You have a problem with our costumes?!" One of the Battle Maid Minotaurs shouted at them. This particular minotaur was a male yet he was wearing a blue coloured bob hair wig while carrying a spiked chain ball as his weapon. He stepped forward and flexed his muscles, causing the maid sleeves to rip apart due to the sheer size of the bulging muscles. "Name's Mer."

"Yem." Another Battle Maid Minotaur proceeded to announce his name as he carried a 2-metre long barrel rifle that Jin had not seen before. However, the way Yem was holding his rifle showed that he had no intention to use it as a long range weapon but rather as a blunt weapon.

"Sebastia." This time round Jin noticed that the minotaur that had spoken was a female and unlike the brutish features minotaurs usually had, the female minotaurs featured more human-like characteristics than their male counterparts. To an extent, Jin could even categorise the minotaur as a refined female human wearing fake bull horns. But Jin knew he could not underestimate this female minotaur that wore a butler tuxedo and held her arms behind her back.

"So the males are wearing maid uniforms while the females are wearing the butler ones... The lord of the fortress must have some screwed up fetishes." Jin thought to himself as he noticed the other maid costumed minotaurs were kneeling in front of the three named minotaurs. It appeared that these three were the leaders of this group of minotaurs.

"We are the ultimate servants of the fortress and we will not allow you to pass through and tarnish the cleanliness of our Lord's abode!" Mer shouted out as he threw his chain ball at Meomi.

Meomi smiled as she used her whip to deflect the incoming chain ball strike and Jin was surprised that she was actually powerful enough to do so. "Didn't you say 'No mercy'? This is better since I do not have to hold back as I did in the dungeons!" Meomi licked her lips while Gold laughed heartily. "Don't lie, you never hold back! You just don't have the humility to admit that some of Boss Jin's customers can defeat you!"

Gold, who was previously scared of Meomi, had become friendlier and more daring in his conversations after they had been captured by Jin. Even Meomi had mellowed down her egoistic attitude in front of the other werebeasts and treated them nicer than she had back in the Farming World. She had a simple... maybe an even primal reason. She was being fed constantly with decent food, had a solid roof above her head and did not need to fear being attacked so she figured she didn't need to be so harsh on her comrades.

Gold moved to attack the rifle wielding minotaur while the vice leaders of the werebeasts pressed forth to fight against Sebastia. Even Nyanmi, who was always by Meomi's side, decided to help out against the female butler all for one reason. The werebeasts never participated in a fair fight because war was a dirty business. The three of them had, therefore, felt that ganging up would probably be logical since the one without weapons was usually the most dangerous.

Separately, Grey, who was the tactician of the group, continued to do his job as he commanded the twenty to thirty werebeasts to fight against the opposition's platoon of Battle Maid Minotaurs. "Master Jin! Continue onwards! Conserve your strength! We will handle the situation here!" Grey shouted as he asked one of the werejackals to follow Jin in the unlikely event of any unexpected ambushes.

"Grey, I will leave him with you instead. You need the manpower more and besides, I have plenty more in here." Jin pointed at his phone as he rushed across the inner courtyard and entered the fortress.

"Now that Master is not here, we can fight without worries." Gold shouted as he turned and let out a deafening howl, which encouraged the others to fight with all their might.

"That howl will be your last!" Yem shouted as he rushed forward. It was at that moment that Gold realised something. The long rifle was actually a scabbard for a longsword. Gold was not able to evade the first strike but the black armour skin of the jackal that he had cast on himself when he was rushing at his opponent managed to soften the blow, meaning that the strike only caused a flesh wound.

"I will pay that back by at least double." Gold grinned as he plunged his left claws into the Battle Maid Minotaur as Yem struck him on his torso with a side-slash. Yem bore through the pain but it did make him flinch a little, which gave Gold that precious split-second opportunity to gift his friendly neighbourhood minotaur a sucker punch delivered right into his face. Yem noticed that his vision on his left eye had become blurry due to all the blood, but his right eye identified that this punch was anything BUT ordinary. He remembered that there had been black claws protruding from Gold's knuckles but now they had disappeared.

"Looking for these bad boys?" Gold released his left claws by scratching Yem's tough leather skin, making another wave of claws that ran through Yem's skin, causing it to finally tear and bleed. It was at this instant that Yem noticed Gold really had long black metallic claws growing from his knuckles and that he could retract them anytime he liked.

However, Gold was bluffing Yem. Those claws that grew from his knuckles? They could only come out briefly since they devoured a large quantity of his werebeast powers to make the claws razor-sharp and impervious against the toughest materials. Not to mention, it hurt a lot each time Gold made the claws grow out of his knuckles, meaning he could barely maintain it for longer than eight seconds.

However, all of these were the setbacks of a low level equipment card that Jin had equipped on the big boss of the werejackals. Even Gold had agreed and acknowledged that the versatility and possibilities of this weapon far outweighed the potential risks and the bodily harm it caused him. Yun had said that a higher level of that same equipment card would cause fewer side effects when using it. Either that or Jin had to increase his cultivation grade so that the monsters would also grow stronger, easing their side effects when handling the equipment.

However, instead of Gold laughing, Yem tore a part of his maid dress and tied it around his head to cover both of his eyes. "Come!" Yem shouted at Gold as his body sank into a battle stance.

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## **Chapter 176 Jackals!**

"This is bad, it looks like his speciality isn't the rifle - wait, what?" Gold thought to himself as he noticed that Yem had sheathed his longsword back into the rifle looking 'scabbard' and he subsequently pointed the rifle at him. "Shit! So that thing can interchange between a sword and a rifle?" Gold panicked as he knew he was not an extremely agile monster.

If Gold rushed forward now, Yem would probably notice Gold and would shoot him on the spot. "Is there anything I can do?" Gold panicked and stepped back. A shot was fired... and it barely missed him by a hair's width. "Tsk, this bleeding has affected my breathing," Yem snorted as he parried a Werejackal follower that had tried to ambush him with his rifle. Within a split second, Yem reloaded and shot the werejackal before the Werejackal follower could even recover.

"Shit!" Gold felt a flesh wound appeared on his ear from another shot taken by Yem when he was trying to take that small window of opportunity to move forward. At this rate, Gold was seriously contemplating whether or not he should use his ultimate skill, 'The Hunt of the Golden Jackal', so early in the fight.

That ultimate skill of his allowed him to experience a sharp boost in speed but he knew that it could not rival the speed that Yem displayed when he was reloading, not to mention the speed of a bullet. However, Gold did notice a weakness in Yem's attacks. He would only shoot when someone made a move but what about if he didn't make a move... or at least he didn't appear to? Could he really differentiate the various sounds in such a chaotic battlefield? Probably not, and that was what Gold was betting his life on.

With Gold being a scholar previously, he definitely had some magic spells and tricks up his sleeves. So without any incantation, Gold made a mimic voice of himself roughly five metres away from Yem, who fell for the trick causing him to unload the bullet in that direction. That was when Gold thought that he might be able to trick him.

Gold immediately activated the Hunt of the Golden Jackal and started to cast multiple mimic voice spell "Screw it!" The shot accidentally hit a fellow battle maid minotaur though the trajectory of that bullet was purposely set up by Gold. After that previous mimic voice came the mimic sound of Gold's footstep and Yem followed the sound as strictly as possible, sticking close. This caused Yem to injure many of his own teammates in the course of his charge.

Meanwhile, Gold used that chance to get closer to Yem while suppressing his fear of getting shot as much as possible. It was vital for his survival since breathing, especially when it was closer to the enemy, would make it easier for Yem to pick it up.

It was after the fifth shot that the other named minotaur Mer noticed Yem hitting his own teammates and told him to stop. "You can't afford to be distracted, you know?" Meomi was already in front of Mer as she turned her whip into two swords, which were used to stab Mer.

"Bloody beetch!" Mer shouted as he tried to 'shoo' Meomi away by flexing his muscles, which cause the swords to get stuck, while he used his right arm to karate chop the werecat in front of him. Unfortunately, the cat was more agile than Mer had anticipated and gracefully climbed up onto his head before trying to stuff the sword she was holding with her tail into its neck.

Suddenly, a shard of ice appeared from out of nowhere, aiming for Meomi's head. Luckily for her, she sensed the attack in time and retreated from that position. "I am not just a brute!" the one-horned minotaur Mer shouted as he swung the chain ball once more. But this time Mer thought he had managed to hit Meomi because he had cast an aura of ice when she had landed, causing her movements to become restricted.

Meomi purred at the incoming attack and 'poof!'. In an instant, she turned into a small black cat and elegantly evaded the attack by standing on the tip of one of the spikes on the spiked chain ball. Mer tried to retract the chain ball but he did not notice how the black cat had managed to tip-toe it's way along the chains of the chain ball.

Before he knew what was appening, Meomi transformed back into a werecat while standing on his shoulders and used a Cat o' nine tails to whip him. You can imagine the pain since the Cat o' nine tails was a type of multi-tailed whip that was specifically designed to lacerate the skin and cause intense pain. And this horrifying whip slapped Mer right in the face. Mer shouted in pain, which was cruelly stopped by Meomi, who used her tail to forcefully insert the sword through the poor minotaur's mouth.

She finished the killing blow by performing a stationary somersault kick and landed the kick on the hilt of the sword, causing the sword to plunge further into Mer's throat. Mer was later captured by the System.

In the meantime, Gold had managed to close the gap between him and Yem... who finally noticed that it was all a rouse by Gold. However, it was too late to even grab the longsword from his rifle as Gold bit Yem in the neck as he used his claw knuckles to stab Yem's chest repeatedly.

The Hunt of the Golden Jackal also increased his bite power and Yem could not resist the attacks Gold had dealt him, which caused him to drop to the ground due to the lack of breath as he subsequently disappeared. Gold did not move an inch away from Yem's until the System was done capturing him. Only then did he finally let go and take a breather.

Gold took a look at Meomi and saw that she had nearly finished playing with her prey at the same time as Gold had finished with his. They both took a look at Grey and Yellow, only to see that they were actually having difficulties fighting Sebastia.

"Do not interfere! This is the pride of the vice leaders!" Yellow shouted as he too took a breather while Brown and Nyanmi continued attacking Sebastia. "Then you will not mind me joining," Grey entered the fray as he had previously had his eyes on all three separate fights even though his main focus should have been on the other battle maid minotaurs along with commanding the rest of the Jacks.

"Heh, if you say so," Gold wiped his fur a little before taking over command of the rest of the Jacks. He might not be as capable a tactician as Grey but Boss taking over the command of the Jacks boosted their morale by a lot.

"Finish it before I die from boredom little sister." Meomi yawned as she threw the two swords towards Sebastia, only to see both of them deflected. But it allowed Nyanmi to catch both swords and she combined it with her own whip weapon.

"Yes, Onee-Sama." A twin edged whip sword appeared and Sebastia laughed.

"As if one more wolf man and a new weapon will make any difference." Sebastia laughed but the vice leaders shouted in bestial fury.

"JACKALS!"

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## **Chapter 177 Sebastia**

Grey had analysed Sebastia a little when he was watching her fight against the vice leaders of Jacks and Nyanmi. To his surprise, Grey noticed similarities between her fighting style and the cultivators that he had encountered in Jin's dungeons.

The style was similar to a Chinese martial art called Wing Chun, which specialised in remaining a fairly stationary position to readily block fast moving blows to vital points. The martial artist achieved this stationary position by only shifting or turning within a stance on the heels and balls of the feet. Grey had encountered one particular cultivator who had fought with the techniques of the Wing Chun in her style.

The Cunning Crane Style.

He did not exactly remember who that particular cultivator was as he could not differentiate each and every cultivator since they all looked more or less the same to him. However, he remembered the vicious attacks and blocks that proved to be a tough fight for him and the other vice leaders. Grey figured that if the Jack's vice leaders had not encountered that Cunning Crane Cultivator, they probably would have lost the fight against Sebastia a long time ago.

Hence, Grey understood why Sebastia said that an additional enemy or weapon would not make a difference to her, showing that she was skilled enough to not let these unexpected circumstances matter at all. However, Sebastia did not know that the Jack's vice leaders had more experience fighting dirty and it was also right up Nyanmi's alley.

With Grey around, both Yellow and Brown felt more reassured since Grey was like the big brother that took care of them even though he was actually younger than them. While they did not verbally communicate, the three of them had devised a fairly high pitch growl and howl system, which served as signalling and commands.

Initially, it was just a Jacks system that Meomi and Nyanmi were not able to understand. Mainly because Meomi was not that interested while Nyanmi had just joined them in their home instance. However, as time went by, they got to know each other better in both the dungeon and home instances. Through this period of time, the werecats were finally able to understand the high-pitched growling they were hearing. Of course, it was partially Grey's credit too because he had forced it into the cats' lazy brains since he knew it would come useful someday.

Thankfully, the cats were smart enough to pick it up easily and it did not take much effort to teach them the basics. "Stay at a distance, let her do the attacking whenever possible." Although the howls and growls addressed this through broader terms, the meaning got across to all of them.

Grey made them move away because he had observed a few things. All three werebeasts had weapons with them but Sebastia was strong enough to deflect weapon blows. Sure, if they had asked Boss Gold to aid them, his claw knuckles would probably penetrate her defences. However, Gold would not always be able to protect the vice leaders. What if Jin was in trouble and Gold was not around for whatever reason? Should the vice leaders just suck their thumbs and watch Jin die in front of them? Definitely not.

"All I can think of now is hit-and-run." Grey signalled to them and commanded the group to tire Sebastia as much as possible. Tire the target out? Are you kidding? That's was the Jackals' most efficient way of fighting that both Yellow and Brown excelled at. Well not much for the cats... but hey! At least Nyanmi could laze around while fighting now, which was a good thing.

Yellow would pounce every once in a while Brown attacked with his axe and Nyanmi with her whip sword from afar. Grey chipped in by shooting some low-level fireballs to distract Sebastia. Eventually though, Sebastia realised they were just buying time.

She realised that not only were they making her tired from the constant blocking, she did not have a chance to attack because of the nature of their hit and run style. Also, the longer they dragged their time, the more battle maid minotaurs would be killed. Hence, if Sebastia did not do something fast, she would probably be the only one around and the number of werebeasts would definitely overwhelm her eventually, no matter how powerful she was by herself.

Sebastia was confident in her strength so she decided to make her move... and that was when Grey smirked in silence. As the jackals were continuing their hit and runs, Sebastia was fairly stationary so Grey actually decided to proceed with a secondary plan along with the hit and run tactics. He purposely cast and tagged the jackals and Nyanmi with a magic spell. Each time they went close to Sebastia, they would release the spell as close as possible to her.

The spell seeped into the ground to be embedded. Yes, it was a trap spell, sort of like a landmine but instead of it being physical, it was magical in nature. Slowly but surely, the hit and run tactics had allowed the vice leaders and the werecat to place tens of magical traps surrounding Sebastia without her having the slightest clue.

The few steps forward was all Sebastia needed to cause the series of fire, thunder, and ice spells to be activated in one go. The burn, shock and freeze severely damaged and paralysed Sebastia, which made the vice-leaders job easy.

Yellow went for the head, Nyanmi aimed for the torso, while Brown swept his axe at her legs. Sebastia was completely defenceless against the multitudes of attacks coming from all direction, causing her to eventually be captured by the System along with the rest of her battle maids.

"So slow." Meomi yawned as she was lying down atop one of the parapets on the wall of the second gate. It seemed that she had observed the whole battle from there. "Nyanmi, why didn't you unleash your skills?" Meomi asked as Nyanmi went up to return the swords to her.

"Because the Jacks wanted to prove themselves. I figured I would just aid them in boosting their ego. Would be beneficial in the long run." Nyanmi explained. She was slowly being caressed by Meomi as she stretched her entire body.

"Clever girl~! That is one way to get those muscleheads to play into our hands." Meomi commented but Nyanmi replied back with a comment that pleasantly surprised her. "The Grey Jackal though, he's kinda cute."

"I think so too." Meomi grinned at Nyanmi and they ended up laughing with each other for some time.

However, the one who was not able to laugh was Jin as he was facing a foe he never even imagined he would face on a replica Golden Gate Bridge in the middle of the fortress castle. "WHERE ON EARTH AND ALL THE PARALLEL WORLDS IS THAT A COSTUME?! IT'S A FREAKING-"

A punch landed near him, which Jin managed to dodge with Panda Tumbling. If he had not jumped away at that last moment, he would have been flattened into pancakes with strawberry jam splattered on the roads of the fake bridge.

"MEGA ROBOT!"

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## **Chapter 178 Mechataur**

For something over forty metres tall, the mega-robot was rather... simple. It didn't wear a costume, had no frills and was overall just not stylish at all. The robot was shaped like a minotaur with two horns protruding from its head and it wielded a gigantic axe. It had glowing eyes and its body was made out of metals that were painted with shades of brown and green.

"A robot for a monster!! Go Mr Derpy, I CHOOSE YOU!" Jin took out his phone and out came the tremendously large monster that even rivalled the Mega Robot Minotaur in size.

"I, Mechataur, will defeat this monstrosity! For Justice!" the mega robot spoke as its eyes turned from yellow to red as if it was displaying its anger. "I am the guardian of this fortress and I will not let you sully this sacred fortress!" Mechataur shouted and pointed at Mr Derpy to come forth and fight it.

However, Mr Derpy stared at it for a moment before laughing. "Boss, you want a flashy show or an instant kill?"

"You cannot do both at the same time?" Jin asked but Mr Derpy just scoffed in reply. "You think you are worthy of a flashy and ins-" Before Mr Derpy could finish his talking, Mechataur punched at Mr Derpy, which sent him flying into a nearby cavern wall. The impact caused the entire fortress to shake momentarily and Mr Derpy ended up slightly stunned.



Mechataur did not give Mr Derpy any chance to recover as it immediately sent its axe flying towards Mr Derpy. The axe struck true and hit Mr Derpy in his chest. The Mechataur then forcibly opened its chest plates to reveal an internal cannon that looked like it was charging up a beam to attack the immobilised Mr Derpy.

"Urgh, can I trust Mr Derpy to finish this battle?" Jin felt like he should do something to assist the Lord Dagen Replica since it looked like he was going to lose the battle. However, no matter how he looked at it, the only person that could destroy this mega robot was Peppers.

He really wanted to keep Peppers for the final battle against the boss if possible but if Mr Derpy could not keep this situation under control, it would bite him in the back.

"Damn it, advancing in this dungeon is more important!" Jin summoned Peppers and she twirled her staff as she appeared out of Jin's phone. To his surprise, Peppers was not attacking at all even though she was summoned out.

"Eh Peppers?" Jin called out to Peppers, only to see that she was in a trance for some reason.

"IT IS A ROBOT!!!! Master! It is a robot!!!" Peppers squealed as she kept tugging at the side of Jin's shirt.

"Are you not going to attack it?" Jin asked as he started to drip cold sweat. What was with this sudden fascination with a robot?

"Can I keep it as a pet? Mr Derpy is too useless, I prefer a robot! Look! It's going to shoot a blast of wildfire at Derpy!" Peppers eyes were sparkling brighter than a diamond, her mouth was wide open, so much so that she was unable to contain her drool and Jin wanted to faint at this sudden turn of events.

"Then destroy it!!! So we can captur-" "BOOOOOOOM!" The Mechataur had finished charging its attacks and fired at the pinned down Derpy.

"Mr Derpy!" Jin shouted with worry though Peppers remained dazzled and wow-ed by the Mechataur. The mega robot also laughed with a booming voice. "Justice is served best served as a fillet!"

Suddenly, from within the smokes of the explosion, a streaming jet of water burst out and pierced through the chest of the Mechataur. "What?!" The Mechataur was shocked as it started to run diagnostics to see if any vital parts were damaged by the attack.

As Mechataur was analysing the damage, the metal and concrete around the bridge suddenly morphed and surrounded the Mechataur by wrapping around its legs, arms and even part of its torso.

The metal bars of the bridge even turned flexible. The bars crept into the hole in the Mechataur's chest, subsequently mending it.

"Master! It even has healing abilities! I thought Derpy was able to control the metal and concrete, but it turns out that it really was just a dumb fish." Peppers seemed to be rooting for the enemy's robot more than Mr Derpy but Jin was relieved to see that the Lord Dagen Replica was still alive and kicking.

"Mr Derpy, Instant kill it. Do not make me worry."

"Hahahaha! I made you worry?! I am the almighty Derp- I mean, I am the Almighty Shadow Dagen! You never had to or will ever have to worry about me!" Derpy zoomed out of the cavern walls and headbutted the Mechataur, causing it to fall to the ground in the middle of its healing process.

Derpy then magically floated upwards and started to fly around the Mechataur. As he swirled around the fallen Mechataur, it was obvious that water particles and magic was beginning revolving around him and within seconds, Derpy flew upwards and the ground magically burst with a gush of water, very similar to a geyser.

The geyser of hot steam and water pierced through the Mechataur once more, causing an even larger hole to appear on the Mechataur but Mr Derpy was not done this time and would not allow it to heal again. His eyes stared at Mechataur's blinking red ones before he gathered more water particles. From within the water particles, Deep Ones were being summoned and within seconds, it was raining monsters.

"Die for me, filial ones." Mr Derpy commanded the Deep Ones to launch a suicide attack and they swooped towards the partially broken robot. Unlike the zombies, who would probably have splattered into pancakes once they reached the ground, the Deep Ones had simple tridents and spears that damaged the Mechataur due to the momentum of the fall.

Not only that, the Deep Ones also exploded and their blood and flesh corroded the metal parts of the Mechataur. When the Deep Ones exploded, both Jin and Peppers had horrified expressions on their faces which made Mr Derpy laughed.

"Did you see the extent of my powers? Aren't they magnificent! Aren't they flashy enough, my puny master?" Derpy smirked with arrogance.

"MY ROBOT!!!!!!!!!" Peppers cried out loud as dramatically as she could.

"ALL MY MONEY DOWN THE DRAIN!" Jin cried too and hugged Peppers as he remembered that the fallen monsters in the Dungeon World needed to be replaced by using Souls and Souls, which in turn required money. Seeing how the Deep Ones just went ahead and killed themselves because Mr Derpy wanted to show off with a flashy trick made him incredibly sad. "I said instant kill, didn't I?" Jin's heart was broken to see yet another Deep one fell and exploded.

"Ehhh... Didn't you initially said you wanted a flashy instant kill...?" Derpy scratched its head at his master's mourning. Still, the deed was done and the Mechataur had died (been captured) in a fairly brutal fashion... with spears stuck in him and many holes created by the corrosion of its metallic skin.

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## **Chapter 179 Lord Moloch**

After the capture of Mechataur, Jin walked off with Peppers towards the next area and left Mr Derpy to guard the bridge so that they could focus on fighting the next boss. Although Jin hoped that it would be the final boss.

"Another Gate, another boss I guess." Jin pushed the giant iron double door gates open with relative ease. They looked heavy but when Jin pushed it, he realised they were just for show. A bright shining light shone onto Jin as he opened the gate and Jin half-expected the dungeon to have ended. Unfortunately though, he realised that he celebrated too early.

"Welcome Summoner." A man was talking to him while sitting on a large metallic throne. He was accompanied by two costumed minotaur guards who were waiting to pounce on Jin at their lord's signal. The more Jin tried to observe the man on the throne, the weirder he thought the Lord of this place was.

Yes, it was a man on the throne. But there was a stuffed minotaur plushie on top of his head that covered his eyes. The plushie also seemed to be animated as it yawned when the man greeted Jin but no matter how the man moved, the plushie was always covering his eyes.

"Come closer Summoner, I am rather impressed by how fast you managed to enter the last part of the fortress. I am Lord Moloch." Moloch spoke quite gently but his voice had a tone of authority to it.

In addition, whenever Moloch moved his hand, a massive stone minotaur statue behind his throne also moved along with him like a puppet. Jin gradually began to appreciate how impressive the statue was when he came closer to the throne. It was decorated with various precious metals carved into it and... what seemed to be two auto-tracking laser ray guns that followed Jin when he approached the throne.

Not only that, but there were two guards wearing black sunglasses along with a full formal suit, acting similarly to a modern secret service guard... with a twist. Why a twist? Both were not just minotaurs, they were mino-centaurs. They had the body of a horse but a humanoid upper body that resembled that of a minotaur. They stood tall guarding each side of the throne.

As for Lord Moloch, who was sitting on the throne, he was surprisingly humble with his attire. All he wore was a casual shirt with its sleeves folded up along with some skinny long pants. Of course, there was also that stuffed lazy cookie brown minotaur plushie that moved around his head while covering Moloch's eyes no matter how much he moved.

"I'd like to ask a few questions. Would you mind answering? Oh, and I hope you don't mind standing as you answer since most of the maids that I have hired have disappeared after battling with your monsters." Lord Moloch was hinting at something and Jin knew that either this lord demon had an ulterior motive and that was why he was stalling for time or he was just plain curious.

"Sure, go ahead Lord Moloch." Jin smiled as if he was greeting a customer but in his mind, he sent a voice transmission to Peppers to be on the lookout for anything suspicious, including anything magical.

"Please, just call me Moloch." The lord demon smiled as he clapped his hands in joy. "First question, are the minotaurs that disappeared safe?"

"Yes, they are," Jin answered truthfully.

"Then, I believe they are under your command now?" The minotaur lord asked as he now leaned back on his throne and crossed his legs.

"Yes, they are," Jin replied truthfully yet again.

"I see. Your purpose for coming here? To get the tribute or to capture the entire fortress? Summoner...?" Lord Moloch realised he had not asked for Jin's name.

"Jin. And the primary purpose of this trip was to get the tribute. The secondary objective was the monsters and before you ask, yes, if possible, I wanted to capture you too, still do, to be frank." Jin took the initiative to answer, which caused the guards to take their weapons out and prepare for a fight. However, Moloch stopped them with a gentle lift of his left hand and placed his head atop his right arm as he started to slouch over his throne. Although he seemed lazy, Jin felt that he was actually interested in the conversation.

"Excellent, I can sense that you are not lying to me. So. Let's assume that you manage to capture me. What will happen to me? Will I have to swear eternal fealty to you? Will I have a choice in matters or will I be forced to do your bidding? Do I have any off days? Can I do whatever I like?" Moloch continued to ask a barrage of questions and it felt like Jin was going through a job interview with the demon.

"Once you are captured by me, I will provide you with suitable housing and free food. All your servants would still be under your command but all of you would automatically pledge your unwavering loyalty to me. Hence, in a way, yes, you have to do things my way but since we can have civil conversations, we can discuss things through, negotiate your "contract", so to speak. Off days are... subjective to nature. You will understand once you enter my command." Jin answered all of Moloch's questions in a clear-cut manner, which made Lord Moloch ponder for a moment.

"I wonder what would happen if I were to be relieved of this post here." Lord Moloch talked to himself before he leaned forward and the plushie that once seemed lazy began to stare at Jin. It was as if Lord Moloch was actually the plushie rather than the man that was talking.

"If you are wondering, yes. This toy. This plushie is the real me, Lord Moloch. My king, Baal, reduced me into a plushie for losing the tribute a countless number of times to adventurers. I told him that I prefer to do desk-related administrative stuff but he would rather use me as musclehead, sitting on this pathetically small throne and guarding the tribute area." Moloch answered.

"So being fed up with King Baal, I decided to carve a place of my own liking. Since the dungeons would be targeted and King Baal would not want to send further reinforcements to protect this place, I decided to do things my way. At the very least, I am having some fun before I get killed by the high-level adventurers."

"Therefore, I have a proposal for you. Capture me. Release me from my servitude to King Baal. I'll serve you instead... though there is a condition. I want you to take this fortress and transform it into a proper town fortress. That's all I want: to be a proper lord."

"What do you mean a town fortress?" Jin asked and Moloch raised an eyebrow. "You don't know what a town fortress is despite being so proficient in the art of summoning? Sorry, I assumed you had a lot of experience with dungeons." Moloch was surprised until Peppers started explaining to Jin.

"Creating a dungeon town fortress means that you are creating an actual town while defending it from monster enemies. It is actually the reverse of a dungeon fortress, which is what you were fighting in. Monsters and willing adventurers can come into this town to resupply. They can choose to settle down,

live a life, and defend the area. In short, it's like a neutral area for monsters and adventurers to coexist in peace."

"Then why would monsters want to attack this place? I am sorry, Moloch, I am more of a... bookworm that specialises in catching monsters...not really a -" Jin was a little embarrassed until Moloch stepped in.

"No need to apologise. I understand how you feel. Sometimes, you just get too engrossed into something that you just do not want to care about other stuff. I think you and I have much alike." Moloch's human puppet grinned.

"Monsters attack because they A) Want the fortress for themselves. And B), Instead of a tribute, taking over a town fortress means that you get full access to the dungeon's resources. So if they win against the whole town, the monsters would get to utilise the entire dungeon's resources and be the Lord of this area. I don't really know why adventurers cannot attack town fortresses but that's just how things work."

"Actually not exactly, records show that adventurers do attack dungeon town fortresses if they posed a threat against their daily life. However, in most cases, they do not do it because they treat dungeon town fortress as havens. If you include an adventurer guild, all the more they would not attack the area. Not to mention, they would also help defend against monsters that raid the area. Hence, they do not really have a problem staying in an area where monsters come to them." Peppers was delighted to provide them with an answer.

"Wait, then how come you want me to create a town fortress if only monsters can rule as lordship...Oh... Oh! OH! I get it now!" Jin realised Moloch was rather crafty. He did not want to be under the command of his old king and wanted to have an independent place under his own rule. He would then give the benefits of the town fortress to Jin even though he was merely an adventurer. Besides Moloch might have known that he would fight against Jin. Why fight when you can just join?

"So, how shall we do this? Do you want to let your new Master continue reigning the current fortress by beating you up or shall we get into the more complicated stuff?" Jin summoned Sebastia, Mer, and Yem out of his phone and they immediately knelt in front of Jin instead of their former master. Moloch grinned and showed Jin to his meeting quarters.

A power play by Jin but one that was necessary to discuss the terms of surrender for Lord Moloch... Though Jin felt Moloch was actually pretty excited about it and would not take much persuading.

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## **Chapter 180 Dealing With A Demon**

"So, tell me how this works." Jin was sitting in a meeting room that looked rather bland considering it was used to discuss important matters pertaining to the future of the fortress. He thought Moloch

would have made the place a little more posh than the other rooms so that his guests would have a better experience.

"Hahaha, I know what you are thinking." Moloch the plushie was shaking its head in sync the human puppet that it was on. "This room had been picked clean by the adventurers. Even a vase, a simple decorative porcelain vase, was taken by them! I mean come on, can't they just leave the poor vase alone and just kill me so that they get the gold tribute?" Moloch was complaining as he sat down while Sebastia and the other maids went to make tea for Jin and Peppers.

Peppers loved the attention she had been getting since currently Jin had only summoned her and not the other bellators. Not to mention, Jin had never really summoned her alone before at all. To be part of an important discussion, Peppers was extremely excited and ready to serve her master to the best of her abilities.

"Anyways, I digress. Here's the thing. This is totally an assumption but from based off of historical records I looted from some adventurers, I believe it should work despite it being theoretical. Usually, when an adventurer like you kills me, the magical core of this dungeon would be exposed and it would allow you to reach into the core before it would verify that you are eligible for the tribute." Moloch started to explain how the dungeon town fortress works.

"But, if you capture me, the process will be totally different. The magical core would not be exposed but a dungeon guardian would be summoned from the core. That guardian is the so-called 'spirit' of the dungeon core and the one who handles the tributes and resources in this particular dungeon."

"Technically, it's not meant to be beatable because the spirit of the dungeon core uses the exact same guardian to gauge how powerful the monsters are that want to take over the fortress. A certain time limit would be issued and it would allow the core to determine what kind of resources it would grant the monsters to start with. Hence, it's something like a punching machine in the arcade, your 'score' in beating the dungeon guardian would determine how much it would provide us with."

"What kind of resources would it provide?" Jin asked and all he could think of were the resources that had been introduced to him such as Matter, Magic, Souls and Dungeon Dollars.

"Walls, houses, water supplies, lighting supplies. The basic necessities for creating a proper town. If we do well enough, we could build walls as strong as the ones this current fortress has." Moloch answered as he began to sip his cup of coffee that had just been brewed by Sebastia.

"But Jin just flew over your pathetic walls." Peppers answered in a matter-of-fact tone, which Moloch could not help but sigh at.

"In all my life as a Lord, never have I seen someone as crazy as this Summoner. Catapults? Sure. Catapulting a human over a wall? Unheard of!" Moloch appeared to be very impressed by Jin's actions.

"So you are saying... there has not been a single flying mob or wizard that tried to enter the same way as I did?" Jin could not help but secretly basked in the hidden achievement he had just been bestowed by Moloch.

"The adventurers do have wizards that can fly. Usually though, they would need preparation to fly over the walls. And even if they did do that, there would be only one, or at most, a bunch of them flying in.

We would have already identified these buggers and shot them out of the sky before they could even get the chance to come close. If not, we would just handle them when the need arises. Jin, on the other hand...let's just say he is an exception." Moloch purposely made Jin happy in the hopes that he would more easily accede to his demand later on.

"So the dungeon core allows you to choose whether this is a dungeon town fortress or just a dungeon fortress?" Jin asked and Moloch nodded his head.

"Aye, and most monsters would choose the dungeon fortress because they are technically protecting the dungeon core's resources, hence the dungeon core gives them a reward for protecting the area. It is the easiest and safest way to do things. Because even if the monsters lost the dungeon, the core would still give them a reward, albeit smaller." Moloch gave Jin a detailed answer.

"Dungeon Town Fortresses on the other hand, utilises the resources of the dungeon core. That is why there are not many dungeon town fortresses. And even then, they are more commonly used as a sign of power rather than as actual resupply bases. Take my Demon King, Baal, for example. He has an Empire Fortress, which is a wayyyyyy upgraded version of a town fortress, and all he uses it for is to show off. He uses the rewards from almost every other dungeon fortress to build up his own Empire." It was clear that Moloch said King Baal's name in anger.

"Oh...so that's why dungeons are lucrative for adventurers. Then I must ask, will it always be only monsters that can activate the dungeon cores even as the world continues to expand?" Jin was curious since he remembered the dreaded dungeon that had been created by the system in the frontiers.

"Absolutely, the dungeon core only recognises monsters. Humans have tried multiple times and they have not been able to activate the cores at all." Moloch told Jin but in Jin's mind, he was thinking otherwise. Since Jin was an outsider, would he also be able to activate the dungeon core? Technically, he had the powers of a Panda, which to the natives could be considered as a monster. And Even if he couldn't activate it with that, he still had the living armour bands which always stuck to him. Could they be used?

If Jin was really able to control the dungeon core, he would not be at the mercy of this Demon Moloch despite him being controlled by Jin due to the System's powers. But what if he had a way to break out from the System, no matter how unlikely? What if the System was not as almighty as it claimed to be? That was why Jin had the idea of controlling the dungeon core himself. Call it greed, personal benefit or just leverage, Jin felt that no matter what, this dungeon town fortress could be a great way to earn easy dungeon dollars, that is if Moloch could really run the town as well as he claimed he could.

"I don't exactly trust you, I don't know your motives or even your desires in running the town fortress. How would you run the town fortress? What happens if King Baal or his underlings come for the town fortress? I am sure that no matter what, they would not leave this precious place alone, or worse, let it be handled by a traitor."

"That's when the fun stuff happens, isn't it?" Moloch leaned back in his chair and sniggered. Jin was not able to get it but Peppers nodded in agreement. Jin looked at Peppers for an explanation but Peppers did not give him any. "It is indeed beneficial." Peppers hinted as she continued to see Jin make a perplexed face.

"Oh... They would come to us. That means I would be able to capture them if I am around." Jin realised how stupid he was to not see this crucial benefit.

"Not just that, they would also be decked out in armour and weapons, perhaps in wads of cash too. If you are powerful enough to capture them, they would be in our service and our town would become significantly stronger." Moloch finally smirked at Jin. Looks like he was looking beyond the silver lining of the clouds and at the clear blue sky beyond.

"And your opponent Baal would get weaker each time he tried to raid you." Jin was finally catching onto Moloch's plan.

"Not just that, King Baal would also most likely send out his trusted warriors and some of those warriors would also oversee other dungeon fortresses too. Capture them, make them loyal to us, get them to attack their own dungeon cores and then we can create either another town fortresses or a dungeon fortresses for the reward." Moloch added.

"I finally see where all of this is going. Looks like a lot of work though." Jin tried to downplay this particularly grand plan of Moloch.

"No money, no honey." Moloch shrugged his shoulders as he raised his hands in innocence.

"Give me a chance to talk to my closest summons for a while and ask for their opinions before I decide." Jin remarked but the moment he said that, his phone buzzed with notifications, a large one at that.

"Emergency Mission: Capture Moloch, clear the dungeon core and create a town fortress or higher." The system notification was written in large red font. Jin realised that it had been a while since the system had last done that.

"Wow, the rewards." Jin was instantly held captive by the rewards the system offered but he still decided to ask his bellators for a second opinion, actually, it was a third opinion since the system had just taken a side.

"It's a really a no brainer, Master." Zeru sent a message notification with a cartoonish sticker of him nodding his head.

"Go Fighting, Master! PS: did I use it right? I heard it being used by an injured cultivator in his messages when I tended to him in the recovery bay." Milk sent an emoji and a Fighting! sticker.

"Then, I shall sign a deal with the devil then, literally." Jin said as Peppers also nodded her head enthusiastically.

"Correction, Demon." The plushie smiled with bliss as he asked Jin if both could prepare before he was captured since the dungeon core would immediately appear.