

Dungeon S 281

Chapter 281 Monster Evolution

Jin looked at the new monster card and back at Derek once more. He clearly did not expect the evolution of a monster happening right in front of him. "Is Derek's... erm... form permanent or temporary?" Jin asked the System.

"Permanent. Variant DNA changes happened as a result of the repeated use of the enhancement card." The System noted, and Jin got excited. If Derek as a regular zombie could evolve, would that not imply other monsters had the chance to do so, too? Jin anxiously asked the System, and it returned a positive reply.

"While rare in their natural habitat, it is possible for monsters to evolve under the System's premise. Only one creature out of a million has the chance to experience such a change in the wilderness. Even then certain conditions such as stress, environment and genes play a vital part in the evolution in the wild." The System stated.

"So do I have to find more enhancement cards?" Jin asked, thinking that was the prerequisite for the monsters to evolve under the System rule.

"Negative. User simply needs to push the monsters to their limit. The System has checked every monster in the User's care, and has compiled a file of those who are close to breaking into the next evolution phase." The System then released a list full of Jin's monsters names right in front of him on his all new Tact Tweet. Jin casually scrolled through and checked the bottom of the list to find out that even normal zombies had an experience bar that could potentially cause them to evolve.

"Are these the experiences each individual monster accumulated through fighting in the dungeons with the cultivators too?" Jin questioned. The System gave a happy emoji icon holding a pair of fireworks and said nothing else.

"Wow, so in a way, my customers are training my monsters to the next level. Wait does that mean in those story themes, they would change appearance too? Won't that... erm affect my dungeon instances experience?"

"Positive. User, please adjust your dungeons once the monsters have evolved. System does have the ability to retain old Story Instance Themes. Similar to the previous Easy, Medium, Hard difficulty. It is User's choice in determining whether this is necessary." The System stated.

"Damn! That means more work for me. Oh well, I guess that's a good thing too. At least this way, the story instance theme would not feel too stagnant, especially for old customers." Jin thought to himself before he noticed that even the zombies started to move out into the portal, lead by Ghoul Half Lord Derek.

Jin checked once more on Yun, to reassure that she was okay to handle the shop. After all, this could take a while to complete. However Yun simply gave him the go ahead again.. "There is no need to worry too much Jin. Especially now that the Shop is within an instance. Even if those Royal Rats decide to come to cause trouble, they will simply be toyed with, no matter their Grade. You have more important things

to take care of. Shoo shoo, go complete your mission," Yun answered in his thoughts as he sighed and entered the portal.

When he arrived, he realised that the facility was actually in ruins. Rubble were lying all around with broken weathered pillars and damaged stairs. Only with guidance from Sebastia and the other battle maids that the group could find the underground entrance of the facility ruin. "Maybe that is why the dungeon core is defunct." Jin assumed after seeing the sight of the wear and tear by the environment before he returned to the area where he was teleported alongside with the monsters.

He did not have much information since he trusted the Minotaur Battle Maids to do their scouting jobs. In the meantime, the several monster groups were chattering noisily, talking about their tactics, about their weapons and what rewards they were hoping for. Then, a loud resounding shout came from the side of the ruins.

"You there! Identify yourself at once! Are you one of the monster sympathisers or are you a monster in disguise?!?!" A loud booming voice echoed throughout the area, and Jin noticed that a large group of adventurers was coming towards them, all ready to slaughter his monsters if given the chance. He then remembered that this was the dungeon world after all. It shouldn't be a surprise to have an encounter with adventurers.

"System, what are their power levels or grade equivalent?" Jin asked immediately as he wanted to know if it is wise to retreat or fight with them. But if possible, he would want to stay his ground because he does not have any time to waste. Worse case scenario, these adventurers might grab the defunct core. Best case scenario, they would be additional fodder for Jin to clear up. If that was the case, he might as well clear them up right now since reports from Sebastia indicated that the humanoid robots were apparently stronger than the living adventurer.

"Power levels ranging from 50 to 90, where each grade is equivalent to 10 power levels. The majority of them are around Grade 5 to Grade 6. System has scanned only a few individuals at Grade 9." The System stated as it showed the statistics on the Tact Tweet. There were slightly more than one hundred adventurers present, indicating that they were preparing for a major raid.

"Wow, this Tact Tweet is amazing. It even shows the location of each adventurer. Hmm, I don't have that much time to deal with their questions. I kinda doubt that cooperation is still on the table, after seeing me with that many monsters. Moloch had previously told me that summoning so many monsters at once would be impossible for any normal summoner. I guess we will have to stay here and defend ourselves. Looks like I will go for a fight." Jin quickly judged, as the adventurer group got even closer.

"You! Answer me right now, or I will personally bring you down!" The booming voice continues.

"System, you sure that if those adventurers die, they will get resurrected?" Jin, ignoring the adventurer group wanted to make sure that he would not need to hold back. The System gave a positive reply: "Their resurrection process is much easier and less complicated compared to your world's resurrection process. If an adventurer dies, said adventurer resurrects at the nearest church for a respectable sum of dungeon dollars."

"The System recommends killing the adventurers. Killing them yields you dungeon dollars and possible equipment." System continued to babble.

"Heh, because in legal terms, this could be counted as self-defense, right?" Jin cracked a joke as he took out Bam in Katana form.

"System will provide the necessary anonymity tools." A half panda mask appeared right in front of Jin. To his surprise, the rest of his bellators also wore various but similar panda masks. He noticed that his and Zeru's mask was 90% black, before it went white at the edge of it, whereas for Milk and Peppers, the colours were swapped. Passing him as they stepped forward in front of him, Jin was also able to see a cross, a flame, and a sword sort of accessory attached to the side of the half panda masks.

"Wouldn't want ending up with a bounty now, would we?" The only one who had a different mask was Kraft when he appeared at Jin's side. The mask looked to be the counterpart to the same mask he saw Tsu, one of the black foxes, wear. That black ornate fox mask with golden edges.

Suddenly, there was a thought that went through his head. "Master, the Deep Ones and I can keep them occupied. We refrained from fighting against these...metallic objects because they were not worthy. These adventurers on the other hand...Heh heh... they should make a great sacrifice to this Great Shadow Dagen." Mr Derpy talked in his head.

"Oh? So you are saying you can deal with this all by yourself? Are you that confident?" Jin was already suspecting that Mr Derpy was the kind of monster that loved to steal the spotlight. Unfortunately his fighting style was very expensive, if not controlled.

"Well, to be honest, not really. But we are dying to have some good proper fight. Not just against some human looking robots. We crave for humans, and my minions are bloodthirsty. So in return for not participating in that competition, I demand we shall have the right to keep the equipment of the adventurers for ourselves!" Mr Derpy ordered in a low voice in Jin's thoughts.

Jin scratched his head and sighed upon remembering that the Deep Ones were more of a chaotic nature. He recalled how terrifying the Deep Ones were and could not say no. Besides, it would affect his competition, if he needed to split the competing forces before they even had the chance to go inside. Not to mention, Mr Derpy's 'orders' lightened his load on upgrading cards since they were limited in quantity.

"Kraft, mind looking after them?" Jin asked, and Kraft nodded his head as he locked and loaded his revolver. "Can't say no to a bit of bloodshed, can I?" Kraft's smirk looked a little evil, but it also made Jin assured that he would get the job done.

"Ripcaller, Piercestriker and Slashreaver. Make sure no one runs away without feeling the wrath of a store manager." The three goblins who were well trained in ambushes acknowledged Jin and immediately ran off into the ruins.

"As for the rest of you! I hereby declare, that the competition starts now!" Jin shouted and the unison of monster roars and shouts momentarily terrified the army of adventurers.

Chapter 282 The Unexpected Assault

Hark, the leader of the adventurer raid group, shuddered at the booming sounds of the monsters. He initially thought that the monsters would be charging towards them, so he immediately ordered for the entire raid group to deploy a defensive stance against them.

Little did they know that the monsters were charging... away from them. Quickly Jin and the others' silhouettes disappeared into the facility ruins. Only then did Hark realise that merely a lone figure was left behind in front of the entrance. At a closer look, he recognised that it was a strange guy in a trench coat, who hid his face behind a weird looking accessory. It was some unfamiliar oriental looking half fox mask. There was no class nor adventurer ever who would wear such an outfit, making him more suspicious about the other one's identity as a monster sympathiser or possibly some kind of cult member.

"Judging from the rampage and size of the monster horde, that other guy was guiding them inside the ruins. It seems that the rumours of monster sympathisers becoming more rampant and daring are true." Hark thought to himself before he swallowed his saliva. He could not allow their morale to fall, so with a roar he declared in front of his raid guild: "In the name of our guild, the Hocus Pocus, I, Hark, Leader of Hocus Pocus and a Lord Knight class, demand your immediate surrender. You are to be taken away and face a fair trial to be judged by the goddess of Justice herself!"

"What is your objective by coming to these ruins?" Kraft yawned lazily as he stretched his arms. Nevertheless the adventurers thought that he was doing some sort of magic casting and decided to be on guard. Only when he finished his yawn did they realise that they were being a bit too cautious.

"I wish to ask you the same question, vile fiend. What does your kind wish to do within those ruins? Also consider this your last warning. I order you to stand down at once or else we will show you no mercy!" Hark banged his shield twice. It was enough of a sign for the experienced adventurers to understand that he wanted the fox masked guy to be surrounded, leaving him with no escape route.

"Well, didn't your mother teach you not to answer a question with another question? How rude!" Kraft stayed where he was, casually observing his would be captors. He distinguished different classes of adventurers that surfaced when they were surrounding him.

"Ooh. Clerics, archers, monks, battle smiths, rogues, assassins! There are even second tier and third tier adventurer classes in this mix match. How wonderful!" Kraft sounded pleased, as if he was a child who was taken to a store to buy a new toy.

"So you still refuse to give up? Are you courting death?!" Hark shouted and ordered the adventurers to close up even further. Some of the wizards, sages and veteran mages were already preparing to cast their spells against him.

"Hey, System. Do you wish to strike a deal?" Kraft asked nonchalantly.

"I know Jin does not wish to utilise them as resources, even though it was recommended by yours truly. And I just know how much you hate to waste precious resources.~ But I think I have an alternate method able to satisfy both positions to get some good stuff. I mean, they are coming at us like willing sheep for slaughter! It would be rude for us to not take advantage of their generosity!" Kraft grinned.

"What is your suggestion?" The System asked in a rather polite manner in Kraft's head.

"Who are you talking to!" Hark questioned Kraft as the fox mask guy was alone, standing there talking to himself. This person made him worried for some reason. He was clearly surrounded, but he did not panic. It seemed like that fox guy was not taking them seriously at all and for some odd reason, he even started talking to himself.

"Identify the best person of each class in this ragtag group of adventurers, and I will personally have a little session with them. I shall extract their skills and experience, providing you with their info. This should be enough to allow you to make copies of them, turning them into worthy NPCs for Jin to use in dungeons. Besides, I have improved my technique. They will probably only end up suffering from some amnesia after their resurrection. And of course, there is no reason for any of them to leave with their memories of us intact." Kraft said as he remembered the first time when he forcibly tried to extract the skills and experience from someone. The result was a mess, and instead of a person it would be more correct to call it an empty husk created by the System. They suffered, before they ultimately died a horrible death.

Over the decades, Kraft managed to hone his craft and especially the stint with Ming allowed him to tweak his methods. It was always a pleasure to think back to that encounter. He had to admit those little Royal Zodiac Snakes were truly creative with their techniques. However their resistance towards their own techniques was very lacking in his opinion. And now he was looking forward to have a little bit more fun with those guinea pigs before him.

"The new method proposed has been deemed worthy, and should correspond to the wishes of the current User since it does not violate previous clauses. System accepts the method. Your reward?" The System asked.

"Nothing much. I simply wish for you to give me back one of those three problem children. Make it the youngest one... that should be just about right." Kraft answered, after a bit of consideration, as he continued to ignore Hark's petty orders once again.

"F.u.c.k it! He isn't listening at all." Hark was losing his patience. He drew his sword, which in turn signalled the others to do the same too.

"Maybe he is pretending to be insane so that we will not take him seriously?" A knight class adventurer close to Hark gave him his opinion.

"Attack him now! Make sure not to kill him! Our reward will be higher if we capture him alive. Especially seeing that he is a monster sympathiser of such a large group. The Judges will have their way to interrogate him!" Hark shouted as he raised his sword up to the sky. His sword turned glowing white before the heavens howled and brought upon the swords of imprisonments to pierce Kraft onto the ground.

"Affirmative. Do note that it might not listen to you even after these many years." The System readily agreed, and Kraft laughed when the swords of imprisonment rained down towards him.

"It's fine. I will unleash it for Jin to handle." Kraft's laughter got even sicker as the swords of imprisonments stabbed through his body and his other extremities. "Deerrppyy!!! Can you and your fishes be competent enough to kidnap those people?" Kraft shouted while still laughing hysterically.

"This guy is mad!!" A wizard exclaimed as he released a curse. The debuff should reduce Kraft's vitality and mana pool, but it seemed that there was no effect. Even the 'unshakeable' swords of imprisonments seemed to simply go through him.

"Who do you think we are?!?!?! How dare you compare us to some lowly creatures. Let me show you the true power of this Shadow Dagen, mortal!!!" Mr Derpy bellowed as his colossal figure overshadowed the sun. Yet the raid guild mistook it for some thunder magic, being cast by the fox masked prisoner. However they saw no magical presence coming from him nor any magic circles displaying the activation of the thunder magic.

"Must be the weather in this area." A barbarian class adventurer snorted, but the astrologist, a class that used the weather and stars to summon her magic, disagreed:

"No, this is definitely some sort of sorcery or forbidden witchery! I never felt such stifling magical presence!" Even her weapon globe became fuzzy.

Thunder crackled despite the sparse clouds and the entire area instantly received a gradual but heavy pouring of rain...

Rain of blood.

It was no normal blood, but a highly corrosive blood. Many quickly used their shields to cover themselves the moment they got burned by it. Some of the magic users hastily placed barriers, but the bloody rain was eating through the defensive barrier causing the mages to burn their mana like paper to a kindled flame just to protect their guildmates.

"Let the real downpour begin." Derpy smiled as he showed his face to the adventurers and opened his mouth wide. It was vast enough for Deep Ones hiding inside him to once again plunge themselves towards the adventurers on the ground.

However, unlike last time, where it was such a mess that Jin scolded them for wasting his money, Derpy and the Deep Ones had been training this move for quite some time. The Skyfall strikes were like coordinated dives against the horrified adventurers. Those adventurers had seen all manner of monsters but Derpy...as he bellowed his almighty presence by declaring himself as the Bloodied Elder God of the Deep Seas Lord Dagen, was of a different sort of horror.

Plenty panicked as the Deep Ones killed many in the first wave of attack, yet they also made use of this shock and awe tactic to injure and kidnap those adventurers that had been identified by the System. Kraft did not dally any longer. His figure disappeared from the swords of imprisonment and he reappeared behind the adventurers, where he shot the first bullet out of his revolver. It was none other than Evon, the druggy fox at full offensive.

Hark had no idea about what was happening, as the pink champagne coloured fox bit his neck before jumping to another target that was identified by the System. Hark's eyes rolled up as he foamed from his mouth and wet his pants. The mighty Lord Knight just went down to his knees, shaking and trembling at the mercy of the drugs induced by the bite. Kraft grabbed him by his hair, not allowing him to fall down. The next moment, black chains appeared from within his trenchcoat.

The chains subsequently wrapped around Hark and swallowed him whole, making the fierce leader disappear to nothingness. The other adventurers were too absorbed with struggling against the Deep Ones, who continued raining down on them, that they did not notice how their strongest man vanished in the midst of chaos.

Kraft licked his lips as he slowly walked towards his next victim.

Chapter 283 Underground Facility

The underground facility was rather well intact, despite the desolated look from the outside, The stone walls were filled with green moss and cobwebs, but the corridor hallway was rather long and extensive. Not to mention there were writings, pictures and murals on the wall, which indicated that this complex was not just a dungeon nor was it a simple facility.

If given time, Jin would probably ask the System to take some of it down to decipher the texts and pictures, but he was in a rush to get the defunct core. Less than a few minutes into the ruins, Jin and the others were welcomed by a group of humanoid looking robots. The monsters did not hesitate, and rushed forward to intercept the enemies.

The monsters struck first and many of the robots toppled effortlessly. Heads were torn, legs were bitten and torsos were tossed as if it was some Black Friday sale. Even Sebastia and the rest of the battle maids were doing pretty well themselves.

"I thought you said they were difficult to kill?" Jin managed to catch up with Sebastia and asked as he slashed down another humanoid robot warrior. He discovered that most of the humanoid robots were similar to what Sebastia had brought back for him as a specimen.

Expressionless.

The major difference was the armour and weapons they were wearing. A low level humanoid robot could be recognized by the attire it was wearing. The minotaurs were able to effortlessly differentiate them in a second, but Jin perceived them as too similar to each other, to make out clear differences. After all he was not from this world.

"These are just fodders. It is similar to when you fought against us, we used cannon fodder to waste your strength and resources before we sent in the big guys. It also gives the enemy a pretty good picture of what he is up against, since we have to use some of our abilities!" Sebastia explained as she chopped the humanoid robot archer into two with her bare hands and the shockwave impact destroyed another that was behind the robot.

It was at this moment the facility ruins had a fork and Sebastia informed Jin that the dungeon core's wave signature was coming from the left. However, Jin saw that Sandy, the Sand Witch, and the rest of the enlightened group stepped forward. "We are not very interested in the dungeon competition so we will be fighting on our own with the goal to train ourselves. If we find anything worthy, we will ask the System to retrieve it for you, Master." Sandy who was the appointed leader for the Enlightened group excused themselves as they took the other path. Then they were also followed by Derek the Half Lord

and his zombie army. In the meantime, Gold, Yem and Mer rushed to the left fork knocking out numerous weak humanoid looking robot, leading their own groups forward.

"Awww, Master, you sure we cannot participate? I want to blow some stuff up." Peppers grumbled as she had to follow the Werejackals. "Yeah Boss, I do not see any point coming down here full force. I'd rather be treating some patients than babysitting these brainless cows." Milk complained.

"Zeru did not complain when he went with the Enlightened group and the Zombie horde." Jin tried to retort, but the girls only rolled their eyes in boredom. It was not as if the bellators were hard at work counting how many metallic bodies their respective group were racking, especially since the System was doing it all for them. Hence, it was not unfair to call it a waste of time for the bellators to babysit the monsters. Yet Jin who had been through various encounters in these recent weeks, learned not to underestimate the situation.

Well, it was true that Milk could quicken the pace of recovery of his cultivators back in the store. Peppers could also rather use the time to further prepare the basic layout for the city building so that when Qiu Yue arrives to help, it could speed up the entire process. But Jin felt that this dungeon would not be so convenient to have the defunct dungeon core exposed for them to take. If it were so easy then there would have been no need for Sebastia to ask for help... and they had yet to encounter any powerful enemies.

Suddenly, the ground started to shake and even the monsters who were enjoying rampaging against those helpless robot guards stopped what they were doing and stayed on high alert.

"I guess I did not bring you guys for nothing." Jin giggled as half of the walkway crumbled right in front of them without the weight of the soil above to bury them. An enormous sized robotic looking knight with a broken set of armour rose from the depths of darkness where the walkway crumbled.

It was so mammoth-like that it occupied more than six times the size of the extensive underground walkway they were in, scaring most monsters and Jin except for Peppers.

"Manipulation of space time in the works. There is no way this thing could exist without the manipulation of space time and perhaps gravity too, especially when the ground above did not fall. Besides, everything that surrounds us now and beyond is a pitch of pure black darkness while we could still see the enemy so clearly." Peppers concluded as Jin could now see fear staining her eyes yet excitement dancing on her lips.

Furthermore, the walkway that they were standing on shook, which made bits and pieces of the walkway fall into the abyssal darkness, causing Jin and his monsters to run. The rest who could not catch up with the speed of the disappearing walkway fell through the cracks. Yet, the only one not running away, was none other than Peppers.

"DO NOT RUN! Those who are falling, image yourself on stable ground!" Peppers shouted, and the minotaurs and werejackals who were falling endlessly into the abyss thought of the ground they desired and poof! A solid transparent ground appeared which intercepted their fall. They were so happy that they kissed the invisible block of 'soil' underneath them.

"This room or corridor or whatever the monsters called it, uses your fear to simulate your thoughts into what is happening around you!" Peppers screamed as she pointed her trusty wooden staff in front of the Titan looking Knight with glowing red eyes on it.

"You fear that the walkway will crumble, that is why the dungeon made it true for you! Ask for thy ground and thou shall receive!" Peppers exclaimed, and the monsters who grasped the concept immediately stopped running and thought of the ground. The abrupt solution that Peppers gave worked wonderfully and many began to try to assist the others up, both minotaurs and werejackals.

"Ha ha ha! Looks like someone managed to understand the magic of this dungeon doom!" A low booming voice echoed in the darkness. "But no matter how you think about me, this mechanised titan knight will bring all of you to meet your maker!" The voice proclaimed as the knight materialised a two handed sword, way more prominent than the colossal knight himself and attempted to cleave the entire black dimension into two.

Many tried to dodge it by running or thinking of falling once more. However, there was a deafening sound of clashing coming and interrupting the Titan Knight's cleave. At closer look it was none other than Jin himself.

A tiny size human with his unbreakable katana held on against the attack of the Titan Knight. It was a great feat that Jin did not realise he was able to achieve, until he utilised what Peppers said by thinking he could do it.

But belief was the only source Jin could rely on, as he struggled against the blasphemously gigantic sword. Tens, if not hundreds of humanoid looking robots, now no longer dressed in any adventurer garb nor looking like another adventurer, crawled out of the crevices of the gigantic sword like spiders and moved to intercept Jin.

"Master! Hang in there!" Peppers cried as she chanted some in weird sounding language, that made no sense to Jin. She swung her staff in the direction of Jin and the next instant, a series of explosions was seen on the sword itself. From afar it looked as if there was some colourful fireworks parade as the explosions were controlled and in succession.

"What are you two groups waiting for?! AATTAACKK!!" Milk screamed at the top of her lungs towards the Werejackals and Minotaurs as she released a golden God's Punch directed towards the face of the Titan Knight, giving it a dose of its own medicine.

Chapter 284 Team Mino/Jacks

Under the commands of Milk, the first to strike was Team Mino, who took the chance to jump onto the mountainous piece of metal and faced off against those humanoid crawling robots. Mer was the first to initiate the attack by summoning a large chunk of ice, that he had to control with his pair of hands.

As it grew larger, the humanoid robots detected that it was a threat, so they quickly moved to intercept Mer before he did serious damage to the robots themselves or the Titan Knight's blade. "Do not let our maid and saviour of our souls be interrupted!" One of the Fanatic Minotaurs shouted, and many of the

fellow Fanatic Minotaurs smashed their chest as a sign of pride before charging towards the incoming crawler robots to block them.

The fanatic minotaurs were crazy strong on their own, due to their simple focus on just attacking without any regard for defense. And in this particular dungeon with faith, fear and belief being amplified, their strength increased by many folds. Those minotaurs easily grabbed the crawler robots and tore them into two as if they were opening a pack of potato ch.i.p.s... only in this case, computer ch.i.p.s popped out of those crawler robots.

With sufficient distraction, Mer conjured a harpoon of ice that was the size of a submarine, which terrified the Titan Knight as he aimed it towards the hand holding the immense metal blade. But instead of Mer shooting it, Sebastia dashed towards the bottom tip of the ice harpoon before leaping up and sending a flying kick at it.

Although it was just a sound of a soft thud from the flying kick, the kinetic power was more than sufficient to propel the ice harpoon towards the Titan Knight's hand as it speedily whizzed into it before the Titan Knight could retaliate.

With the assistance of Sebastia, the ice harpoon pierced through the hand as it continuously spun like a drill, causing it to penetrate into the circuits of the Titan Knight and making the titan blade to drop into abyssal darkness.

Meanwhile, the werejackals were fighting toe to toe against those remnant robot crawlers that fell out from the plummeting titan blade. They did not have crazy magic like Mer nor overwhelming one sided strength like Sebastia, but they had superb coordination and agility. Two werejackals could decimate the crawlers at twice the speed compared to two minotaurs, but what if you multiplied the werejackals by two? They could take down twenty of those crawlers in less than twenty seconds.

Not only that, the werejackals had been training with Grey and all of them learnt how to use a simple fireball attack. Through constant training, Grey realised that being in human form made them more attuned to magic as compared to their werejackal form. Hence, they added switching forms to their daily training regiment, becoming so proficient in it that they became able to do it on the fly. This particular ability was not demonstrated in dungeon instances because Jin did not script it that way. It was an ability they discovered on their own.

With such transformation ability, the Jacks regularly switched forms during this robot crawler fight, and if one presented to an audience, one would have thought that they were doing a theatrical performance as the fight looked like one huge choreographed dance.

Despite the internal conflict the werejackals and minotaurs were having, when it came down to a fight, differences were placed aside and they fought alongside each other. Sure, they were definitely some grudge killing like Yem counting how many humanoid robots he shot down out loud, but he was evenly matched by Yellow who was aggressively biting the metallic necks of those humanoid robots. After all, they knew it was just a friendly competition until the stakes got higher when the Titan Knight's eyes started to glow, and a low booming voice continued to echo throughout the entire 'room'.

Jin noticed something was off, especially when the glow got redder. "Shit! Do not tell me it is gonna shoot laser beams out of its eyes!" Jin had that terrible feeling as he could now sense magical energy being absorbed through that pair of eyes.

"EVERYONE RETREAT NOW!" Jin shouted as he used all his might to summon a monstrous wall of white ice in front of him.

"PEPPERS!" That one word was an acknowledgement for the great Fiery Demonic Queen Sage to support Jin, but he did not realise that Peppers' ability was over the top fantastic. Jin initially thought that Peppers would only be reinforcing his shield against the attack and he could maybe save a few of his monsters from annihilation from the laser eye beam of supposed death.

But what Peppers did, was cast a gravity well strong enough to pull everything except for the Titan Knight towards her, including the remaining robot crawlers. That being said, she did not care as her priority was only to save as many comrades as possible. Thankfully Peppers did what she needed to do and nobody complained. Aside from the weird pulling of the stomach, they all got out scot free. A little discomfort was a low price to cheat death.

The eyes released not just a beam of hot scorching ray of annihilation, but everything it hits explodes along the way, which made Peppers slightly...okay rather jealous. It was because the explosion was not just a kaboom in simple terms. It was a pa ta pa ta boooooom!

"HOW DOES HE SHOOT BEAMS THAT EXPLODES THAT WAY!?!?! JIN!!!! I WANT THAT!!! I want that explosion spell!!! I also want beams that can shoot explosions too!!!" Peppers' eyes turned starry as she was admiring the explosions. Although Jin and Milk knew that her priorities right now were somewhat wrong, but they could not fault her for that, since both were aware of her passion for explosions.

The barrier or "The Great White Ice Wall of China" as Jin now dubbed it casually, was being continuously bombarded by explosions as the Titan Knight focused all its energy at that particular direction. Jin used the source of belief to think that it could hold the energy beam, but there was doubt growing in his heart too which caused cracks to appear in the white ice wall. And in terms of strength, the eye energy beams were indeed stronger and deadlier than his wall of ice.

Milk tried to supplement Jin with chi as she converted her magical mana into chi energy for Jin to use, but it was not enough. Suddenly Milk remembered that Peppers had an inexhaustible supply of Mana which she was entitled to by the System. "OE! Peps! Quickly come here and help Jin out!" Milk shouted, but Peppers who understood what was going to happen was quite reluctant.

"Please, can't we do something else? I don't want to do that again... I might even vomit rainbows once more!" Peppers whined at such an inappropriate timing though truth be told, her vomiting of rainbows was a significant drawback to her. The overly excessive mana discharge strained her body's mana circuitry extremely causing her to overload and momentarily experience multiple organ failures at once. If not for the fact that she was a Bellator, she would have died a long time ago.

"I have a plan, do not worry." Milk's eyes were determined and resolute, and Peppers decided to trust her on it. She quickly stepped forward and Milk grabbed onto Peppers. She then felt a feeling similar to an essence drain spell where she could feel her mana moving away from her. It was gradual, and

subsequently, the drain was getting stronger and stronger. Yet at the same time, Peppers could also feel her body being restored too.

It was then that she understood that Milk was acting as a conduit. She absorbed Pepper's mana into her body and Milk converted it into chi energy for Jin to use. At the same time, Milk was also using part of that mana to cast healing spells on Peppers preventing the body from overloading. Peppers did not realise Milk was that capable, especially when acting as such a conduit brought forth a high level of strain to her own body too.

"Do not give me that look Peps. I am after all trained in the mind and body. Leave it to me." Milk winked at her as for the first time Peppers felt that Milk was like a reliable elder sister. "Master, use the excess mana I am transferring via Milk to stop those lasers! I refuse to believe that it can sustain such a large attack for very long." Peppers shouted as she hugged Milk tightly which made Jin smirk.

"It's rare that I get to see you this pumped up. I shall do as you bid Peppers." Jin gave a one sided grin, as he channelled his new found chi energy through the The Great White Ice Wall of China.

Chapter 285 Spiral Box

With Peppers' mana turned to chi, courtesy of Milk, Jin concentrated and placed all he had into the The Great White Ice Wall of China. The Titan Knight noticed that from the crevices of the icy wall, things started to emerge. After a while, tentacle looking ice tendrils slowly grew from the ice bricks and immediately flew towards the eyes of the Titan Knight. Their purpose was not to just to penetrate but also to mislead and confuse the knight as the tendrils moved in various angles and directions to damage the eyes.

The Titan Knight did retaliate by trying to burn them down with its laser eye beams, but by doing so, it also allowed Jin's Great White Ice Wall of China to be reconstructed again with Peppers' mana.

While the Titan Knight was distracted, Jin created a thin faint line of ice, similar to a small silk thread crawling towards the Titan Knight. Of course, Jin could not see through the great ice wall he had created. It had been with the aid of Grey's magic, who conjured a single demonic eye that overlooked the Great Ice Wall.

"How did you even do that?" Jin asked as he was trying to get used to controlling the single demonic eye floating quietly above the Great Ice Wall.

"I've used this particular magic for scouting and to overlook our fields back in the farming world. I had to use it on a daily basis, so that eye spell became a part of me... which also allowed me to continue guarding the area even when asleep. That is how I oversee my other werejackals in this current battle as well." Grey said proudly as he showed the demonic eye above him to Jin.

"I was thinking... Do you think it is possible it can combine with my magic?" Jin asked. Grey's reply was that they could only try to find out.

Only through the demonic eye did Jin realise that the Titan Knight in front of them did not have a lower body. It only had a chest armour with various wires and metal parts protruding out at the bottom of its torso.

Perhaps the sudden emergence of it caused everyone to focus on the fierce attacks it made more than its figure. That was also why Jin was trying to get that thin thread of ice into it.

The ever growing thin ice thread made its way to the bottom of the torso and quietly climbed up the rugged set of armour. The demonic eye that was floating above the Great Ice Wall disappeared as Grey chanted it's magic, with a slight variation in the chanting hoping that it would allow it to combine with Jin's current ice magic. To the surprise of both of them, it worked and the thread that was moving around inside the rugged set of armour sprouted a small demonic eye near the tip of the thread. The eye allowed Jin to navigate the complex set of ch.i.p.sets and metal while leaving deposits of ice cubes with a small twist while multitasking the tendrils.

Jin's new knowledge and understanding of Panda Black Fire and Panda White Ice increased after reading the cultivation manual when waiting for Lynn to be released from the police station. He learnt how to combine the Panda White Ice with Black Fire and having the appropriate proportions of each magic, the Black Fire could be ignited within the White Ice cube, causing an explosion.

To achieve that, Jin needed to channel and compress a hell lot of chi energy of the Black Fire within the confines of the White Ice. Given time, the Black Fire would manifest within the White Ice cube, and subsequently absorb the chi of White Ice.

The moment the Black Fire completely absorbed the White Ice cube, it would explode. The Nineteen Lazy Astral Panda cultivation manual called this particular technique the "Ying Yang Compression Spiral Box". With 'unlimited' chi energy Jin dared to create this technique on the fly even though it was his first time doing so. The ice threads continued to move forward and upward depositing these spiral boxes in the Titan Knight as it was busy fighting against the tentacle ice tendrils.

In the meantime, there was another fight going on behind the great Wall since Peppers' gravity well brought the remaining crawlers towards her before the Titan Knight shot out its laser beam of supposed death.

What Team Mino and Team Jacks did not realise was that crashing those robot crawlers was not accomplishing anything even though the System was continually capturing them after defeating them. Jin's previous upgrade of his capturing method allowed all of the humanoid robots and robot crawlers to be obtained the moment they were defeated. Yet, there was still no end in sight as the numbers of robot crawlers were not diminishing even though it was apparent the Titan Knight was not producing any extra.

Werejackal Brown subsequently noticed it was too strange and decided to revert into full werejackal form instead of constantly switching forms as they had been doing for the past 10 minutes to see if there was anything that they had been missing.

In full werejackal form, his senses were heightened and coincidentally, he became aware of a silhouette that seemed invisible to the n.a.k.e.d eye. It blended quite well within the abyssal darkness around

them, but Brown quickly took that chance to take a hatchet axe he was equipped with and threw it at that direction.

Clunk

The sound reverberation from the hatchet axe was slow, but it was apparent that the axe disappeared too even when Brown focused in that direction. "There must be something there, I am sure of it!" Since Brown managed to confirm its existence and was not hallucinating, he now switched his form back to half-human, ready to cast fireball as trained by Grey. However, that 'something' felt the axe hit and responded accordingly as Brown casts his fireball.

"...into a mass of fiery hope! Fireball!" Brown shouted but before the sphere of burning mass could leave his hand, it was cut into two by some invisible force which, in turn, sliced Brown's arm away too.

Brown was momentarily in a shock, but sufficient battle experience made him return to werejackal form immediately as he leapt backwards before he saw a robot looking arachnid come out from the abyssal depths removing its invisibility cloak function.

"Aha ha ha...Guess I made it really angry." Brown noticed that its axe hatchet was stuck onto one of its robotic eyes as it screamed loudly with mechanical sounds. Right below the body of the robotic arachnid, even more robot crawlers were falling out of it as if the robotic arachnid was giving birth to many newborn spiderlings.

The scream from the robotic mother arachnid made the little robot crawlers even more aggressive which upset the current war of attrition between minotaurs and werejackals.

"Shit!" Jin noticed the change but he was too occupied with the Titan Knight. The bellators could not move a single inch too as they were currently acting as the mana to chi conduit for Jin. "Team Mino and Team Jacks! WORK TOGETHER! Fall back! Form a defensive parameter with minotaurs in front!"

"System! Summon Moloch out here now!" Jin ordered and within a second, Moloch appeared right in front of Jin holding on to the Tact Tweak.

"You read my mind Moloch." Jin gave a faint smile as he continued to concentrate with the Great Ice Wall and depositing miniature spiral boxes in the Titan Knight.

Moloch pulled out a chair with magic and sat down holding the Tact Tweak. "Team Mino and Team Jacks. I will be your interim commander. FIRM UP!"

Chapter 286 Torture

"15...16 hmmm a total of 18 classes only? Did I underestimate this raid group?" Kraft counted the number of highly talented adventurers that he and the Deep Ones had captured based on the System's recommendation.

The battlefield was a bloody mess. A literal bloody mess. The Deep Ones spared no mercy to any adventurer in the raid group. The sudden strike and awe were very effective for breaking the

adventurers' standard group formations, and many of the Deep Ones managed to kill before going down.

This was naturally because of Mr Derpy. His enchantments benefitted the Deep Ones greatly, such as drastically changing the sandy terrain to a muddy one that allowed his minions to maneuver fast with their webbed feet but dampened the adventurer's movement. The Deep Ones even offered captured adventurers as tributes on a makeshift altar, which allowed Mr Derpy to further enhance the Deep Ones with magical buffs to their strength and endurance stats.

He even cast wide area of effect curses that were unblockable by the mages and clerics as his magic came from another world. The priest and clerics could not demystify and purify any of the mass curses due to either lack of time, lack of experience, or maybe lack of arms. (Since the Deep Ones loved arms as snacks.) The longer this Elder God stayed in the skies to govern the battlefield, the more despair the adventurers were showing which indirectly powered Mr Derpy even further.

"Despair! You pieces of breathing flesh, who lived only by hope will now die by despair!" Mr Derpy's voice thundered, and some adventurers who were at the backlines started to run away from the current battlefield. "Hahaha oh Derpy, you do have some cheesy lines, but there is indeed some truth to it." Kraft laughed while holding on to his belly.

"Especially when despair is like a drug. It lulls the mind into a state of indifference that you can do nothing to prevent it." Kraft said as he commanded Evon back before shooting it at another hunter adventurer on the hand. The hunter suddenly dropped his bow and started foaming while shaking his head violently which allowed the Deep Ones to pierce him easily.

"What kind of bullshit is this!?!?! This is not what was written on the bounty board!" A mage adventurer started to run alongside an assassin class adventurer, an advanced thief class via the borders of the ruins. The assassin did not say anything to his companion, but immediately stopped the mage adventurer from running the moment he sensed killing intent.

An arrow flew forward, but the assassin managed to parry it with his katar before retaliating by throwing a poison knife towards that same direction. The mage adventurer decided to help too, but before she could cast her magic fully, she suddenly felt a stab from behind her when the assassin was occupied.

The assassin looked back and saw a spear poking out of the mage's garb and through the centre of her chest, barely missing the heart, courtesy of Piercestriker. Slashreaver did not waste any time by instantly cutting the mage's head off with his sword as the goblins knew that mages with their heads attached were troubling foes. They babbled out too much magic back in the Goblin World causing mass destruction, hence removing the head was the most effective way to stop a mage from chanting.

The Assassin then realised that there were at least three goblin foes he had to fight against, but he did not know that these three goblins were not the same goblins from this world. Him underestimating them brought forth his downfall as he sped forward, doing a kill and dash technique he learnt as an assassin.

Unfortunately, both Slashreaver and Piercestriker blocked the katar attacks, and Piercestriker even tripped the assassin with his spear, causing him to fall embarrassingly. With the assassin's back facing

them, Ripcaller simply shot two arrows simultaneously onto the assassin's neck, crippling him instantly. The other two goblins did not hesitate to plunge their weapons repeatedly into his body before dragging him and the mage's body away from that site.

Meanwhile, Ripcaller hid himself near a series of tall but broken pillars and used a cape doused with wet sand and mud to camouflage himself while looking out for any stragglers. That assassin was the tenth adventurer they managed to catch for looting purposes. It looked like the cultivator fights in complex forest terrain in Goblin Forest Instance taught them a lot in terms of ambushing.

As the battlefield started to get quieter, Kraft entered into the replicated room of Jin's consciousness in Jin's Terrace House with the eighteen adventurers he had caught. (The room did enlarge by itself as more adventurers were being brought in!) The adventurers were tied down with chains at a corner of the room and with a clap by Kraft, a bloodied wooden table appeared in the middle of the room. He first dragged Hark the Lord Knight and leader of Hocus Pocus to the table.

Hark tried his very best to struggle but the chains became even tighter as he struggled, not to mention, he was not able to cast any instant spell as his magic powers was not working.

"Sorry mate for disappointing you." Kraft still had his mask on as he effortlessly lifted Hark onto the bloodied wooden table. The chains that were binding Hark released and realigned themselves causing Hark to be tied to the table.

"Ah, I missed this table. So many memories..." Kraft had a gentle smile on him as he slid his fingers along the rough edges of the table, before he opened one of its cabinets. It was a small metal hammer with a wooden shaft, which he used to knock at Hark's armour.

The armour immediately came off, leaving Hark in his undergarment and the armour reassembled itself at the side of the room being hanged up on a mannequin. His belt came off too and with it, a bag of holding. These items were the Dungeon World's version of something like Jin's storage ring.

Kraft opened it with his magical hammer, and he looked inside of the bag. "Wow. So much money. and rare, unique loots too. Hey, did you guys know that your boss is hoarding all the good stuff for himself?" Kraft casually took out a few items, which made Hark squeal under the chains that were covering his mouth.

"Did you say I can have it? How nice of you!" Kraft's delighted expression caught Hark off guard for a moment before he suddenly heard three loud bangs. For some reason, he did not feel any pain... only to see the same pink champagne coloured fox licking his face. While Hark was unable to understand what exactly Kraft was doing to him, the adventurers at the corner were horrified, petrified and stupefied. Two black foxes were essentially biting and chewing away at their leader's innards, and he was not screaming at all. In the contrary, his face seemed to suggest that he was somehow enjoying this treatment.

Tsu and Kai were feasting not only on his intestines, but also absorbing the magical energy of the Hocus Pocus leader. Kraft let them enjoy their meal, until they stopped for a moment to look up to him. At this point, there was nothing stopping him from extracting every memory of Hark's life. Kraft took out a three pin skull fixation device and attached it to the table before drilling holes to hold on to Hark's head. Hark was not feeling anything, in fact, he was feeling extremely high from all of Evon's licking. In the

meantime, Kraft took a syringe that had a very long needle and slowly inserted into his head, gathering some fluid while chanting away foreign words that the adventurers at the side did not understand, making them even more afraid.

Upon having reached 666 ml of fluid, Kraft stopped, discarded the needle in a bin beside the table and placed the syringe with a stopper on it in a suitcase that had a foam filling for 17 other syringes. The foxes stopped what they were doing and came down from the table while the chains gradually wrapped Hark up before teleporting him elsewhere. He would return him back to the dungeon world, but no one ever said anything about the "where".

"So...Who's next?" Kraft placed his hands at the back with a peaceful amiable smile towards the seventeen other adventurers, many whom had started to cry, beg and even piss on the floor from witnessing Hark's procedure.

"What has been seen cannot be unseen... well it could be forgotten. Depending on how much you wish to cooperate it could be over quicker or slower. Whatever the case, I assure you it is painless... at least for me~heh heh!" Kraft had waited some time before adding to his last sentence. He enjoyed the look on their faces. Giving some hope only to turn it to despair... He casually grabbed hold on the chains of a female hunter like he was choosing apples in the supermarket and the procedure started all over again.

Chapter 287 Robot Arachnid

Moloch's man puppet's head drooped down. Instead, the minotaur puppet, who was always lazy, stood up and sat on the back of the man puppet's head. The man puppet automatically raised his two hands with the Tact Tweak on it towards his head, and Moloch started analysing the urgent situation that Jin ordered him to resolve. In the meantime, Jin continued to focus his attack against the Titan Knight who still repeatedly shot the tendrils.

"Fanatic Minotaurs! Shield up and set the outer defensive parameter!" Moloch commanded and immediately set a series of tower shield upgrade cards out. Tens of shields magically emerged and dropped right in front of the fanatic Minotaurs to grab. However, instead of using them to defend against blows when setting the defensive parameter, the fanatics used them as if they were blunt weapons by bashing or smashing the robot crawlers while the rest retreated to form a defensive formation.

It was not that the minotaurs or werejackals learnt or performed any drills for these defensive formations, but it was the unique ability of Tact Tweak. It influenced the monsters that were registered in the System and gave them the ability to follow commands through a single swipe or a tap of a finger (or in Moloch's case, cotton hoofs.) and therefore allowed complex formations to be followed unless the monsters themselves expressed strongly opinionated thoughts against the commands. Such ideas would pop up like a message as a consideration at the side of Tact Tweak screen. But for now, Moloch found that the 'defence in depth' defensive tactic was the best he could adopt since both Team Mino and Team Jacks were caught off guard by the Robotic Arachnid.

Next, Moloch gave two sentry gun upgrade cards to the cowboy Minotaurs. He commanded two fanatic minotaurs to act as the tower support while the cowboy Minotaurs stood on them and placed the bipod of the sentry gun on their head and horns. Once stable, they immediately fired at the far reaching robot crawlers and with the support of the Fanatic minotaurs, it felt like the cowboy minotaurs were on live chariot running around shooting at the robot crawlers. However, Moloch explicitly stated not to attack or provoke the Robotic Arachnid as much as possible because her patterns of attack were still unknown. It might be too much trouble for the groups that were still rallying against the onslaught of robot crawlers.

After ordering his cowboys, he turned to the werejackals and gave them the upgrade card Firestorm. Although the werejackals were not exactly mages, a collective group chant and their knowledge of fireball from Grey made them the next best candidate aside from Peppers who was on site.

Grey took the lead by starting the chanting, which created a magical circle rotating around him. The rest of the werejackals followed by stepping into the circle reciting parts of the chant to compliment the chant made by Grey. Moloch figured that if he could make the Minotaurs buy enough time for the werejackals to cast their magic, it should provide sufficient devastating powers against the robotic arachnid instead of using his Trump card.

Moloch later controlled his battle maids to protect the werejackals where most were in their half human form summoning the reinforced mass firestorm spell. Half human half werejackal gave them a stronger sense of concentration which they did conjure the spell circle splendidly. But the robot crawlers were able to detect sizeable magical presence from them right away.

Not able to even touch or interrupt the magical chanting due to the constant defending of Team Mino, the robot crawlers communally sent an SOS to their Robotic Arachnid. The motherly arachnid did not hesitate to act upon receiving their plea and sounds as creaking and parts turning were heard at the top of her robotic body.

Moloch used the binoculars function on the Tact Tweak to monitor mother arachnid's location and he sensed movement from it. "Shit! Are those... launchers? The ones that fire magical explosive javelins from a long distance similar to someone I knew?" Moloch did learn that humans and even some advanced monster species had developed some form of projectile technology that shared the same characteristic of a missile but something faster than that. The thought of those missiles made him panic though it was not shown on his stoic plushie face.

He quickly called upon Niu Lang via the Tact Tweak. Niu Lang was holding a makeshift shield and sickle, complimentary of the werejackals, as he received his orders. (Niu Lang helped them out at times in their farms in their own home instance.) The boy smiled widely and with a blow of his magical horn, Mechataur materialised right in front of him before it grabbed Niu Lang to put him into his cockpit.

Even though the Mechataur was still rather damaged after the fight against the Dungeon Core's Guardian in the previous battle, it managed to recover with the help of Niu Lang. He had been diligently reading on the blueprints of the Mechataur and assisted in the repairs of Mechataur with whatever daily metal that the System provided it as free food. It was not perfect, hell it was not passable in Mechataur's eyes, but it could sense the passion Niu Lang the Cowherd had when he did the emergency repairs. (Separately, Mechataur did have fond memories of him and Zhi Nu working passionately. It

remembered waking up and seeing Niu Lang asking Zhi Nu the Battle Weaver to use her celestial strings to prop Mechataur's legs up so that he could adjust the soles. Niu Lang could have just asked Mechataur to lie down but he was too embarrassed.)

The Mechataur started up with Niu Lang's special horn, and without hesitation, it also began to creak as his shoulder plates opened up. As expected the Robotic Arachnid fired those explosive javelins that were similar to pulses of light and the Mechataur's retaliation missile fire could not intercept all of them in time, causing injury to the defensive formation that Moloch tried to set up.

However, those retaliation missiles killed more than half of the robot crawlers but could not deal a scratch to the Robotic Arachnid. After the smoke was lifted, it revealed an energy barrier projected around the mother arachnid to protect itself. Many of the minotaurs, especially the battle maids were injured by the barrage of explosive javelins, notwithstanding the werejackals. It was all thanks to Mer who created an overarching ice barrier to protect the werejackals, but the damage was injuring his mana circuits as he tried to repair the ice barrier from the explosive javelins. Even Mechataur tried its best to shield the ice barrier, but no doubt only managed to block a hit or two.

"...And thus, the skyless dark night shall pelt down the fury of our hearts!" Grey finished chanting as he pointed upwards. With mana burning visible from his eyes, Grey's index finger was lowered to the direction of the Robot Arachnid.

"FIRESTORM!!!!" The mass of werejackals echoed so loudly that even the Titan Knight could have heard it. The magic circle disappeared from beneath them, and a few werejackals went on their knees panting.

A spiralling vortex of space manipulation was opening above the robotic arachnid and an orangey red dusty cloud came into existence. In no time, it began sprouting a ball of fire which the robotic arachnid defended with ease... at first. The ball of fire was not the only one of its kind, and more comets of burning flames rained down upon him. They multiplied as time went by to the point that the robotic arachnid started to pour more resources into the energy barrier and had to reduce the number of robot crawlers coming out.

However, it was not the end. Moloch knew that this was the opportunity he was looking for.

"Mechataur do a full heavy arms blast, unleash everything!" Moloch commanded, but Mechataur was somewhat hesitant. Due to the damage, it was afraid it would be broken to the point of no repair.

"Trust in Lord Moloch, in Master Jin and me. I will make sure to bring you back every time you fall my buddy." Niu Lang said as he gripped onto the controls tightly.

"Heh, you better upgrade me well." The Mechataur sneered as it communicated back to Niu Lang via its electronic systems. The Mechataur struggled to remove the limit breaker as it forced open all the weaponry slots it had and it stared at the Robotic Arachnid intensely.

"FIRE AWAY!" Both Mechataur and Niu Lang shouted simultaneously as beams of energy, rotating Gatling guns and dozens of missiles flew to the direction of the Robotic Arachnid. Being unable to move from the bombardment of the firestorm, the Robotic Arachnid senses went over the top crazy as it first saw the energy beams melting the barrier causing holes in it.

Thus making it impossible for the Arachnid to cover it in time as many missiles penetrated through the barrier and eventually, the continuous explosions damaged the Arachnid feeble metal body. The

Firestorm finally broke through and burned the entire spider body before it disappeared into oblivion. (Well, technically the System caught it. Teehee!)

Chapter 288 Titan Knigh

With the Robotic Arachnid destroyed, each and every robot crawler stopped working. At the same time, the Titan Knight also ran out of juice and stopped shooting his laser beams. Jin made use of this opportunity he had been struggling for by forcing all ice tendrils to pierce the mechanical eyes and into the mainframe of the Titan Knight's head. The Titan Knight bellowed as it tried to break the ice tendrils apart.

Jin finally let go of the Great Ice Wall he had maintained for quite some time. Exhausted, he fell to the ground along with Milk and Peppers. "Why does it feel like this scene is so familiar?" Jin experienced a déjà vu going through him, but he couldn't care less with his fatigue hitting him hard on his head.

Separately, Moloch looked at the Titan Knight, who was furious at the loss of his creation and tried to 'float' towards the group of monsters that caused all this mess. Though it could no longer see them, he had other sensors making him able to perceive their location.

Moloch demanded everyone to sit down and to enjoy the show. Both Team Mino and Team Jacks were unaware what exactly was going on, but they listened to Moloch without question. In the meantime, Moloch commanded Sebastia and Yem to look after Jin and his bellators.

Sebastia, being the overall head of battle maids, had learned basic healing skills, though she could see that Jin, Peppers and especially Milk were all drained mentally rather than having physical wounds. She tried to cast a few healing spells but it was to no avail. It did however make sure that those 3 were still conscious and wouldn't faint in the middle of the battle.

The Titan Knight could not compute why the group of monsters was not running away from him at all. Shouldn't they run in the face of such perilous danger? Perhaps they finally comprehended that it was futile defying it. The logic cycle in the Titan's brain did not care and continued to press forward in an attempt to annihilate the entire group.

However, as it tried to raise its arm, there was a loud explosive noise coming from within the Titan Knight. In an instant, the exploding noise was of a successive nature, of which some were visible for the group of monsters to see. The explosion of black fire was burning brightly especially through the crevices of the titan's broken armour, causing it to be exposed for the monsters to exploit. Yet Moloch did not give any order, so the monsters just kept quiet and rested as they watched the titan fall to pieces.

The arm joints of the Titan Knight were thoroughly broken from the hidden explosives, and its coolant system could not keep up with so many fire incidents. The inability to cope with the fire enabled it to spread wildly throughout the entire body. The sword arm that it attempted to raise fell endlessly into the dark abyss as the pieces were brought down by the spread of fire.

The black Titan Knight roared but it could not do anything else since the robot crawlers were killed and its eyes have been pierced. There were other offensive tricks up its sleeve, but Jin had deposited a sufficient amount of spiral boxes inside of the Titan Knight to cripple it to the point of no return.

"If I might say, this is a 4 out of 10." Peppers blurted out, as she was lying down on Sebastia's leg. Jin who was unfortunately on Yem's manly (and flurry not fluffy, mind you) lap pillow felt disappointed.

"But it's the destruction that counts, isn't it? I placed a lot of effort into it!" Jin tried to win back some more points from Peppers' critical review of his explosions.

"Forget it Master. Peppers' deduction is based on superficial results. I could feel the amount of concentration and effort when I channelled the chi energy into you." Milk sneered while her eyes were still closed, lying on the ground. No male minotaur dared to touch her because...of them being reasonably sensitive to her...erm...body.

"Why you stupid two mountain full of fats, my results are definitely not superficial!" Peppers pouted as she tried to get up from Sebastia's lap to kick Milk who was still lying on the ground. Yet Milk did not care, since she was too tired, as well as the fact that the force behind Peppers' attack was more for show.

As the Titan Knight subsequently disappeared (also captured by the System), it brought the abyssal darkness to a stop, causing the two groups to clap and cheer at their victory. Some of the werejackals were thanking the minotaurs for protecting them as they cast the fireball. The minotaurs were a bit too prideful though they knew when a compliment should be given. If not for the werejackals impactful firestorm, they might still be swatting spiders. Some of the werejackals also went to console Niu Lang since Mechataur shut down after unleashing a full attack against the spider matriarch. Mechataur went into standby mode, and Niu Lang knew it would stay a scrap of metal until he fixed his friend. Others continued to congratulate for a job well done. Even Grey was one of them, as he walked towards Sebastia with his hand extended out.

"It was a decent fight." Grey said with a bit of blush as he looked away into the distance, but Sebastia, who had forcefully returned Peppers to her lap, returned the handshake. "It was a so-so fight. Could've been better if you cast faster." Sebastia taunted Grey and surprisingly he swallowed it well, took that as advice to improve better. Eventually, the walkway which initially crumbled down into the abyss returned back to normal, and the whole place was empty with the group's laughter until they heard footsteps from afar.

Even though both the minotaurs and werejackals were tired from the previous fight, they would do anything to protect their current master. Claws up, horns to the front and yet... surprisingly it was actually Sandy and the rest of Team Enlightened, alongside the zombies.

Jin realised they all were laughing happily as if they had had a good time fighting together, making the minotaurs and werejackals slightly curious about what had happened. Surely nothing could trump the defeat of something like the titanic knight? Upon closer inspection, Jin discovered that Zeru was holding on to a relatively large colourful snail shell...?

"What are you holding there, Zeru?" Jin asked, a bit confused and Zeru laughed as he placed the shell down from his shoulders.

"It is a long story but...I think this could potentially be the defunct dungeon core and its master." Zeru replied as he inserted his hand into the shell, pulling out a slug which seemingly was entangled with wires. Some of those may even have fused with it.

"Okay! Okay! Don't pull me any more or I will die!!" The slug begged for forgiveness, but Zeru did not play along with him and tore off one of his wires, which caused him to wail in pain.

"I am sorry! I am sorry for creating trouble for you and your friends!" The slug continued to cry and tears of diamonds dropped from his tear ducts. The voice sounded a bit familiar, though Moloch was unable to recall where he heard it exactly.

"What kind of monster is this?" Jin asked and Moloch who took a closer look and realised it was something he saw before.

"Wait...aren't you Duke Wolte? The once rumoured "Destroyer of Worlds"? ...Well, towns actually, the demons loved to spread terribly bad rumours. I thought King Baal ordered your complete and utter annihilation? How did you even managed to be in here?" Moloch looked at the greenish looking slug with mutilated teeth around his rounded lips. The neon green slug demon who heard the word Wolte immediately looked up at the puppet.

"Viscount Moloch? Why...wait what are YOU doing here?! How dare you insult me when you yourself have been reduced to an ugly looking plushie! No that's beside the point! Are you planning to take me down under the orders of King Baal! I will not stand down in this cas-ow ow ow ow!" Zeru threatened to pull more of its wires out of Wolte.

"It looks like this one has a story to tell too." Moloch laughed as Jin felt another wave of Déjà vu coming through him once more.

Chapter 289 Crown of Beyond Depravity

Moloch explained his own situation to Duke Wolte, who listened under the mercy of Zeru. Only afterwards did Wolte relax himself enough to look at Jin with a perplexed expression with his limited slug face muscles.

"So to sum it up: You are now working for that human from another dimension over there?" Wolte slurred as he spoke.

"I know why you would be sceptical, but looking back, I have to admit, that this kind of relationship has been rather mutually beneficial. If anyone stands a chance of defeating King Baal, I think Jin here has more of a fighting chance compared to any other demon or adventurer I have known." Moloch clarified before looking at him.

"What has actually happened to you, Duke Wolte? I don't remember you being a slug at all." Moloch stifled his laugh, and the slug seemed somewhat depressed.

"As you might have guessed, it all started when King Baal became obsessed. But it was not due to his wealth nor his power. It was because of the Crown of Beyond Depravity." Wolte replied, and only Moloch and his minotaurs understood what that was.

Seeing the confused faces of all other people, especially Moloch's new master Jin, Wolte decided to explain a bit on that: "It is an item made from a defunct Dungeon Core mixed with multiple rare high grade metals, which high ranking blacksmiths had to sacrifice their lives for to create that crown. But that crown was mostly harmless, simply increasing his powers without any known side effects. That is until Marquis Kiva, the Ravenous Lord Demon of Hunger presented him an ancient gem he found in the depths of his desolate family tomb. It was meant to be a tribute. A simple show of loyalty as well as a nice finishing touch for the crown." Wolte continued.

"Shortly after he received that gem it changed him. It started consuming King Baal's logic and harness his greed. It increased his possessiveness in regards to material items, land and power. Before I rebelled, some whispered, that King Baal was secretly creating an army of loyal subjects capable of using the massive power he is currently wielding." Wolte looked even more depressed than before. Even though he was to be executed, it seemed the slug was genuinely concerned for his King.

"As a loyal subject, I was naturally worried. But when I voiced my opinion and suggested that the crown should be adequately examined as a precautionary measure King Baal refused adamantly. At the time Marquis Kiva was on site. That cowardly bastard even advised the King to be careful against dissidents. King Baal in return agreed and wanted to issue a royal decree concerning the execution of disloyal people the very next day. Marquis Kiva had even dared to object to this, trying to influence the King into issuing it that very day. Unable to challenge the authority of the King, I challenged Marquis Kiva to a duel. After all that silver glibed oversized chicken was only mighty with his words, so I thought I could crush him with my overwhelming strength. Who would have known he was crafty enough, to turn my words around making it seem as if I were challenging King Baal. I unwillingly fought against King Baal. ... we both know, that he should have stood no chance against me. It should have been impossible since I was his High General. I was also the one who taught him how to fight. But this time was different. The king had granted me the honour to spar with him many times, so I was familiar with his strength and his power was unbelievable. Two? Three? Heck maybe even five times stronger than me at that moment." Wolte grumbled and complained about the past, but the rest just listened to it like a bedtime story.

"So erm...want to join up with us?" Moloch who had nearly fallen asleep from the ramblings, had nearly forgotten about their objective.

"You have not answered my question yet! How exactly did you find me? I have been exiled as a 'last mercy' as he called it. But officially I should be pronounced dead!" Wolte snarled. He had wanted to fight against King Baal in his own way. Wolte found this defunct core by chance when he was running away from the demons that were chasing after him. He did not know, whether the King had changed his mind, or if that damn bird was behind it, but it mattered little. Duke Wolte never realised that this particular dungeon core was partially defunct. When presented with the chance he immediately accepted, turning him into the new master, allowing him to recreate a dungeon fortress of his own.

In return, the core became a part Wolte. Unfortunately it made him into the slug before them. Nevertheless the dungeon core delivered, what it had promised. Through it Wolte was able to raise an army of his own. He used the bodies of the adventurers and monsters, using their essences as power to

function his very own robot slave army. He hoped that one day he would be able to properly rebel against King Baal. If possible he wished to wake him up from the control of Marquis Kiva.

"It may sound dumb, but it was purely coincidental. My maids found this place that supposedly had a defunct core. That is why we came here. Also I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but Kiva is no longer merely a Marquis. That fat raven head had recently been promoted. He is now an Archduke and the personal aide to King Baal himself." Moloch gave Wolte the latest information he had received, before he decided to change sides to Jin.

"That much is no big surprise. Oh well, I mean, you defeated my entire army of robot slaves, hence I am technically under the mercy of you, human." Wolte stared at Jin, who accidentally fell asleep from exhaustion.

"OEI YOU PATHE-Ow ow ow ow ow" Zeru once again pulled the reins to control Wolte when he wanted to insult the human.

"It will be painless and it will guarantee you joining us." Zeru gave him a small warning, before he plunged his wooden sword into Wolte without any hesitation. The defunct core disappeared along with Wolte and the dungeon ruins ceased to exist. The once broken ruins became even more bare, with the ruins chambers changing into an empty underground tunnel made out of rock and soil.

"Do you want me to wake Jin up?" Milk asked Zeru who was after all considered as Jin's master.

"Let's bring him to the dungeon maker. I believe the System has a sleeping capsule that can allow him to sleep all he wants." Zeru suggested, until Kraft came into the picture.

"Or we could let him sleep until morning. I have a very nice room in mind." Kraft smirked, but his suggestion was met with frowns from bellators and monsters except for Zeru.

"Hmm. That could actually be good practice for him." Zeru thought for a while before giving his opinion, knowing Kraft's craftiness.

"Oh? So you approve of the High Intensity Mode by the System?" Kraft was surprised that Zeru cordially agreed to his haphazard plan since he actually meant it as a half-joke.

"Yes, it might be the pushing factor for him to go up another Grade up quickly. It might be painful but if he can finish the dungeon in that mode, he can master his techniques faster. With the Zodiac Rats coming into the picture, its best to push him towards the realm of Grade 10 as soon as possible so he can properly utilise your training of the subconscious." Zeru concluded and Kraft laughed.

"I thought I was evil... but you Zeru. You are the monster here. Never thought being a teacher to someone would make you show so much 'love' for your disciple. Fine I will gladly prepare the 'room'." Kraft commented and bowed as he left abruptly once more.

"What is this high intensity mode you guys were talking about?" Peppers had not heard of it before neither did Milk. Zeru opened a portal courtesy of Yun and allowed the monsters to return to rest first, leaving the two bellators behind.

"The System has a mode that duplicates yourself into two, three and many more. But all in all, they are but a part of you." Zeru said as he opened another portal that brought them back to the terrace house with Jin in Milk's arms while Peppers held on to Bam in Katana form.

"Hahaha, That sounds like one of the techniques like that show currently airing on TV, Maruto." Peppers laughed as she copied the pose Maruto always did when he summoned his clones out.

"You are not wrong nor entirely right. The System duplicates him into multiple copies, allowing him to do tasks separately, but all of those copies are also part of him. If you damage or say, amputate his right hand off, all of his copies will have the sensation of him losing his arms. The more copies he has, the more emotions, pain and pleasure are going to be multiplied." Zeru said which somehow made Milk show a repulsive look.

"Urgh, imagine if he abused it and used it to create a circle of playmates." Milk explained her repulsiveness to Peppers and Zeru.

"I would not be surprised if he did that, after all the System ultimately needs him to reproduce so the Panda Clan can survive. However, I would also be not surprised if he does not." Zeru somehow had a rather high confidence that Jin was not a player. In fact he was more afraid, that Jin would not take any action at all.

"If given the chance and opportunity, you think he would not do it?" Milk rolled her eyes as she grabbed onto the sleeping Jin a little harder as Peppers opened the door to Jin's room.

"Actual proliferation of User not allowed during high intensity mode. Substandard proliferation from copies is also not permitted." System argued, and it made the bellators giggle a little before Milk placed him in his bed after casting a disinfect and clean spell on him. (Milk also gave him a bedtime kiss on the forehead, which later Peppers had to drag her out by the ear because she was giving Jin one too many bedtime kisses.)

Chapter 290 High Intensity Mode

"GAHHH! WHAT TIME IS IT!!!!" Jin, who was slowly waking up from his peaceful sleep, grabbed the phone from his pocket and looked at the time. Only to shockingly realise that it was already 6am. Only half an hour left, before Ku Wai would show up in the shop.

"Oh my god! Why am I still asleep?! Why didn't anyone force me to wake up?! Argggghh! No time! No time at all!!" Jin quickly got up from his bed even though his muscles were telling him to stay in bed for longer. There was nobody to blame but himself for falling into exhaustion.

However, Jin could not break the habit of basic hygiene and cleanliness for the morning, so he did his business in the toilet while brushing his teeth and talking to the System all at the same time. "System mmm how long can you uuuuu force the time dilation in the Dungeon Maker?"

"5 hours and at most 6 hours given your current grade." The System stated and Jin did the mental calculation in his brain of the average amount of time he needed to create the dungeon in time and still think that it was not enough time even if he barely made it for the 8am deadline.

Jin could technically give Yang Ling the Tiger Princess a substandard work since it was free. However, after further consideration, Jin felt that Yang Ling was pinning all her hopes on him to clinch this particular project. To be honest, it was not his problem whether she could win the hearts and minds of those military nutheads, but Yang Ling did help him with the police issue. If she had such power, it would be in his best interest to let her keep or improve her influence, especially when going against the Ruby Rats.

"System, any other way to increase the time dilation? I really need more time!" Jin splashed his face with water to rinse the soap and remnant toothpaste foam away.

"High Intensity Mode." The System spoke through his phone and Jin had no idea what was that at all.

"How much more time can I have with high intensity mode?" Jin did not probe the System further about the high intensity mode since he was running out of time. Thank goodness with the revamp of the Terrace House, he could teleport anytime into his shop.

"The duration depends on the User's ability to stay focused. You can go up to 50 hours. Exceeding 60 hours is highly inadvisable even you were able to hold on. Should the User experience too much of a backlash System may be forced to expel him for safety reasons." System replied, and Jin did not hesitate to accept it as he entered the Dungeon Maker.

"Turn it on!" Jin ordered and without further ado, the System immediately struck a lightning bolt out of nowhere on him. Not once. Not twice. But EIGHT times. Jin gritted his teeth as he handled each lightning bolt with maximum tolerance. The first strike wasn't so bad but the second and subsequent ones were getting so painful he nearly felt like puking and felt that he was slowly losing his mind.

When the lightning bolts stopped, Jin realised that his consciousness was a mess as if he was seeing multiple things at the same time. Only then he saw other copies of himself with Kraft coming forward from the side.

"This is the ability of high intensity mode. Each copy here is also part of you, and yet you can do separate things if you put your head to it." Kraft snapped his finger and Jin suddenly remembered the basic subconscious training that Kraft had induced into him. Jin imagined himself into the subconscious room, that empty black room with two chairs and a hanging lightbulb. With his own original self in his subconscious, he sat down and started to separate his orders on what to do.

The Dungeon Maker helped to facilitate the other eight copies of Jin and created the exact same interfaces which allowed all nine Jins to work simultaneously on the project. The original Jin had no time to give names or whatsoever so he just named his clones, Jin 2, Jin 3 and so on.

"Jin 2, start by creating the basic layout of the dungeon. Jin 3, check the prices of the materials in the Dungeon Maker resources. Jin 4, analyse the stats of the robots, but start with the ones that look as human as possible, I want to use them in the dungeons. Jin 5, check the net for basic obstacle courses, Olympic training regimes, military fitness test and so forth. Jin 6, contact Patsu and Bear Cub One, their task is going to be to keep Ku Wai busy and later reach out to the Three Headed Bear from the Panda

Weapon Store. Jin 7, assist Jin 6 by processing the blueprints from Yang Ling's USB. Jin 8 prepare the production of the prototype that Yang Ling passed to me erm us...ah, whatever. Jin 9 keep track of our dungeon dollars. I want a full report of our costs and earnings, especially how much we can salvage and act accordingly. Same deal as last time, bargain the shit out with the System when it sells them to the black market." Original Jin commanded via the subconscious room. He himself decided to stay in the dungeon maker where he would assist Jin 2 in the creation of the dungeon.

But before that, Original Jin had decided to make matters simpler for his subconscious controlling and things to proceed faster by creating number tags for each Jin. Like soccer players, he placed a sticker tag behind every Jin and made things less complicated for his original subconscious.

As the work started, Original Jin felt his skull numbing away, the separate tasks that he needed to do with nine other Jins were probably utilising near to 100% of his brain power or so he thought.

"You are currently utilising only 34% of your total brain power. Cultivation Grade has an effect on how much User's brain can process as cultivation works similar to magic. With more Chi points opened, brain processing is higher but unfortunately proven that it is lesser than the way of magic." System stated, and Jin heard it as a passing remark since he was too busy adjusting the layout that Jin 2 created.

"System, how much have we received from the entire raid?" Jin 9 asked. Before he got an answer he got interrupted by Kraft holding on to a haversack filled with bags of holding from the interrogation room. Behind him was Itori carrying an even larger knapsack that was full of various weapon and armour sets. The bag of holdings were each stained with different amounts of blood. Yet those were no different from what the System had obtained when the Deep Ones came by to pass all the loot they found from the battlefield. The Goblins also passed the items they robbed from the adventurers to the System.

Nonetheless, it was not an issue since the contents of those bag of holdings were still intact. Kraft also stated that all the equipment would be sent to the Panda General store for cleaning and counting as the System provided a rough list of items brought back to Jin 9. They hauled everything they could steal and salvage before letting most of the adventurers die from their wounds.

Jin 9 could only bitterly laugh at the pitiful situation those humans had to go through. He could imagine those Deep Ones pulling boots, gloves and maybe tearing pieces of armour from those adventurers before killing them. Jin 9 initially thought that the Deep Ones were only going to critically wound the enemies and leave them be while parading themselves under the glory of their Lord Derpy. He was pleasantly surprised that Derpy ordered them to salvage all the equipment on them for him to sell.

"There should be more than enough in here for you to go wild with your creation. I wish you fun, as I have some other things to attend to." Kraft said as he waved goodbye to Jin 9. Just before he completely disappeared his head turned around: "I nearly forgot. Zeru expects you to fully finished creating the dungeon. Try not to get crazy in here ...and don't you go talking to strange voices."