

Dungeon S 311

Chapter 311 Round Two - Part One

Both Pandaz and Roboz took their position for the second round in a similar fashion as the first one with Yue Han, Xing Li and Kong Xian at the front line. However, while their position was somewhat different, the Savants simply stuck to their initial formation.

Kong Xian once again was faced to battle it out with the Lord Knight Savant while Yue Han stood before the Assassin Savant. This time around Xing Li decided to handle the Warlock Savant. When the referee blew his whistle under his motorcycle helmet, something radical happened. Xing Li feigned her movements and actually went to assist Yue Han against the Assassin Savant.

Bu Dong used his cultivation to dash towards Kong Xian the moment the whistle blew, but as Bu Dong was beside Kong Xian, Katerine used her Shamanic powers to do a body swap. Katerine had given Bu Dong a ritual doll in advance, which was used as a catalyst to swap position with the one holding it, allowing her to pair up with Kong Xian. Unfortunately it was a one time use.

As the body swap was successful, Bu Dong now ran towards the Warlock's Otherworld Minion clashing with it the moment the minion managed to grab the ball without any resistance. "Take this, you stupid monster!" Bu Dong shouted as he slammed his sword hard against the abomination, causing it to be knocked back into the energy barrier. The Otherworld Minion looked down on himself to see that it was being burned as well.

Bu Dong realised this would be the best time to inflict more damage. With his opponent being knocked down he hurried towards it. Suddenly, he noticed a bad smell coming from another ritual doll he was carrying at the side of his waist. The doll had shrivelled up. He then looked up towards the Warlock, who had been casting his curses, yet seemingly out of nowhere the Warlock went into flames momentarily, causing it to lose its connection with his Otherworld Minion instantly.

"Hah! A curse for a curse. Way to go, Katerine! Your Shamanic powers might be the thing to turn the tides for this round!" Bu Dong praised Katerine but she was too occupied with the fight against the combined might of the Lord Knight Savant and Archer Savant.

As they had planned to win this round by concentrating on going two-two-one, Katerine had given all of them some support before the start of the match. She had a number of ritual dolls ready in her storage ring and decided to enchant a few of them as a counter curse management seeing that there was a Warlock Savant within the group.

Of course, being just a Grade 2 Fire Shaman, she did not have the capability to counter all of the curses, and could only do so indirectly. Therefore, she asked Yue Han what kind of effects he felt when he was fighting the Warlock and his minion. Via his explanation, Katerine figured the Warlock was using a sort of movement slowing curse to reduce Yue Han's ability to evade. So she created a specific counter curse that blocked the movement slowing curse and burned the one casting it. In this case, the Warlock.

Bu Dong did not hesitate to use his Intermediate Sword Art, Lacerate in the Blazing Edge of the Angry Ape on the Otherworld Minion. His sword burned even brighter and a larger radius of flame was ignited along his sword especially with the initial buff of Burning Weapons from Katerine's magic at the start of the match. "Die, Abomination!" Bu Dong shouted as he cut off all the arms with two slashes before he

followed it up, by stabbing the unresponsive minion causing flames to blow out from the back of the Minion's mouth.

Bu Dong was not done yet, he immediately withdrew his sword from the Minion's body and threw it at the Warlock who had just recovered from the sudden burning. The sword struck his shoulder and surprisingly, it allowed Bu Dong to teleport to that direction, allowing him to slash the Warlock through the chest.

"WOAH! Is that the Advanced Sword Art, Flash Sword?! Bu Dong managed to do it with a Grade 4?!" A customer exclaimed as the crowd cheered loudly.

"No, I think that is his own cultivation technique. There is no way a Grade 4 can learn the Flash Sword, Advanced Sword Art. I remember the Angry Ape Cultivation Style having something similar to a Flash Sword technique but with a shorter distance and with more requirements." Another customer added to the discussion.

"Indeed, the Intermediate Sword Art, Sword Throw of the Angry Ape allows one to teleport to another opponent. However, the requirement for that is to have killed an opponent beforehand. It is meant to keep the 'combo', the tempo of the battle, flowing. If Bu Dong did not manage to kill the opponent beforehand, the Sword throw technique would just be an ordinary sword being thrown at the opponent." Mr Know-It-All explained to them and as usual some of the crowd acknowledged his comment.

"Hahaha! Sounds like some game skill." A customer joked as they continued to anticipate the next move of Bu Dong as he trashed the Warlock.

However, to the high schooler's surprise, the warlock had his own tricks under his sleeve as he held on to him. At that point, Bu Dong suddenly felt his vitality being drained from his body and the hold of the Warlock becoming stronger by the second.

"Shit! This must be some life drain skill?!" Bu Dong realised his predicament too late. He also saw that it did more than just weaken him. The Warlock decided to release him from his grip, but at that point his left arm has already started turning into stone. Having played enough games, Bu Dong knew that it was some sort of petrification skill that could turn him into stone. Hence, he took the most drastic action he ever took in his life.

He cut his left arm away.

The crowd was petrified with horror by the drastic action that Bu Dong took. Some of the female cultivators even held close to their partners upon seeing blood rapidly flowing out of Bu Dong's arm. Even Yun who was tending to the Bar Island was surprised by Bu Dong's action when she caught a glimpse of the auditorium. "That guy sure has guts," Yun said with approval and the crowd did give him sympathy and bravery points in their hearts.

He quickly used his chi to forcefully block the gushing of blood as he rubbed his teary eyes away. Suddenly the blood around him started to rise and turned into a stream of fire which then sprung forward to burn the Warlock once more. He looked back to see that Kong Xian was rushing from behind to prevent the revived Otherworld Abomination from backstabbing Bu Dong.

It seemed that while Bu Dong was busy dealing with his petrification status, the Warlock made use of the time to resummon his minion. It was unclear if it was the same or a 90% similar looking Otherworld Abomination, but no one really cared about that. Seeing their injured friend, both Kong Xian and Katerine decided to disengage with the Lord Knight and Archer Savant duo to save their classmate. With another glimpse, Bu Dong realised Yue Han went ahead to keep the Lord Knight and Archer Savant occupied for a while as Xing Li alone was dealing with the Lancer and Assassin Savants.

The moment Katerine confirmed that the Warlock was in flames, she ad hoc joined Yue Han and provided a decoy flame doll to deal with the Archer Savant as she regained her positioning and energy.

Bu Dong did not hesitate to use his Personal Technique, the Angry Ape Pronounces Its Superiority as he unconsciously dashed to save Xing Li from impending doom from the dual attack of the Assassin and Lancer Savants.

It was at that particular moment that Xing Li released her own technique with her Boomerang which wowed the crowd and the 'hero' rushing to her rescue.

Chapter 312 Round Two - Part Two

"Boomerang Art, Body Swapping Attack of the Henotic Hedgehog!" Xing Li threw out her boomerang. This allowed her to swap places on the fly, causing the Lancer Savant to miss his attack. The weapon continued to fly towards the back of the Assassin Savant providing Xing Li with the perfect opportunity to attack, when she appeared behind him. She grabbed the boomerang mid flight and immediately used it to hopefully take out the assassin.

With the Lancer Savant attacking nothing but air, Bu Dong was able to crash into it. However, the Lancer Savant was quick enough to block partially, so that Bu Dong's attack was only somewhat effective, mostly making the Lancer Savant flinch.

The Assassin Savant got successfully hit... only to transform into a decoy log. Instantly the real one appeared at the back of Xing Li. As she had paid attention to his attacks from the last round, the high schooler was prepared for such a thing to happen and did not hesitate to do a back roundhouse kick with her gymnastic skills while throwing her boomerang upwards. She initiated her Body Swapping Attack, thereby evading the daggers which the Assassin Savant was aiming at her vitals.

The fight between Assassin Savant and Xing Li had gotten so intense to the point that the Magic Eye Camera provided many angles showing off the stylish blocks and evasive maneuvers and counterattacks between the two. Unfortunately, the lack of experience on Xing Li's revealed an opening which the Assassin didn't hesitate take advantage of. A poisoned dagger flew and struck her foot, causing the poison to spread out in Xing Li, slowing her down significantly. Furthermore he followed it up by initiating the 'Culling Strike' skill to bring her down mercilessly, but then a shadow appeared in between them.

Clang~!

Sparks flew crazily when the edge of the Assassin Savant's dagger struck onto steel. Yue Han was able to block the attack with his shadow form before he grabbed Xing Li by the torso. Suddenly the shadow form turned into a gigantic shadow Bat which flew past the Assassin Savant and Lancer Savant who was still battling against Bu Dong aggressively. Coach Hui looked at his stopwatch and noticed that thirty Seconds had passed since the start of the fight against the Assassin. Yue Han's timing was perfect, and allowed him to grab Xing Li to take her away.

He managed to bring her to the edge of the battlefield as he tore open the first button of her shirt. Xing Li could not help but stifle a scream when Yue Han covered her mouth with his left hand while pushing her head to the side.

"I am sorry, you can scold or beat me later for this." Yue Han whispered under his breath as he went ahead to bite her neck. Suddenly, the four bats screeched loudly above Yue Han, indicating that a technique was being used. It was none other than one of the signature skills of the Bat's style, the Blood Drain of the Blind Bat. While the technique had the ability to reduce the health and vitality of his enemies and provide Yue Han with a bonus, there was an alternate use of the Blood Drain of the Blind Bat.

It was to fuse the Blind Bat's cultivator blood with another cultivator. In this case, Yue Han was using it to lighten the poison that Xing Li was afflicted by. However, as he was doing it, Xing Li could not help but blush as her heart beat became extremely fast because of Yue Han's close proximity to her. Not to mention, the accidental physical touch as Yue Han grabbed her tightly to remove the poisoned blood from her body.

The Assassin Savant was unwilling to let them get away without finishing them off. Rushing over towards the defenceless couple he suddenly encountered a new enemy, because Kong Xian had used his taunting skills, courtesy of the Towering Tortoise Style. This changed the mindset of the Assassin Savant who felt compelled to drop everything and kill Kong Xian. "Don't you f.u.c.k.i.n.g dare to go near that couple!" Kong Xian shouted at the Assassin Savant only encouraging the latter to hurry over.

However, the Assassin Savant also noticed that the high schooler was already panting. In actuality the Towering Tortoise was already at a disadvantage against the Otherworld Minion alone. A wicked smile appeared on the Assassin's face as he understood what would happen once he joined in on the fight. It would spell the end of the annoying Tank of Team Pandaz.

Yet before the Assassin Savant could do anything about it, another meddlesome thing happened. Once again the boomerang came flying towards him. The Assassin Savant deflected it with ease into the air but what he did not expect were two bodies suddenly appearing right beside the boomerang.

"RIDER KICKKKKK!!!" Xing Li and Yue Han shouted at the same time to pay tribute to the masked riders they watched together when they were young. The Assassin Savant was caught off guard and not only got bashed by the two cultivators kicking it to the ground he also dropped the energy ball.

Yue Han quickly picked it up and Xing Li threw her boomerang to teleport the both of them to the Pandajilla Guardian to feed him the magical energy ball. However, afterwards a quick glance at the scoreboard made them realise that Katherine's portrait was crossed out. At that point, the Lord Knight proceeded to send their energy ball towards the Titan Knight while the Archer Savant began assisting the Lancer Savant.

"Shit! I totally forget about her!" Yue Han wanted to assist his friends, but the poison, despite only absorbing a small and weakened amount, had started to take effect on him. Fortunately his grade was higher than Xing Li's so the effects were lighter on him. On the other side Xing Li nearly fell to the ground though Yue Han managed to grab her in time.

Internally, she felt conflicted. She was happy that Yue Han was right beside her but also angry that he was so selfish to save her and abandon the team. But ultimately, all she wanted to do was stay in the moment and continue to lie in his embrace. "Stupid. Why did you have to save me? Now the whole team will blame you." Xing Li whispered as she began to sweat from the poison.

"Well, at least we finally fulfilled our promise and we have done the Rider Kick in a dungeon. Heh." Yue Han rubbed his nose as if he accomplished something great.

And to him it was.

It was a dumb middle school promise. The two of them had casually declared to be the Hero and Heroine of the town they were protecting. The 8th grade syndrome. A condition where people believe they have superpowers when they were in the Manga school club together. However whereas Yue Han continued to remember that flimsy promise, Xing Li had moved on with her life and even started looking down at Yue Han for being so childish.

Only in High school where Yue Han met up with Bu Dong did he continue to increase his cultivation and managed to become the superhero that Xing Li once envied. Slowly but surely, she fell in love with him even though he was still clumsy and oftentimes a coward. Yet today, she saw a new side of Yue Han being so heroic. Something which she never thought possible in the past.

In the meantime, Bu Dong had no choice but to try and go over his limits in order to keep the Lancer Savant on the defensive, hoping to clear the Lancer Savant before the Archer Savant severely assaulted him with a bombardment of arrows. He was too busy to pay attention to the time they spent fighting, when suddenly felt tentacles which were grabbing his legs. Only then did he notice that Kong Xian had already fallen in battle.

"Ah oh well, at least those two reconciled their feelings in some way or another..." Bu Dong sighed but smiled at the end... as the Lancer pierced his body and the Archer placed an arrow right between his eyebrows. The crowd saw the brutal annihilation and realised that this particular dungeon instance was not easy... not a single bit.

Not just that, The Titan Knight finished absorbing the remaining energy ball from the members of Team Roboz and summoned his gigantic sword. He proceeded to cleanly cleave the Pandajilla who was still charging his energy blast into two. The dungeon instance was over despite Yue Han and Xing Li still surviving.

As they got back to the auditorium, some of the crowd thanked the group for the exciting exchange of blows despite their loss. However, the dungeon instance was not a waste as Mr Patsu, the penguin announcer stated that each ball they gave Pandajilla allowed them to earn five bronze medal each as a consolation prize for playing.

"Ahhh...what a waste, I thought we could manage a tie from that and try to win the last round. Sorry, I was not strong enough. But I gotta admit, this was a gratifying experience. It's a shame we don't have such a brilliant Dungeon Supplier..." Katerine sighed at the group and the entire group shook their head.

"Nah, it happens. Don't worry-ow ow ow ow" Yue Han was trying to console Katerine but got grabbed by Kong Xian and Bu Dong punched Yue Han continuously. "Yea, yea, don't worry my ass! It's my money you dumbass! I treated you guys so you could play your best and win!" Bu Dong kept punching Yue Han relentlessly and was not letting up. Xing Li smiled at the guys' playfulness but told Bu Dong to stop after a while. Yue Han thought Xing Li was there to rescue him.

Oh, how wrong he was...

"I think he needs more endurance training. Besides, I remember a certain someone telling me, that I could beat him up for biting me on the neck without my permission." Xing Li kicked him in the torso with all her might as they could see the two hedgehogs coming out.

"What is with- Ooofff!" Yue Han did not know whether Xing Li really liked him or was just toying with him. The others laughed as they unleashed the punishment to Yue Han for breaking the planned formation. (Although in the end, Bu Dong did give him a potion from the Panda General Store to recover.)

Chapter 313 Oath Swearing

Frustrated, Jin came out of the dungeon maker room after trying to design the remote portal based on what he had seen and what he knew. Turns out, it was not as easy as making the Gearbox device mainly because the blueprints and information had already been provided to Jin and the System. Through analysing the product, the System could simply replace inefficient circuit routes and increase the output.

Unfortunately Invention was another thing altogether. Theoretically, Jin could use the System's portal ability and call it the prototype to impress Ke Loong. However such a method would pose a drastic problem when it was time to mass produce it. Sure, Jin could say that because of the patent, he could solely produce the item and not let others touching it all.

Even if Jin tried his utmost to try and hide the inner workings of the portal, he was aware, that there was no way to stop some pesky busybodies, who wished to try and copy the prototype design by reverse engineering it. (Because as an engineering student, he did that plenty of times with products that he liked. Tinkering such items was the only way to curb his curiosity.)

Jin could place anti tampering steps into the Remote Portal Device, but should only be a matter of time until people would start to get suspicious of Jin's anti tampering methods. As long as nobody was able to break through such an iron defense, eventually they would believe he was using some sort of magic unknown to the world. Yet even worse... if someone really does manage to break through the anti tampering methods he or she would gain access to the System's knowledge about portal making. Ultimately, this was without a doubt a double edged sword situation and repercussions were dire if not handled properly.

"This time around, I think I may have shot myself in the foot..." Jin scratched his head as he went out to get a bit of fresh air. Surprisingly at this late hour, when it was already to close his shop, he saw Yun sitting there, together with Hou Fei.

"Ah Young Master, you are finally free. I was starting to worry that I had to wait the whole night." Hou Fei addressed him as he sipped his cup of Black Ivory Coffee. "Good thing Yun was so nice to keep this old man company. I've heard the basics from Yun about your adventures so far as well as your goal and the System's. Indeed, your actions are quite admirable... To become a dungeon supplier is a good way to achieve it, and also provides a very good cover to gain comrades on the sly."

"...How would he react, if he knew that it had nothing to do with the revival of the Panda Clan?" Jin thought to himself, but he just smiled at Hou Fei. There was no reason to correct him, he only hoped Yun left out the part about his relationship with the System. "So, what brings you here? It must be pretty urgent, if someone of your standing would even be willing to wait the whole night for me?" Jin asked Hou Fei with sheer curiosity.

"Of course, in fact it is very important. I am here to renew my Oath to the Young Master. The last Oath I took was with Ming. If you recall, he was my commander when I was merely a recruit in the army. I had no idea I was even a Panda Remnant, until a few years later." Hou Fei told him while they walked towards the the Restaurant Train of Delicacy for a late meal. It just so happened that Lynn was assisting the penguins to clean the train interior a little, although her peggies demanded her to have a rest.

"Lynn, this is Hou Fei. Remember what I told you about the Panda Clan? Turns out he's one of the remnants. I was hoping to have a chat with him here since there is some food...plus I am famished." Jin rubbed his stomach only to produce sounds which were indicative of hunger.

"Hahaha, What do you two wish to eat? I can prepare it for you guys!" Lynn asked with a gentle smile.

"Lynn, we will simply take the leftovers. Honestly you can go back home and rest. You have worked really hard for the past few days ever since this restaurant instance was opened." Jin said with a bit of concern in his voice, but Lynn refused as she lifted her arms and flexed it a little.

"After I got the Penguin cultivation, I never feel as tired as before. For some reason, my work in the kitchen seems to even boost my cultivation, too. Haha!" Lynn giggled as three penguins silhouettes were shown right above her head dancing around happily.

"Wow, in less than a few days you jumped grade?" Jin exclaimed and even Hou Fei was impressed by Lynn's dedication after hearing Jin's explanation. "If that is the case, I shall not be humble and get the most expensive dish on the menu." Hou Fei said as a show of support for Lynn's hard work.

"I will get erm...the curry rice." Jin just wanted some hot quick food. However, Jin was in for a pleasant surprise, as he had been unaware that Lynn even modified the Tonkatsu curry rice which enriched the flavour of the curry. Lynn noted down their orders and told them to give her a bit of time to prepare the dishes. In the meantime, they decided to talk some more.

"For your oath thing, is there a ceremony or just reciting?" Jin asked since he did not know how the Remnants worked. Not too long ago, he was oblivious to "Panda Clan", "Remnants", "Sub-System" and things of that nature.

"Yea, just reciting the oath will be fine. Back then Ming asked me to do it during the mission. I was super shocked when I got in contact with the System for the first time. The pain was excruciating and worse still because we were in a mission, I had to tolerate it with the utmost silence. I would love to tell you that I valiantly endured it, but as a rookie you can probably imagine, that instead I screamed. This led to the enemies finding us but we managed to annihilate them." Despite Hou Fei being rather old, him talking about the memories of the past made him smile like a young kid again.

"Oh, then erm feel free to just recite it then. Or do you need me to ask for your allegiance first? Maybe some clarification of what I need you to do?" Jin asked to which Hou Fei shook his head yet again.

"After what I heard from Yun and the limited interaction I had with your customers while waiting, you are likeable enough. Plus I have seen what you did in the assassination attempt against Yang Ling's dad. Your power considering your age and your time with the System is remarkable." Hou Fei picked up his hand and the insignia Jin saw previously appeared and glowed.

What Hou Fei recited was rather long and to a point, quite cryptic too. Jin managed to decipher the first part since he understood how the Pandas swore to secrecy back then while preparing to fight against the Banned Emperor and his retainers. When the oath was done Jin suddenly felt his hand burn and looking down, he found the same particular insignia now glowing on him.

It was a Panda Head which at the same time looked like a black and white magical ritual circle. Yun informed Jin in his head that only when someone swore allegiance to his lord, would the insignia emerge again.

"So does that mean, Lynn does not count? Even though she was granted a Sub-System?" Jin asked Yun in his thoughts. Yun clarified that Lynn was not part of the Panda Clan at the moment, but rather more of a collaborator. Jin had to officiate her into the clan through a proper ceremony unlike Hou Fei who was merely renewing his oath. After all since he was a Panda Remnant, he was already part of the clan.

"So do you need me to tell you more about me and what I do? If not, what are your current plans and how should I fit into them? Oh? The food is here!" Hou Fei smiled as he suddenly whiffed a salty fragrance in the air which nearly made him start to drool.

"For now, I'd love to have more information about the Banned Emperor since you guys have custody of him. I plan to get myself to a higher grade so that I can protect myself. I can't always be so lucky, to have my friends around protecting me. Short term goal wise, I guess it's to get this store up and running, maybe make it more famous so I have more money to plan for bigger things and have a better cover. They always say 'Famous people get away with stuff', right?" Jin listed his plans, as he munched on his curry rice and Hou Fei nodded.

"Indeed, famous people always get away with stuff. After all the victor gets to change history." Hou Fei added before he slurped his noodles.

"But yeah, I would also like to know about your abilities and what you do in detail. Perhaps I can achieve more with your help." Jin tried to keep it short in order to enjoy Lynn's food Lynn. The flavour was indeed enriched. He even felt some chi circulating in his body, even though he was not cultivating it.

"Yes. Let me get to that- *slurps* After I- *Slurps* Mmmmm Finish this bowl of noodles." Hou Fei face showed immense delight while chewing on his food.

Chapter 314 Future Goals

"Actually, on second thought, I'd like to observe some more of what Young Master can do before I reveal anything to you." Hou Fei wiped his mouth after the sumptuous meal. Perhaps it was the hunger that was talking previously and now that he was filled with a full stomach, he was able to think more rationally.

"Huh. I knew it was not going to be that easy. Oh well, in stories, both old and new ones, the elders would also want to see and test the protagonist to see if he was worthy." Jin shrugged as he chewed the last bit of his Tonkatsu curry rice.

"Hahaha, you think you are a protagonist of a story?" Hou Fei placed his arms on the back of the chair as he laid back.

"Nah, I doubt it. I might have a System which might make me seem like a protagonist, but in actual fact, I am just a tiny little person with slightly more powers than the average crowd. There are other worlds out there where there are heroes a hundred times stronger than me. I can consider myself lucky, that we live in a modern world, otherwise I'd probably explore the world, only for enemies to always appear, who just so happen to be right at my power level. But this is reality, if I had encountered that Assassin anywhere but in my dungeon, I'd most likely be dead." Jin sniggered, before he got serious towards the end.

"Hmm hmm. It's good to see that Young Master is somewhat humble as he acknowledges the power he wields." Hou Fei wanted to smoke a cigarette, but subsequently remembered he was in the presence of Jin. "Is it okay if I..erm?" Hou Fei asked but Jin shook his head.

"I'd rather you not. Sorry and thank you." Jin wanted to be still respectful to his senior even though Hou Fei called him the young master. Hou Fei did acknowledge his young master's wish, put the cigarette back into the box and continued to talk.

"While I continue to observe you, do not hesitate to call me if you need any help. And by the way, I was serious about you conducting the exercises for the military. This will give me a perfect excuse to give you access to records for military equipment, maybe I can even manage to reveal some of our experimental stuff. I believe the System and you might find this very useful in the long run." Hou Fei said as he asked the penguin waiter for a cup of coffee to temporarily curb his addiction for tobacco.

"I see, if I run some military exercises, I'll get money and access to military equipment which might be vital for fighting against King Baal in the dungeon world," Jin pondered, but Hou Fei who overheard his mumbling wondered what the hell he was talking about.

"King Baal? Wait...a minute. Yun and you are serious about other worlds existing?" Hou Fei furrowed his eyebrows and became serious as he leaned forward to look at Jin.

"Oh oops...should I not have said it?" Jin asked the System.

"Negative. It is better for him to know about your plans. Transparency with your clan members is vital for communication." The System replied, and Jin rolled his eyes as if he could not believe what the System said after what it did to him. After which he sighed.

He had to admit that in retrospect, it was partially his fault for not taking the initiative, too.

Then he turned to Hou Fei and Jin explained to in detail how he got the Dungeon City Fortress. And the more Hou Fei learned about it, the more he was thoroughly amazed by Jin's actions. It would appear, that Yun had deliberately left out some parts when she had informed him prior.

"You know, you seriously don't need to compete with the twelve zodiacs. I mean if you can own a city in that foreign world, is there even still the need for that? From the looks of it, if you can bring our modern technology into that city, you might very well become the most profitable and famous person in that world if done correctly." Hou Fei voiced his thoughts as the were going wild with all the possibilities.

"In that case, all the more reason for your dungeon shop to allow the military exercise. With the favourable debt of the Zodiac Tigers under your belt, you can never know what kind of resources you can get. Play the cards right and you might have people and resources on your side!" Hou Fei was extremely excited about how this would go.

"I have done plenty of military administration and organisation. I do not mind chipping in as an advisor. Who knows? Maybe I can get the title of Defence Minister." Hou Fei laughed for a while before he continued. "It's a jest... although part of me was serious about it."

"That might actually be a good idea. If Qiu Yue can look after the civilian building aspect of the city, you could take care of the military organisation and defences and Moloch can deal with the politics. Oh yea there's Wolte too...Honestly, I am not too sure what to think of him. Hmm. What do you think about this, System?" Jin folded his arms and started to think of the possibility.

"Does User not intend to take revenge against the Banned Emperor, who killed your parents? Does User not wish to follow the mission of his ancestors, to revive the Panda Clan in China and claim its rightful place? What about being the Number One Dungeon Supplier in this World? The Dungeon City Fortress was meant to be a backup as we do not know how strong that King Baal is in reality. User might not be well equipped to fight the Supreme Being in another world. What if he is untouchable and manages to raze all the work User did? Will it all be for nought?" The System questioned.

"Erm to the Banned Emperor question, No. Too troublesome. I just got Kraft to get information out of him because I think he likes this kind of stuff. Also can't hurt to see if we can find anything useful to protect ourselves or buy a favor or two if the information would be good enough. In any case, might as well make him be happy once in a while." Jin answered and suddenly he felt a chill down his spine, but it was not as cold as the usual ones.

"Revival of Panda Clan question. Also a no. No matter how I thought about it, I find it too crazy. You basically wish for the upheaval of the twelve zodiac clans. It might have worked in your time, or some centuries before this time, but currently they are too deeply rooted in the society. Not to mention how hard it would be, even if I somehow manage to do it, this would basically put me above all others powerwise in China and unless I eradicate everyone against us, the survivors would try to take me down. I do not wish for that kind of future, too troublesome."

"Number One Dungeon Supplier? Why affect only this world? If the Remote Portal can really work. I am not aiming for just this world. I am aiming to incorporate the other worlds in other universes too. Of course, there are kinks that need to be ironed out. For example if we are introducing it to other worlds that do not have resurrection in place like ours or the Dungeon World. However using our city as a base for resupplies and the town itself will be a fantastic way to provide a whole new experience to our customers."

"And for your last question...I do not have confidence but I wish to try. If we really can defeat King Baal, it might bring even more glory and trade to our city. Not to mention, we have monsters from other worlds. With their powers combined, I do not believe we cannot do it. Besides, Moloch did say that I am a supreme summoner h-hahaha." Jin proudly answered. The System quietly listened and analysed it for quite some time.

"I guess you are thoroughly beaten by Jin for the first time System," Kraft commented as he appeared in front of Hou Fei which shocked the latter.

"Sir Kraft?! ...You are alive?!" Hou Fei sounded very surprised, his lips trembling with trepidation, but Kraft ignored him for a moment as he was waiting for the System's reply.

"Indeed, User provided feedback which the System did not consider due to its adamant attitude towards its past goal of having revenge against the Zodiacs. System did not realise that the original goal of reviving the Panda Clan' glory was well assimilated into the revenge goal, that it long became the primary objective of the System. System will need to spend more time to reevaluate its priorities. However, the long term mission still stands. The Ruby Rat Triad poses a threat to Jin's business in the long run. It will be best to eliminate this particular pest problem." The System replied which Jin acknowledged.

"I could never forgive how they tried to manipulate Lynn. For the safety of my colleagues. Yes, that will not change." Jin nodded his head, yet he also started to be disturbed by Hou Fei's 180 degree change in behaviour towards Kraft.

"Kraft, did you scare him when the assassin struck in the morning?" Jin asked as he could not remember Kraft staying too long aside from his foxes stopping the ritual.

"Nope didn't do anything to him this morning. However I did tell you how Ming and I kind of bullied a Royal Zodiac Snake fellow, didn't I?" Kraft pointed at him with his thumb and smiled a bit too innocently.

Chapter 315 Heavenly Five Elements Tribulation

Jin stared at Kraft for a moment to see if he was joking about it, but there were no signs of him letting it off as just another one of his pranks or illusions.

"Well, don't get me wrong, he will be loyal to you. His oath guarantees it. There is no way that he will break that oath unless he wants to suffer the Heavenly Five Elements Tribulation." Kraft said as he backed up Hou Fei's credibility to Jin.

"What? Heavenly Five Elements Tribulation? That thing is also real? ... well, that should probably not surprise me anymore." Jin scoffed at it when he was younger, thinking it was just some made up stuff in the past to promote honour and loyalty in the folklore. When someone betrayed their clan, the person breaking the oath would immediately be subjected to the Heavenly Five Elements Tribulation on the spot judged by the Heavens themselves.

If their 'betrayal' was just, all they had to do was to bear with the pain of Earthly veins seeping into their body, Fire burning their lungs, Water filling their stomach, Lightning electrocuting their brains and Metal rotting their skin. If the person could bear with the pain, which the majority obviously was unable to, they would not be chased after by their clan members because they had passed the trials by the Heavens.

Should other clan members still feel dissatisfied and decide to attack the member who betrayed the clan, they'd have to undergo the same tribulation trial by the heavens in order to be allowed to chase after them. If one thought carefully, this was an apparent loophole to be exploited, but that was how the law of nature was made by the forefathers of cultivations. Some even believed that the forefathers placed such a loophole on purpose, so unusual cases like people seeking justice could still be reprimanded by it. However, the tribulation itself was sufficient to cause enough deterrent against most people from switching their clans like changing sweaters.

"Sorry, I still don't get it. If what Kraft said is true and you are Royal Zodiac Snake...then how can you be a Panda Clan Remnant?" Jin was slightly confused. Maybe the fatigue and a full stomach was setting in so that he could not think well enough.

"The clan had been decimated and scattered all around the place. I am honestly not surprised if the Remnants mixed in with other clans to increase their numbers. After all, there was no way to differentiate someone as a Panda, unless they were one of the prominent direct descendants and you can guess that nobody would admit to being from a family which was to be executed. Even I gotta admit it must have been painful to hide right under the noses of our enemies, and executioners. Hoping one day the clan will rise up again." Kraft was the one to provide the answer and Hou Fei nodded his head.

"I could technically be counted as being one of the direct descendants of the Snakes. At least my mother was one of the children of the Snake Lord at the time. However she was the 6th daughter, therefore her value to the family was not too big. When my father got engaged with her she got assigned some attendants to create another sub family. That was how I was born. All this while, I thought that I was a true Royal Zodiac Snake member until Ming and Kraft."

"Let's not use such a flowery language. I was frustrated, that I got caged in, and got a perfect chance to let some steam off. At the same time, I found out the secret, which even he was unaware of. Ming became like the mediator once he found out his true lineage leading to the Panda Clan. Hahaha!" Kraft laughed heartily as he interrupted Hou Fei's explanation and remembered the days he tortured Hou Fei.

"Sigh, if not for Kraft's...deliberate bullying, I may not have found out about my proper lineage and that I partially came from the Pandas and not just the Snakes." Hou Fei replied with a bitter smile.

"Then why do you still choose to be part of the Panda Clan? As compared to a member of the Royal Zodiac Snakes? I mean, you even if you are 'only' considered part of the sub families. That is more or less the best position to be... Ooooh. No wonder you wanted me to go for the peaceful solution." Jin was

really curious about Hou Fei's decision to be a Panda Clan Remnant until he seemingly figured out Hou Fei's goal since the beginning of the conversation.

"Yea. Me being part of the Royal Zodiac Snake Clan was one of the reasons why I proposed you grow in the Dungeon City Fortress instead. But don't get me wrong, it wasn't the main reason at all. Sure, I am not exactly abandoning my identity of being a Royal Zodiac Snake yet my lineage allows me to serve two clans at once. However, with my standing, I am not allowed to hold any true position of power for the Snakes. The rest of my Royal Zodiac Snake Clan family obviously does not know about my half lineage. Even my wife has no clue about it. However, fortunately, the clan has no rule which makes its members admit to their allegiance unless they have been granted an official seat of power of course." Hou Fei explained.

"That is why I can still do whatever I like until now and they assume I am doing it all for the sake of the Royal Zodiac Snake." Hou Fei felt a little proud saying it out loud.

"Wait...so you want to be part of the Panda Clan Remnant... because you can be a double agent?" Jin sounded confused with Hou Fei's rationale.

"That is the wish, if not the unsaid goal of every Royal Zodiac Snake Clan member. We learn the art of deception and assassination since we are young, yet most of us do not get a chance to practice it truly in real life. Many still use it for office politics to backstab some people and rise through the ranks. But that could only be considered as child's play." Hou Fei laughed as he said that.

"Well, I suppose some people might really be double agents for our country overseas, though generally sub families do not get such privileges. Besides, they all think that my father was just some minor cultivator that was adamant about practicing a Panda cultivation. No one seemed to suspect that the cultivation he practised was the long lost one and that included me." Hou Fei added, but he could see Kraft's eyes gleaming at him with excitement as if he was ready to pounce to claim the credit for allowing him to see the 'light'.

"Okay, I guess I can trust you for now." Jin told him, though he felt that there was a more significant underlying reason why he decided to side with the Panda Clan as a Remnant until Kraft pricked his bubble of curiosity.

"His father was domestically abused by the Royal Zodiac Snake Clan. His childhood memories showed that he himself was also bullied. However, most of that was the usual stuff between the younger generation. His treatment overall had been better since his mother was of pure blood. Nevertheless from what I learned Hou Feng could never forgive them for ultimately treating him as a toy to play with. From what Ming told me after Hou Fei found out that he was part of the lost Royal Panda Clan he started to have doubts that maybe the Snakes had suspected his father's true lineage after all this time. Unless he succeeded even today, he should be trying to collect evidence and proof to avenge the injustice towards his father. But judging from how he is now with the lack of activity in the Panda Clan since Ming was excommunicated PLUS the time reversal... I am not entirely sure how he is coping with the whole situation." Kraft explained in Jin's head.

"Don't you always intervene and casually look into other people's heads? Why not do it for Hou Fei? Isn't that your expertise?" Jin asked quietly as he made small talk with Hou Fei at the side.

"Have you forgotten what the Snakes excel at? My preferred working methods are not exactly used on the sly. No matter what, he is ultimately a Royal Zodiac Snake Clan member. If I ever try to casually break into him, he would definitely know about it and that would only serve to create mistrust between you and him. Why lose a potential ally right at the beginning? There is currently no reason to do so at the moment. Besides it's way more fun to see if he ever betrays you or serves you with utmost loyalty just as how he did for Ming." Kraft stated while giving Jin a look as if that much should have been obvious.

"I see, then I shall take your words into consideration and put my trust into him." Jin pondered for a moment even though he was not showing it which earned him some rather rare praise from Kraft himself.

"You are improving at the use of separating the thoughts of your subconscious and the actions of your consciousness. Keep it up. The Astral Phantom might be within reach of a year if you continue to do this." Kraft patted Jin's back as he disappeared once again.

"Oh my god. How did Kraft survive from the encounter with Ming?" Hou Fei released a breath of relief.

"You knew about what happened that caused the System to create the time reversal?" Jin asked with anticipation.

"The System did not tell you about it? Ming when he was alive never said anything to you?" Hou Fei asked with some disbelief. Jin shook his head casually and pretended not to care too much, but his heart desired for that information.

"Then...I will not tell you, too. Perhaps, it's not the time for you to know. Besides, it is not as important as the future." Hou Fei discussed a few more things with Jin before they both returned to their respective homes to prepare for the next day.

Chapter 316: Completing The Checklist

Throughout the next few days Jin met up with Ke Loong for several meetings and was accompanied by Xiong Da. It was to discuss the finer details in regards to the Remote Portal Device deal. There were many red tapes as Jin had expected but Xiong Da cleared them for him with ease and in advance too. Most of the paperwork were handled by Xiong Da and his new assistant and girlfriend, Ruo Ying.

Obviously, Ke Loong knew of Xiong Da and his reputation and cursed at Mr Know-It-All for bluffing him to go in the deal blindly. He was basically ripped off by his friend and this duo in front of him, but ultimately he reluctantly agreed to all conditions even when his personnel advised their CEO against it. However, it was because of the presence of Mr Know-It-All in the last and final meeting, Ke Loong accepted the Remote Portal Device deal.

"You will not regret it. Trust me, Bro." Mr Know-It-All patted Ke Loong's back as he could clearly see that his old friend was basically holding back his tears. "If I lose out in the deal, you better repay me all the money you owe me since school days!" Ke Loong snapped at Mr Know for a while before returning to the company with his personnel.

Hence with both Mr Know It All and Xiong Da's help, Jin managed to clinch a good deal and that even included the desperately needed data of the remote portal Jin wished to create. With the data, the System could now work its magic to analyse it and attempt- no, manage to produce a Remote Device Portal that had little to do with the System's own special powers.

On the other hand, the Shaolin Football Instance proved to be a hit after Bu Dong's debut against the Roboz. Many tried their own luck, wishing to be the first to defeat Team Roboz but till now no one was able to. There were a few instances, when teams managed to tie the Savants and advance on to Round 3, but it was as if there was a difficulty notch that was automatically turned to make sure that the teams lost at the very last minute.

Some of the dungeon goers began to suspect that foul play was being performed and it was impossible to defeat it. Many began to dub it as the gold standard of dungeons in Jin's dungeon instances based on the number of goals being thrown into the Pandajilla.

However, only Mr Know-It-All seemed to be able to recognise the effects of the Shaolin Football Instance. Even though the people lost to that particular dungeon, Mr Know noticed that the cultivators who tried the Shaolin Football dungeon instance had a higher survival rate in other previous dungeon instances because they were more alert and aware of their surroundings.

"Overall teamwork has been raised at least by five percent. No wonder, Jin called it the Shaolin Football Instance, it was like a paid session at the Shaolin Temple. Be defeated and learn your mistakes from it. Hahaha, if only Jin had tutorials for cultivation again like how he had Miss Milk and Miss Peppers." Mr Know-It-All mumbled casually to himself while noting something down, so focused with his work, that he did not notice Jin coming up beside him.

"Well, how about you do it? You have been in my shop for the longest time ever. The customers trust your expertise, thanks to your comments in the auditoriums as well as your top voted dungeon guides." Jin was wiping his sweat as he was wearing just a singlet from the Halloween Pandracula costume. It was a good thing that he could finally take it off within the next few days.

"Hahaha, that is a fascinating proposal. I can no doubt pass you the data of the cultivators that I took note of, but I have a feeling that you might have more detailed data than me." Mr Know smirked as he said that.

"Why would you say that? I am just the owner of this shop." Jin was trying to keep his poker face, but judging by the others reaction, he was doing a poor job of it.

"You surely jest. I have seen Team Roboz defeating people almost immediately when they tried to use the same tactics again. It was not that obvious for the other instances, but in the Shaolin Football Instance, it was as if you are training your customers to think more." Mr Know shared his assumptions as he placed his notebook down for a moment. "People are saying that you purposely priced it low, so that they can learn. And I would tend to agree, especially when you count the number of medals you can win if you compare it with a proper story theme instance. What exactly is your objective?"

"To prepare them for something larger. Something grander. Something more exciting." Jin tried to hide the details. Mr Know did not bother to ask too much since he preferred to be surprised by this dungeon supplier in front of him. And so far Jin had yet to disappoint.

"I shall look forward to it then. I will think about your offer and will let you know, after I've decided." Mr Know told him before he went back to watch the cinematic right in front of him. Jin thanked him and did not bother him anymore.

"Hmm, me being a teacher, again? Will I be still qualified to be that?" Mr Know whispered to himself as he thought of the past before taking a sip his favorite tea and concentrating on the screen and his notes.

As Jin gave the Pandracula suit over to one of the Red Pandas to clean it, he was also thinking of the meeting that Grandma Yuan talked about. He did receive an official reminder earlier in the day from Sheng Si Fang, the owner of Lele Café and the committee leader of the Tiangong Shopping District.

"If even Si Fang does not know what Grandma Yuan expects of me, then how should I oblige her wishes..." Jin scratched his head a bit as he looked up on the tasks to do on his phone. For the past few days, he had been busy settling a few affairs.

First things first was the Sanctum of Worlds, the home instance for his various monsters. Similar to Mr Derpy and his Deep Ones before they got their deep sea alike home instance, Wolte and the other Savants stayed at the guest rooms waiting for Jin to act. To his surprise, Wolte just asked him for a peaceful house and nothing too fancy. In turn, and more as a jest, he created a standard 1950s western suburban neighbourhood for Wolte and the Savants on the fly.

Shocking him even more was the fact, that they immediately fell in love with the simplicity and tranquillity of the neighbourhood. Even the Savants who were loyal to his every action when asked for their opinions, they immediately had requested getting one of the houses to call their own. Jin subsequently noticed that they seemed to have their own quirks and even some semblance of personalities within each of them. As if they were humans in a robot suit then it suddenly struck him.

"Wait...if Kraft can put Pei into a fox bullet, can he...those Savants?" Jin shuddered at the thought, but he was not afraid to ask Kraft since he had to be clear where they originated from. Continuing the list of surprises, Kraft did not even try to deny Jin's assumptions.

However before Jin could even start to get angry, Kraft only asked him:

"What exactly are you unhappy about? Those Savants do possess a lot of the memories of those adventurer who were captured by me and the Derpies. However those adventurers, apart from suffering from mild amnesia for a couple of days, they have not been killed, and not only will they forget what I did to them, they will even have false memories implanted in them. This in turn will make them fabricate a fake story, so that your identity in the Dungeon World will be safe. All of them have been teleported outside. Also can you argue about the Savants efficiency, seeing how they dealt with the assassin? The way I see it, I not only honored your wishes, I also increased your strength directly by providing you with a loyal troop of your own, and I even indirectly increased your assets by getting one of my foxes as a nice bonus." The old crafty fox give Jin a giant smile.

After standing there with an open mouth for a couple of seconds, Jin thought about his bellators words, before he sighed out loud: "I cannot believe that you were able to find a loophole in those orders." Jin shook his head and Kraft could only shrug his shoulders.

"Well, that is how a counter intelligence agent should work. I mean I could have erased their personalities as well, but you do not seem to be someone, who would want something like that to

happen." Kraft smiled gently and walked away. However, the reasoning from Kraft made Jin feel at ease and Jin acceded the Savant's requests.

The next thing Jin did was perfecting the Deep One dungeon instance. He had been delaying this dungeon for a long time and Mr Derpy was complaining why Lord Wolte was able to get an instance before him. Jin explained that it was mainly because of one thing.

Budget.

"If you need more treasure, release us into some world. We terrorise it and get the loot for you. What is so difficult about that?" Mr Derpy was still angry at Jin giving Lord Wolte preferential treatment.

"Oh Derpy, you do not understand this. I need my customers to be stronger so that your Deep Ones can rip them apart with more joy. If they are all weak and useless, is that even worthy of praise? Besides, would the mighty Deep Ones lower themselves to do something like suppress their strength and be defeated by some peasants? I want them to be free and wild. To fight to their death with satisfaction." Jin tried to talk to Mr Derpy in his 'language of chaos and violence'.

"Hmph. You better make sure the dungeon instance is worthy of our presence. Or else, I will make sure you suffer the wrath of Lor- Wait, Master where are you going? I am not done talkin-!" Jin closed the instance door in front of Mr Derpy as he entered the Jack's Mansion, where the werejackals were living.

"Time to check on my living armour plants," Jin rubbed his hand in anticipation, as he ticked another task off the to-do list.

Chapter 317: Living Armour Plants

Jin entered the Jacks' mansion and he could see the results of their daily cultivation of the land. (What pun. :<) Gold happened to be at the side of the field sitting down and taking a break when he saw Jin entering their instance. He stood up and waved at Jin to welcome him to their home instance.

"Wow, these crops have grown quite a lot since I last saw them." Jin noticed that potatoes, cabbage and even wheat were growing in the home instance. If he had not come here regularly, it might have been more of a shock to Jin.

"Hahaha, it's all thanks to Shu. That damned old treant kept uprooting the soil and scolding us for not placing the fertiliser correctly. Sometimes, he'd even whip us for overlooking to water a single plant. Let's not even start about us having to work the whole time. We are like, you cannot blame us for missing one day since this home instance does not have any rain at all." Jin was impressed by Gold's smooth way of complaining. As he got the drift of what Gold wanted from him, he promised to ask the System to help them out.

"That's why I like you, Master." Gold laughed heartily as he patted Jin's back hard.

"Despite their complaining, they never ever thanked me for putting them into shape." Shu who was at the back of the field shouted at Jin. Ke Mi, the Zither Mistress, giggled at the side of Shu as she

continued to play the music for the Jacks who were hard at work and the plants to grow. The Great White Snake lay lazily at her side and enjoyed the music.

"WHAT TRAINING?!?! You call shooting your leaves at us, that could easily cut us into two, while we are ploughing the field TRAINING?! It's more like torture. You damn---" Yellow who stood up was barely visible from the height of the wheat plants retorted loudly. At that point, Shu already shot a leaf upward and down towards Yellow without destroying the crops. Getting used to this treatment Yellow had to dodge with care as not to spoil the plants... otherwise he would get an even harsher treatment from Gold teaming up with Shu for destroying the carefully nurtured crops.

"Any more complaints?" Shu grinned evilly with his limited expression and Yellow decided to keep quiet for now.

"So, I guess you are here for the Living Armour plants?" Gold beckoned Jin to follow him towards Shu where the living armour plants were being raised.

"Aside from that, what are you going to do with all these crops? We produce way more than what we need to self sustain ourselves, though I believe the System has a stockpile of food on its own." Jin asked as he walked behind Gold.

"Hmm hmm hmm. If you do not know, then wait for a another week. With Lynn as your chef, I guarantee you that our products will make it possible for her to create a heavenly feast. Trust me, it will be something you won't forget!" Gold was gleaming with confidence.

When they reached towards Shu, Jin noticed that there were wooden statues with some sort of rocks holding onto the wooden figures. Gold clarified that Shu was training the living armour to form as early as possible. With Ke Mi's music which promoted growth, the living armour plants who had initially been at the bottom of these wooden statues had learnt to grow and cover the statues.

The statues were not stationary too as they were formed with Shu's roots. Hence, the statues changed their pose slowly on a weekly basis and the living armour learnt to cover vital areas of the human being.

"I had no idea these living armour plants could learn too..." Jin looked as he wanted to caress the young living armour gently. However, Gold immediately pulled Jin away and so did Shu who abruptly grew the statue higher up. Even Ke Mi had her strings prepared to be cast in between Jin and the young living armour pieces.

"Wait, what, huh?!" Jin was stunned for a moment. Gold sighed in relief since nothing happened, before explaining to Jin that they reacted this way since he still had the old living armour attached to him. Any closer and it would be chaos.

"Why? I thought the living armour pieces would assist each other?" Jin asked and both Shu and Gold shook their heads. (or branches)

"Your current living armour will only dominate the young living armour pieces. They will demand the younger ones to fuse with them. It might seem like a good thing but in actual fact it isn't." Gold told him while assisting Jin up from the floor. He also pulled him some steps away from the wooden statues.

"The old ones cannot grow any more, but they can strengthen itself by fusing together. Meanwhile, the younger ones have still a lot of potential which we can expand even more than it is right now. If you interfere with the process, you are wasting your living armour pieces." Gold concluded.

"Oh...so you guys want quantity right now instead of quality..." Jin realised and apologised.

"Yeah, we are hoping to proliferate them more. That way we can train them when they are still young to make full use of their potential. Also we might even be able to create more than just one living armour suit if we succeed. And that is where the Oceanic Phoenix Dung comes into play." Gold said with Lynn and Qiu Yue in mind, but ultimately, Gold estimated that he could only produce one more suit by maximising the growth rate of the living armour.

"I see. So that probably means, that you want me get even more of each item which you requested previously? Those erm horn, tails and hoofs of the demons. Oh and the eyes of the transforming spider." Jin took out his phone to check the details of the requests.

"Hoofs and Eyes should be easier since they... well...eyes come in pairs as do hoofs...you get my drift. For the tails and horns, maybe not as easy. The horns have to be above a certain age, so that might make it harder. But the most important ones would most probably be the eyes. Try not to damage them too much during battle. The purer and more wholesome the item is, the stronger the quality."

"I shall remind you, that I will not be helping you in this expedition, since this is part of your training. The one I assigned you some time ago" Zeru who now appeared in a similar fashion like Kraft said to Jin.

"Sorry Master, I did not expect myself to delay that long!" Jin apologized respectfully and Zeru nodded his head accepting it.

"No matter. While I did say I am not helping you, it is still my responsibility to oversee you. I have something for you." Zeru informed his student as he passed a tied up scroll to Jin.

"Hahaha, he figured Master Jin does not have that much time to do the scouting, so he and my fellow Jacks did that for you during our spare time. After all, those oversized cows are not the only ones who are good at gathering intel." Gold boasted about their capabilities, while at the same time exposing Zeru's kind intentions.

"Thanks, Zeru. Appreciate the help." Jin opened the scroll and saw ink styled pictures of the demons and their coordinate location in the Farming World. Jin then tried asking Peppers about these demons since she was the resident walking encyclopedia endorsed by the System.

For the first time he got to enjoy the sight of Peppers wearing a pair of large rimmed spectacles and looking at the scroll provided by Zeru. "Hmm. I remember a little about these obscure demons. But if you ask me, I'd advise you to fight against the Lightning Goat Demon first. No doubt, he is the strongest amongst all of them, but I do recall his coat and horns being valuable. Those can be refined into equipment, so he has his uses aside from his hoofs. That said equipment can in turn be used against the Water Snake Demon, allowing you to fight it with ease. After which, rinse and repeat. Use the Water Snake Demon's parts against the Burning Lion Demon. Only then, you should fight the Transforming Spider. It might not be the strongest, but its transformation ability make it the trickiest to fight."

Peppers was suggesting, as she pushed her glasses up while also drawing circles on the scroll with pencil, marking the probable weak points of the demons.

"Can this much really be called 'remembering a little'? Peppers is like a strategy guide against these demons!" Gold was amazed by Peppers' knowledge.

"Alright. Let me get this straight, Zeru. I have to fight one on one against them, correct?" Jin asked as a form of confirmation.

"Yes, but you are allowed to bring any item that you want against them. However no monsters allowed." Zeru replied. Thanks to Peppers 'How to exterminate Demons for Dummies Guide' Jin decided to take a trip to his omnipotent Dungeon Maker to get some equipment up and ready.

"Now I feel like an adventurer, preparing for a fight at the expense of my life." Jin thought.

"User is not allowed to die, Bellator Zeru will step in if something goes awry." System gave a negative reply to Jin's thoughts at which he sniggered a bit.

Chapter 318 Lightning Goat Demon

Beyond the horizon the morning sun was slowly rising. There was not much time left before the Lightning Goat Demon would wake up. Jin was teleported into a mountainous area of the Farming World and surveyed the surrounding area.

According to the ink style painting that Zeru drew, he knew that the Lightning Goat Demon was white with bluish curvy patterns on its body. The designs were similar to those tribal tattoos that were sold in tattoo shops.

Suddenly his phone beeped indicating that there was a signal about 500 metres away from Jin. He quickly took out a camouflage ghillie suit and hid in it. Afterwards he took out his binoculars to take a look at the Lightning Goat Demon.

"Okay, seems like it hasn't woken up yet. I have to prepare something to catch its attention." Jin checked his phone which had a list of items that were kept in his storage watch. If only they were in a forest... Jin would have lots of experiences setting up traps after seeing how the goblins did it. However, this was a mountainous area. The only thing that set him apart from the Lightning Goat Demon was merely distance and the unconscious state of the latter.

The area was dangerous and the map which the System provided showed that there were no caverns or any other signs of proper even ground. The only thing there that he could take advantage of was the steppe below the mountains area. However, Jin remembered what Peppers said.

"The Lightning Goat Demon has an ability to call upon the skies for a bolt of lightning. The only sign showing this attack is coming is the slight movement of grass at the spot it would target the lightning strike. Unfortunately, according to Zeru, the steppe seems to be mostly covered in a thick layer of snow. Unless there would be a windstorm or you can get rid of it somehow I'd advise against fighting him

there. Of course if you can notice the slight snow movement before the lightning strikes then kudos to you. You can avoid the lightning attack." Peppers explained to Jin.

"Do not forget that the Demons can go into a 'Rage Mode'. Well Gold described it as a power up, but this term should be more familiar to you. It's that phenomenon which the beast demons enter when they are critically injured."

"Mmmhmm I am interested to see how you are going to fare, Boss. Peppers told you that even professionals need a whole team to defeat this goatie. For you to attack it alone is indeed courting death." Kraft teased in his mind.

"I just hope I prepared enough..." Jin started to move and set up his equipment along the mountainous ridges. Not long after, Jin decided that food would be sufficient to get its attention after it awoke from its slumber. These beast demons all shared a love for meat especially the Lightning Goat Demon living in the mountainous area where it's a luxury. Not to mention, the meat was of top quality from the System's stockpile. How could they resist such good food?

Jin prepped the campfire at the centre of the steppes and cooked the large piece of succulent meat on top of the fire, allowing it to roast. He did not forget to put some seasoning which was prepared by Lynn in a packet as it spread it along the meat. Then he placed a dummy sleeping bag while he hid himself in the snow foxhole he created almost instantly with his magic.

To create that foxhole, Jin first seeped his ice into the ground and once it reached a certain depth, he expanded his ice magic to surround the soil like a cube. After which, he inserted more chi into the base of the cube and allowed it to expand upwards, creating a perfect cube foxhole for him to hide in. The rest of the soil that was dug out was spread around the campfire to show there was some digging around the ice covered steppes.

The aroma eventually travelled into the Lightning Goat Demon's nose and attracted its attention immediately. With a slight stretch, the Lightning Goat Demon leapt from the mountain and onto the steppes within five steps which kind of distraught Jin a little. "If the demon has that kind of jumping strength, my prepared equipment and traps might not be enough!" Jin started to worry, but he continued to remain as still as possible.

The Lightning Goat Demon saw the campfire, but was cautious since there was a lack of activity. The camping place had possibly a human inside the sleeping bag with its meat being roasted. As if there was some intelligence to the Lightning Goat Demon, it gave a sneered expression before howling into the skies.

"Who ever it is that dares to hunt me down, come out now! I may show you mercy by killing you instantly! Otherwise don't blame me for being rude!" The Lightning Goat Demon shouted with an audible language which was translated by the System to Jin's head.

Jin sighed and guessed that even if he fired the first shot, there would not be any difference despite the initiative of battle. Jin came out of the foxhole with his bamboo rifle on his right hand up high.

"Hmph. Where are your other comrades?" The Lightning Goat Demon bellowed.

"No one else. Only me. I have decided to hunt you all alone." Jin said as he placed his bamboo rifle down slowly.

"I do not believe you." The Goat Demon replied.

"I can only offer you these words of truth. If you do not believe it, then there is nothing else I can do." Jin shrugged.

"Human I am unsure whether you are brave, confident or plain stupid?! Don't you know, that hunting me is already courting death?! But you are the first one in centuries to try doing it alone!" The Lightning Goat Demon had sniffed and slammed its hooves on the ground causing lightning to destroy the surroundings of the campfire and in turn all the traps around it were destroyed in an instant. It then proceeded forward to the sweet smelling meat.

"Hmm. No poison at all. Are you that dumb to feed Keyrin, the King of the Aucbec Hills, such great quality meat without any poison in it?" The Lightning Goat Demon who declared himself as Keyrin snatched the roasted meat from the campfire and ate it in peace while still keeping an eye at Jin.

"Ehh, cannot go into battle with an empty stomach?" Jin tried to joke, but Keyrin did not bother with him. "Peppers, did you somehow FORGET to tell me I was going against a friggin King?!"

"He probably declared himself as King since there shouldn't be that many Lightning Goat Demons around. He is probably the strongest of the bunch, so he is acting arrogant." Peppers answered, as she was still studying her books on city building and design in her room.

"You might be right... But you did not tell me that the stripes glowed rainbow when he shoots his lightning bolts!" Jin replied as the description of attacks were not the same as what Peppers had taught.

"Glowed rainbow...? Wait...a minute..." Peppers stopped her reading and jumped off her bed. She opened her bookcase shelf and took a book at random even though it was still a book on Monsters in the Farming World.

"Oh...erm yea...I have good news and bad news. Bad news is, I guess you are most likely fighting a real King Class. It's a rare variant of Lightning Goat Demon. The strongest and last known record was one Lightning Goat Demon named Keyrin. Records show that he had decimated an entire capital before by making it rain bolts of lightning continuously for weeks to show its fury against that nation's hunters that killed his wife. It was the only Lightning Goat Demon that dared to attack cities. Other Lightning Goats mostly keep to their habitat and at most might attack a settlement, if it lies too close to their home. Because of that, it is now classified as Thunder Ram Demon, King Class. " Peppers recited what was on the book to Jin.

"Erm...question Mr Keyrin. Sorry to interrupt your meal time. Are you the same Keyrin that destroyed a capital city before?" Jin asked as he internally cursed Zeru for giving him the strongest opponent for a while. He was aware that his master wanted strong opponents that would push him to his limit, but isn't this much a little over the top.

"Probably. Don't remember though, destroyed too many cities to keep track!" Keyrin spoke as he ripped apart the meat to munch on it. When it was done eating, it shook its head a little where Jin could see sparks flying around it.

"Do you want some water to clear your throat?" Jin asked courteously as he took out a bucket and poured the spring water he used in his shop to serve customers with for Keyrin.

"For a person who wants to kill me, you are awfully humble. You are strange, Human." Keyrin walked towards the bucket and drank the water without a care.

"I am satisfied. Because you fed me well, I will reward you with a swift death." Keyrin announced as it walked backwards and gave Jin and it some distance.

"Speak of your name, Strange Human, I shall also honor you with trying to remember it. Then let's begin the hunt." Keyrin shouted at which Jin sighed.

"Xie Jin, Nineteen Astral Lazy Panda Style, Dungeon Supplier." Jin bowed as he picked his bamboo rifle up.

"Keyrin, King of Aucbec Hills." The Thunder Ram Demon proclaimed while a blast of thunder and lightning flashed across the skies.

"I am so screwed." Jin thought to himself.

Chapter 319 Thunder Ram Demon

"BAMMM!" The bullet flew out of the Bamboo rifle that Jin was holding, but even at optimum speed, the bullet could not make a dent on the scales of the Thunder Ram Demon, Keyrin. In the meantime, Keyrin stood there and fired a blast of lightning at Jin from the skies.

Jin barely managed to see the fluttering of snow in time before he took a step back. However, the lightning strike was impactful enough to send Jin flying a few metres away. Meanwhile he transformed his bamboo rifle into a bamboo shield and surrounded it with multiple layers of ice.

Without a surprise, another lightning struck at the place where Jin landed from the knockback impact, but the White Ice made of pure chi did not allow electricity to pass through it. "Holy shit, all hail science. Never would have guessed that it pays to remember something from school." Jin was sweating madly after blocking the electrical attack.

He was taught that Ice was a poor conductor of electricity since it was the salt ions that made water a good conductor of electricity. However, if water with no impurities was present, ice frozen from pure water would not conduct electricity at all. That was exactly the principle he used with his White Ice techniques. His chi that made White Ice did not have any impurities in it at all hence, protecting him from the attack. Nevertheless, the impact of the lightning strike still caused some physical damage to Jin.

"Hmmp, at the very least, this is not as bad as I thought it would be." Jin huffed and puffed as he dodged the next lightning attack while also using the shield coated with barriers of ice for cover.

"What? My strikes are not affecting him at all?" Keyrin was curious what kind of artefact his newest challenger was holding that could stop his strikes. "If one strike is not enough, then several more will do

the job!" Keyrin announced his attack as he gathered energy on his curved horns and shot the lightning bolts towards Jin.

"White Ice Petal Barrier!" Jin shouted even though he was moving forward with his enchanted bamboo shield up against the bolts of lightning. Jin figured that since the steppe was covered with snow, he should use the surrounding to his advantage.

It's true that the snow in the surroundings was not pure like his ice, which might only partially block the lightning attacks but impure ice barriers were still barriers and using the natural element did not expend his chi as quickly as a large area pure white ice enchantment barrier.

The snow around him began to flow up and became petals of ice fused with a tiny bit of white ice chi essences and when the lightning pierced through the barrier of petals, the strength of the bolt was lessened significantly which was easy for the primary White Ice Petal Barrier to block.

Jin was finally close enough to attack Keyrin especially when he was the only one on the defensive for such a long time, but Keyrin simply stood there and continued to fire his thunderbolt to counter against Jin.

"Panda Yawning!" Jin opened his mouth to fire a large Ying Yang Beam towards Keyrin and he shot a quick strike of lightning bolt from his horns in return. The interaction of Panda Yawning Beam and the flash of lightning caused a large amount of snow to flutter up to the sky creating a temporary snow screen for Jin.

However, the Thunder Ram Demon was a beast. Slight movements in the air were sufficient for it to detect the presence of an incoming target. "There you are!" Keyrin snorted as he stamped his hooves and thunderous wave blew the snow away while his horns fired a bolt of lightning at the direction Keyrin detected movement.

Only when the snow dust dispersed, Keyrin then realised that it was just a decoy from the campfire. The fake sleeping bag was burnt into crisp, but Jin was nowhere to be found. Suddenly, explosions occurred right beneath him as a blast of blackish fire engulfed Keyrin. It was a compressed spiral box which Jin threw right before the snow dust surrounded inserted them.

At that moment, Keyrin heard a boom from the top of his head and when he looked up, an iron cannonball rapidly fell onto him, causing him to fall to the ground. Jin had made boots capable of boosting him into the air, out of range of the snow dust screen and released a mini parachute that allowed him to float in the air for a while. After which, he changed his bamboo rifle into a bamboo cannon and fired his first shot.

Now that he knew Keyrin was down for a while, he did not hesitate to activate the equipment he had prepared beforehand. From his waist, he took out a detonator and pressed on it immediately. The automated cannons which Jin had set up previously immediately booted up and fired their rounds onto Keyrin which they registered with infrared imaging.

The steppes were suddenly filled with multiple artillery explosions that echoed throughout the mountainous area, scaring all other life forms in the area to get the hell out of the steppes. The impact of the explosion was immense enough to knock Jin away in his parachute from the steppes.

"Nope...he is not captured." Jin looked at his phone and noticed that there was no notification and the automated cannons were running dry of ammunition. Jin managed to land normally on a mountainous area as he quickly reloaded his bamboo cannon while waiting to see the devastation that his multiple cannons did.

Suddenly, a swift shadow burst out of the burning fields and choking smokes towards Jin at a quick speed. It was none other than Keyrin, but his skin was turned to all black with no white at all.

"JINNNNNNNNN!" Keyrin roared as he dashed towards Jin with no regards of his life.

"Holy shit, please do not tell me that's rage mode!" Jin was not able to conjure the white ice barrier in time nor change his bamboo cannon into the bamboo shield again.

BAM!

Keyrin slammed onto Jin's torso so hard that he threw out blood and could feel several of his rib bones breaking. Even his cultivation that increased the strength of his body could not prevent such a thing from happening.

It was the first time Jin felt immense pain causing him to go numb through his entire body. Keyrin was not hesitant to call upon a lightning strike onto the fallen Jin. Not once, not twice but multiple times.

The lightning fell and struck Jin's body continuously causing severe shock and pain. His skin was burning. His eyes felt dry even, and his muscles were not working. "I will strike until you burnt to crisp. Trust me, I will follow through my word."

"User, just imagine you are going through the Heavenly Five Element Tribulation." The System offered some console to Jin.

"NOT HELPING!!!!!" Jin shouted as he tried to stand up but each time he does, he was brought down by another lightning strike.

"Not like this is going to work out well....FUKKKK!" Jin struggled as he pressed the trigger on his cannon that caused an explosion right in front of him. It made him fly but at the same time it literally cost him him a leg since the cannon was aimed downwards.

Keyrin did not expect that and cause a lag in the command of his lightning strike. However, that brief moment was all Jin needed to execute his backup plan.

"GEARBOX!"

Chapter 320 Jin's Gearbox

The Gearbox system that Jin created for Yang Ling was still saved within the database of the System. Since he had some time to himself in the past few days, Jin had made use of the time to modify it a little more, making it more durable by using higher quality metals. Jin also added more offensive and defensive options that enhanced the current schematic of Yang Ling's prototype Gearbox suit.

A few simple looking boxes flew out from his living armour storage watch and immediately got attached to him. The first box fastened itself to his back, before expanding its metal pieces out from the box, strengthening his back, allowing him to fall to the steppes at ease.

The following boxes attached to his arms and what was left of his legs. Because of the adrenaline he experienced, there was not much pain due to the sudden loss of his leg and the gearbox that attached to it numbed it even more with a mixture of anaesthesia provided by the System.

In the previous full body gearbox prototype, the loss of legs or arms would impede the functions of the full body gearbox since it was meant to enhance the features of the existing extremities. Yet, Jin suspected that the fight against the Thunder Ram Demon would be a tough one and he already considered the worst case scenario. (In fact, he asked the System to calculate the possible consequences of this battle against a Lightning Goat Demon. The prognosis was not very cheerful.)

Hence, he had added modifications for the new gearbox and it enabled him to 'grow new arms and legs' if necessary. The extended metal platings of the gearbox shaped itself to the size of Jin's feet and modelled itself accordingly to ensure the mobility for Jin.

The Thunder Ram Demon Keyrin scoffed at Jin's attempt of revival. "Don't you get that your struggling is futile? Or are you simply enjoying the pain? All that you do is only prolonging your suffering. Do you think some metallic linings across your whole body can help you in any way? You are simply courting death." Keyrin did not hesitate to stomp towards Jin as he stabilised himself the moment he landed.

"Hmph, you do not know the extent of my abilities yet." Jin smirked as he noticed that an opportunity finally arose. This was the perfect chance to execute his new ability. The Thunder Ram Demon did not give him any quarters by charging its horns with electricity, making the attack more potent than before.

"Epic Sword Art, Bamboo Cyclone of the Lazy Panda." All seven pandas of Jin's cultivation appeared right above of him roaring excitedly. This was the first real technique that Ming had ever taught Jin in his sub consciousness. That's right. He never learnt any proper Basic Sword Style nor Intermediate Sword Style because there were no restrictions in the depth or width of the techniques he could learn. That was the beauty of the Nineteen Lazy Astral Panda Style. (not to mention Bam and Boo could shapeshift)

However, there was a penalty to be incurred when Jin executed a technique above his current grade. Hence, even though Jin could theoretically learn a Legendary Sword Style but its powers would be diminished to his current level. Not only would it decrease in power, it would take a toll on his body. The higher the discrepancy the more he would suffer.

Therefore, Jin decided to learn a technique which would not toll the body too much. By equipping the Gearbox system onto his body, he was able to take the strain of an Epic Sword Art without much hassle or restriction.

With a side stroke from his sword, a gust of wind was summoned right in front of Keyrin who did not see it coming. Yet the moment he entered the area, he was entrapped by the sudden upheaval of wind. No matter how fast Keyrin tried to run or dash in his lightning form, he was still being spiraled around by the wind. Only then did he notice that there were ice petals mixed within the strong cyclone and he remained stuck in the eye of the cyclone.

"Heh, an impromptu technique modification to stop your lightning from going through the harsh winds." Jin explained as he took a breather for a moment.

"If I cannot go through, then I will go up!" Keyrin shouted as he prepared himself to jump. Suddenly, multiple shadows of bamboo swords were seen at the top of him and before he could evade them, the swords were falling at tremendous speeds.

Keyrin immediately summoned a lightning storm barrier to surround him in order to negate the falling swords. Just then he felt a cut going through his torso area. More cuts and stabs followed as he roared in pain and anger.

Trying to stop the bleeding he noticed that the swords were magically enchanted with White Ice too. Keyrin who was still in Rage Mode called upon a burst of lightning strike onto himself in order to heal him by absorbing the elemental power. Yet suddenly the shadowy swords that on the ground that just pierced through him vibrated at the power of electricity.

"Boom, bitch! Oh, wait. You are a guy. Nevermind." Jin cheered a little as he saw his plan working even better than expected. Those shadowy swords were not just enchanted with White Ice. They were compressed spiral boxes that were shaped into swords which he prepared in advance. They could be triggered remotely by a sudden surge of chi or energy.

In this case, it was the lightning strike that triggered the spiral 'swords' and a series of black fire explosion was seen emanating out of the ongoing cyclone. Jin hoped that would kill or at the very least incapacitate him, because he was nearly out of tricks to use. He initially wanted to hold the spiral swords and use them at close range, but he got a sudden inspiration and decided to combine it with his Epic Sword Art.

As the explosions subsided, Keyrin was still standing at the centre of it all. Jin did not know what else could he do but he prepared his arms for two simultaneous Lazy Swipe in case Keyrin dashed towards him once more.

"Jin. You proved yourself worthy! Even though it was a short fight, you have bested me. I had underestimated you in battle multiple times and even though I am standing, it is through sheer will. My life is now within your hands. I ask of you, what do you need from me? Are you seeking my heart in the hopes of gaining eternal youth? Are you willing to bind me down to a demon's pact? Or do you simply desire taking my head as a war trophy?!" Keyrin emphasized his words with power even though he was near defeat. His fate was no longer his own, but at least he wished to keep his pride as a King.

"Oh? Can you heart really provide eternal youth? Nah, I do not need that nor the pact. I also don't want to end your life, I merely require one of your hooves. It is to strengthen my armour." Jin answered bluntly and Keyrin stared blankly at Jin.

"Wait...you want my hoof for your armour? That's it?" Keyrin was puzzled. Throughout his life he had been ambushed many times, and whenever he cared enough to ask those adventurers what they'd hoped to achieve the answers varied. Some wanted revenge, others fame, some pretended to it for justice while hoping for his treasures. Yet this adventurer right in front of him had been strange since the start of their encounter. Even though he could have taken much more things from Keyrin, he would

be satisfied with exchanging a life threatening battle for a hoof... for his armour. This was quite an insult to Keyrin himself.

"You must be kidding me. I can offer you something more than this. A magical ability? A rare Artefact? Please at least take something else!" Keyrin was practically begging Jin to rob him, but the young man shook his head.

"Well if you insist... Maybe a part of your horn and some of your skin?" Jin could not understand why Keyrin was insisting on parting with a stronger item. Was it a challenge hidden for him behind the prize that Jin did not know about?

"Why are you insisting on my body parts? I am offering you something more precious than my body part!" Keyrin was a little frustrated trying to offer a reward for his defeat.

"Because my monsters asked me to? They said your body parts were useful in the upcoming fight against the Water Snake Demon and perhaps, the Burning Lion Demon. I have no idea what other artefacts might be good against them." Jin shrugged his shoulder as he conversed with the Thunder Ram Demon.

"Against the Water Snake Demon? And the Burning Lion Demon? What is your goal?! Do you wish to be chased after by the beasts demon all over the world?!" Keyrin suddenly went into a battle stance again.

"Wait wait wait! It's not what you think!!! I also only require some pieces of those few demons and nothing more. It's all to create a suit of living armour with those parts!" Jin declared his intention with honesty as he knew there was no way to fight one on one against Keyrin in his current state.

"Living armour? How did you manage to find those precious items? Why would you want such a sacred thing to be mixed with items associated with evil? Your intention does not make any sense at all!" Keyrin was not yet convinced as he charged up a lightning bolt on his horns.

"That was what my monsters told me. They said, it would provide a good set of armour against my enemies, that's all, I swear!" Jin guessed if he was about to be zapped to death, he might as well do it with style.

"You keep talking about your 'monsters', who are they?!" Keyrin halted his thunderbolt and gave Jin one last chance.

"Gold, the leader of the Jacks?" Jin answered honestly and quickly which made Keyrin startled for a while.

"Gold...? The leader of Jacks? The one who used to be the 'Grand Scholar of the East', before he was infected by the therianthropy virus?" Keyrin released his charge into the air, dismissing any animosity against Jin.